Short course: Trade logistics, transport, trade facilitation and customs automation
2 November 2015

Trade Logistics Branch
Division on Technology and Logistics
One Branch - four areas of work

- Policy and Legislation
- Trade Facilitation
- Transport
- Asycuda (Automated System for Customs Data) Programme
Key thematic areas of work include:

Around UNCTAD's three pillars of work: THINK, DISCUSS, DELIVER

- International shipping and seaborne trade
- Port-related issues
- Hinterland connections
- Transport corridors development
- Transport cost and freight rates
- Mainstreaming sustainability criteria in freight transport
- Financing transport infrastructure development and services

Particular attention given to LLDCs and SIDS
Trade Logistics Branch

- **Transport** - one of the few areas of sectoral work at UNCTAD - and critical to globalization and trade-led growth and development
  - Cross-cutting relevance for achieving progress on most of the SDGs;

- **Trade Facilitation** - important development dimension

- **ASYCUDA** - computerized customs management system which covers most foreign trade procedures.

- Broad and strong mandate covering all modes of transport
  - Express mandate to carry out research and analysis
  - Focus on the special concerns arising for developing countries, LLDCs, SIDS, LDCs, economies in transition
  - Long tradition in research and analysis on economic, policy and legal issues in maritime transport

- Synergy between Research and Analysis - Technical Cooperation - Consensus Building Activities; Good interagency cooperation
UNCTAD Supply chain approach
Flagship Report: Review of Maritime Transport

- Annual Flagship Report - since 1968
- Praised as a standard reference, including by industry
- Provides data and analysis on international seaborne trade, shipping, the world fleet, ports, freight markets, and transport-related regulatory and legal developments
- Statistical data now available online

Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter

- Broad readership: approx. 3000 subscribers

Policy and Legislation
Policy and Legislation: thematic areas of work

Based on mandate, expertise and demand

UNCTAD: long history in negotiation of international transport law conventions; established expertise in research and analysis

- **Commercial transport law** (focus on maritime law, multimodal transport, carriage of goods by air, ship-source oil-pollution, transport documents)

- **Maritime and supply-chain security**

- **Developments in International Shipping and Seaborne Trade**

- Emerging issues: **energy, environment, climate change**

  - Research and analytical studies cover topical and key issues in depth
  
  - Synergy: research, intergovernmental meetings, advice and assistance
Think: Research and analysis

- **Research and analysis: Some recent publications**
  - *Rotterdam Rules 2008* (carriage by sea and multimodal transport); Aspects of air law; Multimodal transport and transport documents; Maritime and supply-chain security;
  - UNCTAD edited volume on Maritime Transport and the Climate Change Challenge (2012). Published with Earthscan/Routeledge
  - Yearly contributions to relevant chapters of the Review of Maritime Transport
  - **Research currently underway**: UNCTAD Port Industry Survey on Climate Variability and Change.
Discuss: Consensus building

- **Consensus-building activities, e.g.:**
  - UNCTAD Expert Meeting 2009: “Maritime transport and the climate change challenge”
  - Joint UNCTAD-UNECE Workshop 2010: “Climate change impacts on international transport networks”
  - Multiyear Expert Meeting, focusing on transport-related challenges facing SIDS, 2014
Deliver: Capacity building/technical assistance

- **Capacity building and advisory services, e.g.:**
  - Advisory services on transport related legal issues: e.g. *Transport law, carriage of goods and liability, environmental regulation in shipping*, etc.
  - Training and capacity building including on relevant thematic areas of work including *marine oil pollution and liability*.

- **Capacity building and technical assistance projects:**
  
  **UNDA Technical Assistance Project:** *Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the adaptive capacity of SIDS 2014-2017*. 
Trade Facilitation
Trade Facilitation: thematic areas of work

Based on mandate, expertise and demand

UNCTAD: Facilitation of trade part of UNCTAD's core mandate

- Developing countries integration in international value and supply chains (focus import, export and transit procedures)

- National Trade Facilitation Commitees

- Development of National Trade Facilitation Plans, Technical assistance to +35 countries

- Related issues covered by other UNCTAD branches and Divisions: NTMs, e-business and trade portals
Think: Research and analysis

- Studies on TF issues
- Shipping networks, production of UNCTAD Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) [http://stats.unctad.org/lsci](http://stats.unctad.org/lsci)
- Research on Trade Facilitation and Development
- Repository on National TF committees
Discuss: Consensus-Building

- Multilateral: UNCTAD and WTO, as well as LLDC context
- Regional: Collaboration with regional groupings on TF coordination
- National: National TF committees
Deliver: Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building

- **Main themes**
  1) TFA implementation preparation: categorization, notification, ratification, project development
  2) National TF committees
  3) Training

- **Projects**
  - **Current**
    - CEFTA (with DITC)
    - DTIS (with ALDC)
    - GIZ in EAC
  - **Forthcoming / expected**
    - Sweden
    - UK
    - EU
    - Germany
    - China
Transport
Transport: thematic areas of work

Based on mandate, expertise and demand

- **Transit transport and support to LLDCs and transit developing countries** (design and implementation of sustainable and resilient transit transport)

- **Sustainable and resilient transport systems in the context of the post-2015 agenda, especially in SIDS**

- **Monitoring, analysing and assessing the trade logistics needs of developing countries and assisting in the design and implementation of sustainable and resilient transport systems**

- **Key issues:** *Mobilize financial resources to support the implementation of sustainable and resilient freight transport systems*
Think: Research and Analysis

- UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport (Chapters on Freight Rates and Port Developments; (2012) Sustainable Freight Transport)
- "The Way to the Ocean: LLCDs & Transit Corridors" (2014)
- "Sustainable Freight Finance" (forthcoming)
- Journal articles (both writing & peer review)
- Input in other Division's publications (ALDC report, WESP), other organizations (UNESCAP Asia & Pacific Annual Statistical Review) or joint publications (Oceans Economy report)
Discuss: Consensus-Building & Outreach

- Contribution to/substantive servicing of UNCTAD meetings (MYEM/AHEM/Commission)

- External (presentations/workshops/roundtables)
  - e.g. The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) (Turkey)
  - University lectures (Switzerland, London, Hong Kong)
  - OECD Port Cities Programme (Netherlands)
  - Pan African Port Conference (Kenya)
  - Baltic Port Organisation (Denmark), European Sea Ports Organization (Greece)
  - International Forum of Ports and Containers (Colombia)
  - Congress of the Federación Colombiana de Agentes Logísticos (Colombia).
Deliver: Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building

- UNDA 7th tranche - "Capacity Building for Control Authorities and Transport Operators to Improve Efficiency of Cross-border Transport in Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries"

- UNDA 9th tranche - "Building capacities of developing countries to enable a reorientation towards sustainable freight transport through sound transport policy measures and adequate financing actions and strategies"

- FIATA - Training of Trainers course in Freight Forwarding (Tanzania, Chile, Zimbabwe etc.)

- Port efficiency: advice to regional port associations (PMAWCA)
Aim:

Build the capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport systems

Key activities include:

- Training toolkit
- Web platform
- Capacity building workshops (in East Africa - Northern and Central Corridors and in the Caribbean)
- Advisor services
ASYCUDA - Automated SYstem for CUstoms DAta

In 1981 UNCTAD received a request from the secretariat of the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) to assist in the compilation of foreign trade statistics in their member States. After an initial evaluation it became quickly apparent that this would require the involvement of Customs clearance offices, and the modernization of Customs clearance procedures, to achieve quality results.

Find out more about the background and origins of the ASYCUDA programme.

ASYCUDAWorld in Syria

In an effort to streamline and harmonize the customs procedures, the Government of Syria selected ASYCUDAWorld as a tool for the automation of Customs.

The ASYCUDAWorld system to be implemented in the Republic of Syria is based on state of the art IT technologies (web, Java etc) and could be one of the core elements of the implementation of e-government and e-business in the country.

ASYCUDAWorld in Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast Customs Administration is to undergo a modernisation programme in order to change their current Information Technology software.

The Government of Ivory Coast has selected ASYCUDAWorld system for the computerization of their customs revenue collection and statistics gathering process and as the base tool to achieve the objectives of the reform process. Funding for ASYCUDAWorld implementation has been secured by the Government of Ivory Coast. The system will be implemented in 18 months.
In 2015, 95 countries are using ASYCUDA
21 staff in Geneva and around 100 ASYCUDA specialists in the field
Two ASYCUDA Newsletters are published yearly

**MISSION**

To provide technical assistance, develop advanced software applications and strengthen institutional capacity for Customs with emphasis on the special needs of the least developed countries.

**VISION**

Public Administrations are implementing e-Government strategies. Revenue agencies such as Customs can contribute to these processes together with trade partners and other public agencies. Present in 90 countries, ASYCUDA remains central to these developments.

**VALUES**

- Vehicle for UN Core values
- Search for Excellence
- Reliability
- Client Orientation
- Technological Awareness
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Development-oriented
ASYCUDA AROUND THE WORLD

Africa | 41
Americas and the Caribbean | 22
Asia and Pacific | 15
Europe | 10
Middle-East | 6

ASYCUDA in 5 continents
Source: ASYCUDA World Report
UNCTAD ASYCUDA Today

- 5 continents
- 8 regional support centers
- 19 languages and 8 alphabets
- 20 core staff and 100 working in field
- 30 years of experience
- 60 active projects
- 95 national and regional implementations
- 70,000 trained ASYCUDA users
- 15,000,000 customs operations per year
- 50,000,000 transactions annually
ASYCUDA Benefits

- **Protection of previous investments**
  Coexists/cooperates with ASYCUDA++ / Other systems

- **Full ownership of the beneficiary country**
  Source code
  Training of the national team
  e-Documents and templates

- **Full advantage of new IT technologies**
  Implementation without disruptions
  Low deployment costs
  Electronic signature, multimedia, etc…

- **Paves the way to full e-Government systems**
  Customs Administration and other governmental entities
  Low operational risks
  Low development costs
  Preparation of a “paperless administration”
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

www.unctad.org/TLB