

UN/CEFACT Project Proposal

Project Name:	Recommendation for Trade information Portal		
Date submitted:	25 Sept 2019	Proposed by:	SWD; ITP-PDA

1. Project purpose

Required

Under the TFA, Member State's obligations regarding publication and availability of information include the following:

- Publishing promptly a range of information related to importation, exportation and transit requirements and procedures (see TFA Article 1.1 a-j in ANNEX);
- Making available through the internet a description of importation, exportation and transit procedures, the required forms and documents, and contact information on enquiry points (whenever practicable, also in one of the official languages of the WTO);
- Establishing an enquiry point (or several) to answer questions from governments, traders and other interested parties, and notifying their contact information; and
- Notifying to the Trade Facilitation Committee the official places and URLs of websites where the Member has made available the above information.

WTO also developed Background Note to outline the relationship between TFA and SPS Agreement. (https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/tf_sps_e.pdf). In the Background Note, it has stated that as regards to publication and availability of information, there are several intersections between the TFA and the SPS Agreement where SPS requires prompt publication of SPS regulations such as laws, decrees or ordinances which are applicable generally and to establish an SPS enquiry point to answer reasonable questions from other Members and provide relevant documents regarding SPS measures, control and inspection procedures, pesticide tolerance, etc.

As a trend set by International Organizations to regulate the publication and availability of trade information, there are ongoing efforts by many countries to establish Trade Information Portal to meet the regulatory requirement for global trade such as WTO TFA, SPS Agreement, etc.

With the rapid implementation of Single Window system, the development of Trade Information Portal should be taken into consideration as it requires similar nature of governance/framework to implement it i.e. coordination of information gathering/updates from various government agencies, harmonization/unification of enquiry points and process/procedures to be published etc.

Therefore, it is timely for UN/CEFACT Domain group to look into/recommend a best practices for such implementation.

2. Project scope

Required

The proposed project scope are:

1. To develop a framework/mechanism for development/implementation of Trade Information Portal and perhaps a model agreement on how to share this type of information between countries.
2. To identify Global Trade Agreements/Measures that regulate such implementation and it's requirements. Recommend ways to harmonize/standardize such requirements
3. Propose a standardized model of data exchange to share information between information portals and potentially directly accessible by economic operators.
4. Build case studies of existing implementations.

3. Project deliverables

Required

Deliverable 1:	UN Recommendations for Trade Information Portal
Deliverable 2:	Case Studies template
Deliverable 3:	BRS, schema and CCL harmonization/contribution

4. Exit Criteria

Required

Exit Criteria for Deliv. 1:	Public review logs demonstrating that all substantial comments have been addressed; ready for publication.
Exit Criteria for Deliv. 2:	Template presented to the Bureau for potential use
Exit Criteria for Deliv.3:	Public review logs demonstrating that all substantial comments have been addressed; ready for publication.

5. Project Team membership and required functional expertise

Membership is open to UN/CEFACT experts with broad knowledge in the area of:	Regulatory cross-border requirements and data modelling
In addition, Heads of Delegations may invite technical experts from their constituency to participate in the work.	
Experts are expected to contribute to the work based solely on their expertise and to comply with the UN/CEFACT Code of Conduct and Ethics and the policy on Intellectual Property Rights.	

6. HoD support

Required for Technical Standards, Business Standards and UNECE Recommendations. And at the request of the UN/CEFACT Bureau.
Projects that require HoD support must obtain this within 6 months of Bureau provisional approval.

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7. Geographical focus

The geographical focus of the project is global

8. Intial contributions

The following contributions are submitted as part of this proposal. It is understood that these contributions are only for consideration by the Project Team and that other participants may submit additional contributions in order to ensure that as much information as possible is obtained from those with expertise and a material interest in the project. It is also understood that the Project Team may choose to adopt one or more of these contributions "as is".

List any initial contributions:

- WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation
- The Agreement on The Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)

9. Resource requirements

Participants in the project shall provide resources for their own participation. The existence and functioning of the project shall not require any additional resources from the UNECE secretariat.

Any additional request:

10. Proposed project leadership

Proposed: Luc Pugliatti E-mail: lpugliatti@worldbank.org

Proposed: E-mail:

11. Milestones (repeat for each deliverable, if different)

The following are draft milestones of the project.

Yes/No	ODP Stage	Expected Completion Date (Approval + XX months)
Yes	Project Inception	Approval + 1 month
Yes	Requirements gathering	Approval + 1 month
Yes	Draft development	Approval + 9 months
Yes	Public Draft Review	Approval + 11 months
Yes	Project Exit	Approval + 12 months
Yes	Publication	Approval + 12 months

ANNEX:

Text for WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation Section 1: Article 1

ARTICLE 1: PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

1 Publication

1.1 Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders, and other interested parties to become acquainted with them:

- (a) procedures for importation, exportation, and transit (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures), and required forms and documents;
- (b) applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation;
- (c) fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit;
- (d) rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes;
- (e) laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin;
- (f) import, export or transit restrictions or prohibitions;
- (g) penalty provisions for breaches of import, export, or transit formalities;
- (h) procedures for appeal or review;
- (i) agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation, or transit; and
- (j) procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.

1.2 Nothing in these provisions shall be construed as requiring the publication or provision of information other than in the language of the Member except as stated in paragraph 2.2.

2 Information Available Through Internet

2.1 Each Member shall make available, and update to the extent possible and as appropriate, the following through the internet:

- (a) a description^u of its procedures for importation, exportation, and transit, including procedures for appeal or review, that informs governments, traders, and other interested parties of the practical steps needed for importation, exportation, and transit;
- (b) the forms and documents required for importation into, exportation from, or transit through the territory of that Member;
- (c) contact information on its enquiry point(s).

2.2 Whenever practicable, the description referred to in subparagraph 2.1(a) shall also be made available in one of the official languages of the WTO.

2.3 Members are encouraged to make available further trade-related information through the internet, including relevant trade-related legislation and other items referred to in paragraph 1.1.

3 Enquiry Points

3.1 Each Member shall, within its available resources, establish or maintain one or more enquiry points to answer reasonable enquiries of governments, traders, and other interested parties on matters covered by paragraph 1.1 and to provide the required forms and documents referred to in subparagraph 1.1(a).

3.2 Members of a customs union or involved in regional integration may establish or maintain common enquiry points at the regional level to satisfy the requirement of paragraph 3.1 for common procedures.

3.3 Members are encouraged not to require the payment of a fee for answering enquiries and providing required forms and documents. If any, Members shall limit the amount of their fees and charges to the approximate cost of services rendered.

3.4 The enquiry points shall answer enquiries and provide the forms and documents within a reasonable time period set by each Member, which may vary depending on the nature or complexity of the request.

4 Notification

Each Member shall notify the Committee on Trade Facilitation established under paragraph 1.1 of Article 23 (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") of:

- (a) the official place(s) where the items in subparagraphs 1.1(a) to (j) have been published;
- (b) the Uniform Resource Locators of website(s) referred to in paragraph 2.1; and
- (c) the contact information of the enquiry points referred to in paragraph 3.1.