Trade Facilitation and electronic Business for transparency and combat of corruption

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Better procedures through better information

Simplification and automation of international trade procedures

- Procedures: Policy recommendations on best practices
  - Best practices for trade procedures and controls
  - Guidelines and instruments for collaboration of Government agencies

- Information: eBusiness standards
  - Semantics: What is the meaning of data
  - Exchange: standards for exchange of information
How simplified procedures reduce space for corruption

Simplified and well defined & documented procedures create an even level playing field for all

- Procedures and document requirements are well defined, efficient and practical
- Procedures published, including changes in legislation
- Reduced discretionary power of officials
- No needs for shortcuts
- Cuts out middle man
- Partnership with compliant traders (Authorized Economic Operators)

Electronic information increases transparency and control

Electronic information exchange increases transparency, regulatory cooperation and control

- Procedures are enforced and protocolled (who, what, when, where, how)
- Formalized interaction between officials and traders
- Take cash out of the system
- High quality and real-time information with immediate audit and control
- Electronic data exchange enables collaboration between Government agencies and targeted interventions
- Electronic Risk Management: systematic, science based controls focused on highest risks
Implementation of Trade Facilitation Measures

Figure 5: Progress of implementation of Trade Facilitation measures by various regions, 2017 and 2019

Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

UN/CEFACT standards for agriculture trade and environment

UNECE develops (inter alia) the standards for electronic documents and information exchange in agriculture trade and environment protection

- Electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificates for control of trade in all type of agriculture produce (eSPS)
- Electronic CITES permits for trade in endangered species (eCITES)
- Electronic Quality certificates for trade in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (eQuality)
- Traceability for sustainable agri-food and textile trade
- Standards for information exchange for fisheries management and to combat IUU (UN/FLUX)
- Transboundary movement of waste (BRS Convention)
eCITES: Electronic systems for improved transparency and control of trade in endangered species

CITES: A Convention built on a permit

- Binding trade agreement for 183 Parties to control trade in endangered species
- Trade is regulated through the issuance, exchange and control of CITES permits
- Permit ensures legality, sustainability and traceability of trade

⇒ The CITES permit is the key instrument of the Convention to control the trade in the species it protects
Illegal trade in wildlife

- Estimated 5 – 20 billion USD illegal trade in wildlife (excluding marine & timber)
- Illegal trade in wildlife is now ranked **4th in transnational crime**
- Frequent patterns:
  - highly organized crime
  - laundering of illegal trade with legal trade
  - corruption on all levels of Government and society
  - often use of fraudulent paperwork
- Criminals exploit gaps in the control systems (manual procedures, lack of electronic information exchange & risk management)

⇒ **Need for electronic CITES permit system to strengthen permit issuance and control processes and to fight illegal trade**
verification of permits: Fraud can be detected immediately and by anyone
Thank you

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