

Session 3: Aligning trade facilitation with sustainable development goals: Good practices in trade facilitation for agriculture, SMEs and women

Moderator:

• Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP

Panelists:

- Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International
- Ms. Evdokia Moise, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Emerging Policy Issues Division, OECD
- Ms. Maria Cecarelli, Chief, Trade Facilitation, UNECE
- Ms. Ally Spinu, CEO, Export Portal



Evdokia Moise, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Emerging Policy Issues Division, OECD

- SMEs under-representation in international trade is partly due to remaining at-the-border costs, that Trade Facilitation can help address
- TF increases the ability of SMEs to handle fixed costs associated with crossing the border, helping them to become direct exporters and importers
- **TF** reduces variable costs associated with cross-border trade, increasing the value of imports and exports of SMEs
- TF benefits SMEs more, levelling the playing field with larger firms
- □ TF improvements benefitting larger firms can support SME's
- TF measures having the largest differentiated impacts in favour of SMEs include the streamlining of procedures, the automation of the border process, the simplification of fees and the dialogue with the private sector



Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, OiC Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

Implementing SDG 12 through sustainable traceability of agricultural products (animal, plant, fish, textile)

The digital measures for perishables is yet to catch up with non-digital measures

UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019: "the special treatment for perishable goods, national standards and accreditation bodies to facilitate compliance with SPS standards, and testing and laboratory facilities to meet SPS requirements" measures have been implemented at least on pilot basis in 80% of the countries surveyed.

- Whereas "the electronic application and issuance of SPS certificate has been fully implemented in 10% of the countries surveyed"
- **E**-business standards contribute to sustainable agriculture by:

Improving the sharing of information and knowledge (transparency); Ensuring public health, sustainability of production; legality of production; Limiting fraud and illegal activities; and Reducing waste; all in all, facilitating trade.

- Examples: UN/CEFACT fishery traceability (FLUX), UN/CEFACT eCERT standard for SPS certificates

UN/CEFACT Animal/Plant Traceability, UN/CEFACT Textile and Footwear traceability

Implementing SDG 5 through an enabling environment for women in international trade

□ Commitment for ensuring inclusive-services for women in trade is very low

UN Global Survey 2019: Policy-action related to trade facilitation measures aimed at female traders has implemented at least partially in 36% countries (fully in 5% countries) in 2019 globally.