



COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics- Technology Innovation and
Knowledge Development Branch
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses
**Trade Facilitation and Development through Greater Digitalization and
Enhanced Connectivity**

Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XVII
10:00 - 10:15	<p>Welcome address, Dr. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p> <p>Short course will be moderated by Mr. Clovis Freire Junior, Economic Affairs Officer / Chief, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Section, Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge Development Branch, DTL.</p>	
10:15 - 11:15	<p>Session 1</p> <p>This session will begin by discussing the benefits and reasons for digitalization and connectivity among Partner Governmental Agencies, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also zoom in on the challenges for achieving digitalization and approaches to address them. Additionally, the course will discuss the solutions developed by the ASYCUDA Programme--UNCTAD's largest technical cooperation programme-- to increase efficiency, reduce costs and delays, as well as to be better prepare for responding to future shocks, such as, the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the economic crises it generated.</p> <p>Presented by Renaud Massenet, ASYCUDA Senior Coordination Officer and Kamal Tahiri, ASYCUDA Programme Management Officer, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p>	
11:15 - 11:35	<p>Session 2</p> <p>This session will build on the previous one and focus on specific examples of ASYCUDA, to illustrate the qualitative aspects of the ASYCUDA system. Furthermore, specific examples from developing, and least developed, economies will be shared, to illustrate how structural economic problems were addressed as a step ahead of setting up the technologies ASYCUDA utilizes. These scenarios and use of cases will enable delegates to envision ASYCUDA from both a qualitative and a quantitative lens.</p> <p>Presented by Renaud Massenet, ASYCUDA Senior Coordination Officer and Kamal Tahiri, ASYCUDA Programme Management Officer, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p>	
11:35 - 12:00	Q&A session	

Trade Facilitation and Development through Greater Digitalization and Enhanced Connectivity

Trade facilitation includes simplification, modernization and harmonization of export and import processes. It aims to ease the movement of goods across national borders as well as maximizing efficiency, while reducing related costs and delays. This requires standardization of documents and data, automation, data exchange, efficient risk management, and paperless procedures. This can be achieved through the digitalization of trade information and exchange of data among the key actors involved in the coordination of action and control. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for digitalization and connectivity, as detailed in the WCO's Revised Kyoto Convention and the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement, has become more pressing for developing countries.

Considering this, the course will discuss the reasons for digitalization and connectivity among Partner Governmental Agencies, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also present the solutions developed by the ASYCUDA Programme to increase efficiency, reduce costs and delays, as well as to be better prepared for responding to future shocks, such as, the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the economic crisis it generated.

The objectives of the short course are the following:

- To illustrate the benefits of efficient control of imports and exports,
- To provide a framework for how the systems, tools and solutions developed by the ASYCUDA Programme, in cooperation with other international organizations, can potentially address the needs for digitalization and enhanced connectivity.
- To highlight the impact of ASYCUDA Programme interventions for economies.