

UNCTAD East Africa - South Asia  
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# Transit as a trade facilitation measure

# Multilateral approach

- International legal instruments (Conventions and agreements)
- International trade standards (UN-CEFACT)
- Tested and ready to go, no need to reinvent
- Open to all UN member states
- Can be used as the basis for regional or bilateral cooperation
- Support and capacity building for implementation



# Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982

## *Objectives*

- Reduced formalities and controls on goods at borders

## *Key provisions*

- Procedures for efficient border controls
  - ❖ Customs, Sanitary, Veterinary, PSP, technical compliance
- Coordination among various national services
- Cooperation and coordination between neighboring countries
  - ❖ Joint and coordinated controls, opening hours etc.
  - ❖ Vehicle weight certificate



## *Benefits*

- Standard procedures
- Reduce border delays, lower costs for carriers and authorities
- More efficient investments in border facilities



# TIR Convention, of 1975

## *Objectives*

- Facilitate transit transport of goods under Customs supervision

## *Key Provisions*

- Secure, Approved vehicles or containers
- International guarantee system
- Mutual recognition of Customs controls
- TIR Carnet: Customs and Guarantee document
- Controlled access of operators
- Public/Private partnership



## *Benefits*

- No goods inspection at borders,
- No payment of taxes and duties en route
- Reduced border delays and transport costs
- Increased security



# Customs Conventions on Temporary Import of Road Vehicles and containers

## *Objectives*

- Facilitate temporary admission under Customs supervision of foreign registered road vehicles and containers

## *Key provisions*

- International Customs document, Carnet de Passage en Douane (for vehicles)
- International guarantee of import taxes if vehicle/containers not re-exported
- Harmonized procedures for temporary importation
- Public/private partnership

## *Benefits*

- No payment of vehicle/container import taxes
- Reduced delays and costs





# Convention on Contract for International Carriage of Good by Road (CMR)

## *Objectives*

- Provide for commonly agreed transport contract, contract document and liability limits

## *Key Provisions*

- Defines contract conditions
- The contract document: The Consignment Note
- Fixes carrier's liability limits for loss of goods or delay
- The e-Consignment Note available

## *Benefits*

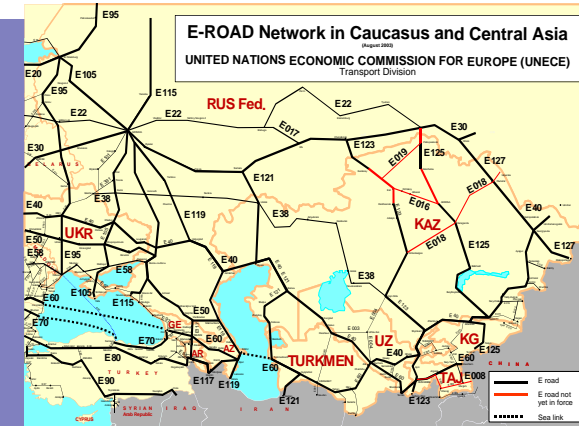
- Predictable legal situation and lower costs

A sample of an International Consignment Note (CMR) form. The form is titled "LETTRE DE VOITURE INTERNATIONALE" and "INTERNATIONAL CONSIGNMENT NOTE". It contains various fields for information such as "Number of Copies", "Export Parties", "Place of Origin", "Place of Destination", "Date of Issue", "Time of Issue", "Place of Issue", "Name and Address of Consignor", "Name and Address of Addressee", "Name and Address of Carrier", "Description of Goods", "Number and Description of Packages", "Gross Weight", "Net Weight", "Volume", "Value", "Incoterms", "Special Provisions", "Remarks", and "Signature of Carrier".

# International Infrastructure Networks

## Network Agreements:

- Arab Mashreq Road and Rail
- Trans-Asia Road and Rail
- European Road (AGR), Rail (AGC), Combined Transport (AGTC), Inland Waterways (AGN)



Define the networks, standards, numbering, interconnectivity between countries



# Convention on Road Traffic, 1968

## *Objectives*

- Facilitates international traffic based on agreed rules

## *Key Provisions*

- Prescription of admission/right of refusal
- General and specific rules:
  - Drivers at all times able to control their vehicle
  - Drivers must hold a driving permit, issued after tests
  - Driving rules: speed, distance, overtaking
  - Reciprocal Recognition of Vehicle Certificates and Driving Permits
  - Driving and rest hours

## *Benefits*

- Agreed road traffic rules as reference for national Highway Codes





# Convention on Road signs and Signals

## *Objectives*

- Facilitate international road traffic through internationally agreed road traffic signs and signals

## *Key Provisions*

- Three Categories of Road Signs: Over 200 Reference
  - ❖ Danger Warning, Regulatory, Informative
- Norms on shapes, dimensions, colours, visibility
- Norms on Traffic Light Signals, Road Markings
- Road Works and Level Crossings Signs



## *Benefits*

- Provides for road traffic safety





# European Agreement on International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road ADR

## *Objectives*

- Ensures safety in the transport of dangerous goods by road in economically sustainable conditions

## *Key provisions*

- Identifies dangerous goods international transport
  - ❖ Explosives, Flammable, toxic etc.
- Defines conditions of transport, documentation, safety and security precautions
  - ❖ packing, tanks, labels, documents, vehicles, etc.
- Reciprocal acceptance of dangerous goods/Vehicles in conformity



## *Benefits*

- High level of safety and security
- Harmonization with other transport modes (sea, air, rail, inland water)



# Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and Equipment ATP

## *Objectives*

- Facilitate and ensure preservation of quality of perishable foodstuffs during transport

## *Key Provisions*

- Harmonized conditions for preservation of the quality of foods
- Temperature to be observed during the carriage
- Certified equipment
  - ❖ refrigerating capacity, insulating capacity and efficiency of thermal appliances
- Reciprocal Recognition of Certificates

## *Benefits*

- Avoids refusal at borders due to diseases
- Trade of perishable foodstuffs is facilitated
- Cost of perish reduced



# International Trade standards

## UN-CEFACT standards (33 standards)

### Examples

- ❖ UN Layout key for trade documents
- ❖ Codes
  - Countries, locations, transport modes, currencies etc.
- ❖ Marking
- ❖ Pre-shipment inspection
- ❖ Use of electronic data interchange (EDI)



# International Agreements/Conventions and standards

- Ratification
- Implementation
- Application

# Thank You

Division on Technology and Logistics  
Trade Logistics Branch  
Trade Facilitation Section

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