

**THE WORK PLAN
OF THE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES (OTS) FOR 2026-2027**

	Sub-undertaking	Comment	Responsible body
1. Harmonization of Trade Procedures	Simplification of trade-related formalities and documentation requirements	Consider new proposals to simplify trade-related formalities and documentation requirements with the aim of reducing their incidence, eliminating redundancies, and streamlining processes. Develop a simplification roadmap that removes duplications, adopts once-only data submission, and embeds risk-based controls for inspections and documentary checks.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Establishment of a Trade Facilitation Helpdesk	Consider the creation of a centralized Trade Facilitation Helpdesk serving as a focal point for traders to obtain information and assistance on trade procedures, documentation requirements, and customs processes across member states. This initiative would provide reliable guidance and support, reduce uncertainties, and promote compliance. The Helpdesk may be integrated with the OTS Investment Portal, which is already under consideration.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Establishment of national enquiry points on customs matters	Establish national enquiry points to respond to enquiries from other OTS Member States regarding customs and other trade-related procedures. Develop mechanisms for the secure transmission of enquiries, protection of confidentiality, and prevention of unauthorized third-party access to exchanged information. Connect national enquiry points to the OTS Helpdesk to enable coordinated responses and knowledge sharing.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

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3. Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building	Cooperation with international and regional organizations	Further strengthening of cooperation with international organizations, regional economic entities, as well as third countries with an emphasis on obtaining practical assistance in simplifying trade procedures and adopting positive experience in administering foreign trade processes. Ongoing collaboration of the OTS with international organizations, such as United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and World Customs Organization (WCO) could be benefitted to facilitate capacity building programs and technical assistance. The Secretariat could develop ties with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This collaboration would ensure access to global expertise, resources, and best practices in trade facilitation. Facilitate the implementation of the Roadmap between OTS and UNIDO for 2025-2029, which is currently under consideration.	The OTS Secretariat, relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Exchange Programs for trade officials	Discussion of possible exchange programs that enable trade officials from member states to visit and learn from trade facilitation practices in other countries could be organized. These programs would facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences, and expertise, enabling participants to bring back valuable insights and implement best practices in their respective countries.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Capacity building for trade, customs and logistics professionals	Study on the organization of capacity building programs targeting trade, customs and logistics professionals in member countries could be conducted. These programs would focus on enhancing skills and knowledge in areas such as supply chain management, logistics operations, and trade facilitation, ultimately improving the overall efficiency and competitiveness of cross-border trade.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

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4. Digitalization of Trade Processes	Digital Single Window System Development	Conducting the discussions on possibility to of adoption and implementation of Single Window Systems (SWS) among member states. SWS may streamline trade-related procedures by allowing traders to submit all necessary documentation through a single electronic platform. This reduces paperwork, enhances transparency, and improves coordination between relevant agencies. Sharing experiences about the SWS. Start works on integration of national Single Window systems into the unified digital platform of the Middle Corridor, which will facilitate the exchange of pre-arrival information among logistics participants. Measures such as pre-arrival cargo declarations, submission of electronic manifests, real-time tracking of cargo and customs clearance statuses are to be implemented as a part of the project.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Application of mirror statistics	Implementation of exchange of experience in the field of application of the mirror statistics	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Electronic Document Exchange	To study the possibility of application of electronic document exchange mechanisms, such as electronic certificates of origin, electronic bills of lading phytosanitary (IPPC ePhyto Solution) and veterinary certificates. These initiatives would replace traditional paper-based documentation with secure and standardized electronic formats, reducing administrative burdens, and expediting document processing.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

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	Exchange of Phytosanitary Certificates	Prepare a unified electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto) Implementation Concept, which will cover information on legal, organizational, and technical aspects; Implement pilot projects to test the transmission and reception of ePhyto certificates through ePhyto HUB configuration. The scope of the project will involve training of inspectors and foreign trade participants; collection and analysis of feedback. A stable legal and technical framework for the electronic exchange would lead to improvement of the speed and transparency of phytosanitary procedures. Business costs would be reduced and trade processes simplified. The project also envisages establishment of cooperation among National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), which will include IT experts, representatives of foreign trade agencies and the business sector.	
	Online Trade Facilitation Portals	Studying the possibility of establishing a joint trade facilitation portal, which may be integrated to the OTS Investment Portal. The portal intends to provide traders with a user-friendly interface to access information, submit applications, and track the status of trade transactions. The portal would offer comprehensive guidance on trade procedures, regulations, and documentation requirements, fostering transparency and facilitating self-service options for traders.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Exchange of information on Digital Signature	Development of a joint digital signature mechanism for ensuring the integrity and authenticity of electronic trade documents and transactions. This would enhance security, reduce fraud, and provide legal certainty in the digital trade environment.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

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	Digitalization of transport documents	Acceleration of works in the field of digitalization of other transport documents along with the "Bill of lading" document (e.g. eCMR, eSMGS and FAL documents.) Start negotiations with international organizations and partners countries to launch pilot shipments using eCMR and eSMGS on selected transit routes (towards Kazakhstan, Georgia, and EU countries).	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Digital transformation of the Middle Corridor	Implementation of digital transformation of all operational links and channels along the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor (Middle Corridor) in order to develop "soft" infrastructure, using advanced paperless trade technologies and carrying out institutional transformations, including the development and implementation of a data exchange system between the ports of the Middle Corridor using the best international practices and standards on a "single window" Exploring the possibility of cooperation and connectivity options with regard to development and management of the "Middle Corridor Customs Transit Portal". Develop and implement the Digital Data Exchange System Architecture for the ports of the Middle Corridor. This system would comply with advanced international standards in logistics, customs administration, and multimodal transportation.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
5.	Trade Facilitation and Monitoring and Evaluation	A dedicated monitoring and evaluation mechanism for trade facilitation could be created. This mechanism would define the framework, methodologies, and indicators for assessing the implementation and impact of trade facilitation measures across member states. To this end, to develop a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for trade facilitation. These KPIs would capture relevant data and provide quantitative benchmarks to measure progress, efficiency,	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

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		and effectiveness in areas such as customs clearance time, documentation requirements, border crossing efficiency, and trade costs.	
6.	Stakeholder Engagement and Public-Private Partnerships	The Secretariat in cooperation with the Union Turkic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) might organize public-private dialogues that bring together government officials, industry representatives, and civil society organizations to discuss trade facilitation challenges, share perspectives, and explore collaborative solutions. These dialogues would provide a platform for open and constructive discussions, allowing stakeholders to contribute their insights and expertise.	OTS Secretariat, Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
	Partnership Development	Development of partnerships between government, private sector entities, and civil society organizations to address specific trade facilitation challenges could be studied. These partnerships could focus on areas such as capacity building, technology adoption, infrastructure development, and policy advocacy. By leveraging the strengths and resources of different stakeholders, partnerships can drive meaningful progress in trade facilitation.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states