



**Level up TFA implementation through regional collaboration.  
Experience of Central Asia.**

Meeting of the Committee on Trade Facilitation  
Dedicated Session on Technical Assistance and Support for Capacity Building  
WTO, Geneva, Switzerland – 5 of October 2023

# Central Asia Outlook



5 countries:  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,  
Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Area: 4 mln km<sup>2</sup>

Population: more than 75 mln

The region is located along ancient Silk Road,  
in the center of trade routes, connecting North and  
South, East and West in the Eurasian continent

Currently region is important part of the  
Trans-Caspian corridor



# National Trade Facilitation Bodies in Central Asia

**Republic of Kazakhstan** – WTO member since 2015

Interagency Commission on External Trade Policy and Participation in the International Economic Organizations

**Kyrgyz Republic** – WTO member since 1998

National Council for Trade Facilitation

**Republic of Tajikistan** – WTO member since 2013

Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

**Republic of Uzbekistan** – observer, WTO accession country

Technical Working Group for Trade Facilitation

**Turkmenistan** – observer, WTO accession country



## Regional cooperation to promote trade facilitation reforms

- Central Asian countries participate on different international and regional organizations (CIS, EAEU, SCO), but at the same time they don't have a formal inter-governmental regional integration body.
- Being landlocked the countries depend on trade and transit procedures of the neighboring countries
- Despite the positive dynamic, the potential for trade and economic cooperation among countries of the region is still undiscovered:
  - Intraregional trade was doubled within the last 5 years
  - Intraregional trade accounts for 5 to 10% of the total trade turnover of countries
- Regional approaches can promote the national trade facilitation reforms, level-up implementation across borders and improve the trade linkages across the region.



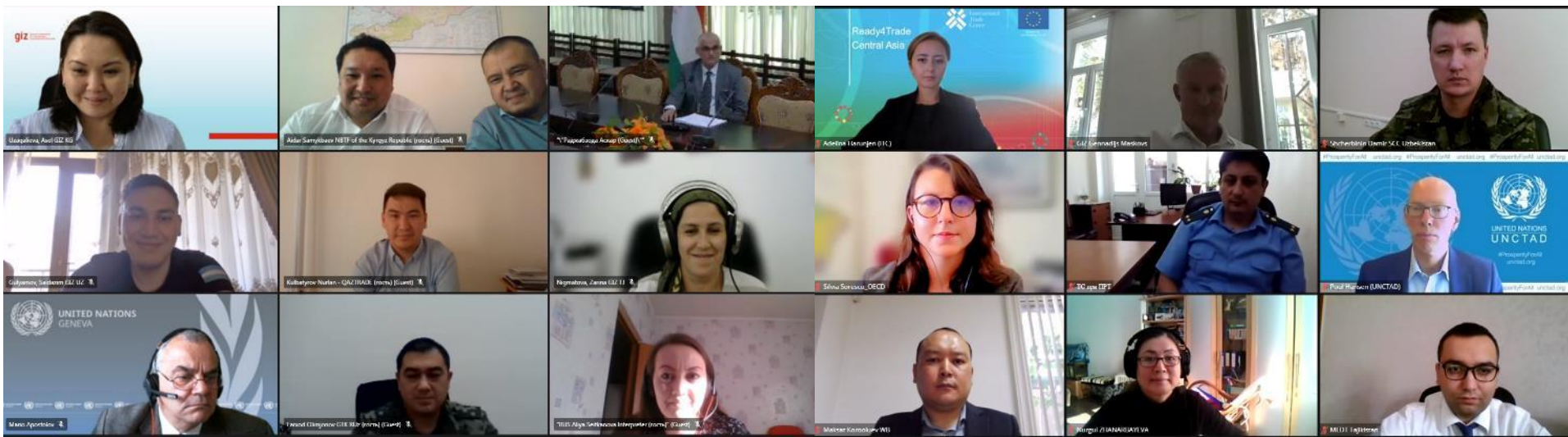
## Regional cooperation between NTFCs of Central Asian countries

- ✓ For strengthening the regional trade in Central Asia the National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) expressed their readiness to establish cooperation in implementation of trade facilitation reforms
- ✓ Regional platform of National Trade Facilitation Committees for exchange of experience and cooperation in the field of trade facilitation was created
- ✓ 9 Regional Meetings of the National Trade Facilitation Committees of the Central Asian - 2019 – 2023 were organized
- ✓ the "Statement on Cooperation in the field of Trade Facilitation" between the NTFCs of of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was signed in April, 2023



## Objectives of NTFCs cooperation:

- ✓ Improving the implementation of trade facilitation measures in Central Asian countries through regional cooperation and dialogue
- ✓ Studying the experience and best practices of the countries of the region and best international practices in trade facilitation
- ✓ Promotion of joint solutions, elimination of barriers to trade and transit between the Central Asian countries
- ✓ Building capacity on trade facilitation issues



## Issues and initiatives to support the trade facilitation measures in Central Asia

- ✓ Business processes analysis at the checkpoints of the Central Asian countries (17 BCP were analysed in 2020)
- ✓ Regular monitoring of transit corridors by private sector and presentation on regional NTFCs meetings
- ✓ Issues of mutual recognition and issuing of the International Vehicle Weight Certificates
- ✓ Exchange of information between border customs posts of neighboring states
- ✓ Integrated information platform of the Customs authorities of the Central Asia about border checkpoints for traders, through the websites of customs authorities of the region
- ✓ Digitalization of the TIR procedures - pilot transportation under the digital TIR project
- ✓ Promotion of the Public-Private Dialogue mechanism on regional level



## Perspectives and opportunities for technical assistance:

- Regional platform could be effective tool to attract the technical assistance from donors and development partners
- Initiatives could be implemented on multilateral and bilateral levels
- Open for cooperation with interested development partners, international organizations and business associations
- Currently trade facilitation activities in the region are supported by different international projects like the GIZ' project "Trade Facilitation in Central Asia" commissioned by BMZ, the USAID's Trade Central Asia project, ITC's project "Ready4Trade" commissioned by EU, "Global Trade Facilitation" project commissioned by SECO, BOMCA-10 project commissioned by EU, UNECE and other organizations.

