

Outcome Document

Meeting of the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade (GFP), Palais des Nations, Geneva

“The Role of Private Sector in Supporting the Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement”

Geneva, 22 April 2015

Focussing on the Role of the Private Sector in Supporting the Implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement, participants at the April 2015 meeting of the Global Facilitation Partnership for Trade and Transport (GFP) supported global efforts towards implementation of the Agreement and called on all stakeholders to participate fully in trade facilitation policy reforms. The meeting was co-organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) in collaboration with a number of other core GFP partners including The World Bank, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU), and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The GFP members agreed on the following:

- The GFP members will strive to strengthen their existing collaboration and will build stronger partnerships between the international organizations and the private sector;
- All parties are aware of the benefits of greater participation of key stakeholders from the public and private sector for ratification and implementation of the Agreement;
- The GFP is ready to collaborate with the private sector at international, regional and national levels;
- The GFP encourages the private sector involvement including the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in trade facilitation matters and to make the private sector’s voice heard in national and international forums;
- The private sector needs to be aware of the priorities of the governments within trade facilitation reforms;
- Establishing national committees on trade facilitation is an important step to ensure regular consultation with the private sector representatives, for collecting their views and for identifying legislative gaps and bottlenecks that need to be addressed in implementing trade facilitation reforms;
- The recommendations, standards, tools and best practices developed and/or applied by the GFP partners are available to support the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- Trade-related technical support and capacity building provided by the GFP partners is essential to assist in the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in developing countries, transition economies and least developed countries.
