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COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

## **Global Trade Facilitation Conference 2011**

### **Connecting International Trade: Single Windows and Supply Chains in the Next Decade**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 12 - 13 December 2011**

#### **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE**

On the 12 and 13 December, Governments and traders from all over the world, will come together to review the progress made on the Trade Facilitation agenda and to explore the way ahead. They will develop a joint vision and framework to guide the future of Single Windows and their support to global supply chains. They will also formulate recommendations to Governments, regional and international organisations.

The five UN Regional Commissions will jointly host this Conference, their objective being to develop a global approach to Trade Facilitation in the next decade.

This is an appropriate time to look at the next decade because it was one decade ago that UNECE started its work on the Single Window for facilitating and automating cross-border trade. Today UNECE offers a global "Recommendation" to Governments on introducing a Single Window (UNECE Recommendation 33 adopted in 2005).

The Single Window has become a major instrument for simplifying and automating trade procedures. It supports paperless trade and the regional and global integration of trade. Governments around

the world are increasingly using this instrument to strengthen their national and regional trade-development strategies.

The Conference will look into the evolution of Single Windows and global supply chains. It will review Single Window experiences from various countries around the world, assess the benefits, and explore future challenges.

Participants will exchange lessons learned and best practices in policy approaches and in applying managerial practice, business concepts and the latest technologies in Single Window implementation. They will examine legal and policy frameworks to enable information-sharing in global supply chains and between Single Windows.

The Conference will also discuss emerging requirements and opportunities for paperless trade and cross-border data exchange in this context. In particular, it will provide an insight into the latest standards and technologies for delivering new services, such as cloud computing.

Special emphasis will be placed on how to integrate developing and transition economies into future solutions.

## WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

- To look at the latest trends, opportunities and technologies for Single Window and information exchange in global trade.
- To identify efficient strategies, business models and policy approaches.
- To develop strategic priorities for more efficient and secure cross-border trade, in line with the ongoing WTO negotiations in the Doha round.
- To share experience and lessons learned with Global Supply Chains and Single Window implementations around the world.
- To network and exchange views with key stakeholders and experts.

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

- Policy makers and Government officials involved in international trade, transport and controls.
- Business managers.
- Trade facilitation and logistics service providers.
- Representatives of international organizations, donor agencies, national trade facilitation bodies, and trade associations.
- Academia and experts in trade and e-Business.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Participation is open to all UN Member States. International Organisations and the Business community. Registrations should be submitted by **7 December 2011**.

The online registration form and full details of the programme of the Conference can be found on the conference website at [www.unece.org/swglobalconference2011](http://www.unece.org/swglobalconference2011)

The e-mail is: [swc2011\\_sec@unece.org](mailto:swc2011_sec@unece.org)

## PROGRAMME

### DAY ONE

- **Visions for global supply chains based on information sharing.** This session will include the policy, regulatory and technological challenges and opportunities for information-

sharing in international trade. The session will also present the latest advancements in the use of electronic business for efficient and secure trading.

- **Taking stock of 10-years of Single Window implementation.** This session will feature benefits and lessons learned in the different regions. The session will identify business, technology and managerial models for the sustainable development of Single Windows and examine the role of Governments. The strategic priorities for the next decade will be discussed, including the policy, legal and technical context for Single Window interoperability. The opportunities offered by Port Community Systems will also be addressed.

### DAY TWO

- **Standards and technologies for a global supply chain.** This session will present recent developments for information-exchange standards and technologies such as the WCO Data Model, the UN/CEFACT ebXML standards and the use of cloud computing to share information in global trade. The session will look into the need for legal frameworks for cross-border data exchange and present possible approaches.
- **Cross-border information exchange for regional integration.** This session will examine the role of cross-border data exchange in support of regional trade and economic integration, especially in the context of regional trade agreements, customs unions, and specific transit agreements.
- **Conference conclusions.** This session will provide Governments, businesses and the UN regional commissions with recommendations on the way ahead for an open, transparent and inclusive global trading system.

## INTERPRETATION

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Russian.