MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics (UNDA project 2023X)		
Period of Review:	2020 - 2023		
Date of Evaluation Report:	30/04/2024		
		Date	Signature
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Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) **Accepted**, partially accepted or rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Timeframe (e)	Resources required (Y or N) (f)
Recommendation 1: For the DA only					
Recommendation 2: For the DA only					
Recommendation 3: Strengthen the connectivity between trade and transport sections internally within the commissions/agencies as well as across regions with a view to enhance focus on the trade-transport nexus and the quality of support. This should include: - Enhanced internal interaction and development of joint agenda between trade and transport teams in the commissions to facilitate that government decision makers in trade and transport are addressed from the holistic transport-trade connectivity perspective. This, however, needs to take into consideration that trade and	Partially accepted	UNECE would note that the TIR convention is a global UN convention which should therefore being promoted by all UN entities. The contracting parties to the Convention are obliged to follow the convention (legally binding). While the TIR Secretariat agrees with the third and fourth bullets, such activities are not a priority. The priority is to build eTIR corridors and implement the eTIR procedure therefore interconnecting to eTIR international system to as many countries as possible. These third and fourth bullets are therefore partially accepted but will only be implemented if time and resources allow.	Sustainable transport and Trade subprogrammes of UNECE	3-5 years	Y

Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) **Accepted**, partially accepted or **rejected**	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Timeframe (e)	Resources required (Y or N) (f)
transport issues usually are managed separately in the countries, with different agencies and line ministries involved, representing an institutional development challenge. - More explicit focus on aspects related to change management processes and internal power relations (political economy) in planning and implementation of capacity building activities within governmental institutions and authorities. - Focus on identification/analysis of countries which could serve as geopolitical drivers/promotors/champions of the trade-transport nexus within regions to help promote the nexus agenda and the UN global conventions / agreements at higher-level political fora. - Enhance organization of cross-regional learning session with participation of piloted/targeted		From the perspective of the work on the package of standards for multimodal data and document exchange, UNECE will continue to promote and use the UN/CEFACT standards to address fragmentation of digitalization efforts in trade and transport connectivity. With regards to the "Focus on" pivotal countries, the EU is already implementing the UN/CEFACT standards as a key reference for interoperability in the implementation of the European Union (EU) 2020/1056 Regulation on Electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI). The SPECA Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange along the Trans-Caspian Corridor using United Nations Legal Instruments and Standards was adopted by the Presidents of the SPECA participating States on 24 November 2023, promotes the use of the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and MMT RDM. In this sense two important sub-regions will be linked			

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countries to allow for cross-learning across regions and countries.		through the same semantic foundation for multimodal data and document exchange.			
Recommendation 4: In order to more strongly promote gender equality and human rights, DA projects need to ensure that projects clearly define whom the most vulnerable people are and that analysis of gender dimensions within a specific sector is included. This should further include clearly defined targets in results frameworks and development of data collection tools that allow for disaggregation by gender and vulnerability. It also includes a dedicated focus to ensuring consultations of women and people living with a disability (or organizations representing these groups) in research, law formulation and policy developments to ensure their perspectives and needs are duly taken into account. In addition, in order to fully reflect a focus on people living with a disability or other	Partially accepted	The recommendation resonates with two areas of the Trade subprogramme of UNECE: women economic empowerment and mainstreaming gender into trade policies. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) is currently reviewing its approach to systematically integrate cross-cutting issues (gender, human rights, disability, inclusion and environment) into its various workstreams by establishing respective mechanisms and tools within the Division. The recommendation is accepted in this broader perspective. However, the recommendation is not applicable to the TIR Convention, as even for the eTIR data, the Convention does not permit the secretariat to analyse or	Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD)	2 years	N

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identified vulnerable groups the following recommendations should be integrated into future joint project designs: - Proper analysis of whom the most vulnerable people are and gender dimensions. - Collection of data that reports on not only how many women and men are reached but also youth, people living with a disability etc. and other vulnerable groups considered a target group for the specific intervention. The ongoing analysis of these data during implementation is essential to understand whether the intended target groups are reached or other strategies are required. - In order to ensure consideration of people living with a disability in trade facilitation, people living with a disability or organizations representing them should be included		disseminate the data collected unless the contracting parties specifically ask for it.			

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in NTFCs and measured to the same extent as representation of women. - In order to influence policy and advocate for a greater level of inclusion, it is crucial that research papers and studies include analysis of human rights, gender dimensions and considerations of whom the most vulnerable people are within a specific sector. - A dedicated outreach and communication strategy is required to ensure reaching of vulnerable groups and people living with a disability etc. In order to ensure enrollment of such target groups in training courses etc. a different outreach and communication approach is required (e.g. communication directly through organizations working with people living with a disability to ensure that the messages are being communicated to the right people/community).					