

Building consensus

TLB organizes meetings at UNCTAD headquarters in Geneva, as well as national and regional seminars and workshops, to exchange experiences and information on developments affecting transport and trade facilitation, and to build consensus on relevant policy options.

Technical assistance and capacity-building

TLB technical assistance programme is provided at the interregional, regional and national levels.

- Interregional projects develop basic policy tools for transport and trade facilitation, including the multilateral negotiating process.
- ASYCUDA facilitates customs operations, increases connectivity and makes it possible to electronically transmit and handle data.
- National and regional trade and transport facilitation programmes are tailored to specific needs upon request from interested countries.

TLB also contributes to capacity building through the following programmes

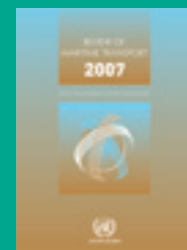
- Stratship – Strategic planning for ship managers;
- P166 – UNCTAD course on key international trade issues; and
- Port Training Programme.

Research and information

TLB publications cover a wide range of subjects from shipping, ports, trade facilitation, logistics, freight forwarding, inland transport, transport security to transport costs and connectivity.

Regular publications include:

- the Review of Maritime Transport, an annual flagship publication; and
- the Transport Newsletter, a quarterly publication.



TLB also conducts research and prepares supporting documentation for expert meetings.



TRADE LOGISTICS BRANCH

UNCTAD
 Palais des Nations
 CH -1211 Geneva 10
 Switzerland
 trade.logistics@unctad.org
 Tel: +41 22 917 2044
 Fax: +41 22 917 0050

www.unctad.org/ttl



TRADE LOGISTICS BRANCH

UNCTAD's Trade Logistics Branch helps developing countries face the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities arising from trade and cargo flows.



TRADE LOGISTICS BRANCH

WHAT WE DO

UNCTAD's Trade Logistics Branch (TLB) — through its four units — the Transport Section, the Trade Facilitation Section, the Policy and Legislation Section and the ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) Programme — partners with developing countries to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities in the areas of transport infrastructure, trade logistics, and related administrative, procedural and legal frameworks.

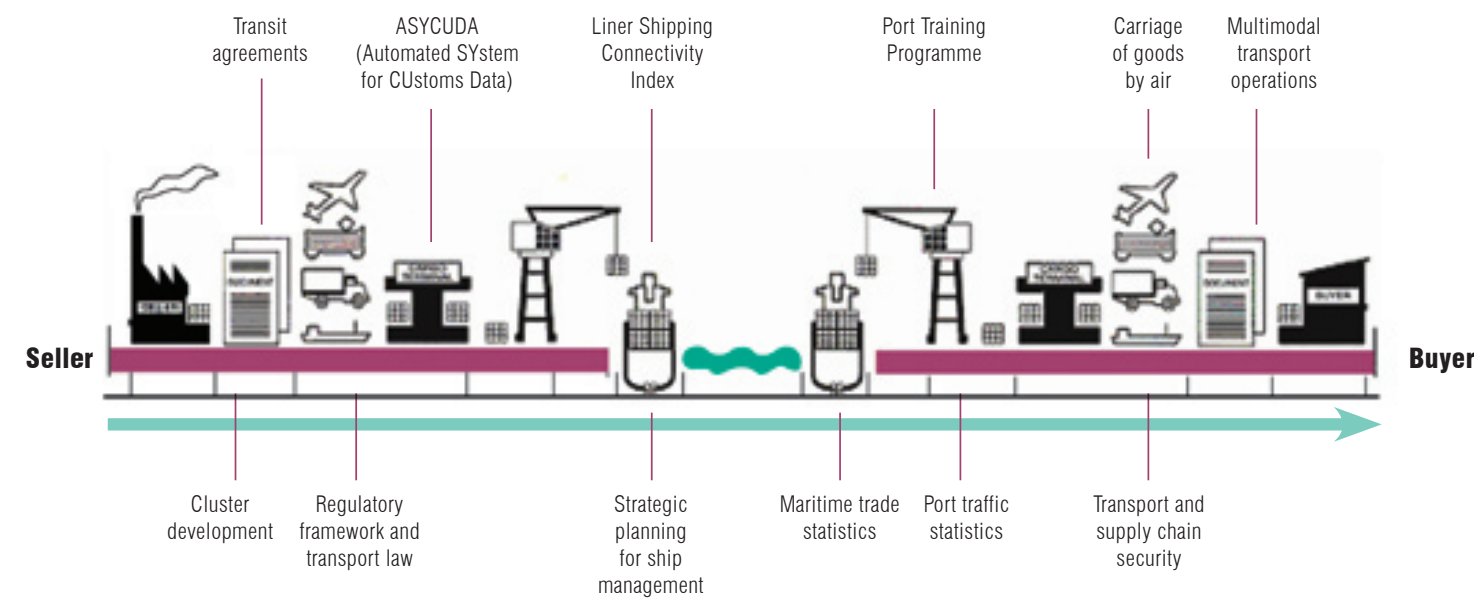
The Branch's work on transport and trade logistics focuses on:

- Research and analysis, and dissemination of information on relevant developments;
- Providing advice to developing countries when formulating and implementing policies and programmes;
- Assisting in developing and implementing national legal frameworks in line with international legal instruments and standards, and providing support to developing countries in the context of multilateral negotiations;
- Implementing automated customs clearance procedures via ASYCUDA.



FROM ORIGIN TO DESTINATION –

TLB's assistance to developing countries spans the entire the logistics chain



Address logistics challenges

Rapidly growing containerization of international seaborne trade requires increasing and extensive use of technology in cargo handling and management systems in seaports and inland terminals. TLB supports developing countries in facing these challenges and seizing the opportunities of modern logistics through its research and analytical work, technical assistance and consensus building.

Review legal and regulatory frameworks

International trade and transportation require an enabling legal framework that facilitates cross-border transactions by reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade. In this respect, the development of internationally agreed rules and standards, as well as their effective implementation at national levels is required to bring about genuine benefits to traders and help reduce legal, administrative and transaction costs. TLB prepares detailed analytical studies and reports in the field of transport law and provides advice on legal issues to help policy makers and traders in developing countries in their understanding of the complex international framework and to assist both in the context of multilateral negotiations and effective national implementation of international legal instruments.



Trade-based globalization has been enabled by advances in transport and communications. Modern supply chains fully incorporate the distribution and inventory segments of global production and distribution processes.

Developing, least developed and land-locked countries aim to better integrate into the global trading systems. For that, they will have to improve transport services and infrastructure; facilitate trade and transit operations; build appropriate institutional and technological capacities; and ensure adequate regulatory frameworks.



Facilitate trade and transport

Long waiting times at borders, inappropriate fees, cumbersome formalities, and inadequate or unclear rules and regulations, can all become serious obstacles to trade, and as a consequence adversely affect investment, employment and trade-led development. TLB assists developing countries in identifying their particular trade and transport facilitation needs and priorities, and helps them program the implementation of specific trade and transport facilitation measures. TLB organizes workshops and seminars at the regional and national levels, publishes relevant information and training material, and provides technical assistance through numerous projects.

Automate customs procedures

ASYCUDA software is developed in Geneva by UNCTAD. It takes into account the international codes and standards developed by ISO (International Organization for Standardization), WCO (World Customs Organization) and the United Nations.

ASYCUDA is the largest technical cooperation programme in UNCTAD. More than 90 countries worldwide have adopted ASYCUDA while 80 are using it on a regular basis.

