

TCTR Coordination Platform



National Trade Facilitation – Central Asia Regional Meeting
May 15, 2024
Almaty, Kazakhstan



CLDP
COMMERCIAL LAW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

- The U.S. Department of Commerce, Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) project on Trans-Caspian Trade Route (TCTR) supports the U.S. Department of State's C5+1 goals and objectives and is in furtherance of the Biden-Harris administration's Economic Resilience Initiative in Central Asia.
- Held three TCTR regional meetings: March 5-7, 2023 in Batumi (Georgia), July 27-28, 2023 in Tbilisi (Georgia) and January 25-26, 2024 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
- Results:
 - **TCTR Joint Action Plan on soft connectivity measures developed**
 - **Coordination Platform focused on soft connectivity launched**

TCTR Participating Countries and Parties

- 7 countries (C5 + Georgia and Azerbaijan)
- Government Bodies
- Customs Authorities
- 7 Sea Ports of the Caspian Sea (Aktau, Kuryk, Turkmenbashi, Baku) and the Black Sea (Batumi, Poti, Anaklia, when feasible)
- Railway Organizations
- Road Transport Associations
- Transport & Logistics Companies
- Freight Forwarders
- International Development Organizations

TCTR Joint Action Plan

- A strategic document formulated during TCTR meetings facilitated by CLDP.
- Serves as a comprehensive framework that consolidates and outlines priority soft measures that impact TCTR enhancement.
- Focus on soft connectivity measures.
- Coordinated with other existing roadmaps, and strategic documents.
- Remains dynamic and adaptable, capable of being updated and augmented
- Contains 6 sections & covers over 40 issues impacting:
 1. Road Cargo
 2. Rail Cargo
 3. Maritime
 4. Customs
 5. International Conventions & Agreements
 6. Other Proposed Initiatives

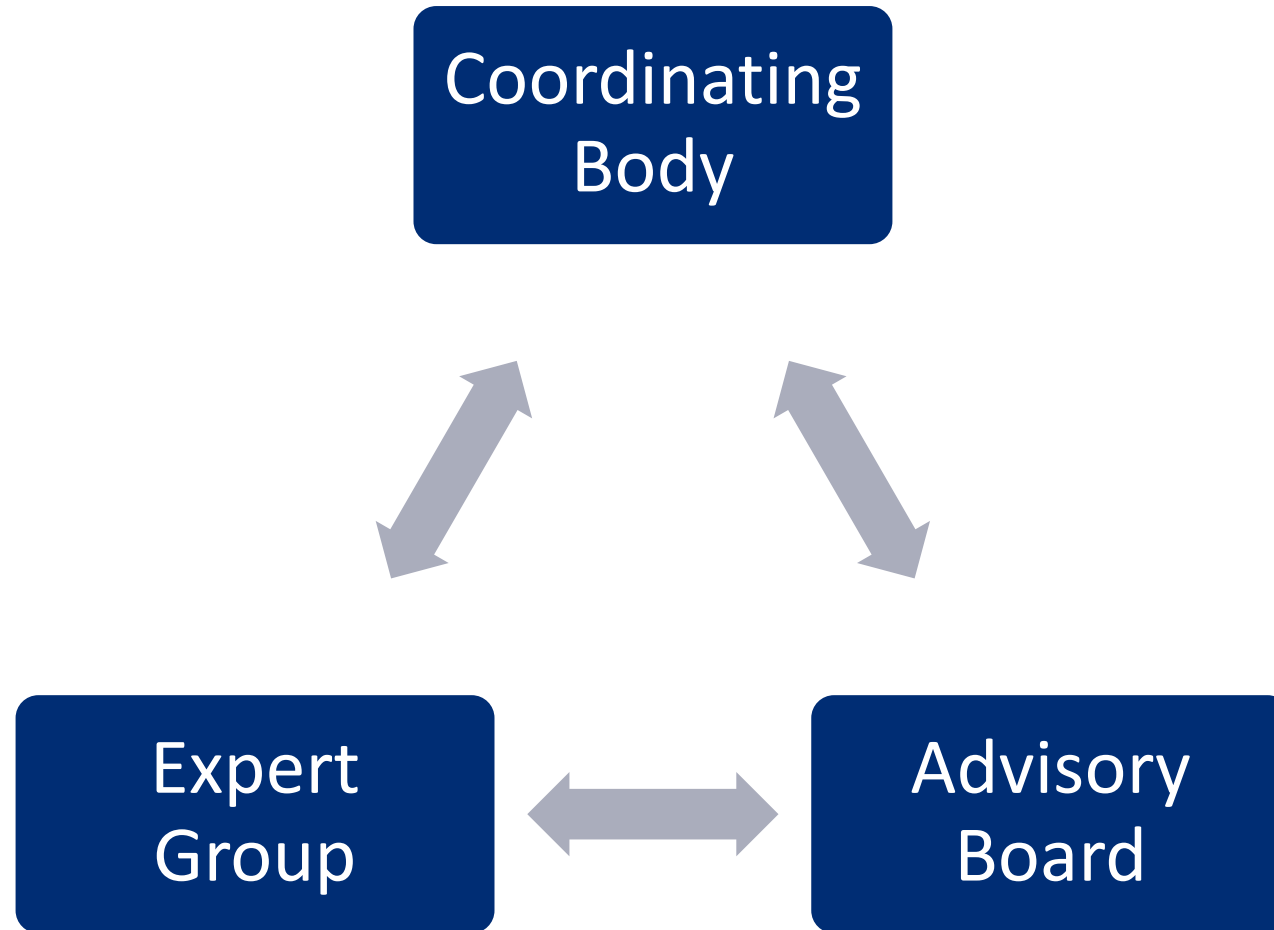
TCTR Coordination Platform - Vision

- CLDP will launch an overarching TCTR Coordination Platform
- Reduce fragmentation
- Develop a common vision for the TCTR countries
- Promote consolidation of efforts
- Support acceleration of coordination
- Track progress of implementation of TCTR activities / status updates
- Ensure effective ongoing dialogue, cooperation, and coordination
- Align with the efforts of like-minded countries and stakeholders
- Multi-stakeholder approach

Joint Action Plan on Soft Connectivity Measures

- **Joint Action Plan for the Expansion of the Trans-Caspian Trade Route (TCTR Joint Action Plan)** – a strategic document formulated during TCTR meetings facilitated by CLDP. It serves as a comprehensive framework that consolidates and outlines priority soft measures³ aimed at enhancing the expansion of TCTR. This plan remains dynamic and adaptable, capable of being updated and augmented through the TCTR Coordination Platform engagements, facilitated by CLDP. Revisions to the plan are informed by status updates on deliverables and reports on other significant accomplishments. Each iteration of the document is distinguished by the name of the corresponding TCTR Coordination Platform event and is timestamped with the date of the meeting, reflecting the continuous evolution and refinement of the strategic initiatives outlined within in.

TCTR Coordination Platform: Proposed Structure



TCTR Advisory Board

- Will play a key role in determining the strategic direction of efforts to develop TCTR.
- Will consist of heads of:
 - Public and private sectors of each TCTR country;
 - International development organizations actively involved in the development of TCTR.
- Bi-annual meetings of the Advisory Board
- Aim: to create a forum for coordinated and collaborative decision-making, ensuring that TCTR initiatives are consistent with the shared vision of like-minded stakeholders
- Proposed functions: (1) monitor the work of the TCTR Expert Group, (2) participate in bi-annual meetings organized by the CLDP, in coordination with the EU and other like-minded partners; (3) provide information, participate in the implementation of measures outlined in the Joint Action Plan; (4) status updates on the results achieved.

TCTR Expert Group

- Expert Group to consist of:
 - Transport (rail, road, maritime) and customs experts, including representatives of the private sector (forwarders, shipping companies, logistics companies, etc.) from all participating countries
 - Representatives of international development organizations actively involved in the development of TCTR
- Quarterly meetings to be organized by CLDP
- Proposed functions: (1) collection, analysis and exchange of relevant technical information related to the expansion of TCTR for dissemination/publication; (2) synthesis and presentation of relevant technical information at the TCTR Advisory Board meetings.
- CLDP will facilitate quarterly meetings of the TCTR Expert Group to exchange information, prepare reports for review and distribution to the decision makers at TCTR Advisory Board meetings.

TCTR Coordination Platform Vision

Proposed Outcomes:

- TCTR Advisory Board and TCTR Expert Group develop mode of work for the TCTR Coordination Platform.
- Advisory Board and Expert Group members consistently engage in meetings.
- The Coordination Platform promotes cohesive unity and increases efficiency of soft connectivity efforts for the development of TCTR.

Proposed Indicators:

- A concept and working procedures outlining concrete goals and objectives of the TCTR Advisory Board and TCTR Expert Group developed.
- A list of prospective participating parties, and countries identified and invited.
- Relevant government bodies and international organizations consistently nominate the Advisory Board and Expert Group participants.
- Number of meetings of TCTR Advisory Board held bi-annually.
- Number of meetings of TCTR Expert Group held quarterly.
- Number of projects implemented as a result of TCTR Coordination Platform meetings.

TCTR Coordination Platform 2024 WORK PLAN

Estimated dates	Event name	Brief description/goals
June 20-21, 2024 (Baku, Azerbaijan)	Formational Meeting: TCTR Expert Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TCTR Advisory Board and the TCTR Expert Group Nominations ▪ Operational principles and effective methods of interaction ▪ Project status updates including - CLDP-USAID-TRACECA project on transport document digitalization ▪ Priority tasks under TCTR Joint Action
Mid August 2024	Second TCTR Expert Group meeting (road transport & customs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consideration of the data received on priority issues of road transport and customs clearance under the TCTR Joint Action Plan ▪ Project status updates
Mid-October 2024	Third TCTR Expert Group meeting (railway & maritime transport)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consideration of the data received on priority issues of railway and maritime transport under TCTR Joint Action Plan ▪ Project status updates
December 2024	First TCTR Advisory Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analysis of the results of the work of the TCTR Expert Group on the implementation of TCTR Joint Action Plan ▪ Project status updates ▪ Proposed recommendations or modifications to the TCTR Joint Action Plan ▪ Determine priority tasks for the next year ▪ Develop work plan of the TCTR Coordination Platform for 2025

Thank You

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