



D I V I S I O N O N T E C H N O L O G Y A N D L O G I S T I C S

ASYCUDA **NEWSLETTER**



December 2022

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EDITORIAL

English version

The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, CoP27, was held from 6 to 20 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt and more than 35,000 representatives of 190 countries participated in the 27th



Climate Change CoP. The 2022 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) analysis forecasts that emissions will no longer increase after 2030, in opposition to last year's data which suggested an increase of emissions beyond 2030. Although the 2022 UNFCCC report outlines how countries are bending the curve of global greenhouse gas emissions downwards, warming could still increase by 2.5°C by the end of the century, significantly higher than the 1.5°C limit agreed upon in Paris in 2015. In that context, the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, during his CoP27 opening speech urged the 170 nations that have not yet revisited their national plans to reduce emissions to do so, and called upon all the member States to "enable enhanced finance to flow to addressing impacts"¹. One of the most important outcomes of CoP27 is a new funding arrangement on loss and damage, a pooled fund for countries affected by climate change, signaling victims of climate change in vulnerable developing countries and islands will not be left behind².

It is also inter-governmental organizations' responsibility to assist countries in their efforts to tackle climate change and preserve our environment. UNCTAD and WTO organized a

high-level forum on global investment and trade for climate transformation during CoP27, where both organizations insisted on the need for a stronger multilateral cooperation to support the low-carbon transition in developing economies. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the "Adaptation needs in the developing world are set to skyrocket to as much as \$340 billion a year by 2030. Yet adaptation support today stands at less than one-tenth of that amount. The most vulnerable people and communities are paying the price."³ In addition to funding and multilateral cooperation, a common strategy must be set and implemented, based on guidelines and technical assistance under the guidance of an inter-governmental organization. At the high-level forum, UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebecca Grynspan said that "what we need is a roadmap and a global alliance that gives us clear directions for how to maximize the contribution of the international trade and investment system to fight against climate change"⁴. Like for trade and development, the technical assistance provided to developing nations should hinge on transferring knowledge and technology, embracing country ownership, while ensuring transparency, efficiency and accountability.

The ASYCUDA Programme, UNCTAD's largest technical assistance programme, consistently accounts for more than half of UNCTAD's total technical cooperation activities, and contributes to facilitating international trade through the use of cutting-edge ICT systems. Operational for more than 40 years, ASYCUDA has automated and improved the efficiency of customs and

¹ <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-opening-remarks-by-the-un-climate-change-executive-secretary>

² <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-reaches-breakthrough-agreement-on-new-loss-and-damage-fund-for-vulnerable-countries>

³ <https://unctad.org/programme/unctad-cop27>

⁴ <https://unctad.org/news/cop27-forum-underlines-urgent-need-more-investment-climate-action>

trade processes of more than 100 countries and territories. Every year, it transfers knowledge and technology through the delivery of more than 300 training sessions for more than 3,000 participants. Aside from its renowned economic and social impact⁵, the Programme also has an environmental impact. Its technical assistance contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Automation reduces both paper usage and the physical need to travel between government agencies. For example, in Vanuatu, the implementation of the ASYCUDA-based single window has, by eliminating or reducing paper used in the sanitary and phytosanitary certificate application and cargo clearance processes, reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 5,827kg. In Angola, the implementation of ASYCUDAWorld, ASYCUDA's 4th generation of customs IT system, reduced paperwork for goods clearance by 70%. The Programme's impact on the environment is not limited to the elimination or reduction of paper. For example, at the request of member States, ASYCUDA developed a module to monitor the trade of ozone-depleting substances. The module was successfully launched in Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. Also, in an effort to preserve the diversity of our environment and prevent the extinction of endangered species, ASYCUDA developed in cooperation with CITES Secretariat, a tool called eCITES for the management and granting of permits for the international trade of endangered species of fauna and flora. The solution is operational in Sri Lanka and Mozambique. As well as the Programme's critical work in helping developing economies to transition to a low-carbon world, ASYCUDA is also providing humanitarian relief and assistance to the victims of climate-change and other emergencies. ASYCUDA developed, in cooperation with OCHA, an automated system for the expedited release of emergency consignments. The system, called ASYREC, ensures that the humanitarian response to an

emergency crisis proves logistically timely and effective. Interested countries and territories, mostly SIDS, lack financial resources to implement such a tool. However, the loss and damage fund agreed upon during CoP27 can potentially provide the necessary finance to implement ASYREC in many countries vulnerable to climate change.

In the following paragraphs, we invite you to discover how ASYCUDA's technical assistance in trade facilitation and process automation has had an impact on the environment⁶ and its related SDGs 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land). We will cover the cases of Timor Leste and Vanuatu who reduced their carbon footprint with the implementation of a single window and the automated monitoring of the trade of ozone-depleting substances. We will also cover the launch and impact of eCITES in Sri Lanka, and its presentation during CITES CoP19, held in Panama from 14 to 25 November 2022. Finally, we will present ASYREC, the IT solution for the expedited clearance and coordination of relief consignments developed in partnership with OCHA.

We invite you to send any comments you might have to asycuda@unctad.org. You can also follow us on our official twitter account: [@AsycudaProgram](https://twitter.com/AsycudaProgram) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/asycuda).

ASYCUDA Programme,
Division on Technology and Logistics,
Geneva, December 2022
www.asycuda.org

⁵ <https://asycuda.org/en/case-studies/>

⁶ <https://asycuda.org/en/impact-on-sdgs/>

EDITORIAL

Version française

La Conférence de Charm el-Cheikh de 2022 sur les changements climatiques, dite COP27, s'est déroulée du 6 au 20 novembre 2022 en Egypte et a connu la participation de plus de 35,000 représentants de 190 pays. L'analyse de la Convention-cadre des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC) de 2022 prévoit que les émissions n'accroîtront plus après 2030, contrairement à celle de l'année dernière qui estimait une augmentation des émissions après 2030. Bien que le rapport 2022 de la CCNUCC souligne les efforts des pays pour fléchir la courbe des émissions de gaz à effet de serre, le réchauffement pourrait augmenter de 2.5°C à la fin du siècle, significativement plus élevé que la limite de 1.5°C convenue à Paris en 2015. Dans ce contexte, le Secrétaire Général de la CCNUCC, durant son discours d'ouverture de la COP27, a exhorté les 170 nations n'ayant pas encore revu leur plan national de réduction des émissions de le faire, et a appelé toutes les Etats membres à mettre à disposition des fonds pour répondre à l'impact du réchauffement climatique⁷. Un aboutissement majeur de la COP27 est une entente de financement sur la perte et le préjudice, qui consiste en un fonds commun pour les pays affectés par le changement climatique, adressant ainsi un message fort de solidarité envers les victimes du changement climatique dans les pays en développement et Etats insulaires⁸.

Il est aussi de la responsabilité des organisations inter-gouvernementales d'assister les pays dans leurs efforts de lutte contre le changement climatique et de préservation de notre



environnement. La CNUCED et l'OMC ont organisé un forum de haut niveau sur l'investissement, le commerce international et le changement climatique durant la COP27, où les deux organisations ont insisté sur le besoin d'une coopération multilatérale renforcée afin d'aider à la transition vers de faibles émissions de gaz dans les pays en développement. Le Secrétaire Général de l'ONU Antonio Guterres a insisté sur le fait que « les besoins d'adaptation des pays en développement atteindraient 340 milliards de dollars américains par an dès 2030. Le support fourni aujourd'hui n'atteint pas le un-dixième de ce montant. Les populations et communautés les plus vulnérables en paient le prix. »⁹ En plus de la création d'un fonds et de la coopération multilatérale, une stratégie commune doit être mise en place, basée sur des recommandations et une assistance technique sous l'appui d'une organisation inter-gouvernementale. Durant le forum de haut niveau, la Secrétaire Générale de la CNUCED Rebecca Grynspan a insisté sur « le besoin d'une feuille de route claire et d'une alliance générale qui nous donnerait des directions claires sur la manière de maximiser la contribution du système du commerce international et de l'investissement

dans la lutte contre le changement climatique »¹⁰ Comme pour le commerce et le développement, l'assistance technique fournie doit se baser sur le transfert des compétences et de la technologie et l'appropriation par les pays tout en assurant transparence, efficacité and responsabilisation.

Le Programme SYDONIA, le plus grand programme d'assistance technique de la CNUCED, représente plus de la moitié des activités de coopération technique de la CNUCED, et contribue à la facilitation du commerce international à travers l'utilisation de systèmes informatiques et de

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-opening-remarks-by-the-un-climate-change-executive-secretary>

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-reaches-breakthrough-agreement-on-new-loss-and-damage-fund-for-vulnerable-countries>

⁹ <https://unctad.org/programme/unctad-cop27>

¹⁰ <https://unctad.org/news/cop27-forum-underlines-urgent-need-more-investment-climate-action>

technologie de pointe. Opérationnel depuis plus de 40 ans, SYDONIA a automatisé et amélioré l'efficacité des processus douaniers et du commerce dans plus de 100 pays et territoires. Chaque année, SYDONIA transfère ses compétences de par l'organisation de plus de 300 sessions de formation pour plus de 3,000 participants. Hormis son impact économique et social reconnu¹¹, le programme a aussi un impact sur l'environnement. Son assistance technique contribue à la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre. L'automatisation réduit l'utilisation du papier et les déplacements physiques entre les agences gouvernementales. Par exemple, au Vanuatu, la mise en place d'un guichet unique basé sur la technologie SYDONIA a, de par la réduction ou l'élimination du papier dans les processus de dédouanement et d'obtention de certificats sanitaires et phytosanitaires, réduit les émissions de dioxyde de carbone de 5,827 kg. En Angola, la mise en place du système SYDONIAWorld, la 4^{ème} génération de système informatisé douanier, a réduit l'utilisation du papier de 70%. L'impact du programme sur l'environnement ne se limite pas à l'élimination ou la réduction du papier. Par exemple, suite à une demande officielle d'un Etat membre, SYDONIA a développé un module de suivi du commerce de substances contribuant à la destruction de la couche d'ozone. Le module a été lancé avec succès au Timor-Leste et au Vanuatu. De plus, dans un effort de préservation de la diversité de notre environnement et de prévention de l'extinction d'espèces en danger, SYDONIA a développé en coopération avec le Secrétariat CITES, un outil appelé eCITES pour l'octroi et la gestion de permis pour le commerce international d'espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction. La solution est opérationnelle au Sri Lanka et au Mozambique. En plus du support critique de réduction des émissions carbone fournie par le programme aux pays en développement, SYDONIA fournit une assistance humanitaire aux victimes du changement climatique et autres désastres. En effet, SYDONIA a développé en coopération avec OCHA, un système automatisé pour le

dédouanement simplifié et accéléré des envois humanitaires. Le système, appelé ASYREC, assure la coordination et l'efficacité du processus de réponse humanitaire fournie suite à un désastre. Les pays intéressés souffrent de manque de manque de ressources financières pour mettre en place cette solution. Néanmoins, le fond sur la perte et le préjudice créé durant la COP27 pourrait potentiellement financer la mise en place d'ASYREC dans les pays vulnérables au changement climatique.

Dans les prochains paragraphes, nous vous invitons à découvrir comment l'assistance technique de SYDONIA pour la facilitation du commerce et l'automatisation de processus a eu un impact sur l'environnement¹² et sur les objectifs de développement durable 13 (« Mesures relatives à la lutte contre les changements climatiques ») et 15 (« Vie Terrestre »). Nous couvrirons les cas du Timor-Leste et du Vanuatu qui ont réduit leur empreinte carbone suite à la mise en place d'un guichet unique électronique et l'automatisation du suivi du commerce des substance contribuant à la destruction de la couche d'ozone. Nous couvrirons aussi la démarrage et l'impact d'eCITES au Sri Lanka, et la présentation durant la COP19 de CITES, qui s'est tenue du 14 au 25 novembre 2022. Finalement, nous présenterons ASYREC, la solution informatique pour la simplification et la coordination du dédouanement des envois humanitaires développé en coopération avec OCHA.

Nous vous invitons à envoyer vos commentaires à asycuda@unctad.org. Vous pouvez également nous suivre sur nos comptes officiels Twitter [@AsycudaProgram](https://twitter.com/AsycudaProgram) et LinkedIn.

Programme SYDONIA,
Division de la Technologie et de la Logistique,
Genève, décembre 2022
www.asycuda.org

¹¹ <https://asycuda.org/en/case-studies/>

¹² <https://asycuda.org/en/impact-on-sdgs/>

EDITORIAL

Versión española

La Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático de 2022, la CoP27, se celebró del 6 al 20 de noviembre de 2022 en Sharm el-Sheij (Egipto) y en ella participaron más de 35.000 representantes de 190 países. El análisis de 2022 de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC) prevé que las emisiones dejarán de aumentar después de 2030, en oposición a los datos del año pasado que sugerían un aumento de las emisiones más allá de 2030. Aunque el informe de 2022 de la CMNUCC destaca los esfuerzos de los países por reducir la curva de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, el calentamiento podría aumentar 2,5 °C a finales de siglo, una cifra significativamente superior al límite de 1,5 °C acordado en París en 2015. En este contexto, el Secretario General de la CMNUCC, durante su discurso de apertura de la COP27, instó a las 170 naciones que aún no han revisado sus planes nacionales de reducción de emisiones a que lo hagan, y pidió a todos los Estados miembros que pongan fondos a su disposición para hacer frente al impacto del calentamiento global¹³. Uno de los principales resultados de la COP27 es un acuerdo sobre la financiación de pérdidas y daños, que consiste en un fondo común para los países afectados por el cambio climático, enviando un fuerte mensaje de solidaridad a las víctimas del cambio climático en los países en desarrollo y los Estados insulares¹⁴.

También es responsabilidad de las organizaciones intergubernamentales ayudar a los países en sus



esfuerzos por combatir el cambio climático y preservar nuestro medio ambiente. La UNCTAD y la OMC celebraron un foro de alto nivel sobre inversión, comercio internacional y cambio climático durante la COP27, en el que ambas organizaciones hicieron hincapié en la necesidad de una mayor cooperación multilateral para apoyar la transición hacia economías con bajas emisiones en los países en desarrollo. El Secretario General de la ONU, Antonio Guterres, subrayó que "las necesidades de adaptación de los países en desarrollo alcanzarán los 340.000 millones de dólares anuales de aquí a 2030. Las ayudas actuales no llegan a la décima parte de esta cantidad. Las personas y comunidades más vulnerables están pagando el precio"¹⁵. Además de la financiación y la cooperación multilateral, es preciso establecer y aplicar una estrategia común, basada en recomendaciones y asistencia técnica bajo la dirección de una organización intergubernamental. Durante el foro de alto nivel, la Secretaria General de la UNCTAD, Rebecca Grynspan, subrayó "la necesidad de una hoja de ruta clara y de una alianza global que nos dé orientaciones claras sobre cómo maximizar la contribución del sistema internacional de comercio e inversión en la lucha contra el cambio climático "¹⁶. Al igual que ocurre con el comercio y el desarrollo, la asistencia técnica prestada debe basarse en la transferencia de conocimientos y tecnología y en la implicación de los países, garantizando al mismo tiempo la transparencia, la eficacia y la rendición de cuentas.

El Programa SIDUNEA, el mayor programa de asistencia técnica de la UNCTAD, representa más de la mitad de las actividades de cooperación técnica de ésta y contribuye a facilitar el comercio internacional mediante el uso de sistemas

¹³ <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-opening-remarks-by-the-un-climate-change-executive-secretary>

¹⁴ <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-reaches-breakthrough-agreement-on-new-loss-and-damage-fund-for-vulnerable-countries>

¹⁵ <https://unctad.org/programme/unctad-cop27>

¹⁶ <https://unctad.org/news/cop27-forum-underlines-urgent-need-more-investment-climate-action>

informáticos y tecnología punta. En funcionamiento desde hace más de 40 años, SIDUNEA ha automatizado y mejorado la eficacia de los procesos aduaneros y comerciales en más de 100 países y territorios. Cada año, SIDUNEA transfiere sus competencias mediante la organización de más de 300 sesiones de formación para más de 3.000 participantes. Además de su reconocido impacto económico y social¹⁷, el programa también tiene repercusiones en el medio ambiente. Su asistencia técnica contribuye a reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. La automatización reduce el uso de papel y los desplazamientos físicos entre organismos públicos. Por ejemplo, en Vanuatu, la implantación de una ventanilla única basada en la tecnología SIDUNEA ha reducido o eliminado el uso de papel en los procesos de despacho de aduanas y obtención de certificados sanitarios y fitosanitarios, reduciendo las emisiones de dióxido de carbono en 5.827 kg. En Angola, la implantación de SIDUNEAWorld, el sistema aduanero informatizado de 4ª generación, ha reducido el uso de papel en un 70%. El impacto medioambiental del programa no se limita a la eliminación o reducción del papel. Por ejemplo, a raíz de una petición oficial de un Estado miembro, SIDUNEA desarrolló un módulo para controlar el comercio de sustancias que agotan la capa de ozono. El módulo se ha puesto en marcha con éxito en Timor Oriental y Vanuatu. Además, en un esfuerzo por preservar la diversidad de nuestro medio ambiente y evitar la extinción de especies amenazadas, SIDUNEA ha desarrollado, en colaboración con la Secretaría de CITES, una herramienta denominada eCITES para la concesión y gestión de permisos de comercio internacional de especies silvestres amenazadas. La solución está operativa en Sri Lanka y Mozambique. Además del apoyo fundamental que el programa presta a los países en desarrollo para reducir las emisiones de carbono, SIDUNEA proporciona ayuda humanitaria a las víctimas del cambio climático y otras catástrofes. De hecho, SIDUNEA ha desarrollado, en cooperación con

OCHA, un sistema automatizado para el despacho simplificado y acelerado de los envíos humanitarios. El sistema, denominado ASYREC, garantiza la coordinación y eficacia del proceso de respuesta humanitaria ofrecido tras una catástrofe. Los países y territorios interesados, en su mayoría PEID, carecen de recursos financieros para poner en marcha una herramienta de este tipo. No obstante, el fondo para pérdidas y daños creado durante la COP27 podría proporcionar potencialmente la financiación necesaria para implantar el ASYREC en muchos países vulnerables al cambio climático.

En los párrafos siguientes, le invitamos a descubrir cómo la asistencia técnica de SIDUNEA en materia de facilitación del comercio y la automatización de procesos ha repercutido en el medio ambiente¹⁸ y en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible 13 ("Acción frente al cambio climático") y 15 ("Vida en la tierra"). Trataremos los casos de Timor Oriental y Vanuatu, que han reducido su huella de carbono gracias a la implantación de una ventanilla única electrónica y a la automatización del seguimiento del comercio de sustancias que agotan la capa de ozono. También cubriremos el lanzamiento y el impacto de eCITES en Sri Lanka, y su presentación durante la COP19 de CITES, celebrada en Panamá del 14 al 25 de noviembre de 2022. Por último, presentaremos ASYREC, la solución informática para la agilización del despacho y la coordinación de los envíos humanitarios desarrollada en cooperación con OCHA.

Le invitamos a enviar sus comentarios a asycuda@unctad.org. También puede seguirnos en nuestras cuentas oficiales de Twitter: @AsycudaProgram y LinkedIn.

Programa SIDUNEA
División de Tecnología y Logística,
Ginebra, diciembre 2022
www.asycuda.org

¹⁷ <https://asycuda.org/en/case-studies/>

¹⁸ <https://asycuda.org/en/impact-on-sdgs/>

TIMOR-LESTE SINGLE WINDOW

Following the successful national implementation of ASYCUDAWorld in Timor-Leste in 2020, the government requested assistance from UNCTAD to build its own single window system for trade based on ASYCUDA technology. The



Timor-Leste Electronic Single Window (TileSW) connects customs, the private sector, and government agencies that deal with the movement of people and goods (such as taxation, quarantine, health, transportation, agriculture, fisheries, and the central bank), to facilitate the clearance of good traded internationally. Aware of the environmental challenges that we face now, potential future climate change scenarios, and the global push for a post-COVID-19 green recovery, the Government of Timor-Leste aimed to implement an environmental-friendly platform that reduces paper consumption and carbon footprint.

On 1 February 2021, the first electronic single window module was released in cooperation with TradeInvest, a government public institute responsible for investment and export promotion. It grants investment certificates and manages the list of exempted commodities. Since the launch, customs saw an 85% reduction in printed paper and physical trips between customs and TradeInvest were reduced by 91%.

The same year it was decided to amend the TileSW project to include an additional partner government agency, the National Ozone Unit (NOU) and prioritize its integration within the system. The Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substances (ODS) requires the establishment of an import/export licensing system for controlled chemicals. The Government of Timor-Leste and UNCTAD agreed the best approach would be to integrate this into TileSW where ODS import/export licensing application, approval, customs clearance and trade data exchange would be processed through a government-mandated single-entry comprehensive platform for the submission of information to fulfill regulatory requirements between economic operators and government authorities.

Consequently, the second TileSW module launched in September 2021 provided for the monitoring and control of the importation of ODS in cooperation with the NOU. It does not only cover licensing, but also ensures efficient monitoring and reporting with accurate trade data.



Figure 1: Official Launch of TileSW's Second Module for the Monitoring and Control of the Trade of ODS in the presence of the Acting Minister of Finance and the Director General of Customs



Figure 2: ODS Control & Monitoring Procedure

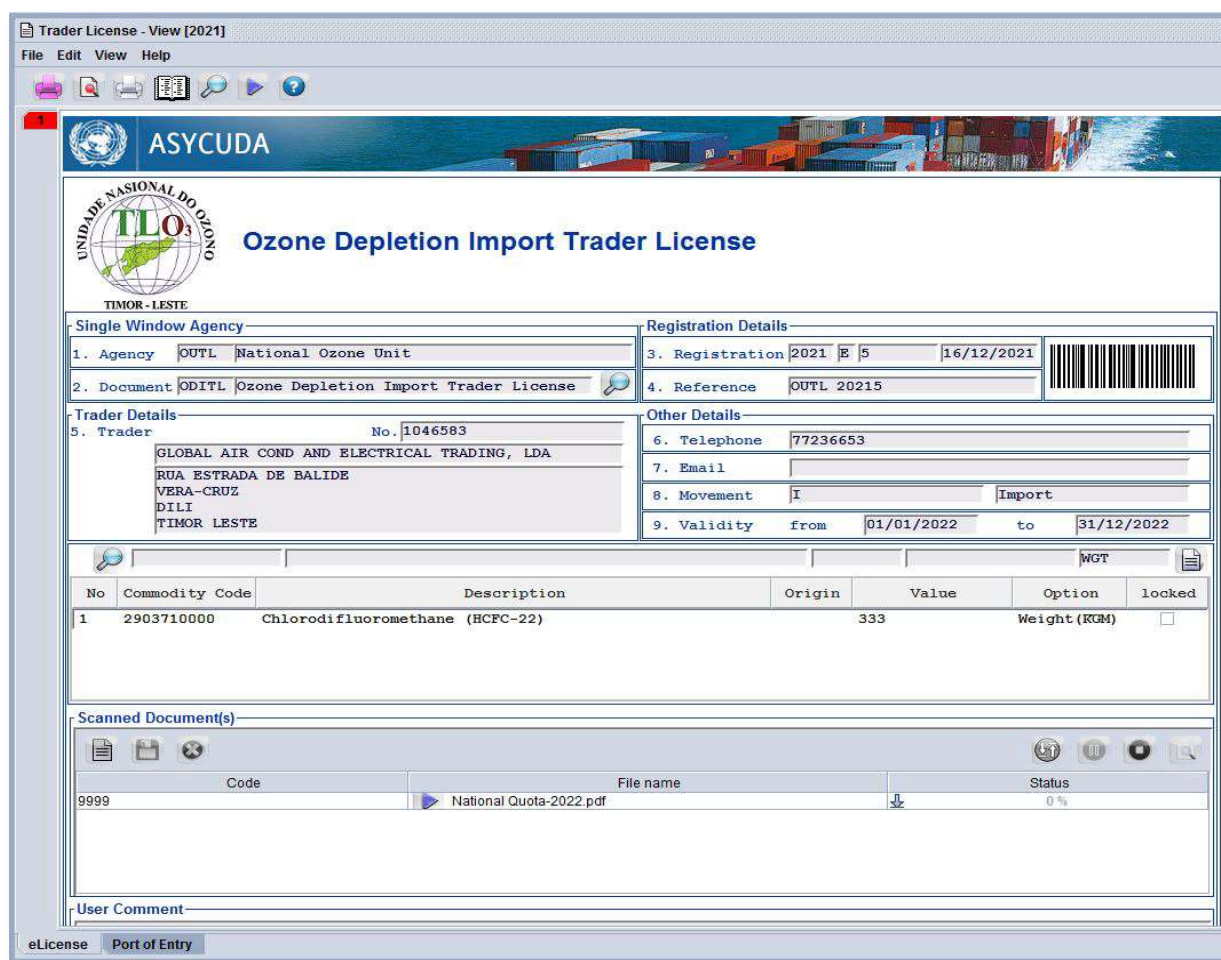


Figure 3: ODS Import License Granting on TileSW

Soon after launch, the system successfully detected the request to import two consignments of gas by an importer who had exceeded their annual quota. With better monitoring and management of ODS importation, the government can now better control the importation of goods that are deemed dangerous to the environment in addition to saving money and natural resources in the form of paper and carbon emissions.

The implementation of TileSW and its module for ODS import/export monitoring have a direct impact on SDG 13, contributing to taking urgent action to combat climate change.

During the official launch of the module, Ms. Dechen Tsering, UNEP Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, said “the use of the national single window is a good showcase of deploying information technology to control the issuance of licenses to manage the allocated quota to facilitate timely and instantly ensure exchange of information between the Customs Authority and the Department of Ozone Depleting Substance in order to cross-check data and ensure consistency throughout the process of import and export of ozone depleting substances” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LZn1CEVEXE>).

VANUATU ELECTRONIC SINGLE WINDOW

Since 2016, Vanuatu has made tremendous progress in facilitating trade and maximizing its environmental benefits. The government put in place a framework for action called “Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan” that consists of objectives and targets for sustainable development aligned with the SDGs. The nation’s vision for 2030 relies on 3 pillars: society, environment and economy. In that context, the government sought UNCTAD’s technical assistance to help ensure green, stable and equitable economic growth.



The collaboration started with the implementation of ASYCUDAWorld for cargo clearance and its extension to support the automation of customs border security functions. In 2017, travelers to Vanuatu contributed 46.1% of GDP. This led to the development of the Passenger Processing Module (ASYPX) to capture passenger details and facilitate travel. Mr. Jeffrey Markson, Vanuatu Immigration Director, stated “the ASYCUDA Passenger Processing Module is a cost-effective solution tailored to meet the needs of both customs and immigration departments and allowed the compilation and analysis of traveler data in a timely manner.”

Before ASYCUDAWorld, each customs clearance request required the printing of 11 pages and three physical journeys between declarant premises and customs. With ASYCUDAWorld, paper usage was reduced by 65% and trips were reduced to one.



Figure 4: Customs Officer Using the ASYCUDA Passenger Processing Module in Port Vila Airport

In 2018, Vanuatu embarked on the implementation of a single window for trade based on ASYCUDA technology and assistance. The Vanuatu electronic Single Window (VeSW) project seeks to adopt trade facilitation measures, such as automating and integrating the processes of partner government agencies (PGAs) in the ASYCUDA-based single window environment. The first module developed and launched in 2020 called ASYSPS, is a bespoke sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) module to automate the processes of applying, approving and paying for SPS certificates. The Department of Biosecurity, which delivers such certificates, provided critical services to facilitate Vanuatu exports. In 2018, 89% of total exports were crops and animal resources requiring SPS certification. In 2020, ASYSPS allowed for the collection of \$250,000 with an average processing time of ten minutes. ASYSPS has also had a positive environmental impact. From the Department of Biosecurity perspective, **each SPS request required seven printed pages and three trips between the applicant and the biosecurity agency. Printed papers were reduced to only one (88% reduction) and trips were reduced by 76%. A total of 4,216 SPS applications were processed in 2021.** From the customs agency perspective, **each SPS request required 11 printed pages and three trips between the declarant premises and the biosecurity agency. These numbers were respectively reduced by 99% and 98% with the integration of ASYSPS in the single window.**



Figure 5: Official Launch of ASYSPS

In 2021, a new module integrating Vanuatu's Department of Energy (part of the Ministry of Climate Change) into the single window was launched, aiming to reduce emissions by imposing strict rules and tests when importing air conditioners, refrigerators and light bulbs. When an economic operator imports a fridge or an air conditioner, they must now register these appliances through the single window. The verification officer then ensures that the product passes the standards test and, if successful, the product is endorsed and, once fees are paid, the permit issued. More than 300 applications were processed and over 600 new energy-compliant appliances were registered by the department in less than a year.

In December 2021, Vanuatu successfully launched ASYODS, a module designed to control and monitor the imports of ozone-depleting substances under the Electronic Single Window System. Vanuatu is the second country to implement the module, following Timor-Leste. It assists the Department of Environment in the global effort to protect the ozone layer. It is the second module that the Ministry of Climate Change launched under the single window after the energy appliance module.



Figure 6: Official Launch of ASYODS

As part of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2030, Vanuatu is currently working on the rollout of ASYREC, the automated system for relief consignments. The system aims at coordinating and preparing response and recovery from disasters such as pandemics, droughts, floods, earthquakes, etc. The project was officially launched in May 2022 during a virtual event that was

attended by Vanuatu’s National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), customs, the project funder AusAID, NGOs involved in delivering humanitarian relief supplies in country, and UNCTAD staff, among others. ASYREC will help the Vanuatu NDMO to effectively coordinate, facilitate and monitor the import and distribution of humanitarian supplies during an emergency. Vanuatu will be the first country worldwide to pilot ASYREC.

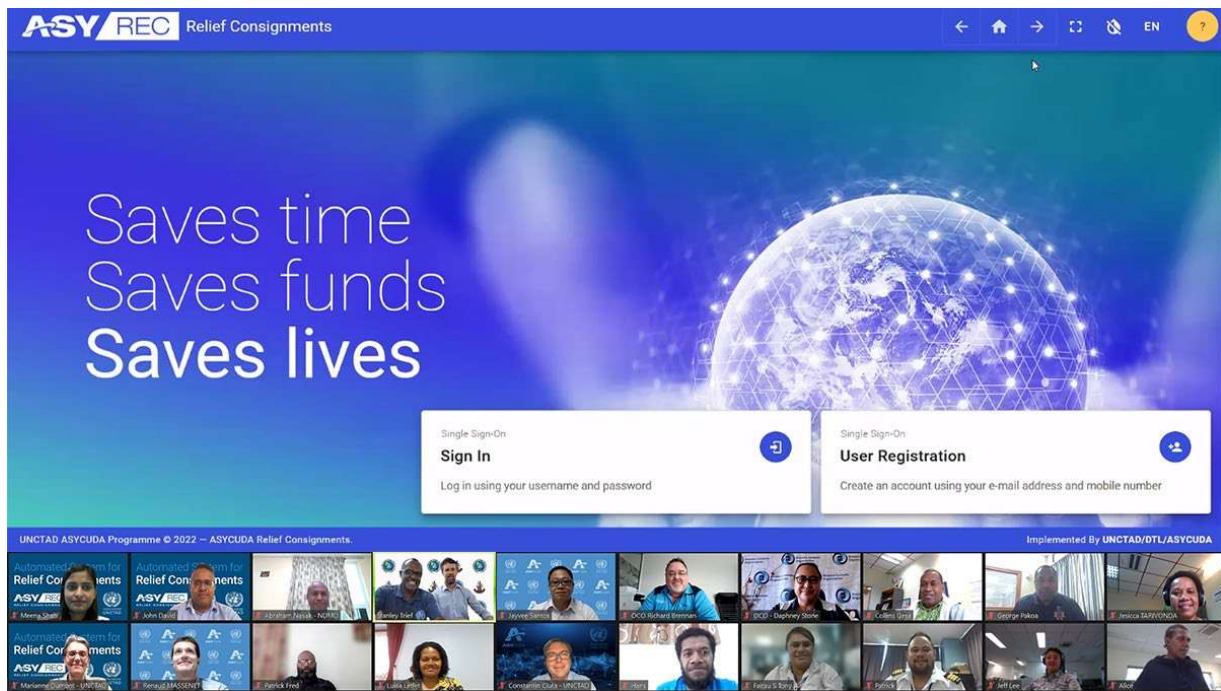


Figure 7: ASYREC Project Virtual Kick-Off

ECITES IMPLEMENTATION IN SRI LANKA & MOZAMBIQUE



In 2019, UNCTAD brought new technology to wildlife trade management, aimed at helping to stop the loss of biodiversity and the trafficking of protected species (SDG15 – Life on land). eCITES, a cloud-based electronic permitting system, was created to automate permit application, processing, issuance and reporting for the international trade in endangered species of fauna and flora. The solution is developed by ASYCUDA in cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES Secretariat). Visit ecites.org for more information on eCITES.

Since 2010, and the MOU signed between CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD, cooperation was enhanced to capitalize upon ASYCUDA’s experience in the implementation of state-of-the-art information technology and information management approaches to combat illegal trade in wildlife. It resulted in the development of eCITES, funded by Switzerland, being piloted firstly in Sri Lanka in February 2020, and subsequently in Mozambique in October 2022. The solution was showcased at CITES CoP18, held in Geneva, Switzerland in August 2019.

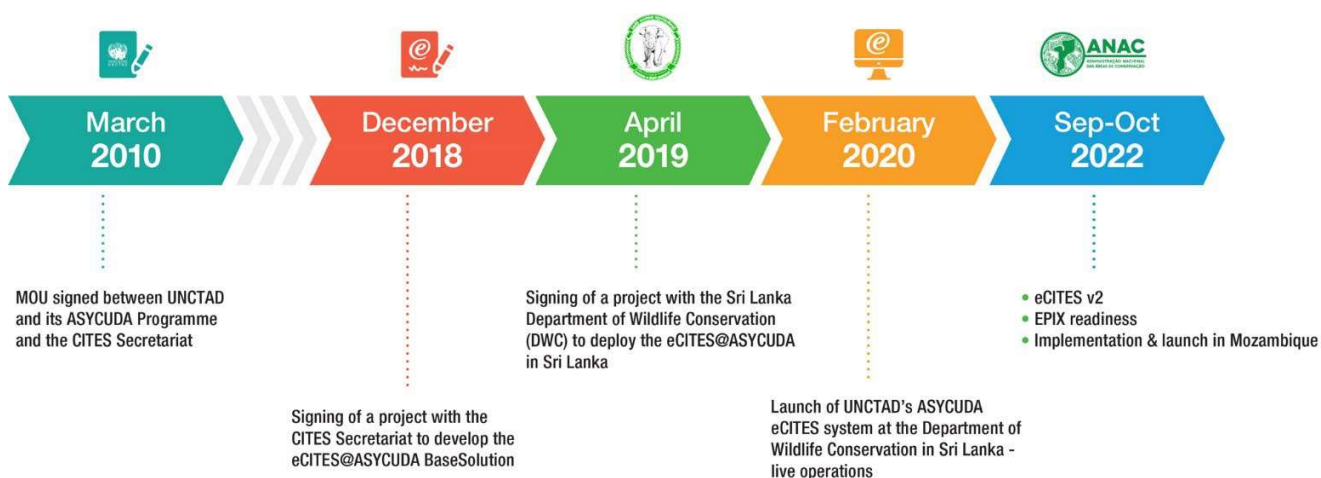


Figure 8: CITES and UNCTAD’s ASYCUDA Cooperation Timeline

The roll-out of eCITES in Sri Lanka took place under a technical assistance project between the country’s Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) and UNCTAD. It involved tailoring the solution to DWC’s needs, rules, regulations and configuring the system’s reporting module. It also entailed augmenting the system to include an interface for electronic risk management and targeted controls. DWC then tested and accepted the system. UNCTAD conducted a train-the-

trainers knowledge transfer and skills reinforcement session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in January 2020, for DWC trainers, who in turn trained other stakeholders in Sri Lanka.

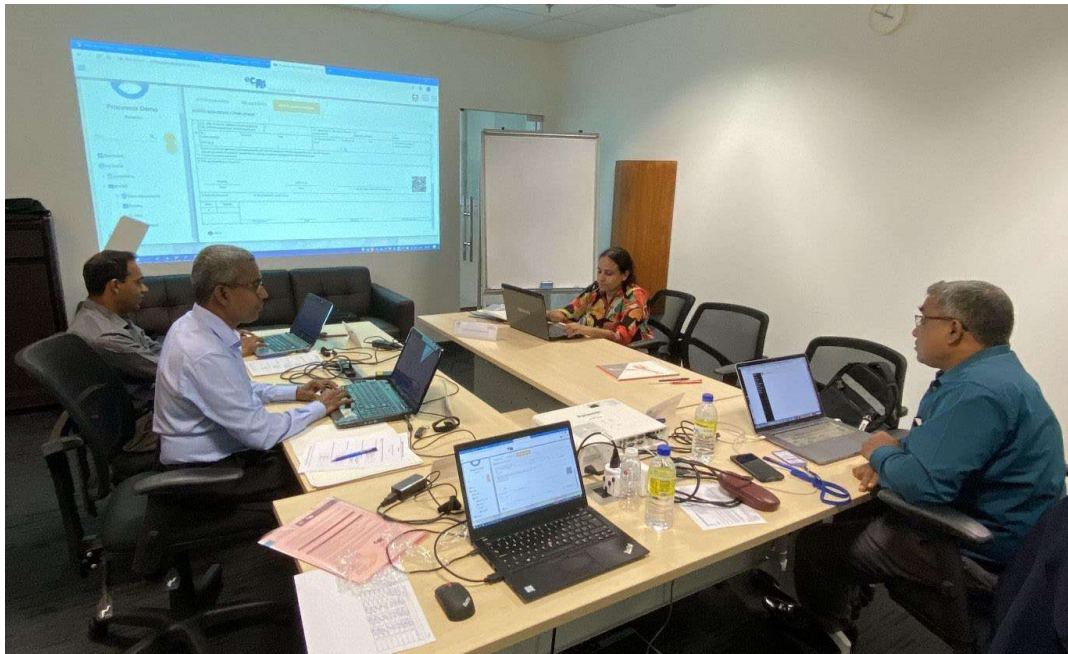


Figure 9: Train-the-Trainers Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Figure 10: Official Launch of eCITES in Sri Lanka

Today, two years after the solution went live, the expected results have become a reality. The solution and its transparent procedures and processes are accepted by the stakeholders using it. The number of permit requests is increasing: +17% from 2020 to 2021 and +24% from 2021 to 2022. The percentage of rejected requests is decreasing from 8.8% in 2020 to 4.3% in 2022, which demonstrates improved compliance to rules and regulations by traders. It also shows better control and monitoring by eCITES and Sri Lanka’s Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC). eCITES has also facilitated trade with the average processing time decreasing by 68% in 2020-2022, from 120 hours to 39 hours.

Beyond Sri Lanka, an enhanced version of the system, called eCITES v2, was launched in Mozambique in October 2022, where similar improvements are foreseen. The enhanced version includes but is not limited to the strengthening of the ICT infrastructure of the system handled by UNCTAD, the integration of a new accounting module that allows for the electronic payment of taxes, and the development of an interface for the automatic cross-border exchange of CITES permits with South Africa. The solution as well as training materials were all translated into Portuguese.



Figure 11: eCITES v2 Tailored to Mozambique Requirements

In November 2022, ASYCUDA participated in CITES CoP19 held in Panama. ASYCUDA led a session entitled “Implementation of e-permits: lessons learned and advancing towards an integrated digital solution for eCITES”. The session’s objective was to facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned from parties that have either implemented e-permitting systems or are willing to develop such systems, as well as other stakeholders. ASYCUDA presented the lessons learned from the implementation of eCITES in Sri Lanka and Mozambique, highlighting the unique features introduced in eCITES version 2; the new e-

learning platform; recommendations in terms of technological evolution; current and future partnerships; and the programme’s vision for the future of eCITES.

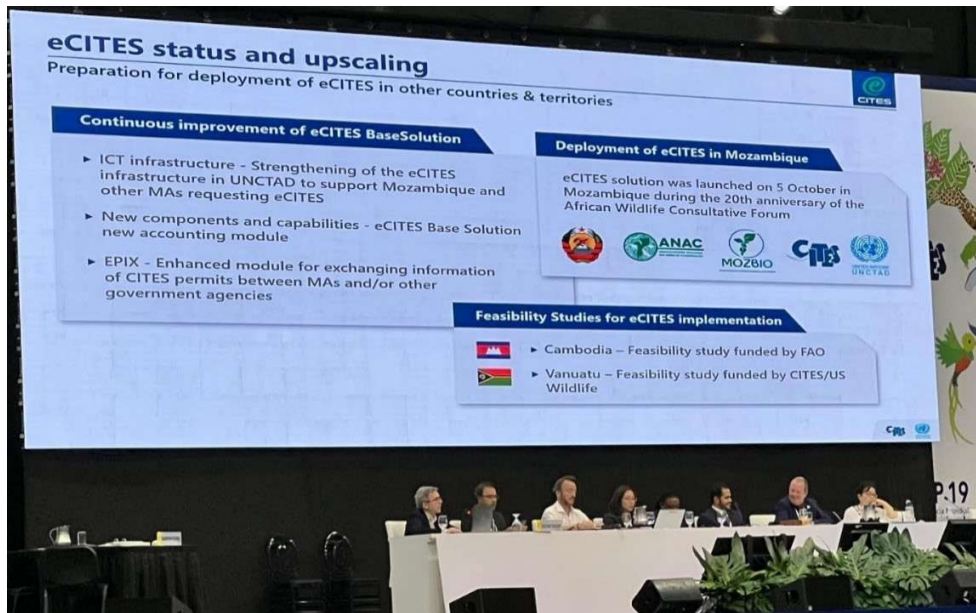


Figure 12: eCITES Presentation for CITES CoP19 in Panama

eCITES
PERMIT SYSTEM

**FACILITATING LEGALITY,
SUSTAINABILITY AND
TRACEABILITY OF
WILDLIFE TRADE**

- ePermit**
Simplify and automate trade processes
- eControl**
Increase transparency and prevent use of fraudulent permits
- eReporting**
Improve risk management for targeted inspections
- eExchange**
Exchange information nationally and internationally between MAs and other agencies (EPIX)

eCITES@asycuda BaseSolution is a partnership between the CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD to assist the Parties with standardisation and automation of the CITES permitting processes.

In partnership with:

with support from:

ecites.asycuda.org

Figure 13: eCITES Banner

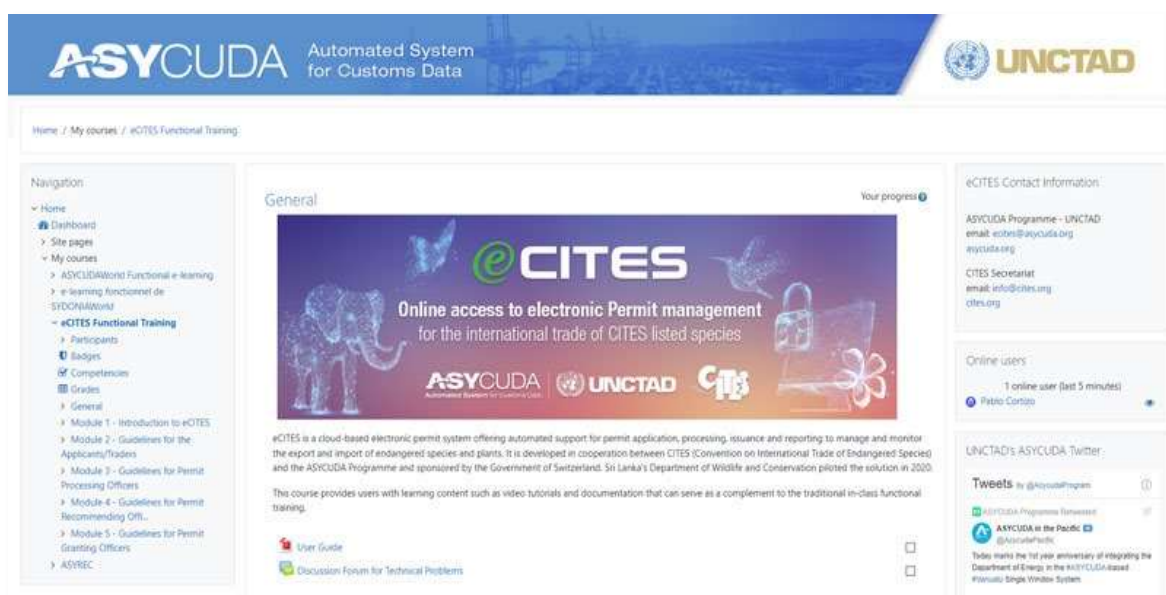


Figure 14: eCITES e-Learning Platform

ASYREC, THE ASYCUDA AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR RELIEF CONSIGNMENTS



Climate change is increasingly causing severe natural disasters around the world, making relief consignments and their clearance a critical aspect of humanitarian assistance. Concerningly, international humanitarian assistance consignments can quickly create bottlenecks at borders and the timely processing of these in crisis situations needs improving. Automating, streamlining, and standardizing processing procedures can expedite the release of relief imports. However, any solution must be compatible with the international standards that are compliant with automated customs systems.

To better respond to this changing environment, UNCTAD and OCHA have partnered to develop a dedicated solution, fully integrated with ASYCUDA systems and aligning with SDG11 aimed at improving disaster resilience. The Automated System for Relief Consignments (ASYREC) provides for the smooth and efficient coordination of humanitarian relief imports. Of utmost importance for the humanitarian aid coordination mechanism, the Global Logistics Cluster, the tool ensures that the humanitarian response to an emergency crisis proves logistically timely and effective. ASYREC automates aspects of the humanitarian response, such as: the automatic activation of the simplified procedure by the affected country’s request/acceptance of international assistance; the automated streamlining of procedures with clear definition of roles, responsibilities, and eligibility of stakeholders/humanitarian donors in the system prior to emergency; the easy identification of

humanitarian consignments; the effective management and control of donations, including unsolicited ones; and the efficient post-clearance audit control and assessment of humanitarian operators' compliance, performed by customs and disaster management agencies.

ASYREC provides National Disaster Management Agencies, border agencies and the wider humanitarian community with the support required to manage emergencies in three phases:



PHASE 1

Pre-emergency and Preparatory stage

- Establish list of emergency relief items, including respective HS codes
- Set applicable border/customs procedures and simplifications, in line with the OCHA Model Customs Agreement
- Self-registration of organizations involved in relief operations
- Provide eligible organizations managing transport of humanitarian cargo with: simplified customs declarations, relief from import duties, and temporary admission



PHASE 2

Emergency

- Register emergency initiation, duration of emergency, government priority relief items, including quantities
- Activate list of eligible organizations
- Pre-arrival lodgment of electronic customs declarations directly or through eligible organizations' representatives, with consignments flagged as humanitarian relief
- Process arrival with coordination of controls, using risk-management techniques, through fully automated processing and release of goods by customs



PHASE 3

Termination of emergency and post-emergency

- Record the end of emergency procedure
- Perform post-audit and assessment of humanitarian operators' compliance
- Update list of priority items and eligible organizations as required

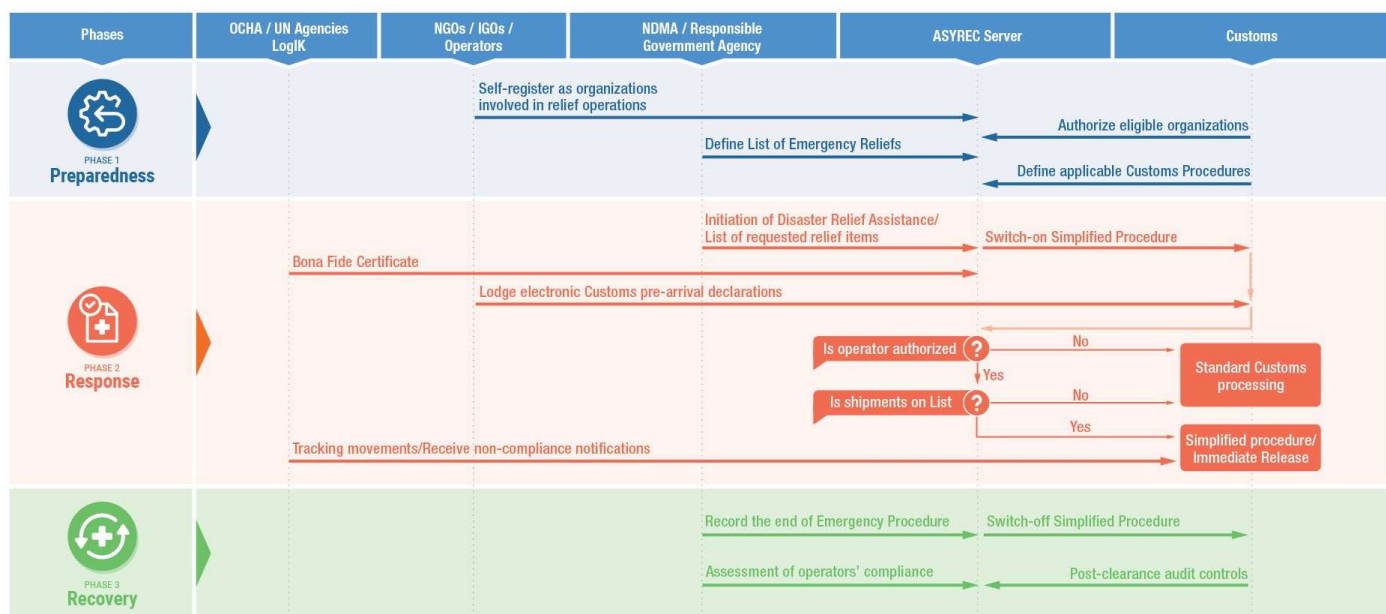


Figure 15: ASYREC Standard Procedure

The benefits of the implementation of ASYREC are the following:

- ASYREC is automatically activated by the affected country’s request/acceptance of international assistance
- Eligible actors/humanitarian donors are registered in the system, prior to any emergencies
- Identified priorities are recorded in ASYREC at an early stage and updated during the disaster for effective control of unsolicited donations
- Facilitated identification by customs administrations of humanitarian consignments and distinction from non-humanitarian shipments
- Shipments of eligible operators and registered ASYREC end-users are processed with priority during the emergency, minimizing delays and reducing congestion at the border
- Prioritize humanitarian consignments based on identified priority needs