



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**UNCTAD**



# TIPs and transparency obligations under the PACER PLUS



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# PACER+ Contact Point?

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- PACER Plus Agreement states to have Contact Points in each country.
- A Contact Point is a person who is officially in charge of implementing **4 PACER Plus transparency obligations** in regard of **8 topics**.
- Depending on the topics, a contact point has different levels of obligations





# 8 Topics?

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1. Trade in goods (Chapter 2)
2. SPS: Sanitary and phytosanitary measures (Chapter 5)
3. TBT: Technical regulations, standard and conformity assessment (Chapter 6)
4. Trade in Services (Chapter 7)
5. Movement of natural persons (Chapter 8)
6. Investment (Chapter 9)
7. Development & economic cooperation (Chapter 10)
8. Institutional provisions (Chapter 12)



# 4 Transparency Obligations?

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1. **Communication** *through, to* a Contact Point
2. **Publication** of existing legislation, etc.
3. **Notification** of existing legislation, etc.
4. **Comment** of *draft* legislation, etc.

Country's [Trade Information Portal](#) will help fulfilling these obligations.



# Contact points of each topic have different obligations..

8 Topics	4 Obligations			
	Communication	Publication	Notification	Opportunity to comment
Trade in goods	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SPS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
TBT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trade in services	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Investment	Yes			
Movement of natural persons	Yes			
Development & Econ. cooperation	Yes			
Institutional provisions	Yes			



# Obligation 1.

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## 1. Communication *through, to* a Contact Point

When an issue arises in regard of one of the previously mentioned topics, the responsible contact point in charge of this topic **must communicate with other countries' contact points** who are in charge of the same topic.



## Obligation 2.

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- 2. Publication** of existing legislation and other information that are related to 4 topics (to the Trade Portal)

UNCTAD is working on with countries TIP Team in populate the TIP. However, Contact Points of the 4 previously mentioned topics should take up this work.

Support from ministries, Parliamentary Services and Crown Law Office is crucial to complete the current work and to transfer know-how for sustainable continuation of the work in the future.



## Obligation 2. Cont.

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What kind of information should a Contact Point publish?

- SPS Contact Point
  - Legislation to protect human, animal, plant from pest and disease (*Biosecurity Act, etc.*)
  - Changes in health status, SPS risk of consignment
- TBT Contact point
  - Technical regulation, conformity assessment (*Technical standards for mobile phones, etc.*)





## Obligation 2. Cont.

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What kind of information should a Contact Point publish?

- Trade in Goods Contact Point
  - Legislation on fees, charges, trade remedies and any other matters (*Customs Act, Excise Tax Act, etc.*)
  - Signed international goods agreement (Quarantine Protocol with NZ)
- Trade in Services Contact Point
  - Legislation on licence, qualification, service standards (*Communication Act, Education Act, etc.*)
  - Signed international services agreement



## Obligation 2. Cont.

- Once the necessary information has been uploaded into the TIP, Contact Points can refer to the legislation tab and see examples of the legislation that they should publish.
  - Example of the legislation tab

### REGULATIONS (31)

CATEGORY	NAME	PRODUCT	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	ENTRYINTOFORCE
All	Search legislation	Search Product	Search Country	All × ▾	All
OTHER; S...	Betio Town Council (Busines...	Goods: Any goods Services: ...	All countries		22/06/2010
SPS; IMP...	Biosecurity Act 2011	live animals and animal pro...	All countries	Agriculture and Livestock Di...	01/01/2011
SERVICE;	Building Act 2006	Building work: work in relati...	All countries	Ministry of Infrastructure an...	25/07/2006
SERVICE;	Civil Aviation Act 2004	'scheduled international air ...	All countries	Ministry of Information, Co...	01/01/2004
SERVICE;	Communications (Amendm...	Communication services	All countries	Tax Office in Kiritimati (MFED)	01/01/2016
TBT; SPS...	...	...	All countries	Tax Office in Kiritimati (MFED)	01/01/2016

## Obligation 3.

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### 3. **Notification** of existing legislation, etc. (through the Trade Portal)

When information is published, Contact Points must notify such publication to other countries.

Contact Points can click a 'Save and Notify' button and send a notification email in the Trade Information Portal.



## Obligation 4.

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### 4. **Comment** of **draft** legislation, etc.

When there is draft legislation related to SPS or TBT, Contact Points must provide other countries with an opportunity to comment.

Contact Points can upload draft legislation and provide details on comment opportunity in the Trade Information Portal.



# Operation of Contact Points

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- UNCTAD suggests to designate for each topic:
  - **1 high-level officer** (e.g CEO, Chief) as a formal Contact Point
  - **Assisted by several operational-level officers** as day-to-day Contact Points who will :
    - Publish and notify legislation
    - Receive in cc, and reply to emails that are sent to Contact Points
    - Raise awareness of the formal Contact Points when needed





# Operation of Contact Points

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- A Contact Point **must cover every issue related to its topic**, not just the issue related to his/her ministry.
- For example: a health Minister became a SPS Contact Point. As a Contact Point, he/she must take care of all the SPS issues vis-à-vis other countries, even though they are regulated by ministries of agriculture, forestry, biosecurity, etc. How to achieve inter-ministerial collaboration is up to the Contact Point.



# 8 Contact Points – Please fill in

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Chapters	High level Contact Point	Operational level Contact Points
Trade in goods		
SPS		
TBT		
Trade in services		
Investment		
Movement of natural persons		
Development & Econ. cooperation		
Institutional provisions		



# TRADE PORTALS

*for Trade Facilitation*



A nighttime cityscape with illuminated buildings and a network of glowing green lines connecting various points. On the left, there is a graphic consisting of several overlapping squares in shades of orange and yellow, arranged in a cross-like pattern.

# TRADE PORTALS

*for Trade Facilitation*

## The Goal

- Development and implementation of an online trade platform, to provide easy access to information about a country's regulations and import-export procedures to traders

# Trade Information Portals (TIPs)



## **Make complex administrative procedures understandable**

Government procedures are displayed step-by-step from start to finish, from a user's point of view. Information includes forms, contacts, costs, duration and legal bases.



## **Any government procedure can be included**

Portals to-date show steps for company creation, obtaining licenses, agricultural certification, importing or exporting.



## **The first step towards simplification**

Procedures are mapped in a way that makes it easy for governments to review and simplify, significantly cutting red tape and costs for users.



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# SOLOMON ISLANDS TRADE PORTAL

Operation  Product  Destination  Search

SOLOMON ISLANDS BUSINESS REGISTRY SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT IMPORT AND EXPORT STATISTICS GENDER DIMENSION





### Steps (6)

- Contracting a clearing agent (1)
  - 1 Contract a clearing agent
- Clearance of consignment (4)
  - 2 Declare cargo
  - 3 Pay import tax & processing fee
  - 4 Consignment inspection by customs
  - 5 Obtain number plate and motor vehicle log book
- Obtain goods exit note (1)
  - 6 Obtain goods exit note

### Summary of the procedure

#### Institutions involved (4)

- 1 Clearing agent
- 2 e-Single Window
- 3 BANK
- 4 5 6 Customs Service Department - Gikondo Office (x 3)

#### Results (4)

- 1 Contract
- 5 Motor vehicle number plate
- 5 Motor vehicle log book
- 6 Exit note - IM

#### Required Documents (8)

- 1 Certificate of domestic company
- 2 Invoice - import
- 2 Bill of lading - motor vehicles
- 2 Transport invoice
- 2 Recommendation letter for the Ministry of
- 3 Assessment notice for import
- 5 Release order
- 6 Payment confirmation - import

Estimated cost **RWF 78,000**

RWF



# Additional support material

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- [Businessfacilitation.org/pacer](https://businessfacilitation.org/pacer) : website for general info
- [Compliance Table](#) : summary of transparency obligations under the PACER Plus
- [Mapping file](#): summary of trade-related acts and regulations that should be published/notified
- **“How to Upload” Guideline** : Detailed explanation of how to fill out the form can be found in your TIP under the Legislation tab
- **Contact Points Manual** can be found under the Contact Points tab.





**Thank you for your attention!**

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