

UNCTAD, IATA extend partnership to facilitate global trade

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and UNCTAD have extended their collaboration to facilitate international trade, particularly e-commerce. The extended partnership will enrich their history of working together. This includes the successful integration of air cargo messaging standards (Cargo-XML) into UNCTAD's automated customs management system, ASYCUDAWorld.



Image source: [Gallo/Getty](#)

For the 100 countries choosing to deploy the latest version of ASYCUDAWorld, this enables more efficient processing of air cargo shipments.

"Through this extended partnership, we look forward to leveraging the leadership of UNCTAD and IATA in their respective fields to boost e-commerce in developing countries through improved exchanges of trade data," says Shamika N. Sirimanne UNCTAD's technology and logistics director.

Stepping up collaboration

The next stage of the collaboration will focus on enabling ASYCUDAWorld to manage e-commerce shipments more efficiently. It will include adding a risk assessment for mail shipments and facilitating access to the IATA enhanced partner identification and connectivity (EPIC) platform.

This will enable customs authorities to share advance cargo/mail information requirements across the digitised supply chain (airlines, freight forwarders, ground handlers and third-party messaging service providers).

The collaboration will also include the potential exchange of additional operational electronic information such as air cargo rules, flight schedules and others that can assist customs officials in their risk assessments.

"UNCTAD and IATA are working together to support the economic opportunities of e-commerce by modernizing the data exchange needed for customs clearance," says Nick Careen, IATA's senior vice president for operations, safety and security.

"Global standards enable accurate information and effective risk assessments. This, in turn, promotes stronger compliance and will contribute to a safe supply chain, which should give the authorities the confidence to modernize processes," adds Careen.

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