

# Reimagining Single Window Interoperability For A Digital Era



## The Revision of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 36



**UN / CEFACT**

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# UN/CEFACT

## A Model for Open and Inclusive Standardization



TRADE



**Global Reach**

**Voluntary Expert Contributions**

**International Supply Chain = Holistic Focus**

**Trustability – Quality & Longevity**

**Transparency & Independence**

**Open Development Process**

**Free-for-use Deliverables**

**Contributes to UN SDGs**

# UN/CEFACT Single Window - Recommendations



## Single Window Recommendation

A facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with **a single entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements**. If information is electronic, individual data elements should only be submitted once

## Trade Information Portal

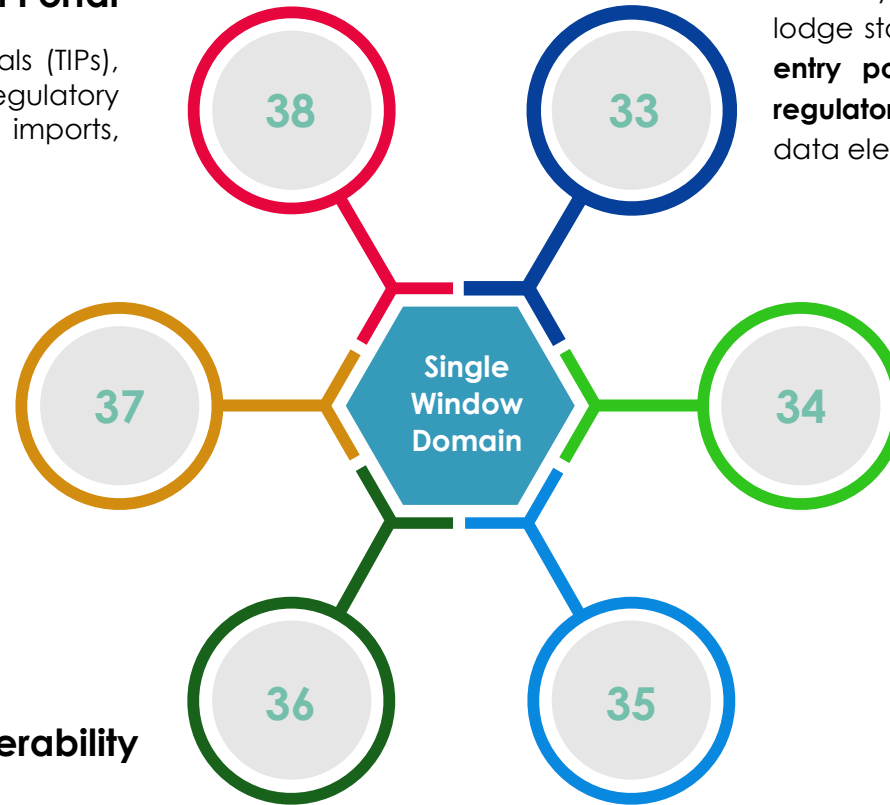
Guides the creation of Trade Information Portals (TIPs), which centralize and publish trade-related regulatory data from government agencies overseeing imports, exports, transits, and trans-shipments.

## Single Submission Portals

Advises on creating user-friendly single submission portals. It stresses user-centric design, easy navigation, and clear instructions for efficient information submission. It promotes standardization through common data elements and formats to improve data quality.

## Single Window Interoperability

Promotes interoperability among systems for better trade efficiency. It highlights **seamless info exchange** and **collaboration** among different SWs, emphasizing technical compatibility, data harmony, and standardized interfaces.



## Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade

Promotes **data simplification and standardization** for global trade. Emphasizes the need to **harmonize and standardize trade-related data elements** to enhance efficient information exchange among stakeholders.

## Establishing a legal framework for international trade Single Window

Provides **guidance on the legal measures** needed for implementing a Single Window system in international trade. It covers the legal and regulatory aspects essential for establishing and operating such a system and facilitating international trade.



# Recommendation No. 33

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation  
and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

## Recommendation and Guidelines on establishing a Single Window

*to enhance the efficient exchange of information  
between trade and government*

*Recommendation No. 33*



UNITED NATIONS  
New York and Geneva, 2005

UNECE

## Recommendation and Guidelines on Establishing a Single Window

To Enhance the Efficient Exchange of International Trade  
Information Between Trade and Government

**Recommendation No. 33**  
2020 Edition



United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation  
and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)



*A Single Window is defined as a facility providing trade facilitation that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. Individual data elements should only be submitted once electronically*

1. Parties involved in **trade and transport** (both from the public and private sectors)
2. **Standardised information and documents.** Use of internationally recognised standards for Single Window implementation for the coordination between stakeholders and between countries.
3. **Single entry point** (an entry point means the facility where all data concerning a transaction should be submitted electronically; an economic operator should only need to submit their data to one such entry point for their transaction).
4. **Fulfilling regulatory requirements** (which implies that a Single Window fulfils a government function and, as such, it has received a relevant mandate from the government to perform these actions).
5. **Single submission** of individual data elements (individual data elements that have been submitted should not need to be submitted again; this does not mean that all individual data elements must be sent at the same time in a single submission, it could be sent progressively).



# Single Window Domain Work

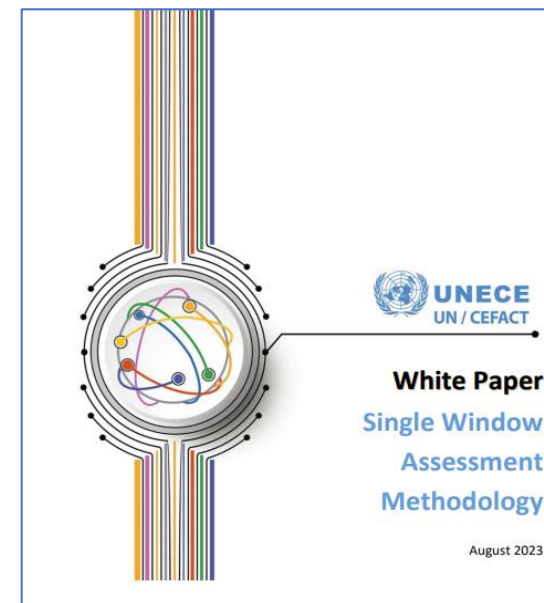
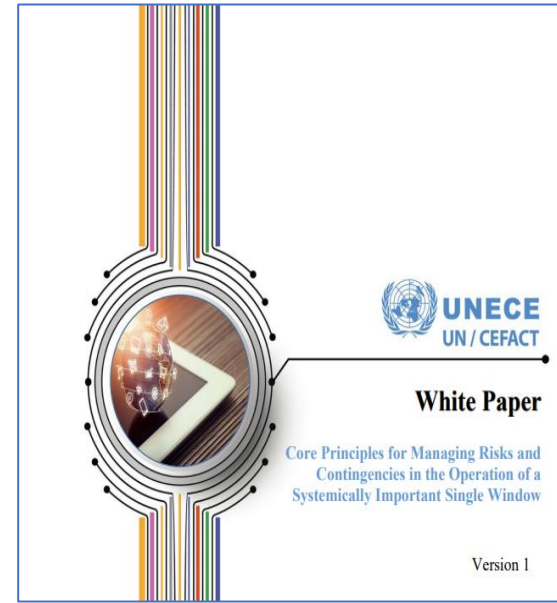
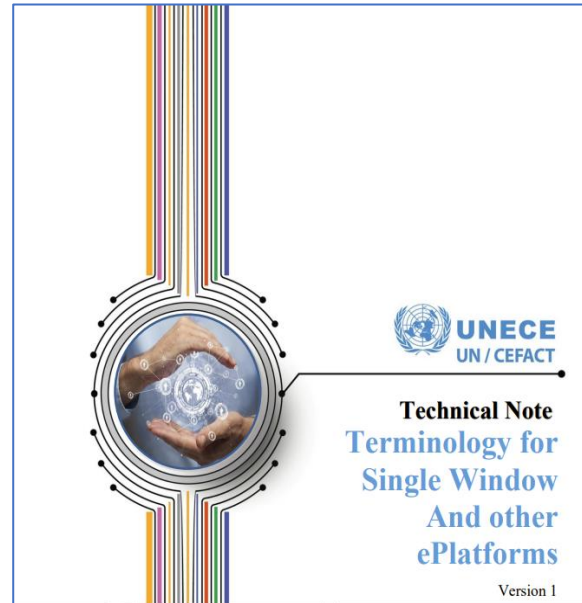
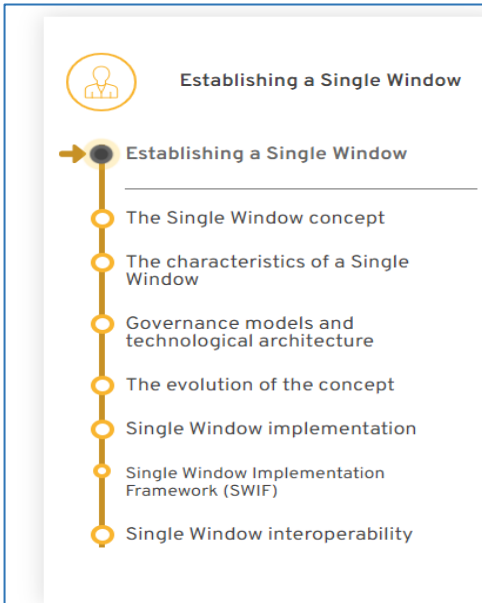


Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide - *Establishing a **Single Window itinerary***

**Technical Note on terminology** for Single Window and other electronic platforms

Core Principles for **Managing Risks** and Contingencies in the **Operation**

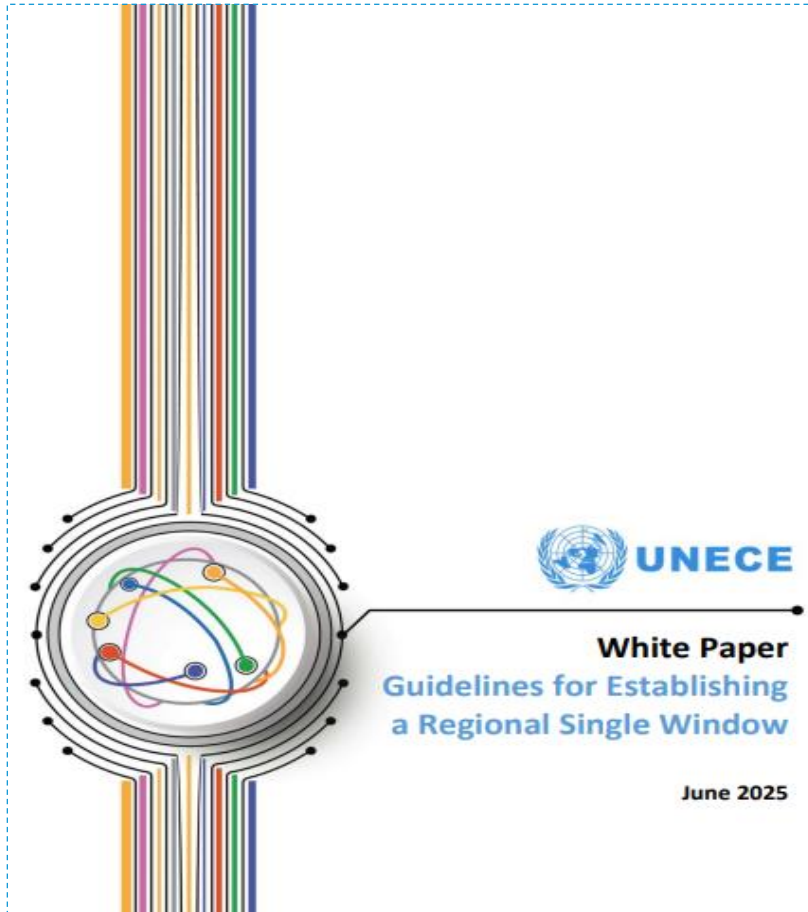
Single Window Assessment Methodology **SWAM**



# Guidelines For Establishing A Regional Single Window



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- Project Launched in October 2023
- Regular sessions conducted between Jan to Dec 2024
- More than 20 sessions completed
- More than 15 Experts actively participated
- Published in June 2025

[WhitePaper\\_GuidelinesForEstablishingRegionalSW\\_1.pdf](#)

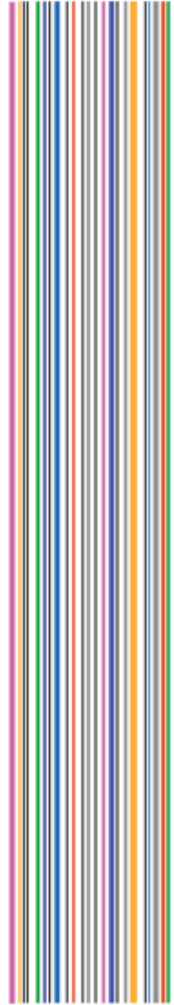
# Single Window Repository – Case Studies



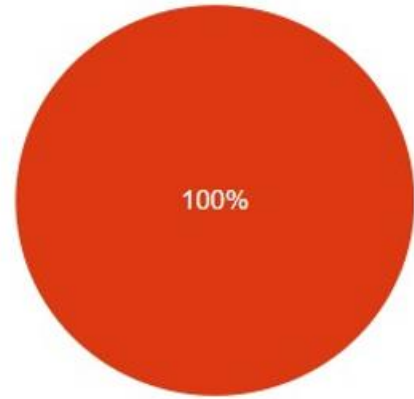
UN / CEFAC

COUNTRY NAME	
<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>Is there a High-Level Steering Committee and/or Technical Committee (or similar) for your SW? If yes, kindly indicate which agency takes the lead (e.g. Ministry of XXXX, Presidents Office, etc.) and list all government and private sector agencies that participate.</p> <p>Is it enshrined in national legislation? (please list the legislation(s).)</p> <p>If you have one, how does your SW Committee relate to the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), if one exists? Is it under the jurisdiction of the NTFC or separate?</p> <p>How is coordination between the participating government agencies in the SW managed? And how often does the above Committee meet, if one exists?</p> <p>Is there more than one SW official government sponsored facility operating in your country? If yes, how is this managed?</p> <p><b>Establishment</b></p> <p>Have you notified the establishment of a SW as subcategory A, B or C type of measure under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (Article 36.4)?</p> <p>What is the current status of the facility (study, pilot phase, running)?</p>	
<p>What motivated the establishment of your Single Window (SW)?</p> <p>What year was it established?</p> <p>How did the SW interface with legacy systems (systems that existed prior to the SW project – if applicable)?</p> <p>Did any other country's SW model serve as inspiration or model? (Which ones)</p> <p>What process was followed in setting it up? Was there a pilot project?</p> <p>How long did it take the facility to become operational? Give clear indication on what is the point of starting and what is the operational phase (e.g. how long it took from the day the decision was officially taken to implement a single window and the first effective SW transaction)</p> <p>What kind of training for the staff was required in the establishment and how was it organized?</p>	
<p><b>Services</b></p> <p>What services does the SW provide? What papers/ documents/ information (data) are covered? (include a check list of key business processes and/or documents here)</p> <p>How many transactions per day are handled?</p> <p>What percentage of total transactions? (what % of total export declarations and total import declarations)</p> <p>Does your SW appear all type of transaction (maritime, air, railroad, road or one or few of them)?</p>	

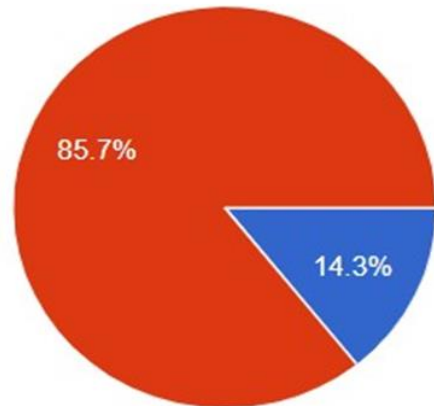
[Link: Single Window Repository | UNECE](#)



### Project #1: Revision of Recommendation 36

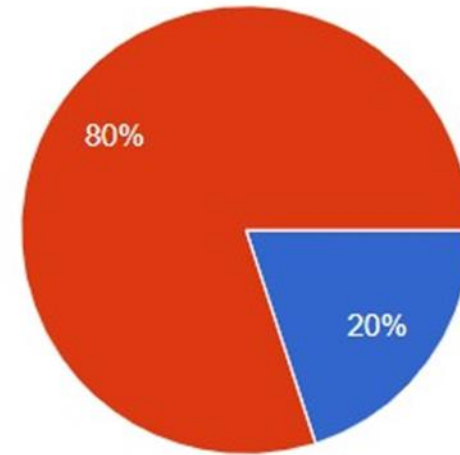


### Project #2: Revision of Terminology Paper



# SWD – Annual Survey

### Project #3: SWAM 2.0



● Willingness to contribute as an expert



# Recommendation No. 36 : Current Status (2017 Edition)



Adopted April 2017 by UN/CEFACT Plenary



✓ **Achievements of Rec 36 (2017):**

- Provided first global framework for SW interoperability
- Enabled ASEAN Single Window implementation
- Formed basis for bilateral FTA annexes (Singapore-Australia, etc.)
- Defined 4-pillar conceptual model widely adopted





# Why Revise Now ? Key Drivers



## TECHNOLOGICAL LEAP

The emergence of Blockchain, AI, and the API economy has redefined the technical possibilities for secure, real-time data exchange since 2017.

## SECURITY & SOVEREIGNTY

Heightened global concerns regarding data privacy, cybersecurity, and data sovereignty in digital exchanges necessitate updated standards.

## POLICY EVOLUTION

A growing emphasis on regional trade bloc and secure G2G/G2B data exchange requires a more robust international framework.

## OPERATIONAL NEEDS

Implementers now require more actionable toolkits, model agreement clauses, and practical guidance than the original version provided.

# Why Revise Now ? Key Drivers

- **API & Microservices Revolution:** REST/JSON replaces EDI/XML — Rec 36 needs tech modernisation
- **Verifiable Credentials & Trust:** W3C standards + UNTP enable new cross-border doc exchange
- **Digital Trade Corridors:** Rec 50 (draft) & multilateral frameworks require SW alignment
- **Sustainability & ESG:** Carbon borders, Digital Product Passports, traceability — new data flows
- **Data Quality & Sovereignty:** Post-COVID focus on resilience, cybersecurity, data governance
- **Implementation Experience:** Lessons from ASEAN - ASW, LATAM – IOPack , Africa - SCT, and bilateral agreements
- **WCO Data Model v3 & MMTRDM:** New semantic reference models available since 2017



# Four Pillars: Evolved Conceptual Framework



## Original 4 Pillars (2017) — Still Valid:



## Enhanced in Revision 2:



## New Content Areas:



INTEROPERABILITY IS THE NEW FRONTIER OF TRADE FACILITATION



# Interoperability Models: Bilateral to Multilateral



From 2017 focus on bilateral → expanding to:



*All models guided by same governance & interoperability principles*

- **Legal:** Bilateral agreement or multilateral framework with clear T&Cs
- **Governance:** Joint committee, change management, dispute resolution
- **Semantic:** Data models aligned with WCO DM / MMTRDM / UNTP
- **Technical:** APIs, protocols, authentication, SLAs appropriate to model



# Alignment with Parallel UN/CEFACT Work



## Rec 36 V2 sits at the intersection of multiple projects:

<b>Rec 50: Digital Trade Corridors</b>	Rec 36 = SW dimension of corridor architecture
<b>UNTP: UN Transparency Protocol (v0.7)</b>	Rec 36 adopts VC credential approach for docs
<b>MMTRDM: Multimodal Transport RefData</b>	Rec 36 references for semantic interop
<b>Global Trust Registry (in development)</b>	Rec 36 guidance on how SWs use Trust Registry
<b>WCO Data Model v3+ alignment</b>	Joint WCO–UN/CEFACT effort to reduce divergence
<b>Digital Product Passport initiatives</b>	Rec 36 Chapter 7 covers sustainability data flows
<b>UNCITRAL MLETR</b>	Rec 36 aligns with electronic transferable records standards
<b>UNESCAP CPTA (Paperless Trade Framework)</b>	Rec 36 complements regional e-trade initiatives



# Overall Roadmap and Workplan



The project meeting is scheduled to take place every other Thursday from 16:00 to 17:00 CET

Рақмет сізге Rhamat

Ďakujem



Merci شڪرا جزيلا

Дякую Hvala

ありがとうございました

Tack Çox sağ ol Dziękuję Ci

Ευχαριστώ Obrigado Ačiū

მადლობთ Баярлалаа

धन्यवाद Dankon

Sagbol

Спасибо Thank you Diolch

Хвала вам Hatur nuhun

# Thank You

Paldies

Faleminderit

감사합니다

Grazzi

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Grazie

Mulțumesc

Ačiū

Danke

Благодаря ти

Faafetai

Rahmat

Շնորհակալություն

Takk skal du ha

Aitäh

සුභආඥා

谢谢

Köszönöm

Дзякуй

Gracias

Ви благодарам

Děkuji

Salamat

UN / CEFAC

Tak skal du have

Рахмат сага

Gràcies

Asante תודה

धन्यवाद

Mahalo

Kiitos

Go raibh maith agat

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Teşekkür ederim Dank je

Dankon

Þakka þér fyrir

Dankie

