



**UNECE**

**TIR**

# **TRANSIT SYSTEMS INCLUDING TIR AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT**

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
(UNECE)  
Transport Division  
Border Crossing Facilitation Section**

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# Overview

- **General principles of transit**
- **National transit**
- **Bilateral or multilateral transit**
- **International and global transit**
- **TIR system and its principles**
- **Future developments in transit**

# Overview

- **General principles of transit**
  - **Movement of goods under Customs control**
  - **Without payment of duties and taxes in exchange for the deposit of a guarantee**
  - **Additional requirements such as use of Customs seals, time limits and security measures, based on risk assessment**

# Overview

- **National transit**
  - For geographical, organizational or commercial reasons

**Many national examples**

# Overview

- **Bilateral or multilateral transit**
  - Closed system between two or more countries
  - Sometimes based on Customs union
  - To avoid multiple use of separate national transit systems
  - Use of single guarantee or single Customs document possible
  - Recognition of freedom of transit, Article V GATT

**Examples: Community and Common transit system**

# Overview

- **International and global transit**
  - **Open to all interested countries**
  - **Close collaboration between neighbouring countries not required**

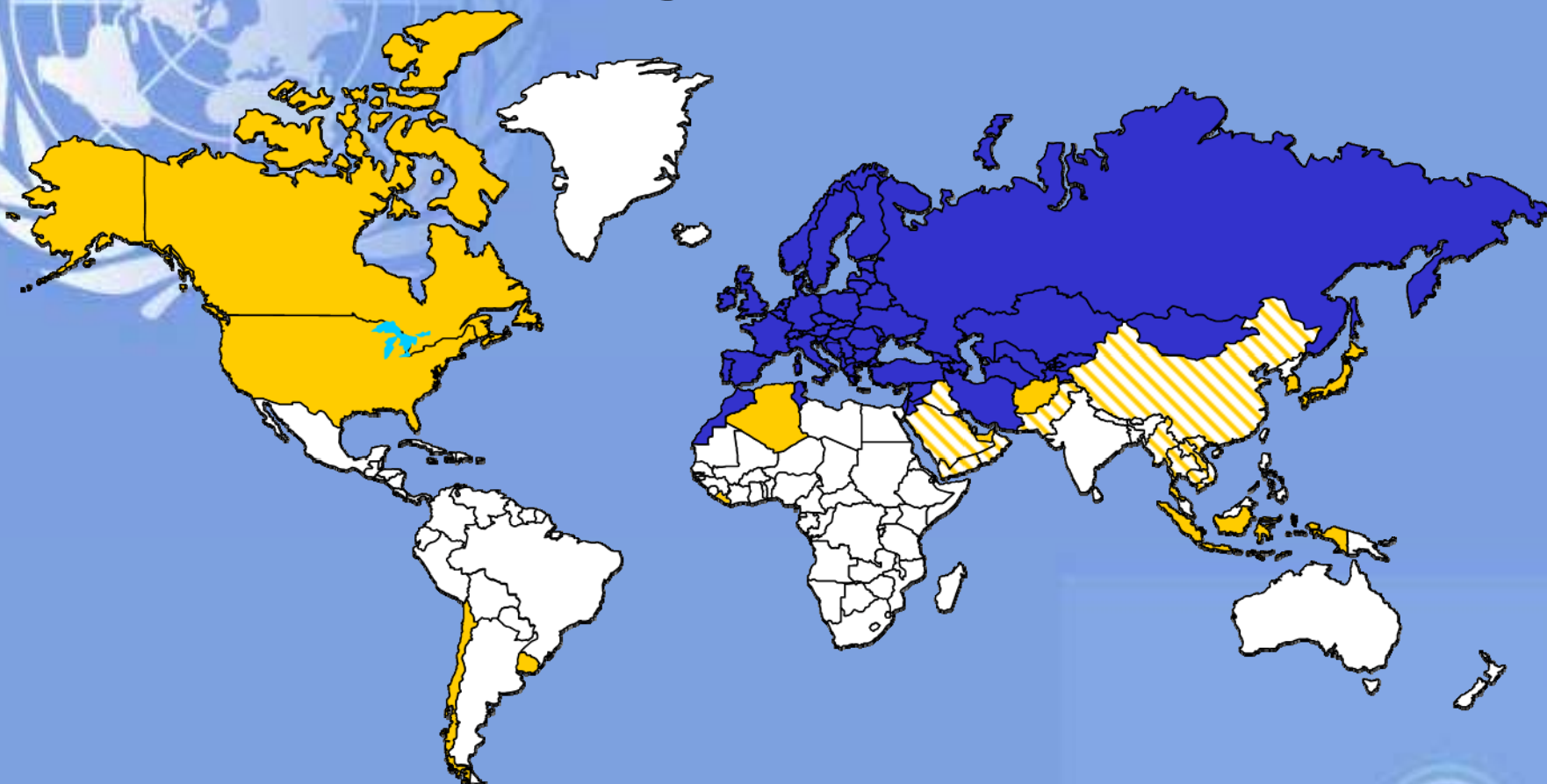
**Examples: ATA and TIR**

# TIR Convention

## Background & characteristics

- **History:**
  - First Convention 1959, revision 1975
  - From 6 countries to 68 countries (Operational: 56)
  - During the last 10 years: 30 new Contracting Parties
- **Customs-to-Customs information exchange system with trader input**
- **Objective:**
  - Facilitation
  - revenue protection + Customs checks
- **Only global transit procedure**
- **Intermodal (trucks and containers)**
- **Public/Private Partnership**

# Geographical scope



- Contracting Party where Convention is applied (2008)
- Contracting Party where Convention is not applied (2008)
- ▨ Potential Contracting Party

# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## Number of TIR Carnets issued

YEAR	TIR CARNETS ISSUED
1959	67,000
1969	790,035
1980	718,612
1990	748,600
2000	2,782,600
2008	3,253,800

## ADVANTAGES

### Customs Authorities

- No physical inspection of goods in transit (in principle)
- No national guarantee system
- No national Customs documentation and control system

## ADVANTAGES

### Transport/Trade Industry

- **Minimum of procedures at border crossings**
- **No restriction in the modes of transport used**
- **Significant reduction of transport costs (reduced export and import costs)**

# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## The five pillars of the TIR System

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

Secure vehicles  
or containers

International  
guarantee

Document  
(TIR Carnet)

Mutual recognition  
of Customs  
control

Controlled  
access

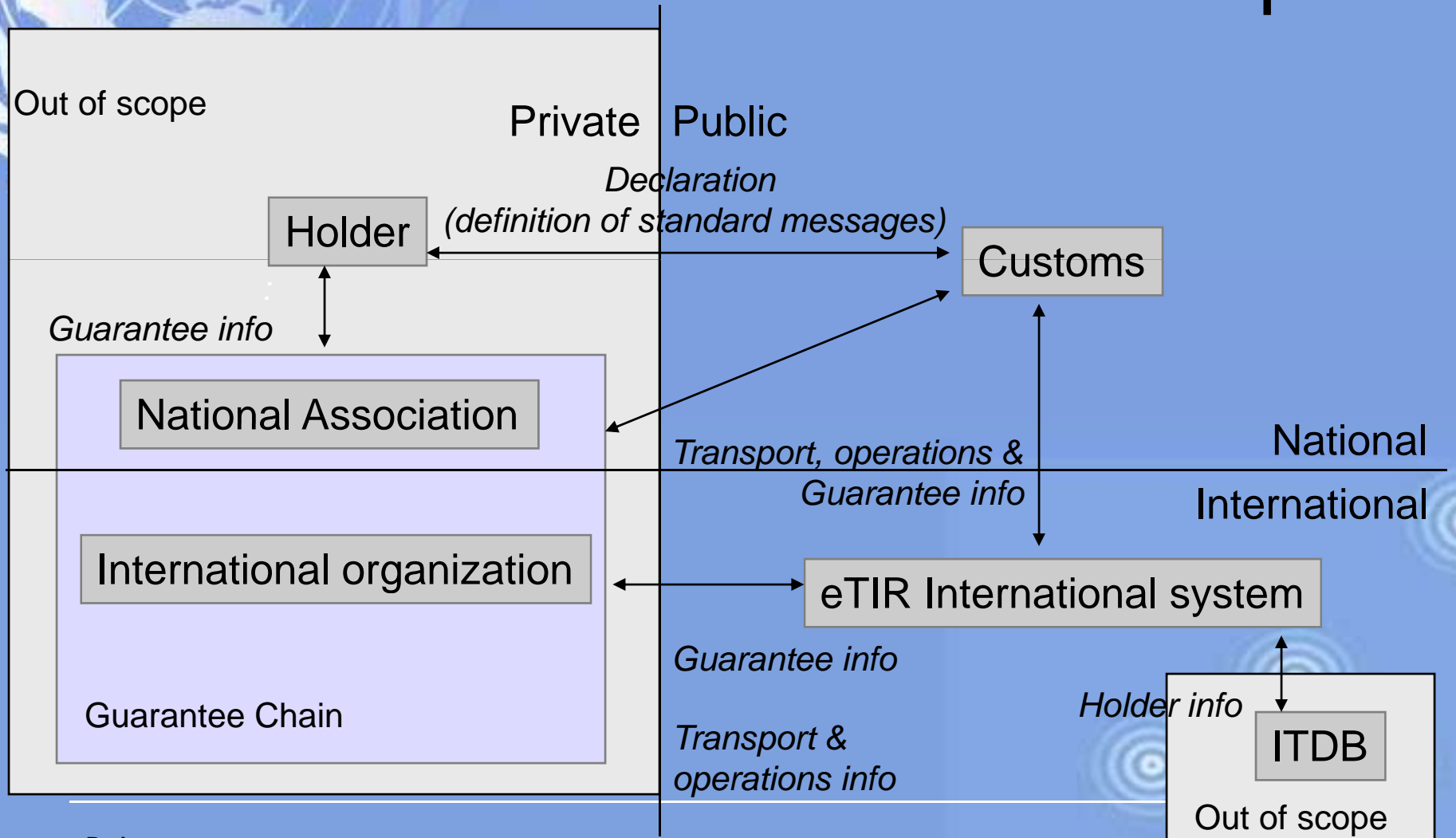
# Overview

## Future developments in transit

- **Expansion**
- **Computerization**
- **Integration of various Customs procedures and modes of transport**
- **Combining public and private data flows**
- **Security**

## E-TRANSPORT

# New Public Private Partnership





**UNECE**

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