

TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF
INTERIM INTERGOVERNMENTAL STEERING GROUP ON CROSS-BORDER
PAPERLESS TRADE FACILITATION

1. Name

This body shall be called the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation.

2. Membership

National focal points for the implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 from ESCAP members or official nominees of seats of Government of ESCAP members shall have an open invitation to participate in all the activities of the Steering Group.

3. Function

The Steering Group shall have the following duties:

- (a) To further improve the draft text of the regional arrangement as a potential intergovernmental agreement;
- (b) To prepare a draft road map for the implementation of substantive provisions in the draft text;
- (c) Other functions as agreed by the Steering Group.

4. Mode of operation

1. In carrying out its function, the Steering Group shall convene regularly, either physically or virtually, but at least once every six months.
2. The Steering Group may elect officers, a chair and vice-chair(s) in the first meeting to conduct its regular meetings.
3. Participation in the meetings of the Steering Group shall be on a self-financed basis. However, participation of ESCAP least developed and landlocked developing countries in physical meetings may be supported by the secretariat on request, subject to the availability of the necessary financial resources.
4. To the extent possible, physical meetings shall be held in conjunction with capacity-building events.

5. The Steering Group may invite relevant regional experts, including experts from the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, in conducting its duties.

6. Decisions by the Steering Group will be made based on standard ESCAP practices in intergovernmental meetings.

7. The Steering Group will cease operation once it has completed its duties.

5. Reporting

The Steering Group shall report progress made in carrying out its duties to the Commission at each of its sessions.

6. Secretariat

The ESCAP secretariat, specifically the Trade and Investment Division, shall serve as the secretariat of the Steering Group.