

## **Summary of the First Virtual Meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation**

- **Date and Time: 14 October 2015, 13:00 – 14:00 (Bangkok time)**
  
- **Participants**
  - 1) Mr. SP Sahu (Chair of TWG)
  - 2) Mr. Umar Wahid (Vice-chair of the TWG)
  - 3) Mr. Athula Lankadeva (Vice-chair of the TWG)
  - 4) Mr. Sonam Gyaltshen
  - 5) Mr. Pha Eng Veng
  - 6) Mr. Chantha Un
  - 7) Mr. Hisanao Sugamata
  - 8) Mr. Sergey Kiryushkin
  - 9) Ms. Alla Kryzhanovskaya
  - 10) Mr. Oleg Tarasov (Interpreter for Russian participants)
  - 11) Mr. Sangwon Lim (secretariat)
  
- **Major discussions**
  - ✓ The meeting experienced some technical problems in conducting the meeting using the Webex, due to connectivity as well as configuration.
  - ✓ Participating two vice-chairs updated progress made in work items under their coordination. Mr. Lankadeva briefed the meeting that communication on developing a template for national policy framework was initiated. Mr. Wahid also briefed the meeting on his coordination plan for the development of an international standards implementation strategy. Mr. Sugamata emphasized importance of clearly defining what we mean by international standards, considering that some international standards are not open, meaning not publicly available. In this context, he also mentioned that a caution is needed in considering standards from regional alliances/initiatives. The secretariat informed the meeting it would prepare initial documents for certain tasks, such as mechanisms/options for capacity building, by the 2<sup>nd</sup> physical meeting.
  - ✓ The secretariat provided brief overview of the works items coordinated by the other two vice-chairs. The Russian participants informed the meeting that Russia would share a white paper on transboundary trust space in the middle of next week (19 – 23 October) for review by both the Legal Working Group (LWG) and the TWG.
  - ✓ The liaison officer to the Legal Working Group (LWG) provided a brief update on the work of the LWG since the first physical meeting.

- ✓ The meeting discussed possibility of having additional sessions in the morning of 4 November to work on selected tasks under the coordination of vice-chair(s). In this connection, the secretariat would inquire vice-chair(s) on room requirements for additional sessions.
- ✓ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual meeting will be organized at 13:00 – 14:00 (Bangkok time) on 28 October 2015. The secretariat would announce Webex access information through the TWG group mail.