

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

- **Date and Time:** 23 November 2016, 13:00 – 15:00 (Bangkok time)
- **Agenda**
  - 1) Roll call
  - 2) Adoption of agenda
  - 3) Mutual recognition mechanism
  - 4) Any other business
  
- **Participants**
  - 1) Mr. Umar Wahid (Vice-chair)
  - 2) Mr. Sergey Kiryushkin
  - 3) Mr. Tahseen Khan
  - 4) Mr. Hisanao Sugamata
  - 5) Mr. Sungheun Ha
  - 6) Ms. Karina Kudakaeva
  - 7) Ms. Marianne Wong
  - 8) Mr. Jonathan Koh
  - 9) Mr. Sangwon Lim (secretariat)
  
- **Major discussions**
  - ✓ The meeting, focusing its discussion on the issue of mutual recognition mechanism for two hours, was facilitated by Mr. Tahseen Khan.
  - ✓ The meeting adopted the agenda with no change.
  - ✓ Mr. Khan, as a facilitator, introduced provision on mutual recognition in the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (FA) as well as basic concept on cross-border mutual recognition of data and documents in electronic form.
  - ✓ Mr. Kiryushkin presented to the meeting on the draft document “Methodology of transboundary trust environment formation, and the requirements for its creation, functioning and improvement” prepared by Russian team of experts on Transboundary Trust Environment (TTE), including its table of contents and conclusions. He also informed the meeting that the document, upon translation into English, would be circulated to members of the Legal and Technical Working Groups for review.
  - ✓ Through two hours of detailed discussion, the meeting made a few highlighting points, including:
    - 1) Note should be given to on-going domain specific initiatives on mutual recognition, in particular value of working customs related documents.

- 2) It would be valuable to collect, analyze and draw lessons from existing mutual recognition approaches before preparing mutual recognition mechanism for the purpose of the FA.
  - 3) Efforts on and outcomes from mutual recognition mechanism under the FA can be used as a valuable reference for bilateral and subregional efforts, such as FTAs.
  - 4) It would be necessary to clearly define scope and coverage on mutual recognition under the FA to avoid any confusion.
  - 5) It might be worthwhile to start with low-hanging fruit work items on mutual recognition under the FA, rather than attempting to develop complete mechanism in one time.
  - 6) It might be useful to consider developing a guide on interoperability/mutual recognition based on layered approach (political/organizational/semantic/technical)
- ✓ Mr. Khan wrapped up discussion on mutual recognition with thanks to all the participants.
  - ✓ The secretariat informed the meeting that the next TWG virtual meeting would be held in January 2017, with no virtual meeting December 2016, also informing participants that there would be two virtual meetings of the TWG (January and February 2017), before the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal and Technical Working Groups in March 2017.
  - ✓ The secretariat closed the meeting with thanks to the participating members.

Annex: Presentation on “Methodology of transboundary trust environment formation, and the requirements for its creation, functioning and improvement”

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