

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

- **Date and Time: 9 December 2015, 13:00 – 14:20 (Bangkok time)**
- **Agenda**
  - 1) Roll call
  - 2) Adoption of the agenda
  - 3) Review of draft TORs for the Council and the Standing Committee
  - 4) International Standards Implementation
  - 5) Any other business
- **Participants**
  - 1) Mr. Umar Wahid (Vice-chair of TWG)
  - 2) Mr. Sergey Kiryushkin
  - 3) Ms. Irina Smygalina
  - 4) Mr. Alexander Plakhov (chair of LWG)
  - 5) Mr. Hisanao Sugamata
  - 6) Mr. Sangwon Lim (secretariat)
- **Major discussions**
  - ✓ The vice-chair opened the meeting with roll call of participants.
  - ✓ The meeting adopted the agenda without any changes.
  - ✓ The meeting had a discussion on the draft TORs for the Council and the Standing Committee, including the following issues:
    - a) The secretariat provided an explanation to a query on a reason for preparing draft terms of references at this stage.
    - b) The meeting had a discussion on value of specifying objective and scope of the Council and Standing Committee somewhere. The secretariat is requested to review provisions in the current draft text of regional agreement whether wording in the current draft text of regional agreement would be sufficient.
    - c) The chair of LWG queried the reason for the TWG to work on the TORs despite highly legal nature of them. The secretariat provided explanation on background for TWG's engagement on it, including its good will to alleviate burden of the LWG by initiating it and its intention to mainly share technical perspectives on their substances.
    - d) The meeting assured the chair of the LWG that the TWG would focus its review on the draft TORs for value-addition on specifying roles and functions of the Council and Standing Committee with comments for LWG's further revision and

finalization. The chair of LWG shared a tentative plan to review the draft TORs in connection with relevant pending provisions in the current draft text of regional agreement during its interim meeting in January 2016.

- ✓ The meeting had the following discussion on the International Standards Implementation Strategy:
  - a) The meeting discussed value of Annex 1 (list of international standards) with possible deletion, merge with Annex 2 (list of international standard bodies) or keeping it as is. The meeting decided to work on it through continuous discussion.
  - b) The meeting discussed potential controversy of having Annex 3 (list of regional and global alliances/initiatives), including the PAA, considering their nature. One proposal was made to specify “information only” for Annex 3.
  - c) The meeting also discussed value of creating another category for (sub)regional intergovernmental body, in particular Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), considering that they would also develop standards to be used by themselves.
  - d) The secretariat informed that meeting that the initial draft, as an open document, would be continuously reviewed and improved by the TWG with much revision in coming months.
- ✓ The secretariat informed the meeting that the fifth virtual meeting will be organized at 13:00 – 14:00 (Bangkok time) on 6 January 2016. The secretariat would announce Webex access information through the TWG group mail.
- ✓ The vice-chair closed the meeting with thanks to the participating members.