

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

- **Date and Time: 25 November 2015, 13:00 – 14:40 (Bangkok time)**
- **Agenda**
 - 1) Roll call
 - 2) Adoption of the agenda
 - 3) Review of progress made in TWG tasks
 - 4) Review of draft TORs for the Council and the Standing Committee
 - 5) Any other business
- **Participants**
 - 1) Mr. SP Sahu (Chair of TWG)
 - 2) Mr. Umar Wahid (Vice-chair of TWG)
 - 3) Mr. Sergey Kiryushkin
 - 4) Ms. Rama Dewan
 - 5) Mr. Seung Hyun Cha
 - 6) Mr. Sangwon Lim (secretariat)
- **Major discussions**
 - ✓ The chair opened the meeting with roll call of participants.
 - ✓ The meeting adopted the agenda without any changes.
 - ✓ The meeting reviewed progress in tasks of the TWG. The secretariat provided update on all work items under the coordination of vice-chairs. Mr. Wahid provided an update on the status of tasks under his coordination, in particular A7. International Standards Implementation Strategy. He informed the meeting that he received some inputs, awaiting more inputs from volunteers for this work item; He requested them to provide feedback as soon as possible.
 - ✓ Mr. Kiryushkin informed the meeting that the Russian delegation of experts was in the process of consultation with the Russian Federation Customs (FCS) for the formulation of a pilot project for application of Trusted Third Party Service in Customs procedures, with initial target scope of application in Customs domain among Russian Federation, India and Republic of Korea. He also informed the meeting that a pilot project proposal would be developed with initial contribution from Indian and Korean experts (Mr. Khan and Mr. Ha), with a presentation targetted at the 3rd LTWG meeting in March 2016.

- ✓ The meeting had a discussion on the draft TORs for the Council and the Standing Committee prepared by the secretariat. Discussions included following topics and issues:
 - a) The secretariat informed the meeting that membership to the Council and the Standing Committee would be only to the Parties to the agreement.
 - b) Value of having an observer status was discussed to allow other ESCAP members to participate in the implementation before becoming parties.
 - c) The secretariat informed the meeting that rules of procedure for the meeting would follow UN standard legislative meeting procedures, unless specified in the TOR.
 - d) Discussion was made on differences in representation level for the Council and the Standing Committee. The secretariat explained the meeting that original intention was to have ministerial-level representation for the Council and senior-level (director general or equivalent) for the Standing Committee, but the LWG was still in discussion on representation level for the Council, including possible merging of the Council and the Standing Committee should representation level for the Council was to be senior-level.
 - e) Discussion was made on the Standing Committee's authority to establish working groups, in particular necessity of specifying a process of endorsement by the Council for such decision.
 - f) Another discussion was made on value of creating subgroups under the Standing Committee instead of establishing working groups and delegating works. The secretariat explained the meeting that the intention was to create some subgroup with participation of experts to handle technical and legal issues whatever it be called such as subcommittee, subgroup, working group, etc., considering representation level of the Standing Committee.
 - g) The meeting raised an issue of possible redundancy between paragraphs 5 and 7 and requested the secretariat to merge the two paragraphs.
 - h) For moving forward with the draft TORs, the meeting decided that the secretariat was to incorporate comments received so far and circulate it to the TWG members for 10 days review. After incorporating the comments from the TWG, the secretariat will forward it to the LWG for its inputs and consideration.
- ✓ The Wahid reminded the meeting of possible delay in delivering huge amount of TWG tasks with limited time. The secretariat was requested to organize a coordination meeting among vice-chairs to discuss ways to expedite delivery of pending tasks, with the participation of the chair of TWG and the secretariat.
- ✓ The secretariat informed the meeting that the fourth virtual meeting will be organized at 13:00 – 14:00 (Bangkok time) on 9 December 2015. The secretariat would announce Webex access information through the TWG group mail. The secretariat also informed the meeting that the LWG might have a physical meeting in January 2016 to expedite negotiation of the draft text; in this connection, the secretariat requested those TWG

members who might participate in a possible physical meeting of the TWG to share TWG requirements to the TWG, in case such a physical meeting was to be held.

- ✓ The chair closed the meeting with thanks to the participating members.