Assessing readiness of the parties for adopting the selected trade-related documents for cross-border paperless trade

Please note that this draft document is prepared for the ad-hoc session of the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA). The document serves as a reference for discussion.

Introduction

The Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA), in its second session, noted the importance of initiating pilot projects on cross-border paperless trade. It recommended that the secretariat conduct a comparative analysis of the benefits of exchanging selected trade-related documents electronically and the readiness of all parties to undertake such an initiative, as well as to identify differences in the policies, laws and infrastructure capabilities of each member State as a basis for narrowing those gaps, and present the results of that analysis to the Standing Committee at its third session.

To respond to this mandate, the ESCAP secretariat has carried out background studies with the external experts. The study team has reviewed two reports published by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in March and November 2023 titled "Key Trade Documents and Data Elements". These two documents single out the following 21 documents (table 1).

Table 1. important trade-related documents listed by ICC

Documents listed by ICC March report	Documents listed by ICC November report
1. Warehouse Receipts 2. Certificate of Origin 3. Commercial Invoice 4. Packing List 5. Bill of Landing 6. Customs/Goods Declaration 7. Insurance Certificates	8. Air Cargo Manifest 9. Air Waybill 10. Bill of Exchange and Promissory Note 11. Cargo Insurance Document 12. Customs Bond 13. Export Cargo Shipping Instruction 14. Letter of Credit 15. Payment Confirmation 16. Purchase Order 17. Rail Consignment (CIM) Note 18. Road Consignment (CMR) Note 19. Sea Cargo Manifest 20. Sea Waybill 21. Ship's Delivery Order

The secretariat then reviewed what trade related documents have been exchanged between any two parties of the CPTA (table 2)

Table 2. Trade-related documents exchanged electronically between any two parties

	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	China	Iran	Kyrgyzstan	Mongolia	Philippines	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Tajikistan	Timor-Leste	Turkmenistan	Tuvalu
Azerbaijan	x	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	2E-1 Transit declaration	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	2J-1 - Transit declaration 2J-2 - Pre-arrival information on goods and vehicles 2J-3- Mutual recognition of signatures 2J-4 - SPS certificates	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	2M-1 Customs information to speed up the customs procedures (the ongoing project)	no document exchanged electronically
Bangladesh	**x**	x	3D-1 Certficate of Origin	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
China	**x**	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	4F-1 Customs Information	4G-1 Sharing weighting data and NII images 4G-2 Exchange electronic cargo manifest data 4G-3 Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Certificate of Origin 4G-4 Electronic Manifest Data 4G-5 Manifest 4G-6 ePhyto 4G-7 Joint Cargo Manifest (Similar to 4G-2)	4H-1 ePhyto (for Philippines agricultural exports)	4I-1 Electronic certificate of origin (e-COO) 4I-2 Free Trade Agreement 4I-3 Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Certificate of Origin 4I-4 Electronic data on proof of origin for goods being imported into or exported	4J-1 - Customs Information under the EAEU-China treaty 4J-2 E-cert	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
Iran	**x**	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically

	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	China	Iran	Kyrgyzstan	Mongolia	Philippines	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Tajikistan	Timor-Leste	Turkmenistan	Tuvalu
Kyrgyzstan	**x**	x	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	6J-1 Customs information (Transit Declaration, Customs Declarations and other Ledgers) 6J-2 SPS (Phytosanitary and Veterinary Certificates) 6J-3 TBT (Conformity Assessment declarations and Certificates) documents 6J-4. Non-tarriff measures (LPCO, like Import licencies, Notifiactions, Ozon-certificates)	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
Mongolia	**x**	x	x	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	7I-1 SANITARY CERTIFICATE 7I-2 Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Certificate of Origin 7I-3 SPS and TBT related documents	7J-1 Mongolia exchanges export information and X-Ray results with the Russian Federation 7J-2 Goods Declaration Data	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
Philippines	**x**	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
Republic of Korea	**x**	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
Russian Federation	**x**	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	10K-1 Customs information	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically

	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	China	Iran	Kyrgyzstan	Mongolia	Philippines	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Tajikistan	Timor-Leste	Turkmenistan	Tuvalu
Tajikistan	**x**	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
Timor-Leste	**x**	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically	no document exchanged electronically
Turkmenistan	**x**		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	no document exchanged electronically

Note: the secretariat has collected further information on the document listed in the table. For example, for the document listed in the “7J-2 Goods Declaration Data”, a separate file has been prepared which provides more detailed information. In total, there are 34 documents available for sharing upon request.

2. Selection of documents for studies

In selecting the documents for studies, the secretariat has considered the following factors.

a. The documents should be commonly used by all or most of the parties;
b. The electronic documents, ideally, should have been adopted by at least one party of CPTA (so that the operation can be relatively easily be expanded to other parties);
c. Low hanging fruit: the electronic documents should be relatively accepted by the parties;
d. The documents, ideally, should also be recommended by ICC and other development partners so that the synergy can be explored.

With the these factors, the study team has finally selected three documents for further study, namely, electronic certificate of origin (including preferential and non-preferential), ePhyto and e-invoicing. The structure of the study are shown below.

Certificate of origin (preferential and non-preferential)

Chapter 1. An overview of status of eCOO internationally

Chapter 2 What the legal and technical requirements/challenges for adopting eCOO

Chapter 3 Status, challenges and way forward for each individual Party to adopt eCOO

While chapters 1 and 2 will be mainly prepared by the secretariat with the support of external consultants, for chapter 3, the secretariat needs to collect data for the participating country. Therefore, any party which is ready to join this study need to indicate the willingness to the secretariat.

ePhyto

Chapter 1. An overview of status of ePhyto internationally

Chapter 2. What the legal and technical requirements/challenges for adopting ePhyto

2.3 Status, challenges and way forward for each individual Party to adopt ePhyto

While chapters 1 and 2 will be mainly prepared by the secretariat with the support of external consultants, for chapter 3, the secretariat needs to collect data for the participating country. Therefore, any party which is ready to join this study need to indicate the willingness to the secretariat.

E-invoicing

Chapter 1 An overview of status of e-invoicing internationally

Chapter 2 What the legal and technical requirements/challenges for adopting e-invoicing

3.3 Status, challenges and way forward for each individual Party to adopt e-invoicing

Chapter 1. An overview of status of ePhyto internationally

Chapter 2. What the legal and technical requirements/challenges for adopting ePhyto

2.3 Status, challenges and way forward for each individual Party to adopt ePhyto

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