Progress in Digital Trade Facilitation Implementation

(Based on the UN Global Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Survey Results)

Yann Duval
Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section
Trade, Investment and Innovation Division,
United Nations ESCAP
UN Trade Facilitation (TF) Survey

www.untfsurvey.org

Implementation data for:
- 50+ TF measures
- 140+ countries
- Since 2015

1. WTO TFA-related measures
2. Digital TF: paperless trade & cross-border paperless trade
3. Sustainable TF: for SMEs, for Agriculture, for women, trade finance
4. Trade facilitation during crisis and pandemic
Examples of TF measures covered

WTO TFA-related:

• publication of trade regulations procedures (transparency)

Digital TF:

• Paperless trade → electronic submission of customs declaration

• Cross-Border Paperless Trade → electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin

Sustainable TF:

• SMEs represented in the National Trade Facilitation Committee
UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade
Visualize and compare implementation of measures across regions and economies

Interactive visualization of Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade data

To help countries benchmark and reduce the time and cost of trading across borders, the UN Regional Commissions jointly conduct the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. The Survey currently covers 148 economies around the globe, and 58 measures related to the WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), as well as emerging regional and global initiatives on paperless trade or e-trade, such as the recent Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPITA). The Survey leads to the production of a Global Report and five Regional Reports, which aim at providing insightful information for policy makers to harness trade as a key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Survey is conducted in collaboration with growing number of global and regional partners, since 2013 and every two years. On this website you can visualize the results - please make a selection:

- **Visualize Global Results**: Get an overview of global survey results on chart or map, with the option to narrow down.
- **Visualize Regional Results**: Select a geographic region / regional UN Commission and display regional & sub-national results.
- **Visualize Country Results**: Select any economy of interest and get a detailed overview of trade facilitation & Paperless Trade data.
Implementation of Trade Facilitation

Global average stands 65%

Southeast and East Asia leading developing countries

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

Note: UNRCs are still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.
Implementation of Trade Facilitation in Asia-Pacific (46 countries)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

Note: ESCAP is still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.
Global trend since 2015

- 2015: 47.76%
- 2017: 55.62%
- 2019: 60.99%
- 2021: 64.95%
Progress of Global Implementation (by region)

All regions have made progress - despite COVID crisis
Most progress observed in South Asia and Pacific Islands

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)
Note: UNRCs are still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.
Implementation of General and Digital TF Measures

“Paperless trade” implementation rates vary greatly depending on the individual measures.

“Cross-border paperless trade” is still a challenge (< 40%)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

Note: UNRCs are still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.
Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)
Cross-border exchange and legal recognition of electronic data/docs lacking

- Significant progress made on *paperless trade* implementation (e.g. national e-Single Windows)
- But *cross-border paperless trade* remains limited, including in G20 countries

*Figure 18. Global implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures in various regions*

*Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, 2021. Available at untfsurvey.org*
By March 2021, Cambodia, Myanmar, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have started exchanging the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) to support Customs in the importing country to carry out their risk management.

In December 2019, all ASEAN Members joined the ASW Live Operation which allowed the granting of preferential tariff treatment based on the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement electronic Certificate of Origin (ATIGA e-Form D) exchanged through the ASW.

ASEAN Member States are working to expand the ASW to support the exchange of electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary (e-SPS) Certificates. The exchange of e-Phyto Certificate are being tested between Indonesia and Viet Nam.
Trade Digitalization: Benefits from cross-paperless trade facilitation

• Full implementation of cross-border paperless trade is expected to result in 13% trade cost reduction (up to 26%)
• and an increase in global trade by at least $750 billion a year
On-going initiatives to enhance trade digitalization (non-exhaustive)

• G7 Trade Minister’s Digital Trade Principles
• UN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific
• Digitization of documents under various transport and trade-related UN conventions (eTIR, eCMR, eCITES...)
• UNCITRAL model law on electronic transferable records (MLETR),
• UN/CEFACT Recommendations and package of standards, WCO data model
• ICC Digital Standards Initiative
• ...


Accelerating Digital TF through the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

The enabling UN treaty entered into force in 2021

**Article 1: Objective**

The objective of the present Framework Agreement is to promote cross-border paperless trade by enabling the exchange and mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form and facilitating interoperability among national and subregional single windows and/or other paperless trade systems, for the purpose of making international trade transactions more efficient and transparent while improving regulatory compliance.
Accelerating Digital TF through the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

- 100% increase in number of acceding parties in 2022 – now 11 parties
- Most inclusive and cooperative platform for progress
- Join to demonstrate high-level commitment to digital trade transformation
  - and enable cross-border cooperation

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<th>Signature</th>
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https://www.unescap.org/projects/cpta
Thank you!
ANNEXES
Moving up the trade facilitation ladder towards seamless international supply chains

Sustainable TF measures for special and disadvantaged groups/sectors

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)
Note: ESCAP is still receiving feedback from some member countries on data validation. Therefore, the results may be further – probably slightly – revised in the final report to be issued in the coming months.
ESCAP Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDzcLwBzU3s&t=37s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTPXQIr8RHU&t=102s
Technical support in conducting Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment available

**Background:** Assessment guide and legal + technical checklists developed by ESCAP interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade and UNNExT, in collaboration with UNCITRAL and WTO EIF
- [readiness.digitalizetrade.org](http://readiness.digitalizetrade.org)

**State of play:** Readiness assessments conducted in more than 12 countries

ESCAP support provided at national level on request
- (1) funding for national legal/technical experts;
- (2) advisory and peer-review support to national team [by international experts]