UNNExT Expert Group Meeting on concurrent implementation of national and cross-border paperless trade systems
Date: 15th December 2023
Time: 1400-1600 Hrs (Indochina Time/Bangkok)

Background

The Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA), during its second session, requested the secretariat to prepare a draft guide on facilitating concurrent implementation of national and cross-border paperless trade systems, and present it to the third session of the Standing Committee for its review and consideration.

This online expert group meeting, therefore, aims to discuss issues related to how to develop a guide to help facilitate concurrent implementation of national and cross-border paperless trade systems.

14:00-14:30 hrs.

Session 1: Why is concurrent implementation of national and cross-border paperless trade systems essential?

Historically, some countries in Asia and the Pacific took a sequential approach for developing paperless systems: building single-window systems first for national-level paperless trade, and then later on considering some development for cross-border paperless trade systems.

However, single window development is to serve international trade. To build future-proof SW, it is essential to consider the advantages of concurrent implementation of national-level and cross-border paperless trade systems, especially in the following areas.

1.1 Enhanced Interoperability
1.2 Accelerated Trade Facilitation
1.3 Consistency and Harmonization
1.4 Integrated Change Management
1.5 Regional Integration and Collaboration
1.6 Avoidance of Duplication and Inefficiency
1.7 Stakeholder Engagement and Alignment
1.8 Seamless Data Flow and Transparency
1.9 Fostering of Synergies

The experts are invited to share their expertise and whenever possible, provide case studies, to support their arguments.
14:30-15:15 hrs.

Session 2: What are the major impediments of concurrent implementation, and strategies to overcome them?

Many developing countries may face impediments and challenges to concurrently implementing national and cross-border paperless trade systems. These challenges can range from technical and regulatory complexities to institutional capacity, resource constraints and geopolitical considerations. Understanding and addressing these impediments is crucial for successful modernization efforts.

2.1 Institutional Capacity Constraints  
2.2 Funding and Resource Constraints  
2.3 Regulatory Misalignments  
2.4 Technological Heterogeneity  
2.5 Political and Geopolitical Issues  
2.6 Change Management and Stakeholder Alignment

The experts are invited to discuss these topics and, whenever possible, provide concrete case studies for the debate.

15:15-16:00 hrs.

Session 3: What are the key factors (legal, technical and operational) for consideration in order to support the countries in the region to develop strategies and actions towards concurrent implementation of national and cross-border paperless trade?

Considering the different context and readiness of countries in Asia and the Pacific region, and from the discussion above, the experts are invited to discuss the key factors (legal, technical and operational) for consideration in order to support the countries in the region to develop strategies and actions towards concurrent implementation of national and cross-border paperless trade.