UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023: Key findings
(Global and Asia-Pacific region overview)

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UN Global Digital and Sustainable TF Survey: Background

Objectives:
- Monitor progress on trade facilitation (TF), including paperless trade and forward-looking measures toward SDGs
- Enable evidence-based policy-making, capacity building and tech assistance

2012-14: First regional (Asia-Pacific) surveys conducted

2015: 1st global survey on trade facilitation implementation; presented at the 5th Global Review of Aid for Trade in partnership with UNCTAD, ITC, OECD, and subregional orgs.

2017: 2nd global survey; presented at the 6th Global AfT Review with new partners: ADB, Rep. of Korea

2018: Launch of interactive website: UNTFSURVEY.ORG

2019: 3rd global survey - Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. New partnership with ICC

2021: 4th global survey, adding additional component on TF measures in time of crisis and epidemic

2023: 5th global survey — UNCTAD became a full partner

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Survey Scope: WTO TFA++

60 trade facilitation (TF) measures 161 countries

- **General:** WTO TFA-related measures
- **Digital** TF: paperless trade & cross-border paperless trade
- **Sustainable** TF: for SMEs, Agriculture, and women
- **Other** TF: Including trade facilitation during crisis and pandemic, transit etc.

*Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)*
Implementation of TF measures

- 2023 global average implementation rate: 69%
- Southeast and East Asia region leading developing regions
All world regions made progress since 2021

- Sub-Saharan Africa and LDCs catching-up
- Slower progress in Pacific islands and South Asia

11%

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Implementation across groups of TF measures

- WTO TFA related measures well implemented (>70%)
- Cross-border paperless trade and sustainable TF measures implementation generally low... but good progress observed!

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Launch of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

Digital and sustainable trade facilitation implementation 2023

in Asia-Pacific
Asia-Pacific (47 countries) TF implementation rate: 67%

• Wide ranging performance across countries
Progress in implementation of TF measures in Asia-Pacific positive but slower compared to 2019-2021

The regional average implementation of 31 common TF measures increased by about 3% between 2021 and 2023.

7 Asia-Pacific countries achieved >90% implementation rate:

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Progress across Asia-Pacific subregions

- All developing subregions have improved since 2021
- Most progress observed in North and Central Asia
- LLDCs catching up to the regional average

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Implementation of different TF Measures in Asia-Pacific Region (2021-2023)

- Small improvements across all groups
- Cross-border paperless trade and TF measures for SMEs lagging, including in terms of trade finance facilitation

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures remains relatively low

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Trade facilitation for SMEs

Measures that specifically target SMEs to overcome the challenges they face in trade such as facilities for SMEs access to Single Window and SMEs access to AEO scheme are implemented to a limited extent.

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Conclusion and Way Forward

- Globally, and in the Asia-Pacific region, 2023 survey data shows improvements in the overall implementation of trade facilitation measures.
- However, progress has slowed compared to the COVID-19 crisis period.
- Improvement in cross-border paperless trade and TF measures targeted to groups with special needs essential to maximize the benefits of trade.
- Cooperation is key to further progress!

Digital TF

All can gain from accelerating trade facilitation implementation, particularly from digital TF measures.

Digital TF also contributes to sustainable TF. More efforts on trade facilitation for SMEs and women will improve sustainable TF.

Sustainable TF

Gains can be made in reducing trade costs and making trade more sustainable by further efforts on implementing these groups of measures.
Thank you!
ANNEX: A Three-step Approach for Data Collection

Step 1: Open data collection
Experts and other interested parties invited to fill the questionnaire or update the pre-filled questionnaire.

Step 2: Cross-checking and verification
UNRCs internally verified the data by cross-checking answers from the experts, desk research, further interviews with respondents and informants.

Key outcome of step 2:
A national dataset for each country surveyed

Step 3: Final validation by countries
UNRCs sent the preliminary results to countries for final validation.

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Annex: Trade Facilitation for Women

Measures that specifically support women in trade facilitation are relatively under-implemented.

- TF measures to benefit women involved in trade
- Women membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee or similar bodies
- TF policy/strategy to increase women’s participation in trade

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Annex: Country Implementation benchmarked with Regional Average (Developed Economies)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
(Latin America and Caribbean)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
(Middle East and North Africa)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
(South Asia)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
(Pacific Islands)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
(South and Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
(South-East and East Asia)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
(Sub-Saharan Africa)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Progress of Global Implementation (digital and sustainable measures)

Global average (69%)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Implementation of "Sustainable and Other TF Measures"

Implementation of sustainable trade measures remain relatively low. Varying levels of implementation of other TF measures.

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)
Implementation of "General and Digital TF measures"

Implementation of digital trade measures fall below AP average. Cross-border paperless trade remains a challenge.

A-P average 31 measures (67%)