

# Framework Agreement: Progress Updates and Provisions Relevant for Legal Reform

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# Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

## ❑ A UN Treaty

- ✓ Open to interested (53) ESCAP member states (voluntary) to become parties
- ✓ Enabling and action-oriented agreement

## ❑ Objective

- ✓ To facilitate cross-border paperless trade (data exchange) among willing ESCAP member states by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions
- ✓ Complementary to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as well as (sub)regional efforts



# CPTA: Milestones

- ❑ 4-year step-by-step development process
  - ✓ Over 30 countries directly involved in finalizing the treaty text in March 2016, including adopting ESCAP resolutions 68/3 and 70/6
- ❑ Adopted by the Commission as a UN treaty (resolution 72/4) in May 2016
- ❑ The CPTA entered into force on **20 February 2021**.

## Progress



# CPTA: Current Status

- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Paperless Trade Council: 27-29 April 2022
- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (upcoming): Q4 2022

Participant	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)
Armenia	22-Sep-17	
Azerbaijan		2 Mar 2018 a
Bangladesh	29-Aug-17	13-Oct-20
Cambodia	29-Aug-17	
China	29-Aug-17	22 Nov 2020 AA
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	29-Sep-17	29-May-20
Philippines		23 Dec 2019 a
Timor-Leste		5 Apr 2022 a
Turkmenistan		4 May 2022 a

## **Article 10: Relation to other legal instruments enabling cross-border paperless trade**

1. The Parties may, where appropriate, adopt relevant international legal instruments concluded by United Nations bodies and other international organizations.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to ensure that the cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form is consistent with international law as well as regional and international regulations and best practices, as identified by the institutional arrangements established under the present Framework Agreement.

# Article 10: Related tasks

Tasks related to each substantive article of the Framework Agreement, based on the draft road map



<i>Action</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Implementation ownership</i>
Take into account and adopt available and accepted international legal instruments	Identify relevant provisions of international law, regional and international regulations, and best practices	Collective
	Develop a guide on how to engage in a cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form consistent with regional and international laws and regulations and best practices	Collective
	Apply relevant legal instruments or provisions of legal instruments, in conjunction with the result of the legal readiness assessment, to national laws and regulations	Individual

# Article 10: Related tasks

## Works done by the Steering Group

A reference list was compiled, and the secretariat also compiled relevant legal frameworks and best practices in the legal instrument of the cross-border paperless trade database [www.digitalizetrade.org/](http://www.digitalizetrade.org/)

The screenshot displays the ESCAP Cross-Border Paperless Trade Database website. The header includes the ESCAP logo with the tagline 'MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER' and the website title 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade Database'. The navigation menu contains 'Home', 'Legal Instrument', 'Implementation Instrument', 'Projects & Services', 'Submit a Project' (highlighted in yellow), and 'References'. The main content area features a world map with blue lines connecting various countries, and a central text box that reads 'CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE DATABASE' and 'Accelerating progress towards trade digitalization through knowledge sharing'. Below the map is a 'More' button. The 'Latest Projects' section at the bottom lists three projects:

Latest Projects		
Cross Border CO Exchange between Singapore and Belgium Pilot	Singapore's Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) with China Operating	Customs information exchange via ASEAN single window Operating

# THANK YOU

<https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation>

For more details on CPTA: <https://www.unescap.org/kp/cpta>

