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:
- 2012 Regional Study
- 2013 Expert Review & Member Consultations
- 2013 - 2016 Negotiation & Finalization
- 19 May 2016 Adoption by the Commission
- **20 February 2021** Enter into force
## CPTA: Current Status

- **1st Meeting of the Paperless Trade Council**: 27-29 April 2022
- **1st Meeting of the Standing Committee (upcoming)**: Q4 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>22-Sep-17</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>2 Mar 2018 a</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>29-Aug-17</td>
<td>13-Oct-20</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>29-Aug-17</td>
<td>22 Nov 2020 AA</td>
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<td>29-May-20</td>
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<td>5 Apr 2022 a</td>
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<td>Turkmenistan</td>
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<td>4 May 2022 a</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Implementation ownership</th>
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| Take into account and adopt available and accepted international legal instruments | Identify relevant provisions of international law, regional and international regulations, and best practices  
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  
Apply relevant legal instruments or provisions of legal instruments, in conjunction with the result of the legal readiness assessment, to national laws and regulations | Collective  
Collective  
Individual |

[https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E_PTA_IISG2018_CRP1E.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E_PTA_IISG2018_CRP1E.pdf)
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/).
THANK YOU

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

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