National Policy Framework for Cross-border Paperless Trade

Agenda item 2(a)

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Article 6.1

“The Parties shall endeavour to establish a national policy framework for paperless trade, which may define targets and implementation strategies and allocate resources, and a legislative framework.”

Policy plans: approaches

Three approaches to achieve a (cross-border) paperless trade system:

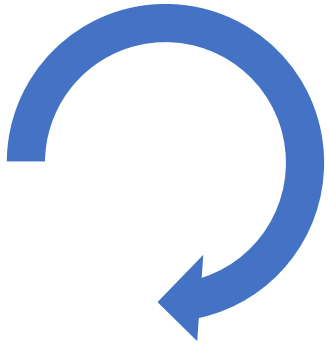
1) **approaches directed at trade facilitation ("paperless trade" approach);**
2) **e-government or ICT oriented approach; or**
3) **approaches driven by regional/sub-regional initiatives and agreements.**

Template for National Policy Framework for (Cross-border) Paperless Trade

The template for national policy framework for (cross-border) paperless trade needs to be flexible.

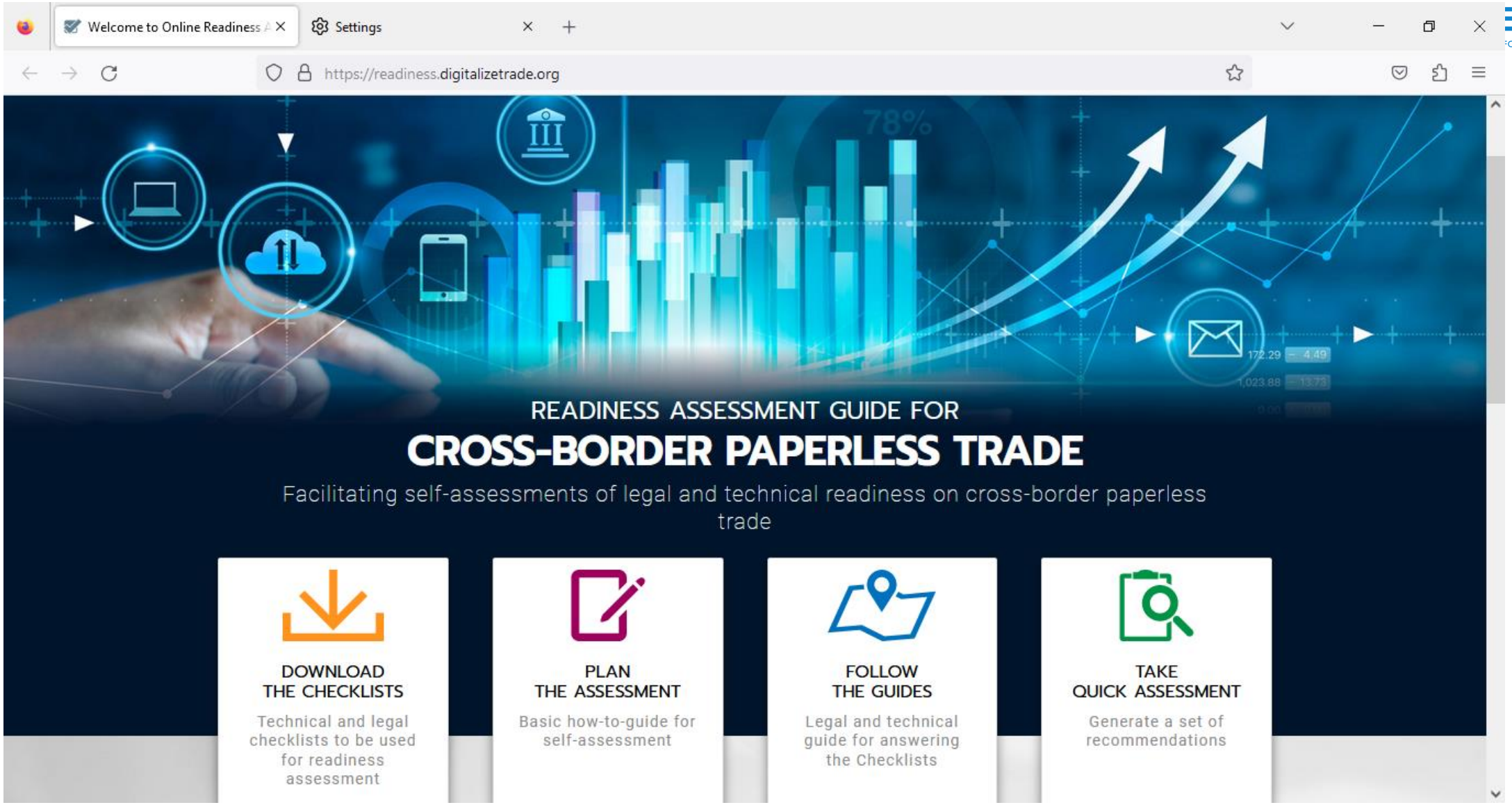
Countries are not likely to build a policy and legal strategy completely from scratch. They will, instead, start with existing policies, legal and regulatory systems and procedures that are already in place. Some of these existing arrangements may need adjustment. Some will need to be created to fill in missing gaps.

Template for National Policy Framework for (Cross-border) Paperless Trade



Guidelines on How to Develop a National Policy Framework for (Cross-Border) Paperless Trade

1. Initial Assessment of the Status of (Cross-Border) Paperless-Trade
2. Formulating Policy Plans and Building Strong Policy Commitments
3. Assess Available Resources and Financial Requirements
4. Action Plan and Mode of Implementation
5. Establishing (Cross-border) Paperless Trade Facilitation Institutional Structure
6. Capacity Building and Technical Support
7. Monitoring and Assessment


Welcome to Online Readiness
Settings
https://readiness.digitalizetrade.org
READINESS ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR
CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE
Facilitating self-assessments of legal and technical readiness on cross-border paperless trade
DOWNLOAD THE CHECKLISTS
Technical and legal checklists to be used for readiness assessment
PLAN THE ASSESSMENT
Basic how-to-guide for self-assessment
FOLLOW THE GUIDES
Legal and technical guide for answering the Checklists
TAKE QUICK ASSESSMENT
Generate a set of recommendations

ESCAP
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Readiness Assessments for Cros

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

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | DECADE OF ACTION

ABOUT | COMMISSION | 2030 AGENDA | OUR WORK | KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS | MORE

Our-Work

Readiness Assessments for Cross-Border Paperless Trade

Readiness Assessments for Cross-border Paperless Trade enables countries to conduct self-assessments of legal and technical readiness, leading to recommendations and individual actions plans for countries to move towards trade digitalization. It is based on the Legal and Technical Readiness Checklists developed to support the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.



An interactive guide to support self-assessments can be found here.

Readiness Assessments for Cross-Border Paperless Trade - Country Reports:

The country reports can serve as a valuable foundation for more detailed activities at the national and agency level in this area, with identifiable timelines and budget sources.

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Tajikistan

Readiness Assessments for Cross-Border Paperless Trade

Countries	Countries	Countries
Armenia	Lao PDR	Timor-Leste
Azerbaijan	Mongolia	Tonga
Bangladesh	Myanmar	Turkmenistan
Cambodia	Nepal	Tuvalu
Georgia	Philippines	Uzbekistan
Kazakhstan	Tajikistan	Viet Nam

Note: Mexico also conducted the assessment
Further info: https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade/paperless-trade

Individual action plan (1)

Article No.	Actions	Tasks	Activities	Deliverables	Timeline		Progress made (in case of update)	Capacity building needs
			(in sequence)		(implementation schedule)			
					Original	Adjusted		
6	Establish a national policy framework for paperless trade	Develop and implement a national policy framework for paperless trade						
	Create an enabling domestic legal environment for paperless trade	Align the domestic legal framework with selected international legal frameworks and best practices						
7	Develop or upgrade paperless trade systems consistently with the general principles	Develop or upgrade paperless trade systems, including single window systems, consistently with the general principles of the Framework Agreement						
8	Develop and agree on a mutual recognition scheme for exchange of trade-related data in electronic form	Operationalize mutual recognition						

Individual action plan (2)

Article No.	Actions	Tasks	Activities	Deliverables	Timeline		Progress made (in case of update)	Capacity building needs
			(in sequence)		(implementation schedule)			
					Original	Adjusted		
9	Select and use relevant international standards and guidelines	Apply selected international standards and guidelines						
		Participate in the development of relevant international standards and best practices						
10	Take into account and adopt available and accepted international legal instruments	Apply selected legal instruments or relevant provisions within the legal instruments in conjunction with the result of the legal readiness assessment						
13	Initiate and launch pilot projects	Plan and implement pilot projects						
		Report the progress of pilot projects to the Standing Committee						
14	Cooperate in providing technical support and assistance	Request and offer capacity building						

Questions for discussion

A. Will your country plan to develop/adjust national policy as part of implementing CPTA? (How to ensure that such national policy is developed/adjusted in your country?)

B. What are your views on the structure of the template for national policy?

C. What are you views on the template for national action plan?

D. What kinds of support, if any, does your country need in order to develop national policy?

Possible outcomes

- The proposed templates
  - are accepted "as is" by the Standing Committee
  - are further revised and elaborated by the Standing Committee (and accepted in this or another session; with support of Secretariat)
- The Standing Committee or some parties identifies specific challenges for developing their national policy framework and seek support.
- The Standing Committee recommends that Parties should proceed with developing their national policy framework for paperless trade.
- The Standing Committee recommend that Parties report to each other on progress made on establishing their national policy framework as part of future sessions
- The Standing Committee recommend that Parties submit national action plan and progress report once a year.