Readiness Assessment for Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

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Readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade

Objective

• Assessments of legal and technical readiness to identify where the country stands and analyze the gaps
• Leading to recommendations and individual action plans


• "...develop a comprehensive action plan, which shall include all concrete actions and measures with clear targets and implementation timelines necessary for creating a consistent, transparent and predictable environment for the implementation of the present Framework Agreement"
• "The implementation schedule for each Party shall be developed as part of the action plan based on a self-assessment of their readiness."

Legal checklist

I. ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS AND SIGNATURES LAW
   A. General principles
   B. Electronic signatures and trust services
   C. Privacy and data protection
   D. Data sharing
   E. Data retention and electronic evidence

II. LAWS REGARDING PAPERLESS TRADE SYSTEMS
   A. Establishment of a paperless trade system
   B. Quality of information exchanged with the paperless trade system
   C. Service-level agreements and memorandums of understanding

III. CROSS-BORDER ASPECTS
   A. International agreements relevant for cross-border paperless trade facilitation
   B. International standards, guidelines and recommendations

IV. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
   A. Ownership of information in the paperless trade system
   B. Liability issues related to cross-border paperless trade system
   C. Dispute settlement and conflict of laws
   D. Electronic payments and records
   E. Competition laws
Technical checklist

A - PAPERLESS TRADE SYSTEM AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- A1 Governance bodies
- A2 Level of automation
- A3 ICT Infrastructure for Paperless Trade
- A4 Security
- A5 Business process re-engineering
- A6 Data harmonization and standardization
- A7 Capacity building
- A8 Other Matters

B - NATIONAL STATUS TOWARDS CROSS-BORDER DATA EXCHANGE

- B1 Electronic systems
- B2 Single Window System
- B3 Business process re-engineering
- B4 Data harmonization and standardization
- B5 International transit
- B6 Awareness programme
- B7 Other matters
Online Guide
Interactive guide incl. explanatory notes, good practices and references for each question

https://readiness.digitalizetrade.org/

CBPT Toolkit
ESCAP-UNCITRAL-WTO
Fully based on the Checklists and the Guide, extending outreach to global

https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/paperlesstrade2022_e.htm
Currently...

18 national readiness assessment studies completed

**Central Asia (8)**
- Armenia (2019)
- Azerbaijan (2022)
- Georgia (2022)
- Kazakhstan (2022)
- Mongolia (2019)
- Tajikistan (2023)
- Turkmenistan (2022)
- Uzbekistan (2019)

**South-East Asia (6)**
- Cambodia (2020)
- Lao PDR (2022)
- Myanmar (2019)
- Philippines (2022)
- Timor Leste (2020)
- Viet Nam (2022)

**South Asia (2)**
- Bangladesh (2019)
- Nepal (2020)

**Pacific (2)**
- Tonga (2022)
- Tuvalu (2023)

1 non Asia-Pacific
- Mexico & planned for more

3 Updates
- Bangladesh (w ADB), Nepal, Timor-Leste
Enhancement and Way Forward

Good practices
✓ Enhance the solid foundation: CPTA & Checklists & Tools
✓ Maintain virtual tools/support
✓ Sustain partnerships: EIF, UNCITRAL, WTO; ASEAN; PIFS; ECLAC

Enhancement
➢ Utilizing readiness assessment studies for regional dialogues – CPTA
➢ Forming the “community of practice” of experts
➢ Leveraging linkages with other studies/surveys
➢ Better alignment between findings, recommendations/action plan, national policies/strategies

Any member States can request for supporting the national readiness assessment study
THANK YOU

- Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Paperless Trade
- UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
- United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNeXt)
- E-Learning Series on Business Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation
- Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment
- Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF)