# Advancing Trade Digitalization in the Pacific:

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

**4 December 2026 | 10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M. (Fiji Time)**

## Introduction

Pacific Island Developing Economies (PIDEs) have made notable progress in advancing digital trade facilitation. According to the latest Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in PIDEs report, implementation of paperless trade facilitation measures as well as cross-border paperless trade measures increased between 2023 and 2025. Nevertheless, significant gaps remain. The PIDEs average implementation rate for paperless and cross-border paperless trade facilitation remains significantly below the Asia-Pacific average. In this regard, Pacific countries have substantial opportunities for strengthened policy action and regional cooperation to accelerate trade digitalization in the Pacific. [1]

In this context, this workshop will present key findings from the Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in PIDEs report, based on the results from the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, highlighting progress, remaining gaps and priorities for action. It will also provide Pacific stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of the United Nations Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA), the United Nations treaty dedicated to enabling cross-border paperless trade. Drawing on the report's findings and country experiences, the workshop will highlight how Pacific economies can leverage CPTA to address these gaps, accelerate trade digitalization and strengthen regional connectivity. [2]

This workshop is organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as part of the Pacific E-commerce Symposium, taking place in Suva, Fiji, from 30 November to 4 December 2026.

[1] More information on the report and Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Survey is available from https://www.untfsurvey.org/

[2] More information on CPTA is available from https://www.unescap.org/projects/cpta

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## Tentative Programme

| 4 DECEMBER 2026 | |
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| 10.30-10.40 | **Opening** |
| 10.40-10.50 | **Digital Trade Facilitation in PIDES: State of Play**<br>Presentation of key findings from the Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in Pacific Island Developing Economies (PIDEs) report, highlighting progress in paperless and cross-border paperless trade, remaining implementation gaps and priorities for action. |
| 10.50-11.15 | **Introduction to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)**<br>A comprehensive overview of the CPTA will be presented including the Agreement's objectives, key provisions, institutional arrangements and implementation mechanisms and how it relates to the WTO TFA and other agreements and instruments. |
| 11.15-11.55 | **Leveraging the CPTA to Accelerate Trade Digitalization in the Pacific: Way Forward and Discussions**<br>Examples of how the Philippines and the Republic of Korea have leveraged the CPTA to accelerate progress in trade digitalization will be presented, together with actions, tools and capacity-building activities developed by the Parties. The session will explore opportunities for Pacific economies to engage in regional cooperation and progressively advance cross-border paperless trade implementation. |
| 11.55-12.00 | **Wrap-up and Takeaways** |