



Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation: GLOBAL REPORT 2019

Based on the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation



UNITED NATIONS

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FOREWORD

This report presents the results of the third UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, jointly conducted by five United Nations Regional Commissions for Africa (ECA), Europe (ECE), Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and West Asia (ESCWA). The Survey aims to gather information from countries worldwide on implementation of digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures. The results of the survey enable countries and development partners to better understand and monitor progress on trade facilitation, support evidence-based public policies, share best practices and identify capacity building and technical assistance needs.

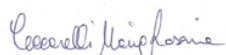
The first and second global surveys were conducted in 2015 and 2017 as a key initiative under the Joint UNRC Approach to Trade Facilitation agreed upon in Beirut, Lebanon in 2010 by the Executive Secretaries of all five United Nations Regional Commissions. The joint approach was designed to enable the Regional Commissions to present a joint and global view on trade facilitation issues in the context of the negotiations of the Doha Round at the World Trade Organization. (WTO). This initiative has benefitted from the input of many partners such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Oceania Customs Organization Secretariat (OCO), Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) and Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

This third survey is built upon the earlier surveys and includes new forward-looking measures related to trade digitalization, trade finance and sustainable development. Indeed, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development recognizes international trade – along with science, technology and innovation – as one of the key means of implementation of the agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

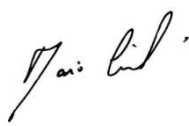
Against this background, we hope that this report further supports the economies around the world to make trade simpler, cheaper and more sustainable through the use and application of technology and innovation in international trade procedures.



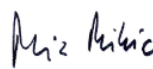
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reducing trade costs is essential in enabling economies to effectively participate in regional and global value chains and for them to continue to use trade as an important engine of growth and sustainable development. Many of the trade cost reductions achieved over the past decade have been through eliminating or lowering tariffs. Reducing non-tariff sources of trade costs, such as inefficient transport and logistics infrastructure and services, as well as cumbersome regulatory procedures and documentation will further contribute to the trade cost reductions. Indeed, trade facilitation, including paperless trade, has taken on an increasing importance as evidenced by the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2017 and several other regional initiatives.

This report presents the main findings of the Third UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, jointly conducted by the five United Nations Regional commissions (UNRCs). The survey covers 128 economies from 8 regions, with a key focus on four main areas: “General Trade Facilitation” in relation to the implementation of selected measures under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); “Digital Trade Facilitation” regarding the implementation of innovative, technology-driven measures aimed at enabling the use and exchange of electronic trade data and documents; “Sustainable Trade Facilitation” with regards to trade facilitation for SMEs, agricultural sector and women; and “Trade Finance”.¹ The key findings of the survey are summarized as follows:

- The global average implementation of the ambitious and forward-looking set of measures included in the survey stands at 62.7%. Developed economies have the highest implementation rate (79.7%), while the Pacific Islands have the lowest (35.5%). Among the developing regions, South-East and East Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean achieve high implementation rates at 71.2% and 68.9% respectively. Implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa – which includes some of the poorest countries in the world – is only 47.8%, second only to the Pacific Islands.
- Australia and Republic of Korea (94.6%) tie for first place as the best overall performers, followed by Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan and Singapore, each with an implementation rate of 93.6%. Among developing regions, the Republic of Korea (94.6%) and Singapore (93.6%) lead in South-East and East Asia. Mexico leads the Latin America and the Caribbean, while Morocco leads the Middle East and North Africa region. Azerbaijan, Russian Federation and the Republic of North Macedonia (81.7%) together lead the South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region, while India (79.6%) leads the way in South Asia.
- Countries with special needs – LDCs, LLDCs and SIDSs – achieve similar implementation rates, ranging between 43% and 55%, which is significantly below the global average implementation rate. This result confirms the need to provide these countries with special technical assistance and capacity-building support to help them bridge their existing implementation gaps.
- The global average implementation level for ‘Paperless Trade’ stands at 61%. The implementation rates vary greatly depending on the individual measures considered. The implementation level for ‘Cross-Border Paperless Trade’ (36%) is substantially lower than that of other groups of measures.
- “Sustainable Trade Facilitation” measures aim to make trade facilitation measures more inclusive and align them with the sustainable development goals. Implementation of measures in the ‘trade facilitation for SMEs’ (36%) and ‘women in trade facilitation’ (23%) categories remains low, pointing to a lack of awareness of the special needs of certain groups of stakeholders.

¹ “Trade Finance” is a new group of measures piloted in the UN ESCAP, UN ESCWA and UN ECE questionnaires.

- Measures related to trade finance facilitation are also found to be lacking in implementation. For example, although access to finance is essential to trade facilitation, less than 15% of countries for which data could be collected have plans in place to facilitate access to credit through the single windows they are developing.

The report also examines the progress made by 99 countries covered in both the 2017 and 2019 Global Surveys. Implementation at the global level has, on average, increased by 8.1 percentage points over the last two years. The most progress is observed in *South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia* and *Sub-Saharan Africa*, where implementation rates have increased by 11.5 percentage points. A substantial improvement was also observed in *South Asia* (9.7 percentage points), *South-East and East Asia* (9.3 percentage points), *Pacific Islands* (8.3 percentage points) and *Latin America and the Caribbean* (7.8 percentage points). In contrast, progress was less significant in the *Middle East and North Africa*, and *Developed Economies*, where increases of only 3.2 and 4.3 percentage points have taken place, respectively.

Overall, countries globally have made significant progress in trade facilitation since the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement entered into force in 2017. Looking forward, while efforts in enhancing transparency and streamlining formalities at the national level should continue, more attention will need to be paid to cross-border cooperation and interoperability issues among paperless trade systems, so as to enable the safe and seamless flow of electronic data and documents along international supply chains. Trade facilitation strategies will also need to become more holistic and inclusive, in order to address the needs of specific sectors (e.g., agriculture) or groups (e.g., SMEs and women) and to better support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Detailed regional and country-level results of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation are available at: <https://untfsurvey.org/>

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEO	Authorized economic operator
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDC	Least developed country
LLDC	Landlocked developing country
NTFC	National trade facilitation committee
OCO	Oceania Customs Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PIDE	Pacific island developing economies
SIDS	Small island developing states
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCTAD	United Nations conference on Trade and Development
UNNExT	United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport for Asia and the Pacific
UNRC	United Nations Regional Commission
WTO	World Trade Organization



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Reducing trade costs is essential in enabling economies to effectively participate in regional and global value chains and for them to continue to use trade as an important engine of growth and sustainable development. However, intra-and extra-regional trade costs remain high. This is particularly the case within and among most developing regions. According to the latest data from the ESCAP-World Bank International Trade Cost Database, the overall

cost of trading goods among the three largest European Union (EU) economies is equivalent to a 42% average tariff on the value of goods traded (see Table 1). In contrast, trade costs among the middle-income members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), who have actively pursued trade integration over the past decades, still stand at 76% tariff equivalent.

Table 1: Intra- and extra-regional comprehensive trade costs (excluding tariff costs)

Region	ASEAN-4	East Asia-3	South Asia-4	LAC-4	NAF-3	SSA-3	West Asia-3	EU-3	North America
ASEAN-4	76% (1.3%)								
East Asia-3	78% (6.0%)	55% (7.6%)							
South Asia-4	133% (5.1%)	124% (-0.6%)	121% (10.3%)						
LAC-4	149% (-4.8%)	111% (0.0%)	191% (-0.6%)	97% (-1.4%)					
NAF-3	231% (-8.2%)	184% (16.0%)	211% (14.0%)	243% (-2.7%)	169% (-16.9%)				
SSA-3	207% (0.7%)	163% (-5.4%)	208% (0.8%)	282% (1.3%)	285% (4.3%)	197% (1.3%)			
West Asia-3	173% (5.2%)	161% (1.9%)	167% (4.1%)	225% (-0.8%)	140% (9.7%)	213% (6.7%)	87% (9.1%)		
EU-3	104% (-4.1%)	86% (0.8%)	114% (0.2%)	111% (-4.0%)	141% (9.9%)	140% (7.6%)	146% (2.4%)	42% (-5.6%)	
North America	104% (1.4%)	78% (2.9%)	120% (4.2%)	94% (-3.1%)	177% (3.7%)	167% (0.4%)	156% (2.9%)	77% (-1.4%)	30% (-0.3%)

Note: Trade costs may be interpreted as tariff equivalents and are calculated based on the 4 most recent years for which data is available (i.e., 2014-2017). Numbers in parenthesis are changes in trade costs between 2011-14 and 2014-2017.

Source: ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database (July 2019 update) available at: <https://artnet.unescap.org/databases> and <https://databank.banquemondiale.org/data/source/escap-world-bank-international-trade-costs>





Recent studies suggest that many of the trade cost reductions achieved over the past decade have been through eliminating or lowering tariffs.² Further trade cost reductions, therefore, will have to come from tackling non-tariff sources of trade costs, such as inefficient transport and logistics infrastructure and services, as well as cumbersome regulatory procedures and documentation. Indeed, trade facilitation, including paperless trade, has taken on an increasing importance as evidenced by the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2017 and regional initiatives such as the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.³

Under the Joint UNRCs Approach to Trade Facilitation and following extensive discussions at the Global Trade Facilitation Forum 2013,⁴ it was decided that the regional surveys should be conducted at a global level, jointly by all UNRCs. For the past few years, the United Nations Regional Commissions have been

systematically collecting and analyzing information on the implementation of trade facilitation measures across the globe. Accordingly, the first two global surveys were conducted in 2015 and 2017, respectively. This report is a continuation of this global effort and features the results of the third global survey conducted in 2019, renamed the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation to better reflect its content. It covers 128 economies from 8 different regions worldwide.

Following an introduction to the survey instrument and methodology, a region-wide overview of the implementation of trade facilitation measures across countries, sub-regions and in countries with special needs is provided in Section 2. This is followed by a closer look at the implementation levels of various groups of trade facilitation measures in Section 3. Finally, the report highlights key findings and proposes a way forward for advancing trade facilitation in Section 4.

1.2 SURVEY INSTRUMENT AND METHODOLOGY: WTO TFA+

The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019 (formerly known as the Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation), was prepared according to the final list of commitments included in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) supplemented by forward looking measures thought to be implemented under the UN treaty – the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.⁵

The survey covers 50 trade facilitation measures which are commonly used by five UN Regional Commissions (UNRC). Some UNRCs may have

additional questions added to their questionnaires based on the region's social and economic conditions. The 50 common measures are categorized into three groups and nine sub-groups. The first group of "General Trade Facilitation Measures" includes many of the WTO TFA measures under 4 subgroups: 'Transparency', 'Formalities', and 'Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation', and 'Transit Facilitation'. The second group of "Digital Trade Facilitation Measures" include 2 subgroups: 'Paperless Trade', and 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade'. The third group of "Sustainable Trade Facilitation Measures" includes 3 subgroups: 'Trade Facilitation for SMEs', 'Agricultural Trade Facilitation', 'Women in

² For example, see ESCAP (2011), Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2011, United Nations.

³ For details, see <https://www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific-0>

⁴ The Global Trade Facilitation Forum was organized jointly by all the UN Regional Commissions (UNRCs) and took place in Bangkok in November 2013.

⁵ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific>





Trade Facilitation'. In 2019, some regional commissions introduced a fourth and new group of "Trade Finance Facilitation Measures"⁶ as a pilot test – developed in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Banking Commission. The overall scope of the survey goes beyond the measures included in the WTO TFA. Most paperless trade measures, particularly, cross-border paperless

trade, are not specifically featured in the WTO TFA, although their implementation in many cases would support a better implementation of the TFA and in digital form. Most measures in the "Sustainable Trade Facilitation" group are also not specifically included in the WTO TFA, except for some of the 'Agricultural Trade Facilitation' measures.

Table 2: Grouping of trade facilitation measures and correspondence with TFA articles

Grouping		Question #		Trade facilitation measure in the questionnaire	TFA Articles
		2017	2019		
General TF Measures	Transparency (5 measures)	2	2	Publication of existing import-export regulations on the Internet	1.2
		3	3	Stakeholder consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)	2.2
		4	4	Advance publication/notification of new regulations before their implementation (e.g. 30 days prior)	2.1
		5	5	Advance ruling (on tariff classification)	3
		9	9	Independent appeal mechanism (for traders to appeal customs rulings and the rulings of other relevant trade control agencies)	4
	Formalities (8 measures)	6	6	Risk management (as a basis for deciding whether a shipment will be physically inspected or not)	7.4
		7	7	Pre-arrival processing	7.1
		8	8	Post-clearance audit	7.5
		10	10	Separation of Release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges	7.3
		11	11	Establishment and publication of average release times	7.6
		12	12	Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators	7.7
		13	13	Expedited shipments	7.8
		14	14	Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities	10.2.1
		1	1	Establishment of a national trade facilitation committee or similar body	23
		31	31	Cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level	8

⁶ Trade finance facilitation is an optional category in the 2019 survey. There are 88 countries from 3 regional commissions: UN ESCAP, UN ESCWA and UN ECE using this optional category in their survey.





Grouping		Question #		Trade facilitation measure in the questionnaire	TFA Articles
		2017	2019		
	Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation (5 measures)	32	32	Government agencies delegating controls to customs authorities	
		33	33	Alignment of working days and hours with neighboring countries at border crossings	8.2(a)
		34	34	Alignment of formalities and procedures with neighboring countries at border crossings	8.2(b)
	Transit Facilitation (4 measures)	35	35	Transit facilitation agreement(s) with neighboring country(ies)	
		36	36	Customs Authorities limit the physical inspection of transit goods and use risk assessment	10.5
		37	37	Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation	11.9
		38	38	Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit	11.16
Digital TF Measures	Paperless Trade (10 measures)	15	15	Electronic/automated Customs System established (e.g. ASYCUDA)	
		16	16	Internet connection available to customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings	
		17	17	Electronic Single Window System	10.4
		18	18	Electronic submission of Customs Declarations	
		19	19	Electronic application and issuance of Import and Export Permit	
		20	20	Electronic submission of Sea Cargo Manifests	
		21	21	Electronic submission of Air Cargo Manifests	
		22	22	Electronic application and issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin	
		23	23	E-Payment of customs duties and fees	7.2
		24	24	Electronic application for customs refunds	
	Cross-Border Paperless Trade (6 measures)	25	25	Laws and regulations for electronic transactions are in place (e.g. e-commerce law, e-transaction law)	
		26	26	Recognized certification authority issuing digital certificates to traders to conduct electronic transactions	
		27	27	Customs declaration electronically exchanged between your country and other countries	
		28	28	Certificate of Origin electronically exchanged between your country and other countries	
		29	29	Sanitary & Phytosanitary Certificate electronically exchanged between your country and other countries	





Grouping		Question #		Trade facilitation measure in the questionnaire	TFA Articles
		2017	2019		
		30	30	Banks and insurers in your country retrieving letters of credit electronically without lodging paper-based documents	
Sustainable TF Measures	Trade Facilitation for SMEs (5 measures)	39	39	Trade-related information measures for SMEs	
		40	40	Government has developed specific measures that enable SMEs to more easily benefit from the AEO scheme	
		41	41	Government has taken actions to make single windows more easily accessible to SMEs (e.g. by providing technical consultation and training services to SMEs on registering and using the facility.)	
		42	42	Government has taken actions to ensure that SMEs are well represented and made key members of National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs)	
			43	Other special measures for SMEs	
	Agricultural Trade Facilitation (4 measures)	43	44	Testing and laboratory facilities are equipped for compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards in your main trading partners	
		44	45	National standards and accreditation bodies are established for the purpose of compliance with SPS standards	
		45	46	Application, verification and issuance of SPS certificates is automated	
			47	Special treatment given to perishable goods at border-crossings	7.9
	Women in Trade Facilitation (3 measures)	46	48	The existing trade facilitation policy/strategy incorporates special consideration of women involved in trade	
		47	49	Government has introduced trade facilitation measures aimed at women involved in trade	
			50	Female membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee	
	Trade Finance Facilitation (3 measures)		51	Single window facilitates traders with access to finance	
			52	Banks allow electronic exchange of data between trading partners or with banks in other countries to reduce dependence on paper documentation and advance digital trade	
			53	A variety of trade finance services available	

Source: The Second UNRC Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade and UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019





The UNRCs adopted a three-step approach to develop the dataset. Data was collected between January and July. Each of the trade facilitation measures included in the survey was rated as “fully implemented”, “partially implemented”, “pilot state”, “not

implemented” or “don’t know”. A score of 3, 2, 1, 0 and DK,⁷ respectively, was assigned to each implementation stage to calculate implementation scores for individual measures across countries, regions or categories.

Box 1: A three-step approach for data collection and validation

Step 1. Data submission by experts: The survey instrument was sent by the UNRCs to trade facilitation experts (in governments, the private sector and academia) to gather preliminary information. The questionnaire was also made publicly available online and disseminated with the support of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Policy Support Unit, as well as the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and E-business (UN/CEFACT) and the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport for Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT). In some cases, the questionnaire was also sent to relevant national trade facilitation authorities or agencies and regional trade facilitation partners or organizations such as the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Oceania Customs Organization (OCO).

Step 2. Data verification by the UNRCs Secretariat: The UNRCs cross-checked the data collected in Step 1. Desk research and data sharing among UNRCs and survey partners were carried out to further check the accuracy of data. Face-to-face or telephone interviews with key informants were arranged to gather additional information when needed. The outcome of Step 2 was a consistent set of responses per country.

Step 3. Data validation by national governments: The UNRCs sent the completed questionnaire to each national government to ensure that the country had the opportunity to review the dataset and provide any additional information. The feedback from national governments was incorporated in order to finalize the dataset.

The survey covers 128 countries which are divided into the following eight groups:

Developed economies (27 countries): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

Latin America and the Caribbean (18 countries): Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

Middle East and North Africa (8 countries): Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia.

Pacific Island (11 countries): Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (18 countries): Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

South Asia (8 countries): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

South-East and East Asia (14 countries): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Viet Nam.

Sub-Saharan Africa (24 countries): Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea – Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

⁷ DK is allowed as an answer; DK is treated as “no implementation” (0) in calculation of the implementation rate.





1.3 UTILIZATION OF REPORT AND THE DATA

To make the survey as transparent and useful as possible, regional and global datasets have been made available online on the dedicated survey website. The use of the data by researchers and policy analysts to advance our understanding of the impact of different trade facilitation measures and derive evidence-based policy advice is strongly encouraged.

Stakeholders interested in submitting information which may help us further improve or expand the dataset may contact the UNRC focal points listed on the dedicated website. Subject to the availability of resources, the UNRCs, together with other willing partners, will endeavor to conduct the survey on a biennial basis.





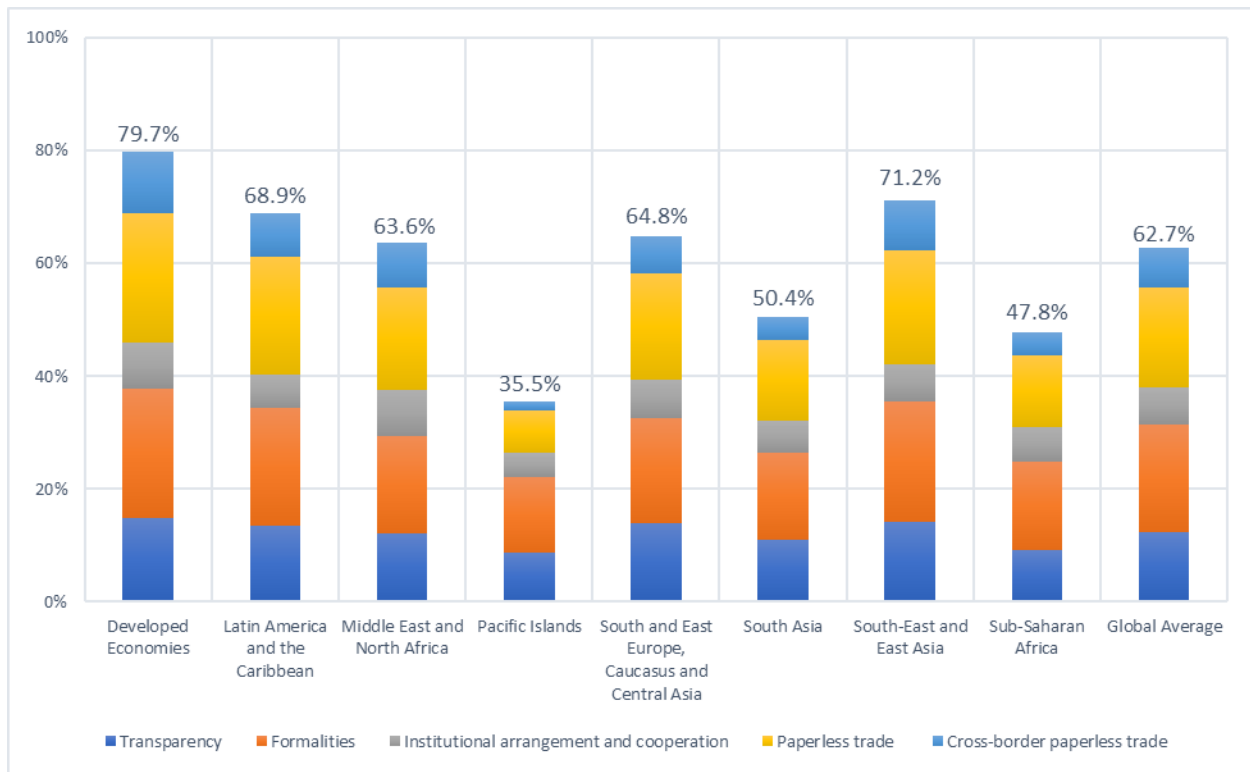
2. TRADE FACILITATION IMPLEMENTATION: OVERVIEW

Figure 1 shows the average rates of implementation of trade facilitation in the developed economies and seven developing regions mentioned above. The implementation rates are calculated based on a set of 31 trade facilitation measures relevant to all 12 economies included in the survey and spanning five groups of measures from transparency to cross-border paperless trade.⁸

The global average implementation rate stands at 62.7% (Figure 1). Developed economies have the

highest implementation rate (79.7%), while the Pacific Islands have the lowest (35.5%). Among the developing regions, South-East and East Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean achieve high implementation rates at 71.2% and 68.9% respectively. Implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa – which includes some of the poorest countries in the world – is only 47.8%, second only to the Pacific Islands.

Figure 1: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures around the world



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

⁸ Among the 50 common measures surveyed across UNRCs, three measures including ‘*Electronic Submission of Sea Cargo Manifests*’, ‘*Alignment of Working Days and Hours with Neighboring Countries at Border Crossings*’, and ‘*Alignment of Formalities and Procedures with Neighboring Countries at Border Crossings*’ are excluded when calculating the overall score as they are not relevant to all countries surveyed. Four “Transit Facilitation” measures are also excluded for the same reason. Additionally, “Trade Facilitation for SMEs”, “Agricultural Trade Facilitation”, “Women in Trade Facilitation” are excluded as these are newly added groups of measures not included in the original UN Survey. The new group “Trade Finance Facilitation” is a pilot test applied by ESCAP, ESCWA and ECE only, therefore excluded.





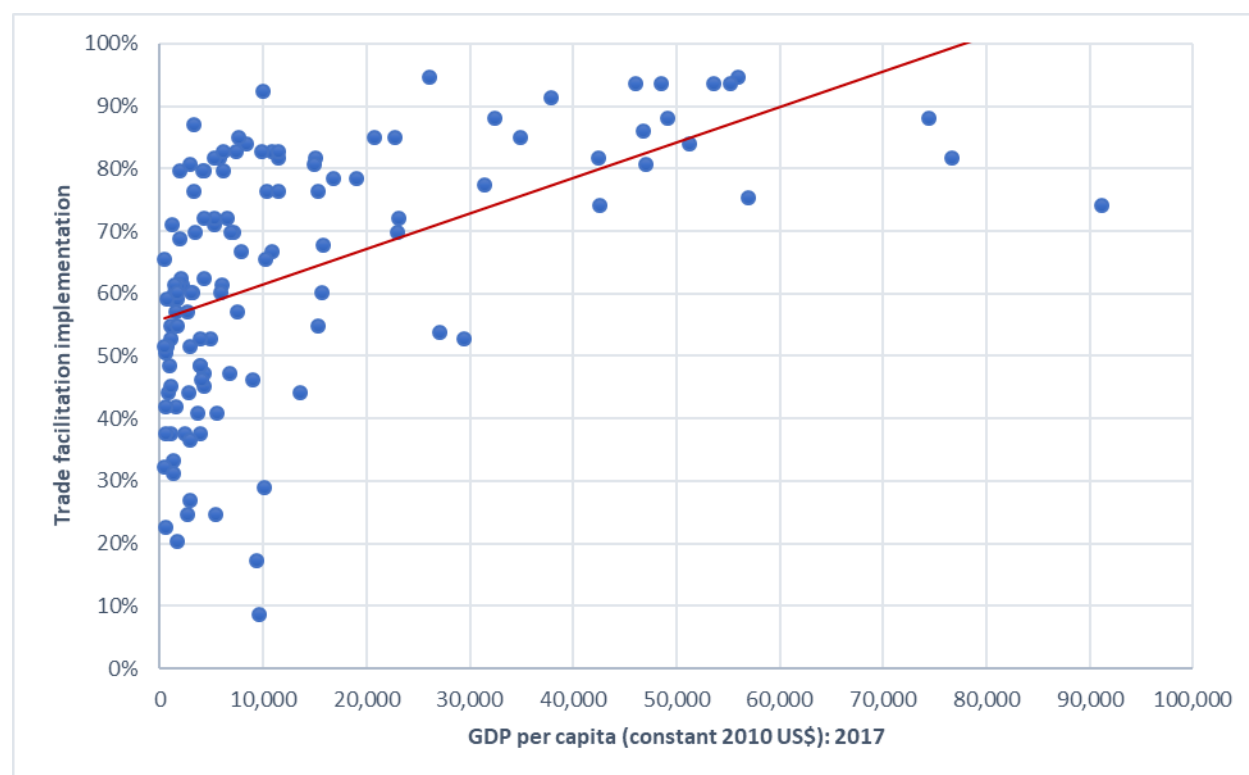
Trade facilitation implementation rates for individual economies are provided in Annex 4. Implementation varies greatly across regions and even across economies within the same region (Figure 2). For example, implementation rates in South-East and East Asia range from 24.7% (Timor Leste) to 94.6% (Republic of Korea). Similarly, in Latin America, the implementation level varies from the lowest 44.0% (Antigua & Barbuda) to the highest 92.5% (Mexico).

In terms of specific countries, Australia and Korea (94.6%) tie for first place as the best overall performers, followed by Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan and Singapore, each with an implementation rate of 93.6%. Among developing regions, the

Republic of Korea (94.6%) and Singapore (93.6%) lead in South-East and East Asia. Mexico leads the Latin America and the Caribbean, while Morocco leads the Middle East and North Africa region. Azerbaijan, Russian Federation and the Republic of North Macedonia (81.7%) together lead the South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region, while India (79.6%) leads the way in South Asia.

In general, more advanced economies achieve higher implementation rates than smaller or less developed countries. However, this is not always the case. About 40 countries that have a GDP per capita lower than \$10,000 have achieved implementation rates higher than 50% (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Average Trade Facilitation implementation rates and GDP per capita



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019; World Bank, World Development Indicators, accessed June 2019.



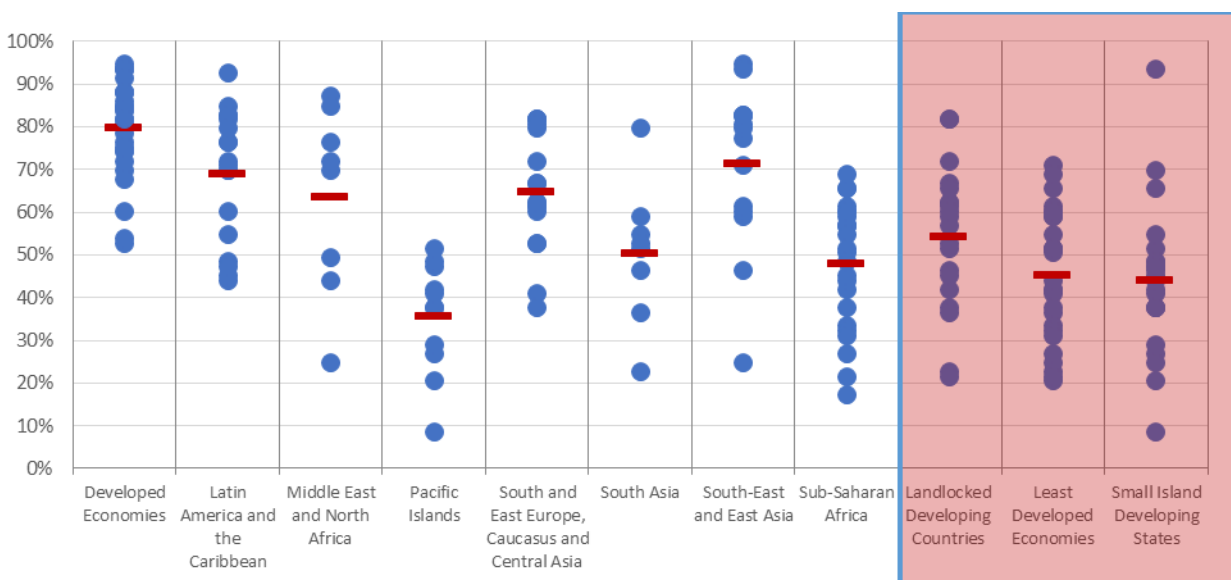


2.1 IMPLEMENTATION IN COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Figure 3 presents an overview of trade facilitation implementation in different regions, particularly, in three groups of countries with special needs, namely, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). The red bars indicate the average level of implementation for each group of countries while the dots show the implementation rates for individual economies within each group.

All three groups of countries with special needs achieve similar implementation rates, ranging between 43% and 55%. This is significantly below the global average implementation rate (62.7%) (Figure 3). This result confirms the need to provide LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDSs with special technical assistance and capacity-building support to help them bridge their existing implementation gaps.

Figure 3: Average Trade Facilitation implementation rates by region and in countries with special needs



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019; World Bank, World Development Indicators, accessed June 2019.

2.2 MOST AND LEAST IMPLEMENTED TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES

All countries are engaged in the implementation of various measures to enhance the transparency of trade procedures and reduce the unnecessary formalities associated with them. Implementation levels vary significantly across countries for all categories of measures. The gaps are particularly wide for paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade measures.

Overall, 'Transparency' measures, including measures such as *stakeholders' consultation on new draft regulations*, have the highest implementation rates

(average 77%) followed by 'Transit Facilitation' measures (75%). 'Formalities' measures have been widely implemented, with the global average implementation rate standing at 73%. *Separation of release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges* (83%), *risk management* (81%) and *post-clearance audits* (80%) are the most highly implemented measures within the group, while significant room for improvement exist for measures such as *establishment and publication of*





average release times and trade facilitation measures for authorized operators (Figure 4).

The implementation rate for ‘Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation’ is 69%. The level of implementation of a *National Trade Facilitation Committee or similar body* stands at 81% while the implementation level of *government agencies delegating controls to customs authorities* is only 48%.

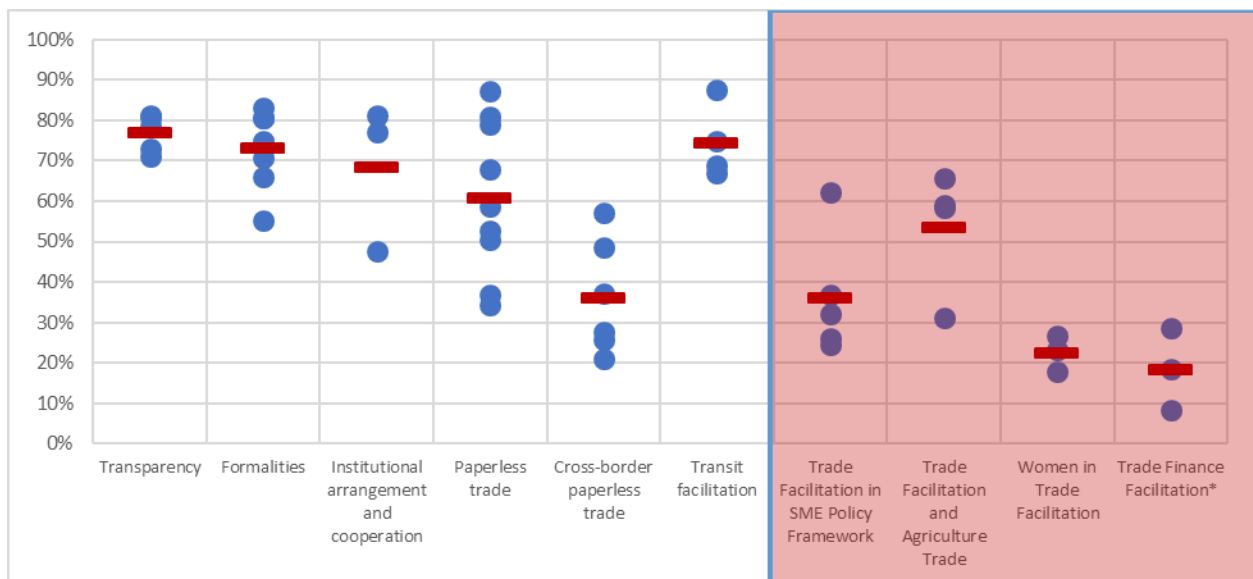
The global average implementation level for ‘Paperless Trade’ stands at 61%. The implementation rates vary greatly depending on the individual measures considered. The levels of implementation of *automated customs system* and *internet connection available to customs and other trade control agencies* exceed 80% while the implementation level of *electronic application and issuance of preferential certificate of origin* and *electronic application for customs refunds* are only at 37% and 34% respectively.

The implementation level for ‘Cross-Border Paperless Trade’ (36%) is substantially lower than that of other groups of measures.

“Sustainable Trade Facilitation” is the group of measures that align trade facilitation with sustainable development goals. ‘Agricultural Trade Facilitation’ has been comparatively well implemented. The implementation of other sustainable trade facilitation measures, particularly ‘Trade Facilitation for SMEs’ (36%) and ‘Women in Trade Facilitation’ (23%) remains low. There is a lack of awareness on the importance of “inclusiveness” in trade facilitation.

“Trade Finance”, which eases out cash constraints and helps maintain a flow of credit, is an essential part of global trade. It is an optional category that has been considered in the 2019 survey. There are 88 countries from 3 regional commissions - UN ESCAP, UN ESCWA and UN ECE - using this optional category in their survey. The average implementation of the 88 countries involved is below 20%, indicating the lack of awareness of trade finance processes among trade policy and facilitation specialists. This low implementation rate is in part explained by the absence of data for about half of the countries. Regardless, the results point to significant room for improvement in this area, given its importance to small and medium-sized traders.

Figure 4: Average implementation rates for different groups of Trade Facilitation measures



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019





Table 3: Most and least implemented measures within each group of Trade Facilitation measures by number of countries

Category of trade facilitation measures	Most implemented (% of countries)		Least implemented (% of countries)	
	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)
Transparency	Stakeholders' consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)	96.1 / 53.9	Advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported goods	86.7 / 47.7
Formalities	Risk management	96.9 / 55.5	Establishment and publication of average release times	72.7 / 31.3
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation	National legislative framework and/or institutional arrangements for border agencies cooperation	94.5 / 45.3	Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities	57.8 / 28.9
Paperless Trade	Automated Customs System	96.1 / 71.1	Electronic Application for Customs Refunds	44.5 / 18.8
Cross-Border Paperless Trade	Laws and regulations for electronic transactions	77.3 / 25.8	Electronic exchange of Sanitary & Phytosanitary Certificate	35.2 / 1.6
Transit Facilitation	Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk assessment	77.3 / 59.4	Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation	66.4 / 37.5
Trade Facilitation in SME Policy Framework	Trade-related information measures for SMEs	78.9 / 33.6	SMEs in AEO scheme	32.0 / 18.0
Trade Facilitation and Agriculture Trade	Special treatment for perishable goods	81.3 / 37.5	Electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates	45.3 / 10.2
Women in Trade Facilitation	Trade facilitation measures aimed at female traders	41.4 / 4.7	Female membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee	26.6 / 5.5
Trade Finance Facilitation	Variety of trade finance services available	48.9 / 14.8	Single window facilitates traders to access to finance	11.4 / 6.8

Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untdsf.org, 2019





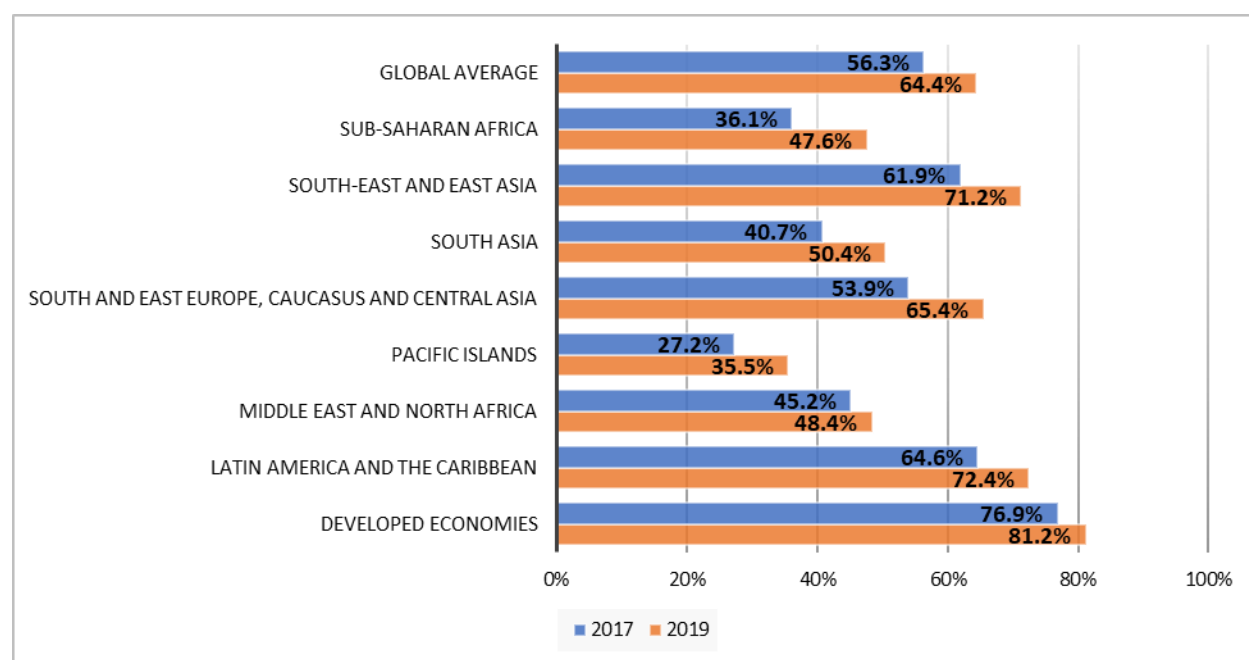
2.3 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES SINCE 2017

Among the 128 countries covered in the Third Global Survey, 99 countries participated in the Second Global Survey in 2017. To make samples comparable, only those countries that participated in both the 2017 and 2019 surveys are analyzed in order to assess progress in the implementation of trade facilitation measures between 2017 and 2019.⁹

Significant progress has been made towards more efficient trade facilitation. The implementation rate at the global level has increased by 8.1 percentage points.¹⁰ The most progress is observed in South and

East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, where the implementation rates have increased by 11.5 percentage points.¹¹ A substantial improvement was also observed in South Asia (9.7 percentage points) South-East and East Asia (9.3 percentage points) Pacific Island (8.3 percentage points) and Latin America and the Caribbean (7.8 percentage points). Progress is not significant in the Middle East and North Africa, and Developed Economies, where increases of only 3.2 and 4.2 percentage points respectively have occurred (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Progress of implementation of Trade Facilitation measures by various regions, 2017 and 2019



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

⁹ See Annex 5 for details, including country list and comparison of average implementation rates by region using the full (128 countries) and limited (99 countries) datasets. The overall results are similar.

¹⁰ The global average implementation rate of the 99 countries in 2019 and 2017 are 64.4% and 56.3%, respectively.

¹¹ It should be noted that in the case of Sub-Saharan Africa, the sample available for the comparison was limited to 9 countries. The observed increase in implementation should therefore be interpreted with caution, as it is not representative of the region as a whole.

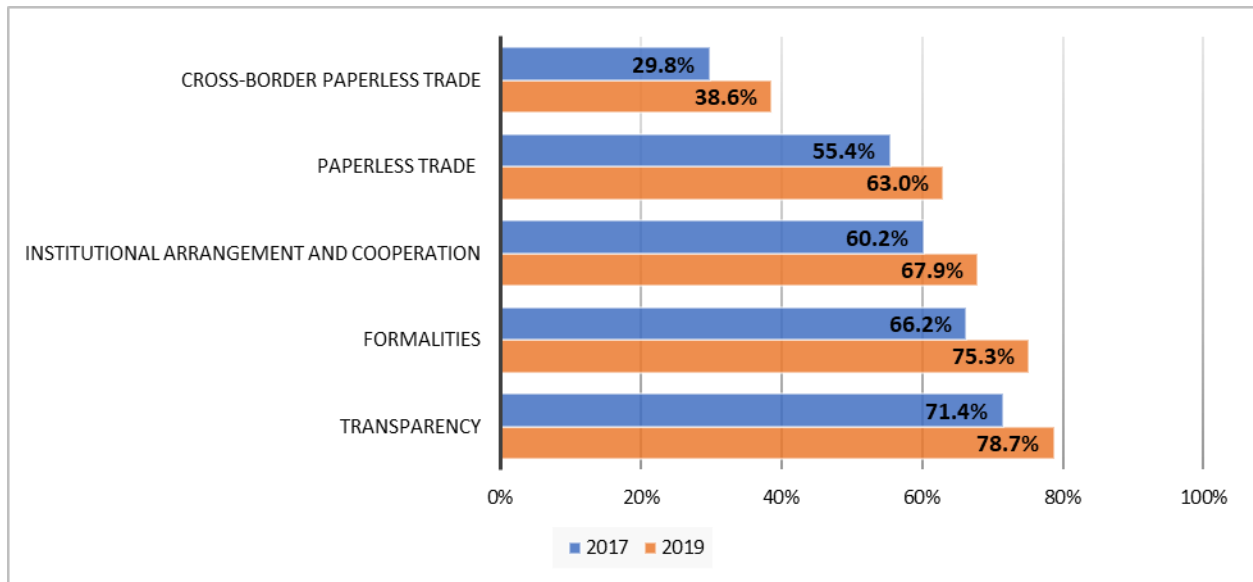




Progress has been made at more or less the same pace across different groups of measures. The most progress has been made in improving 'Formalities' associated with trade facilitation from 66.2% in 2017 to 75.3% in 2019. The average implementation rates

for 'Transparency', 'Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation', 'Paperless Trade' and 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' increase by 7.3, 7.7, 7.5, and 8.8 percentage points, respectively (Figure 6 and 7).

Figure 6: Progress of global implementation Trade Facilitation measures, 2017 and 2019



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 7 shows improvements in different regions for five main groups of measures. It suggests that Pacific Islands have made particularly good progress in implementing 'Transparency' measures, but not other groups of measures. South Asia have made particularly significant progress in 'Formalities' and 'Paperless Trade' measures (e.g., India actively

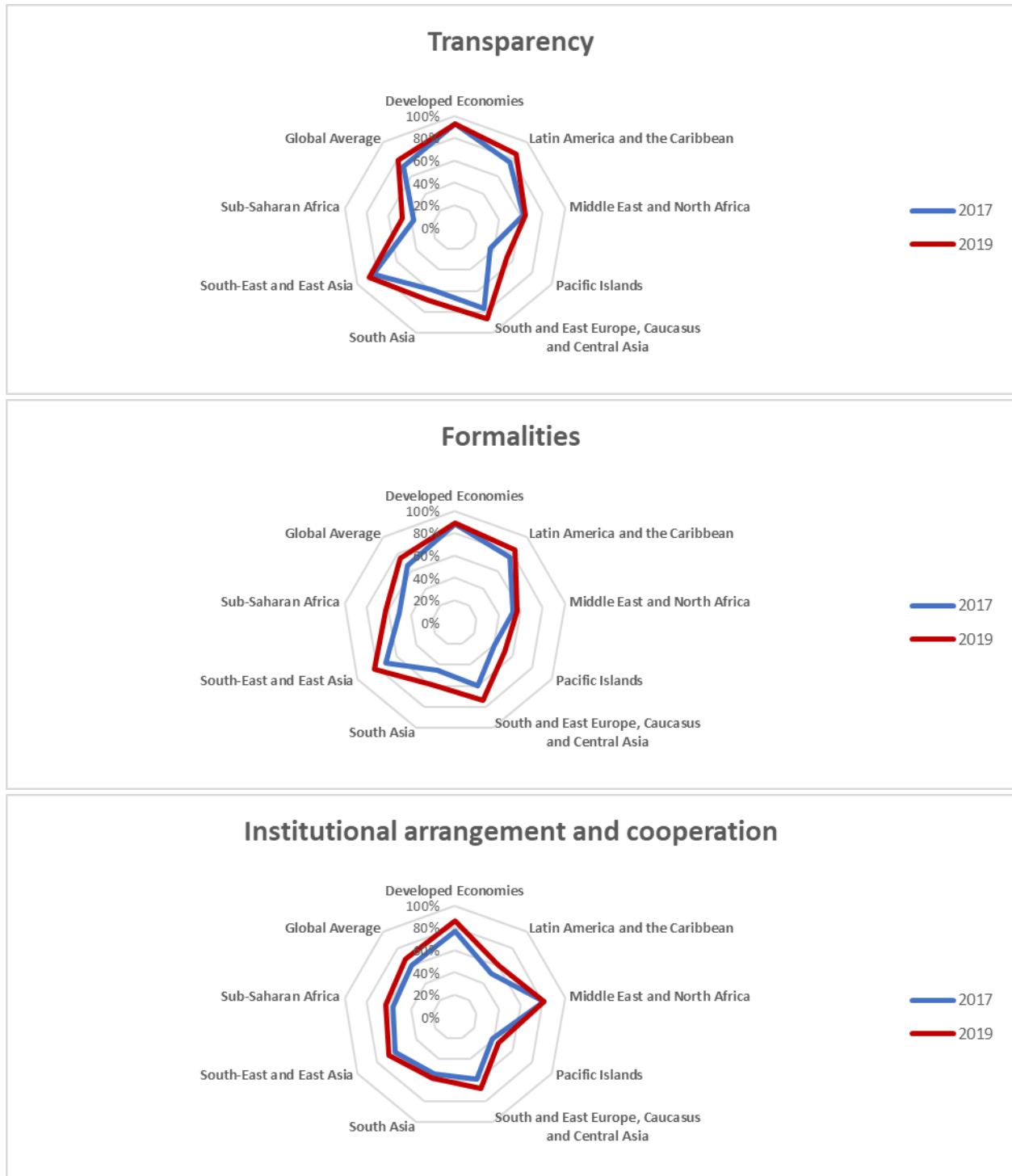
developed its single window environment over the past 2 years). South-East and East Asia have made relative more progress on 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' (Several countries in these regions have undertaken ambitious reforms such as the implementation of ASEAN Single Window).¹²

¹² <http://asw.asean.org/>



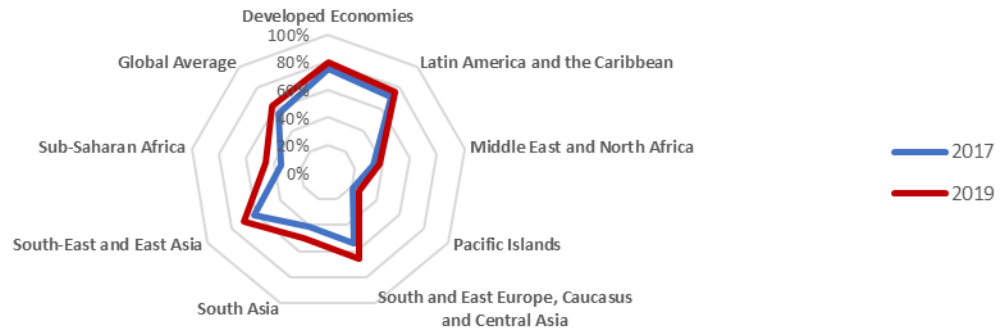


Figure 7: Progress of implementation of specific group of Trade Facilitation measures in various regions, 2017 and 2019

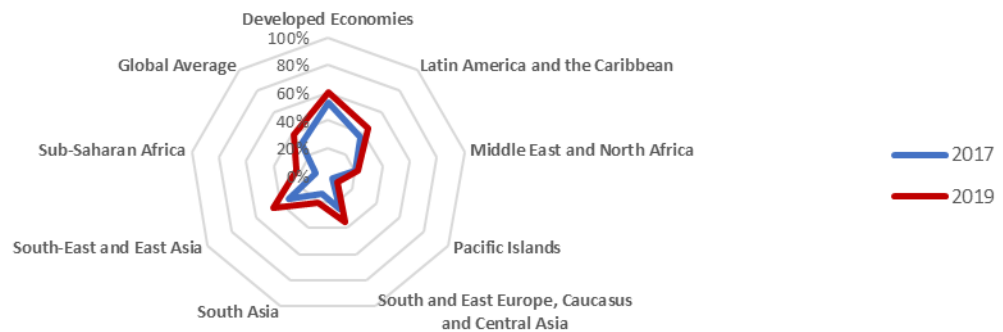




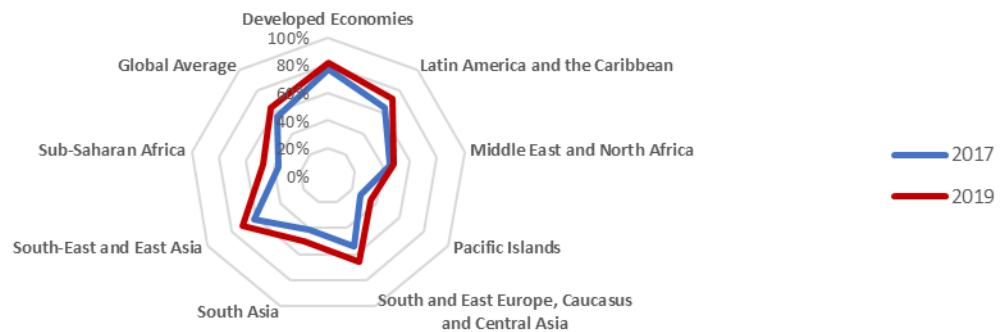
Paperless trade



Cross-border paperless trade



Overall implementation



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019





3. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES: A CLOSER LOOK

3.1 TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

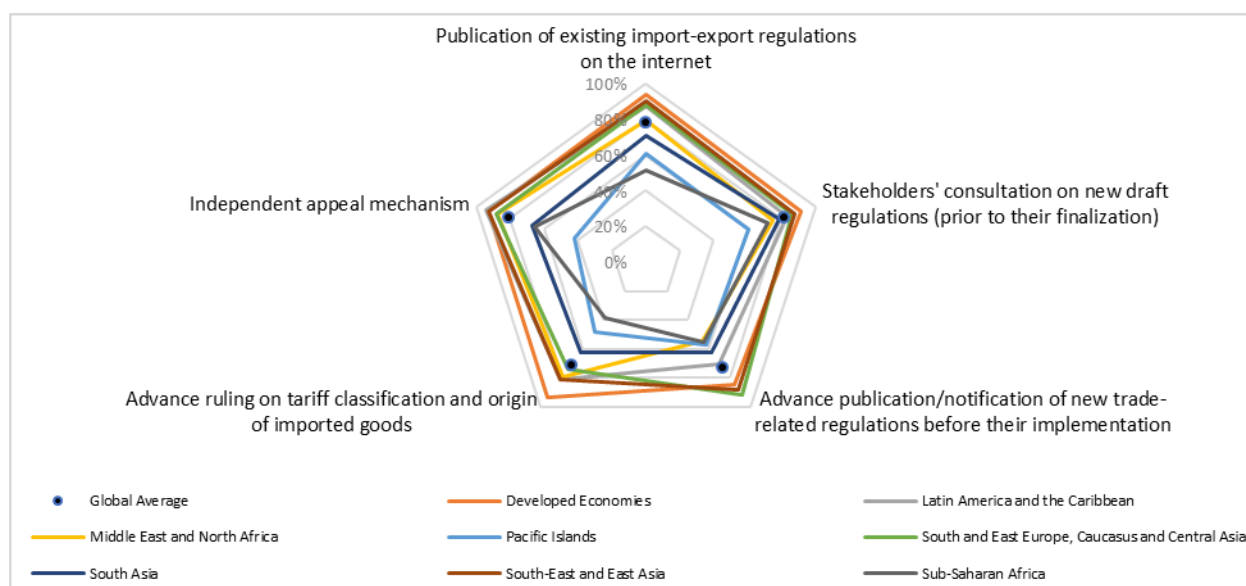
Five trade facilitation measures included in the survey are categorized as ‘Transparency’ measures. They relate to Articles 1-5 of the WTO TFA and GATT Article X on *publication and administration of trade regulations*. The global average level of implementation of all five transparency measures exceeds 70% (Figure 8). However, the implementation levels of these measures vary widely across regions.

While the developed economies, South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, South-East and East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean have almost fully implemented these measures, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific Islands lag far behind the global average, especially on the implementation of *advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported goods* and *independent appeal mechanism* (Figure 8).

Figure 9 shows the percentage of countries, globally, that have fully implemented, partially implemented, or piloted the transparency measures included in the survey. Transparency measures are generally well-implemented. Over 95% of the countries surveyed have introduced the measures *stakeholders' consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)*, *independent appeal mechanism*, and *publication of existing import-export regulations on the internet* and over 90% of which have at least partially implemented the measures.

The Measures *advance publication/notification of new trade-related regulations before their implementation* and *advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported goods* have also been implemented at least on partial basis by over 80% of the countries surveyed.

Figure 8: Global implementation of ‘Transparency’ measures in various regions

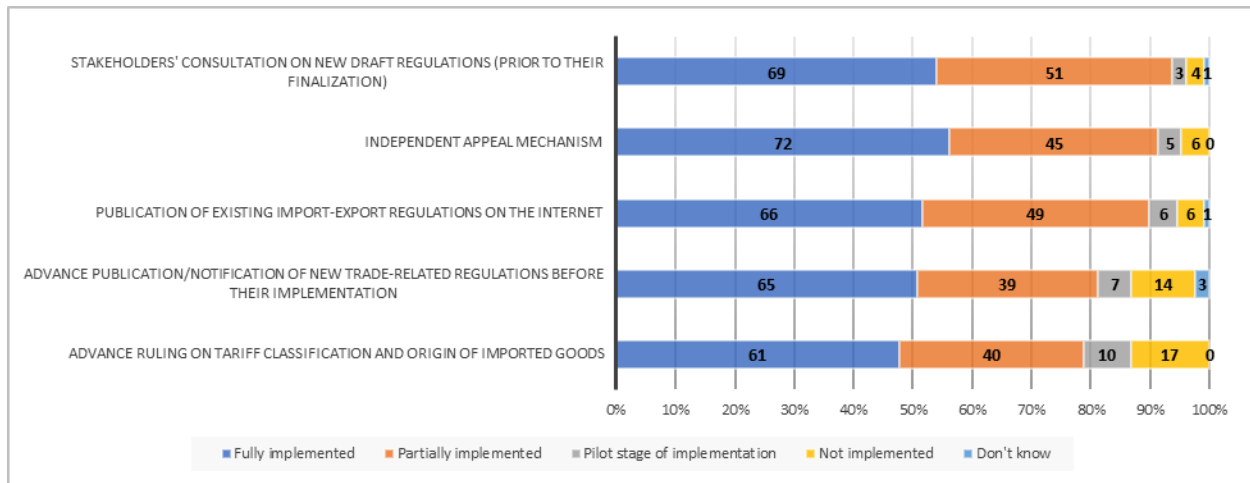


Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019





Figure 9: State of implementation of ‘Transparency’ measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

3.2 FORMALITIES MEASURES

The ‘Formalities’ group consists of eight general trade facilitation measures in relation to Article 7 and 10 of the WTO TFA and GATT Article VII, titled “Fees and Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation.”

The level of implementation at the regional level is found to vary significantly when it comes to measures in this group (Figure 10). The implementation of *risk management, post clearance audit, separation of release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges, acceptance of copies of original supporting documents required for import, and export or transit formalities* is well underway in most regions. The implementation of *trade facilitation measures for authorized operators* and *establishment and publication of average release time* remains challenging in many regions, in particular, the Pacific Islands.

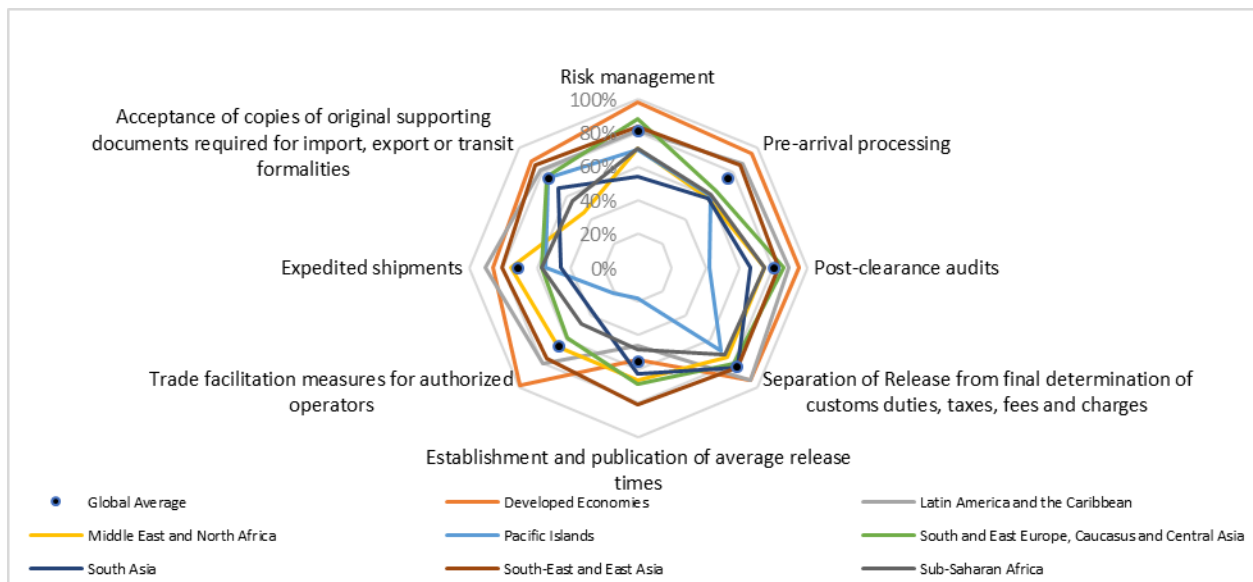
Most of the countries surveyed have implemented measures to reduce unnecessary formalities that impede trade. Figure 11 illustrates that the measures *risk management, separation of release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges, post clearance audits, and pre-arrival processing* have been well implemented. More than 90% of the countries have fully, partially or on a pilot basis implemented these four measures.

Other ‘Formalities’ measures have been implemented to a lesser extent. Particularly, the measures *establishment and publication of average release time* is significantly less implemented. Over 70% of the countries have, to some extent, implemented this measure, however, full implementation has taken place in approximately 30% of the economies surveyed (Figure 11).



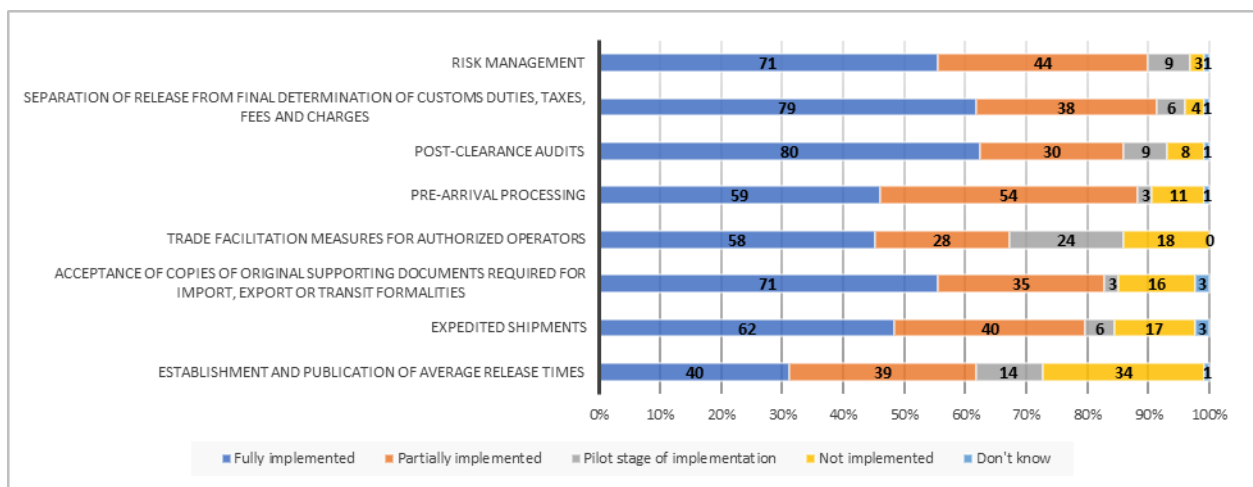


Figure 10: Global implementation of 'Formalities' measures in various regions



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 11: State of implementation of 'Formalities' measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

3.3 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND COOPERATION MEASURES

Three trade facilitation measures featured in the survey are grouped under 'Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation' measures. These measures are stipulated by Article 8 and 23 of the WTO TFA that require the establishment of a national trade facilitation body and ensuring cooperation and

coordination among trade-related government agencies.

Figure 12 shows that *national legislative framework and institutional arrangement available to ensure border agencies cooperated with each other, and national trade facilitation committee* measures have



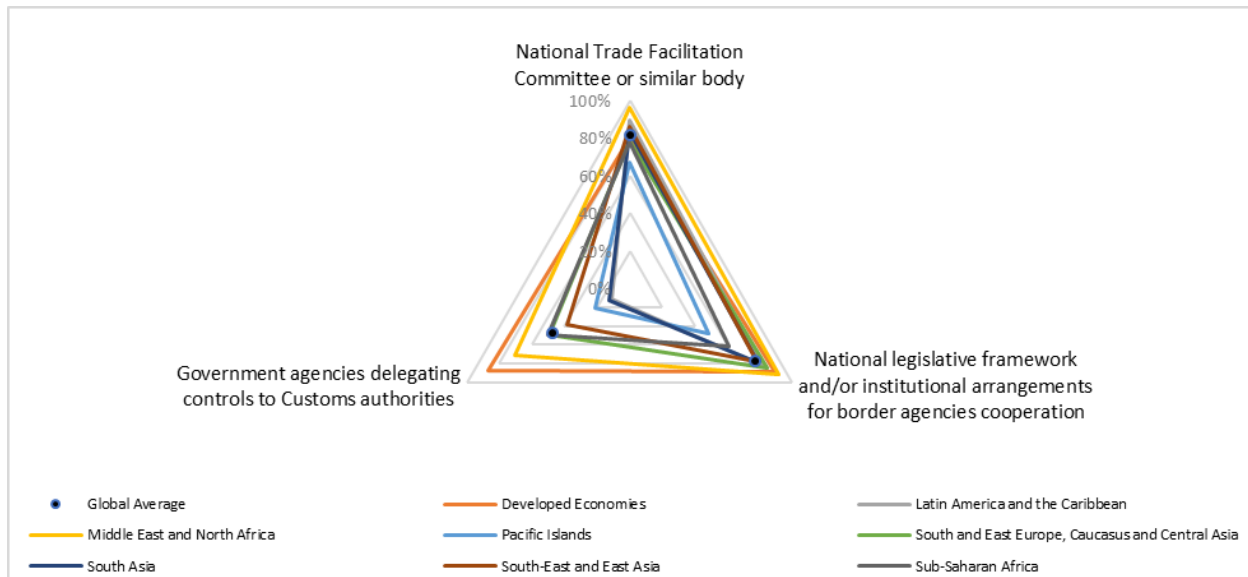


been extensively implemented globally. In contrast, the implementation of *government agencies delegating controls to customs authorities* varies across regions. This measure seems to be a more common practice in developed economies than in developing countries.

Most countries surveyed have started implementing the *cooperation between agencies* and *national trade facilitation committee* measures. Over 90% of the

countries surveyed have, at least partially, implemented these measures. The *establishment of such a committee* is mandatory for all countries who intend to ratify the WTO TFA.¹³ However, full implementation has been only achieved by approximately 60% of the countries. Less than 60% of the countries have initiated the measure of *government agencies delegating controls to customs authorities* (Figure 13).

Figure 12: Global implementation of ‘Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation’ measures in various regions



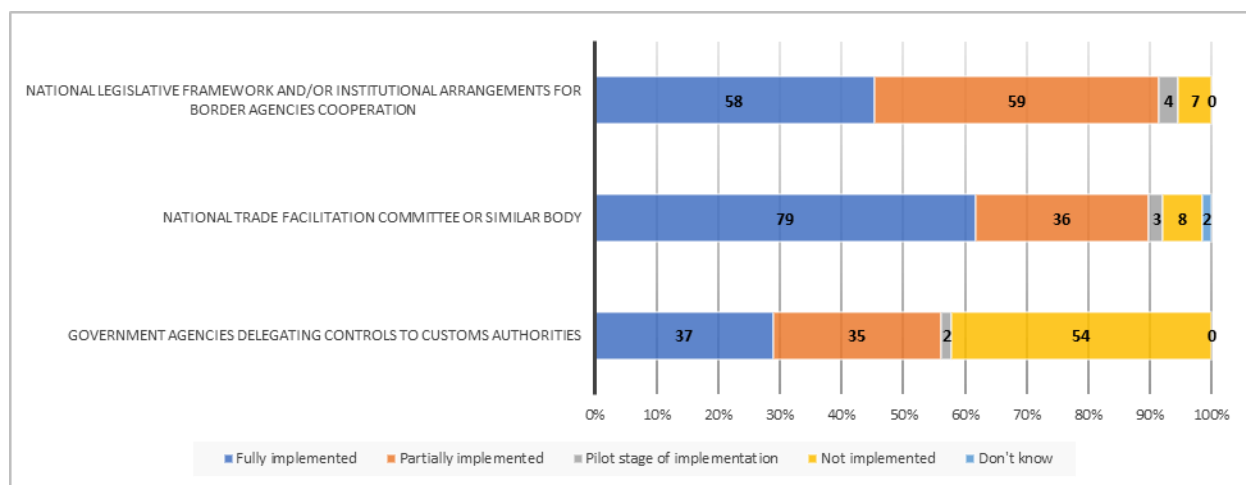
Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untdf.org, 2019

¹³ See Article 23.2 of the WTO TFA.





Figure 13: State of Implementation of ‘Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation’ measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

3.4 PAPERLESS TRADE MEASURES

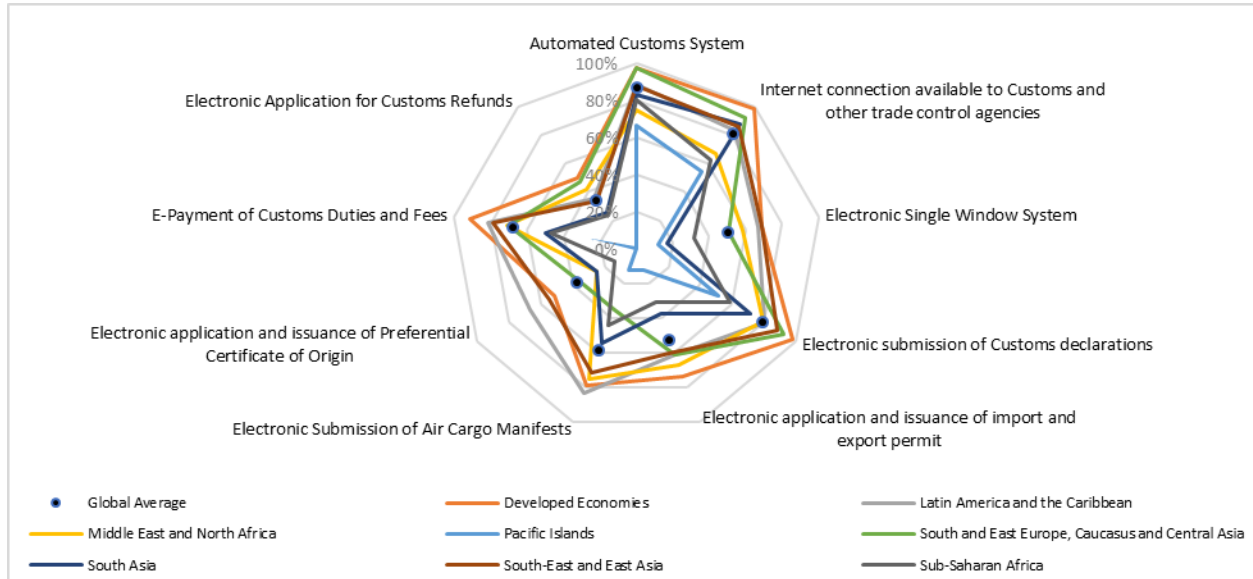
The ‘Paperless Trade’ measures, examined in the survey, relate to the application of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) to trade-related services, ranging from the availability of internet connections at border-crossings and the automation of Customs systems to full-fledged electronic single window systems. Many of the measures are identified in Articles 7 and 10 of the WTO TFA and in the text of the intergovernmental agreement on facilitation of cross-border paperless trade.

The average regional levels of implementation for the nine ‘Paperless Trade’ measures vary widely, as shown in Figure 14. The implementation of *automated customs systems, and internet connection available to customs and other trade control agencies* is generally good in all regions except in the Pacific Islands, which also lags far behind in all other ‘Paperless Trade’ measures. Latin America and the Caribbean and South-East and East Asia have achieved much higher implementation rates on *electronic single window systems* and *e-payment of customs duties and fees* compared to other developing regions.





Figure 14: Global implementation of 'Paperless Trade' measures in various regions



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untdc.org, 2019

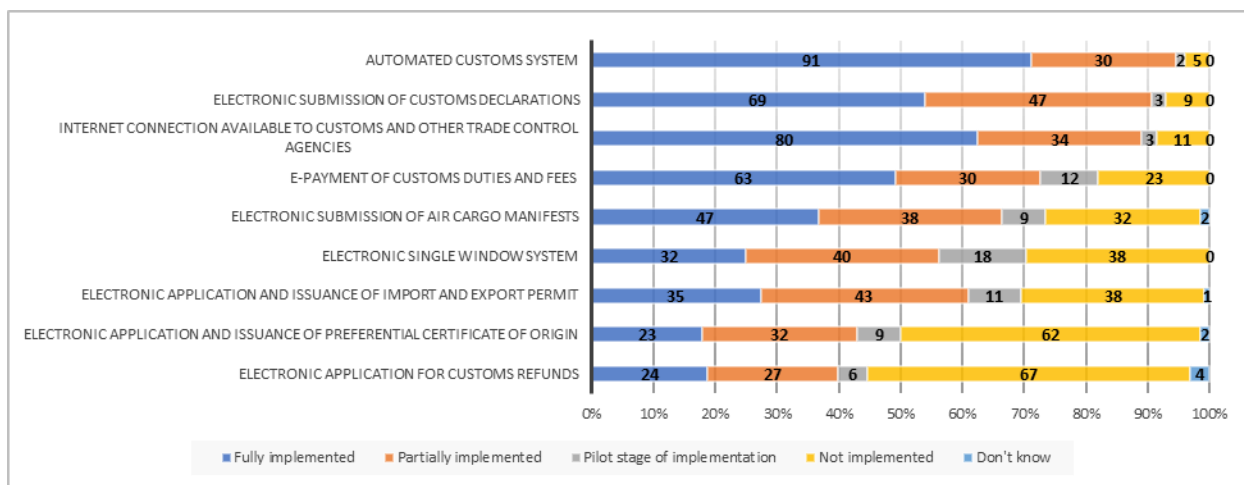
Figure 15 highlights the gaps when it comes to the implementation of different measures within the group. The measures *automated customs systems*, *electronic submission of customs declarations*, and *internet connection available to customs and other trade control agencies* have been implemented, at least to some extent, by more than 90% of the countries surveyed, and full implementation has been reached by more than half of the countries. Similarly, over 80% of the countries have at least piloted *e-payment of customs duties and fees*. These results indicate that most economies have been actively working on developing the ICT infrastructure and services needed for paperless trade.

Approximately 70% of the countries surveyed have, to some extent, engaged in *electronic submission of air cargo manifests*, *electronic application and issuance of import and export permits*, and *electronic single window systems*. However, implementation of these measures are mostly partial or on pilot basis. The implementation of *electronic application and issuance of preferential certificate of origin* remains a challenge. *Electronic application for customs refunds*, a measure that is similar to *e-payment of Customs duties and fees*, is the least implemented measure within the group. A refund is only electronically available in less than 45% of the countries surveyed. Most countries still request that refunds be applied for with paper documents (Figure 15).





Figure 15: State of implementation of 'Paperless Trade' measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

3.5 CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE MEASURES

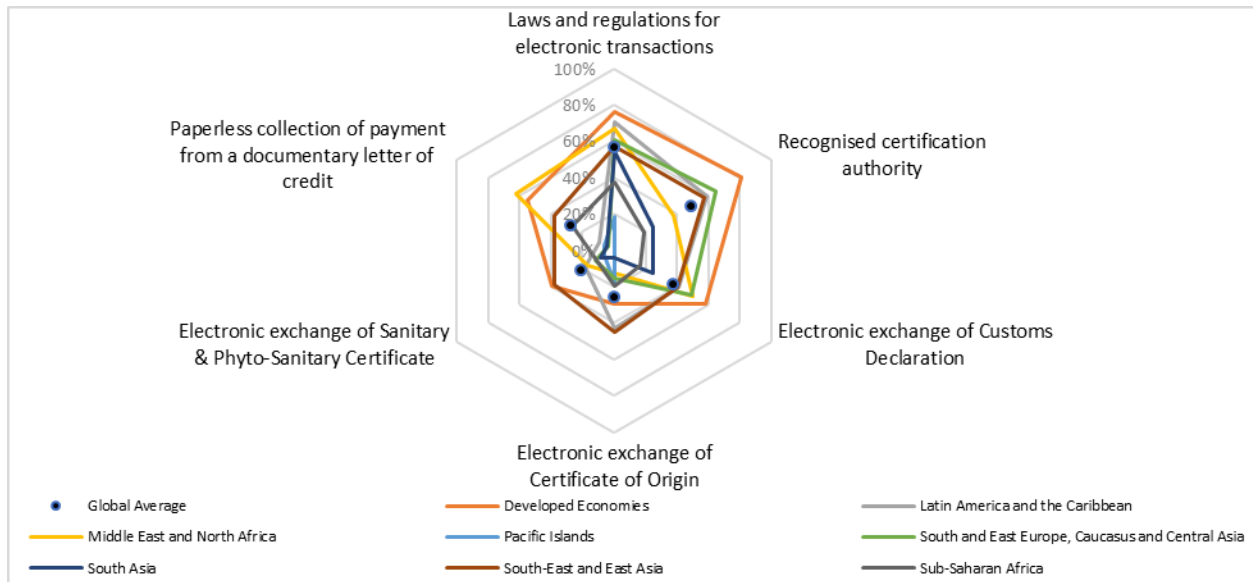
Among the six 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' measures, shown in Figure 16, two measures, *law and regulations for electronic transactions*, and *recognized certification authority*, are basic building blocks towards enabling the exchange and legal recognition of trade-related data and documents, not only among stakeholders within a country, but also between stakeholders along the entire international supply chain. The other four measures relate to the actual exchange of specific trade-related data and documents across borders in order to achieve a fully integrated paperless transformation.

Figure 16 shows the average scores for implementing the 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' measures across regions. At the global level, the implementation of these measures has been very slow. Progress has been made in establishing laws and regulations for electronic transactions. However, the average implementation level of this measure remains low. The implementation levels of other measures in the group is very low. South-East and East Asia leads other regions when it comes to implementing measures relating to the cross-border electronic exchange of trade-related documents including *exchange of certificate of origin*, and *sanitary and phytosanitary certificates*.





Figure 16: Global implementation of 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' measures in various regions

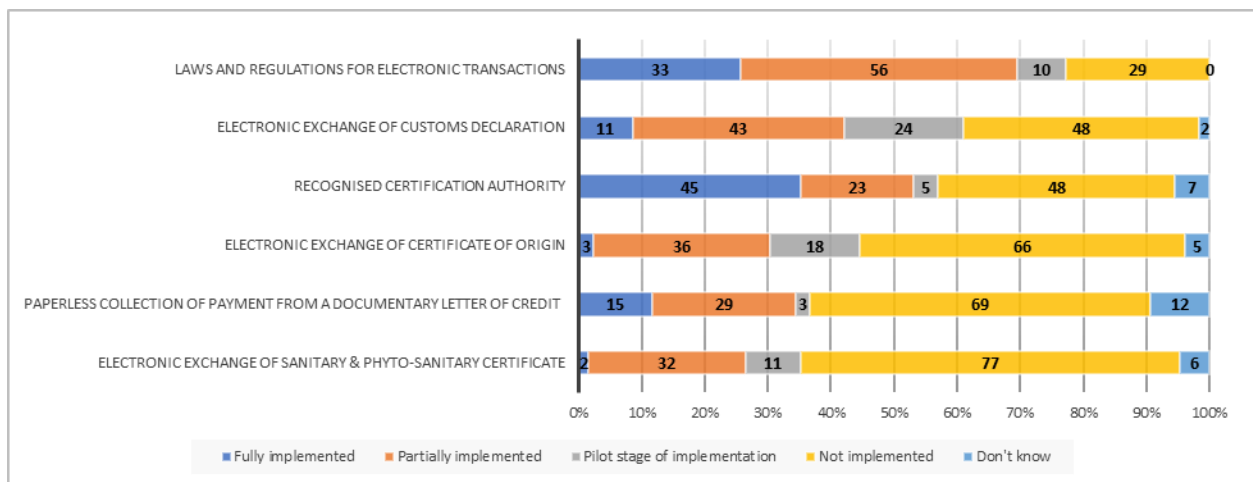


Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 17 reveals that more than 70% of the countries surveyed have taken steps to establish legal and regulatory frameworks for electronic transactions. However, less than 30% of the countries have such legal frameworks fully in place, therefore affecting the legal recognition of electronic data and documents across borders. Similarly, having a *recognized certification authority*, the competent authority to issue electronic signatures and

documents, is only fully implemented in less than 40% of the economies. This partly explains why the implementation of *electronic exchange of trade-related data and documents* (customs declaration, certificate of origin, SPS certificate) is very limited. Implementation is essentially on a pilot or partial basis and full implementation is only achieved by less than 10% of the countries.

Figure 17: State of implementation of 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019



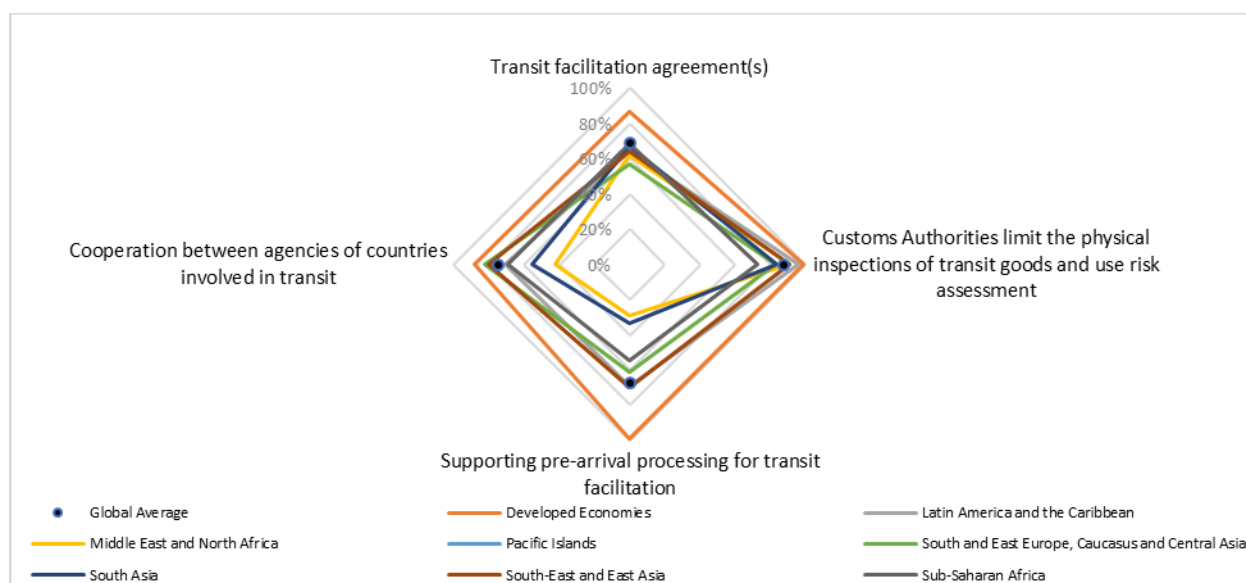


3.6 TRANSIT FACILITATION MEASURES

Four trade facilitation measures included in the survey relate specifically to ‘Transit Facilitation’ and the WTO TFA Article 11 on *Freedom of Transit*.¹⁴ The intent of these measures is to reduce, as much as possible, the formalities associated with transit trade, allowing the swift flow of goods from one country to another. These measures are particularly important to landlocked developing countries, whose goods typically need to go through a neighboring country’s territory before reaching a seaport for onward transportation to their destinations. Efficient transit will be the key to unlock the potential of landlocked countries, accelerating regional development and boosting regional and international trade.

As shown in Figure 18, the global average implementation level for transit measures exceeds 65% for all the measures. The average implementation level in developed economies is significantly higher than that in developing regions, particularly with respect to *cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit*, and *supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation*. Middle East and North Africa is the region with the lowest score, most notably when it comes to measures *supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation*, and *cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit*.

Figure 18: Global implementation of ‘Transit Facilitation’ measures in various regions



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 19 shows that all the transit measures considered have been implemented by most of the countries involved, although the implementation has mainly been incomplete. Less than half of the countries involved in transit have fully implemented

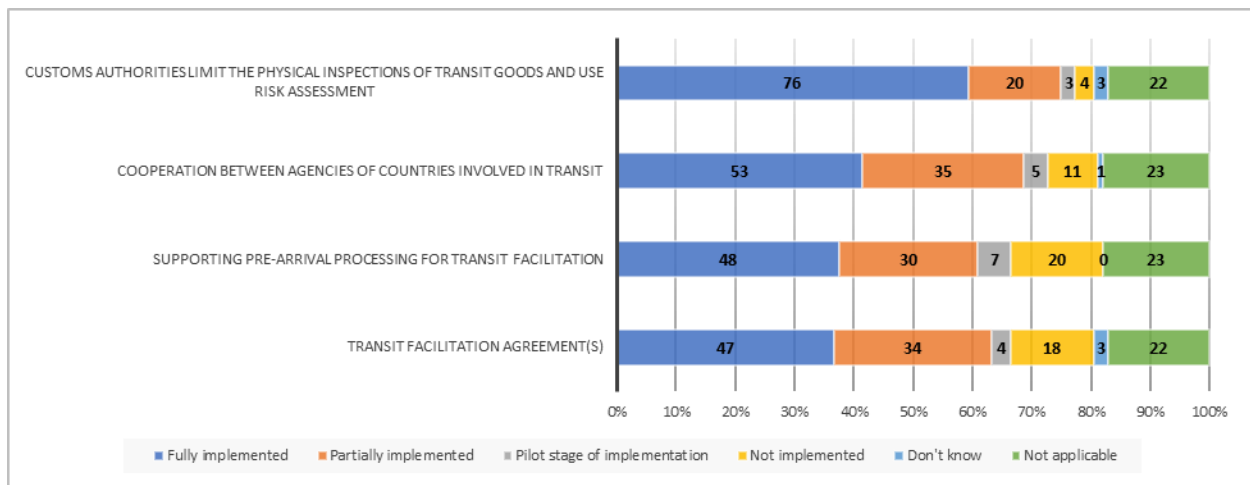
the measures *cooperation between agencies of countries*, *supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation*, and *transit facilitation agreement with neighboring countries*.

¹⁴ These measures are not directly applicable to all countries across the region, as some countries are unlikely to see any transit traffic in their territory. This is particularly the case for island countries but also for other countries facing specific geographical constraints.





Figure 19: State of implementation of ‘Transit Facilitation’ measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

3.7 SUSTAINABLE TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES

“Sustainable Trade Facilitation” is a group of measures that have been added to the survey since 2017, with increasing concerns around the inclusiveness of trade – an important aspect to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. SMEs and Women are important parts of inclusive trade. A trade agenda that explicitly recognizes and acts on the facilitation of SMEs can be a strong force for inclusive trade. Empowering women to engage in trade also will lead to stronger growth and a more prosperous society. Similarly, targeting specific sectors where poverty is prevalent (e.g., agriculture) can also increase the positive impact of trade facilitation on sustainable development. Therefore, additional measures were added to the “Sustainable

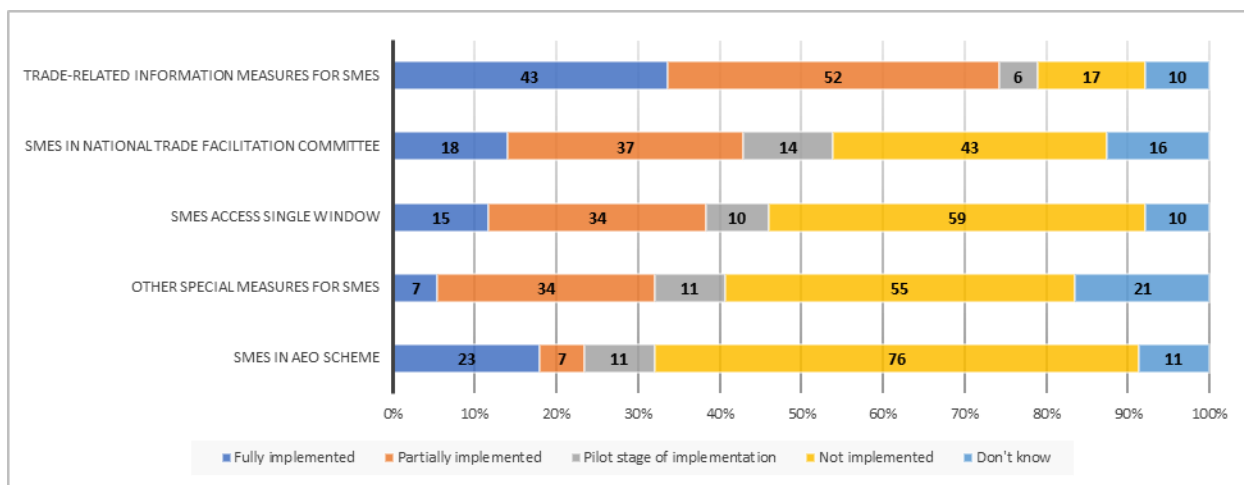
Trade Facilitation” group in 2019 to emphasize the importance of sustainable and inclusive trade.

Figure 20 reveals that although nearly 80% of the countries have introduced *trade-related information measures for SMEs*, nearly half of the countries surveyed have not yet included SMEs in the National Trade Facilitation Committee. Measures that specifically target SMEs to overcome the challenges they face in trade such as *facilities for SMEs access to Single Window*, *SMEs access to AEO scheme*, and *Other special measures for SMEs* (e.g., such as provision of deferred duty payment or developing a specific action plan dedicated to trade facilitation measures for SMEs) are carried out on a limited basis.





Figure 20: State of implementation of ‘Trade Facilitation measures for SMEs’ measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

Box 2: Measures Relating to ‘Trade Facilitation for SMEs’ Good Practices

Measure 39: Government has developed trade facilitation measures that ensure easy and affordable access for SMEs to trade-related information

[VIET NAM] In Viet Nam, public consultations of draft regulations are frequently discussed with business associations including the Viet Nam Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (VINASME), the Young Business Association, among others. The government is working closely with international partners to support the development of SME regulatory policies and regulations. Support activities include studies, workshops and training and capacity building programmes to address the substantive content of regulatory policy as well as legal and regulatory processes. An SME Partnership Group (SMEPG) supports donor-government collaboration and consultation when formulating SME policies and regulations.

Source: OECD (2018) *Good Regulatory Practices to Support Small and Medium Enterprises in Southeast Asia*

Measure 40: Government has developed specific measures that enable SMEs to more easily benefit from the AEO scheme:

[BRAZIL] The Brazilian AEO Programme is also designed to attract SMEs. Informative lectures and seminars on the AEO Programme have been organized across the country, with more than 6,000 people participating thus far. The SMEs that have already been certified are mostly cargo agents and transportation companies, with most of them achieving AEO-Security certification.

The AEO Programme is also trying to make the certification process simple and transparent, ensuring all information is available, and promoting the new approach of the AEO Programme which is to attract companies of all sizes into the Programme. A comprehensive website has also been developed to provide all the necessary information on becoming an AEO, including the legislative text, application forms, explanatory videos, the list of requirements and a link to an online platform where companies can enter their application and related documents.

Source: Fabiano Coelho (2019) *From “red tape” to “red carpet”: how the Brazilian AEO Programme has brought Customs procedures to an entire new level*, WCO Dossier, available at https://mag.wcoomd.org/magazine/wco-news-88/brazil_aeo/

[KOREA] Korea offers expedited AEO authorization examinations to SMEs through multiple preferential procedural provisions, including a 'priority audit'. In order to facilitate SME access to the programme, consulting fees are provided to the firms that have a lack of personnel and financial resources. Additionally, larger firms sign Memorandums of Understanding with their SME partners to support their AEO authorization.

Source: APEC (2016) *Study of APEC Best Practices in Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programs*, available at <http://publications.apec.org/Publications/2016/05/Study-of-APEC-Best-Practices-in-Authorized-Economic-Operator-AEO-Programs>





Measure 41: Single Window more easily accessible to SMEs

[SINGAPORE] Singapore Single Window TradeNet implementation best practice: The establishment of a Document Service Centre that helps SMEs to access the single window more easily. The setting up of document service centres is critical to the acceptance and success of the new system. There may be a large number of SMEs that do not have the daily volume to justify buying a computer system to prepare and submit their trade and customs documents. For such enterprises, the lead agency should encourage the use of document service centres. These centres are registered users of the new system. However, instead of preparing and submitting the documents for their own trade, they do it on behalf of the SMEs. They levy a fee when providing such services.

Source: ESCAP UNNExT Policy Brief (2010) *Towards a Single Window Trading Environment, best practice in single window implementation, case of Singapore's TradeNet*. More information about Singapore's TradeNet can be found at <https://www.ntp.gov.sg/public/government-services>

Measure 43: Implementation of other special measures to reduce costs for SMEs

[KOREA] The Rate Discount & Consulting Service (RADIS) is a total logistics support service provided by the Korea International Trade Association in conjunction with 22 logistics firms in order to assist SMEs by reducing logistics costs and providing consulting. RADIS Global matches SMEs and logistics companies with overseas distribution hubs in order to provide agent services including customs, storage, inventory control, distribution, payment and sales management. RADIS Global allows SMEs to take part in trade while relieving financial burden or risk of installing storage hubs or branches overseas.

RADIS is a one-stop integrated service providing SMEs with trade assistance services. It mitigates risks and financial burdens while increasing logistical efficiency for SMEs. It lowers the barriers that have hindered SMEs when it comes to cross-border trade. Eventually, SMEs can then focus on their product development and marketing and can therefore, enhance their competitiveness in the global market.

Source: Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (2018) *Improving Supply Chain Connectivity in ASEAN+3 Learning from Best Practices, TCS Paper Series 1*.

Figure 21 shows that most of the countries surveyed have, to some extent, implemented the measures on 'Agriculture Trade Facilitation'. The speedy movement of trade goods may be more important for agricultural products, especial perishable ones, than for other industrial products. In addition, behind border procedures such as meeting SPS standards and testing methods are of critical importance for agricultural products. Therefore, the *special treatment for perishable goods, national standards and accreditation bodies to facilitate compliance with SPS standards, and testing and laboratory facilities available to meet SPS requirements of main trading partners* measures have been implemented at least on pilot basis in over 70% of the countries surveyed, although implemented mainly on a partial basis. The

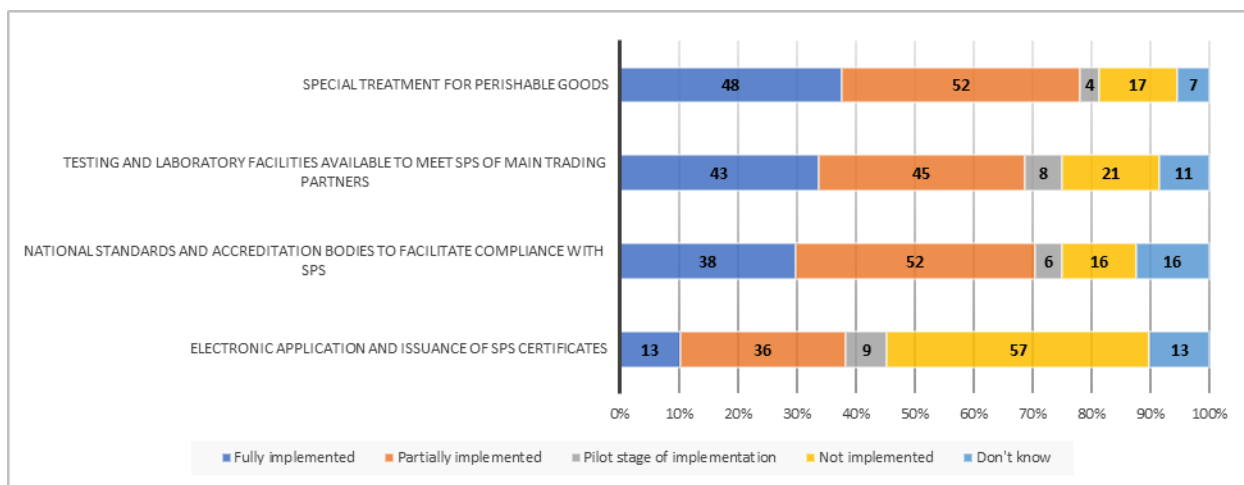
electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates is particularly challenging. Full implementation of this measure is only about 10%. This may be partly explained by the fact that the current common practices on the import side remains to accept only paper certificates. The low implementation level when it comes to the electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates also echoes with findings of several cross-border paperless trade readiness assessment studies¹⁵ that customs are much more advanced than other trade-related government agencies in using electronic and automated systems for facilitating trade, as SPS certificates are typically issued by agencies under the ministries of food and agriculture.

¹⁵ With the support of the Government of China and the Enhanced Integrated Framework, assessments have been conducted in 8 developing and least-developed countries of the region in 2018-19. These are conducted on the basis of readiness checklists developed by the Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation (see <http://communities.unescap.org/cross-border-paperless-trade-facilitation>).





Figure 21: State of implementation of ‘Agricultural Trade Facilitation’ measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

Box3: Measures Relating to ‘Agricultural Trade Facilitation’: Good Practices

Measure 46: Application, verification and issuance of SPS Certificates is automated

[CHINA] China has developed an electronic certificate system (<http://ecert.eciq.cn/>) to promote the proper development of trade in food and agricultural products as well as trade facilitation. The system can provide effective prevention against illegal forgeries and alterations. The China e-cert is open to all authorities in the trading countries for verifications of the certificates issued by local China Inspections and Quarantine (CIQ) authorities. Meanwhile the function of *Export Cert Data Input* enables the authorities in the trading countries to input and send SPS certificate information regarding their export products in order to assist with border inspection and quarantine.

Source: AQSIQ (2016) *Communication on China’s E-cert system*, available at http://www.aqsic.gov.cn/xxgk_13386/jlqg_12538/qtwj/201608/t20160808_471993.htm

Measure 47: Special treatment given to perishable goods at border-crossing

[CHINA-PAKISTAN] The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Long Term Plan envisages the significant development of the agriculture sector. Food storage facilities will be constructed accordingly with a view to reducing significant post-harvest food loss. As an example, the Mufeng Biological Technology Co. has built a cold storage centre near the Khunjerab Pass (which is active for eight months a year) to help manage seafood imports (such as squid, shrimp, pomfret, bonefish, etc.) for the Xinjiang region and for sale in areas such as Urumqi, Beijing, and Shanghai. The storage centre will also process orders that arrives at Gwadar Port en-route to China.

Source: State Bank of Pakistan (2018) *CPEC LTP: Opportunities for Agricultural Advancement in Pakistan*, available at: <http://www.sbp.org.pk/reports/annual/arFY18/Special-Section-1.pdf>

Figure 22 shows that the implementation of ‘Women in Trade Facilitation’ measures is rather limited. These measures may range from having a gender focal point in the Ministry of Trade and/or in Customs, supporting the establishment of an association or

network of female traders, or training programmes or standards in place to ensure equal access to trade and related job opportunities.¹⁶ The *trade facilitation measures aimed at female traders* measure is the most implemented measure, where only slightly over

¹⁶ See sub-questions to Question No. 48 in the Survey instrument, available at: <https://unnext.unescap.org/content/un-global-survey-digital-and-sustainable-trade-facilitation-2019>

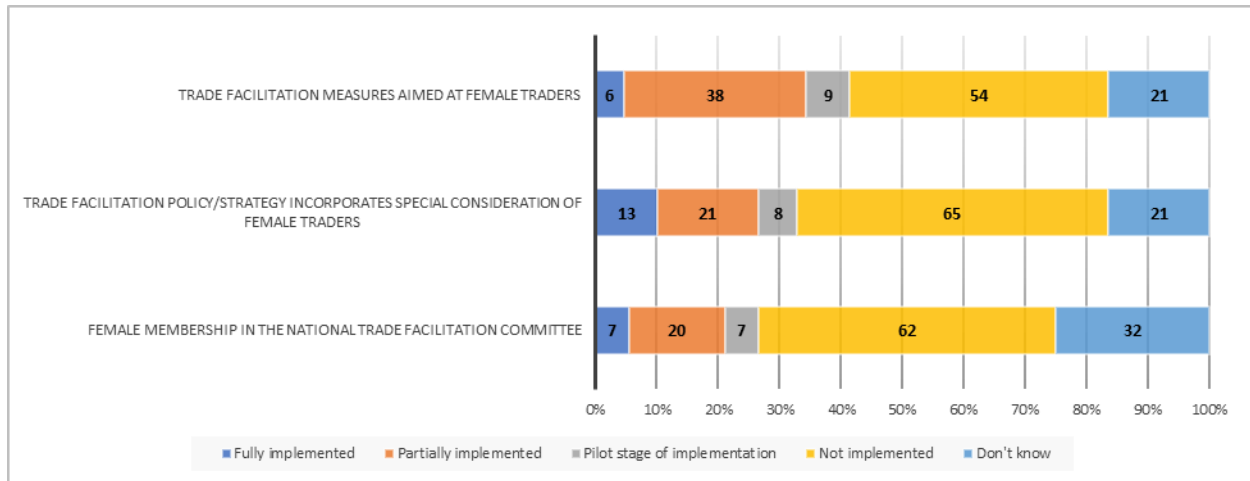




40% of the countries have implemented this type of measure. Measures regarding how *special consideration is given in trade facilitation policies/strategies of female traders* (sometimes as part of broader trade policy frameworks making

reference to gender equality) and *female membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee* are only implemented in 33% and 27% of the countries, respectively.

Figure 22: State of implementation of ‘Women in Trade Facilitation’ measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

Box4: Measures Relating to ‘Women in Trade Facilitation’: Good Practices

Measure 48: Trade facilitation policy/strategy incorporates special consideration of women involved in trade

[CHILE-URUGUAY] [CHILE-CANADA] Trade agreements with gender chapters and provisions: The texts of the Chile-Uruguay and Chile-Canada free trade agreements have a clear gender perspective and language that has never before been used in a trade agreement. The agreement between Chile and Uruguay (2016) was the first to include a specific chapter on Gender and Trade. The revised Chile-Canada FTA (2017) addresses gender issues in Appendix II - Chapter N bis - Trade and Gender, amended Chapter N on Institutional Arrangements and Dispute Settlement Procedures.

Both texts recognize the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the agreement with a view to promoting inclusive economic growth, and the instrumental role that gender policies play in achieving sustainable socioeconomic development. Both agreements include almost identical provisions for cooperation activities from which women can benefit, in areas such as skills enhancement, financial inclusion, agency and leadership, entrepreneurship and access to science, technology and innovation; and for the setting up of trade and gender committees to operationalize the relevant chapters of the agreements (articles 14.3 and 14.4 of the former and articles N bis-03 and N bis-04 of the latter). The agreement between Chile and Uruguay stresses the importance of equal rights, treatment and opportunities between men and women, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. It recognizes that trade is an engine for development and recognizes women’s increased participation in domestic and international economies as a means to ensure sustainable economic development. It confirms gender commitments made within multilateral conventions, in particular those relating to equal pay for equal work, maternity protection for women workers, protection for domestic workers and the reconciliation of professional and family life (Chapter 14, articles 14.1 and 14.2).

Source: UNCTAD (2017) *The New Way of Addressing Gender Equality Issues in Trade Agreements: Is it A True Revolution*, available at https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/presspb2017d2_en.pdf

Measure 49: Government introduced trade facilitation measures aimed at women involved in trade

[Australia] In Australia, women entrepreneurs are one of the fastest growing business segments in the country. However, they are less likely to become exporters. As a response, the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) established the Women in Global Business Programme to increase their participation in international trade and investment and deliver economic benefits and job creation through greater diversity. The programme includes several components aimed at capacity building and improving connectivity. It provides information and resources, support, advocacy, connection and communication





services to Australian businesswomen. It works closely with stakeholders and private sector partners, offering a mentoring programme, skills and capacity building, workshops and events, research into the barriers for, and motivations of, women as they engage with international markets, information and connections, and advocacy on the domestic and international stage.

Source: International Trade Centre (2015) *Unlocking Markets for Women to Trade*, available at [http://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/Publications/women_in_trade_web\(1\).pdf](http://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/Publications/women_in_trade_web(1).pdf)

Measure 50: Female membership in the National Trade Facilitation committee

[Malaysia] The Trade Facilitation Cluster Working Group (TFCWG) plays the role of Malaysia's national trade facilitation committee. Malaysia has equal gender representation in this working group and at least one Chairman/President/Vice President is female.

Source: UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Committees around the world
<https://unctad.org/en/DTL/TLB/Pages/TF/Committees/detail.aspx?country=my> Last updated 21 April 2018.

3.8 TRADE FINANCE MEASURES

Trade finance has been a key catalyst of the expansion of international trade in the past century. Given its importance as an enabler of the international trade transactions,¹⁷ "Trade Finance" was incorporated into the 2019 survey for the first time, on a pilot basis.¹⁸ Despite the importance of trade finance in boosting trade and the global economy, the average regional implementation across all three trade finance measures, as shown in Figure 23, remains limited.

Results for this group of measures are subject to caution, as information could not be successfully collected on trade finance in approximately 40% of the countries targeted, and remain partial in others. The most implemented measure of the three measures considered in this group is *variety of trade finance services available*. Data suggest that at least some trade finance services are available in about 75% of the countries for which data is available. About 50% of the countries for which data is available have banks that allow electronic exchange of data between trading partners, or with banks in other countries in

order to reduce the dependence on paper documentation and advance digital trade. Perhaps most interesting in the context of trade facilitation, only 10 countries for which data is available have implemented access to finance through single windows (Figure 23).

These results suggest the need for trade finance services to be further developed in many countries across the world. The high rates of "Don't know" also point to the fact that trade facilitation experts and officials who provided or validated the survey are not familiar with trade finance. Traditional trade facilitation actors, including Customs and Ministries in charge of trade, may see procedures related to financing and payment of international trade transactions as outside their scope of work. Given the interdependence between goods and financial flows, however, the results suggest a need for greatly enhanced coordination and cooperation between them and those involved in developing financial and payment services.

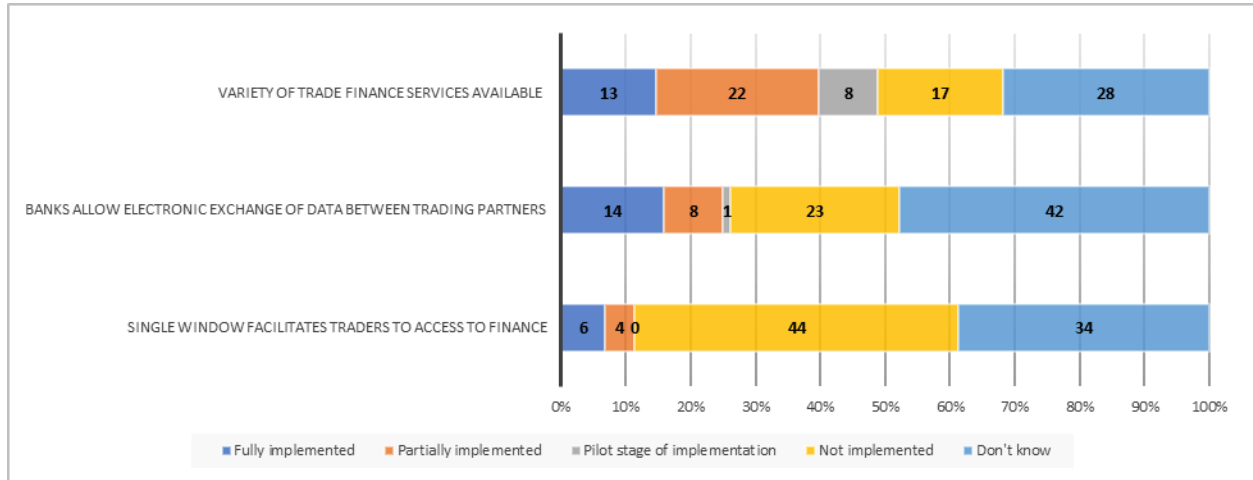
¹⁷ Trade finance enables the flow of money from buyer to seller and mitigation of associated risks, which greatly facilitate the flow of goods from seller to buyer. Both the flows of money and goods are themselves enabled by the flow of data and documents between buyer and seller.

¹⁸ Trade finance facilitation is an optional category in the 2019 Survey. Three regional commissions - UN ESCAP, UN ESCWA and UN ECE - used this optional category in conducting the survey, covering 88 countries.





Figure 23: State of implementation of “Trade Finance Facilitation” measures globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, 2019

Measures Relating to “Trade Finance Facilitation”: Good Practices

[SINGAPORE-Hong Kong, China] The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) are currently working together to jointly develop the Global Trade Connectivity Network (GTCN) which will enable cross-border flows of digital trade data using distributed ledger technology. For starters, the project will connect the GTCN with the National Trade Platform (NTP) in Singapore and the Hong Kong Trade Finance Platform, and it will provide a common view for trade finance applications between Singapore and Hong Kong, empowering participating banks to share immutable and auditable ledgers across the border, while maintaining data privacy and confidentiality through a distributed network.

Source: Yotaro Okazaki (2018) *Unveiling the Potential of Blockchain for Customs*, WCO Research Paper No. 45, available at http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/research/research-paper-series/45_yotaro_okazaki_unveiling_the_potential_of_blockchain_for_customs.pdf?la=en



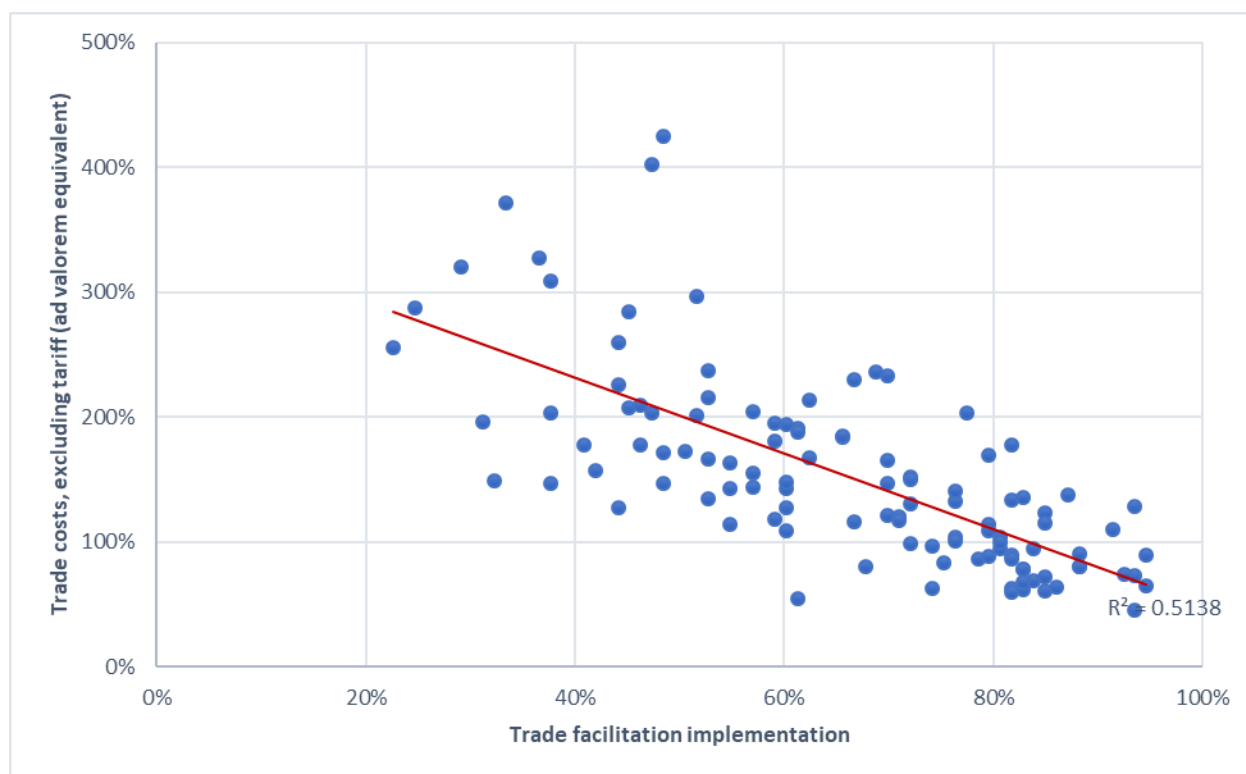


4. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

This report presented data on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation in 128 countries across the globe. The survey covered the implementation of general trade facilitation measure, including many of those featured in the TFA, as well as advanced ICT-based trade facilitation measures, and sustainable trade facilitation measures catering to the special needs of the SMEs, the agricultural sector, and women.

Figure 24 confirms the strong negative relationship between international trade costs and the implementation of general and digital trade facilitation measures. In turn, based on the data collected, a strong positive relationship can be observed between logistics performance and trade facilitation implementation (Figure 25).

Figure 24: Trade Facilitation implementation and Trade Costs

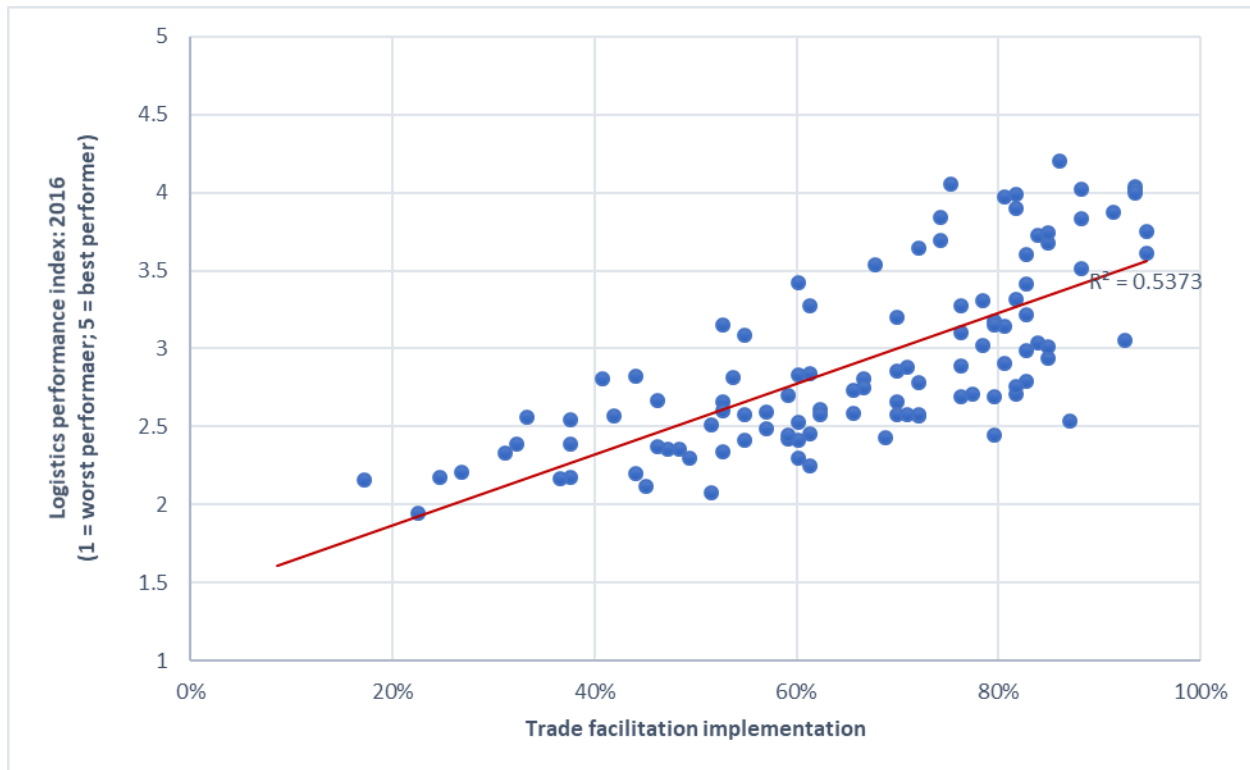


Source: ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database and the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019





Figure 25: Trade Facilitation implementation and Logistics Performance



Source: World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2018 and the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

The global average trade facilitation implementation score stands at above 60%. Most countries worldwide have implemented general trade facilitation measures, which aim at improving transparency, expediting and streamlining formalities, and developing adequate institutional frameworks. This reflects country commitments to implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.¹⁹ The assessment reveals that most countries have been actively engaged in implementing measures to facilitate trade. As a result, the global average implementation rate has increased by approximately 8 percentage points compared to the result of the last survey.²⁰ The

survey results also suggest that there is still significant room for improvement, however.

While the global average implementation of 'Paperless Trade' measures has reached 60%, the global average implementation level of 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' remains substantially lower than the other groups of measures considered. Significant progress has been made in 'Cross-Border Paperless Trade' over the past two years with, for example, the ASEAN Single Window going "live" among five countries in late 2018. Several countries have also initiated bilateral exchange of one or more trade documents. However, implementation remains

¹⁹ For reference, 17 of the 31 common measures discussed in this report can be directly related to TFA commitments (both binding and non-binding). This implies that the minimum implementation rate that an economy would need to achieve to be fully compliant with the TFA stands at about 55% (17/31=54.8%). See also Annex 6 – state of implementation of WTO TFA-related measures.

²⁰ The evolution is calculated based on the common 88 countries who participated in both the 2017 and 2019 surveys. The average implementation rate of these 88 countries in 2017 and 2019 is 56.3% and 64.4%, respectively.





mostly at the pilot stage. This is not surprising given that, on the one hand, many developing countries are at an early stage of developing paperless systems and on the other hand, more advanced countries have legacy systems in place that are not readily made to be interoperable. In that regard, given the large potential benefits associated cross-border digitalization of trade procedures – amounting to USD 600 billion for the Asia-Pacific region alone²¹ –, it is in the interest of all countries to work together and develop the legal and technical protocols needed for the seamless exchange of regulatory and commercial data and documents along the international supply chain. While new technologies such as blockchains can help, strong political will and intergovernmental cooperation are essential to making real progress. Efforts in this respect include the Framework Agreement of the Pacific Alliance which covers trade facilitation and customs cooperation, the ASEAN Single Window Agreement, and the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Public-private sector collaboration is also essential to moving forward and ensuring that cross-border paperless trade measures meet the needs of traders. In Africa, the African

Alliance for Electronic Commerce and the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among others, are working to advocate for the wider implementation of such measures.

Moving forward, digitalization offers immense potential for improving trade facilitation implementation and further reducing trade costs. Figure 26 shows the implementation of trade facilitation as a step-by-step process,²² based on the groups of measures included in this survey. Trade facilitation begins with the setting up of the institutional arrangements needed to prioritize and coordinate implementation of trade facilitation measures. The next step is to make trade processes more transparent by sharing information on existing laws, regulations, and procedures as widely as possible and consulting with stakeholders when developing new ones. Designing and implementing simpler and more efficient trade formalities is next. The reengineered and streamlined processes may first be implemented based on paper documents but can then be further improved through information and communications technologies and the development of paperless trade systems.

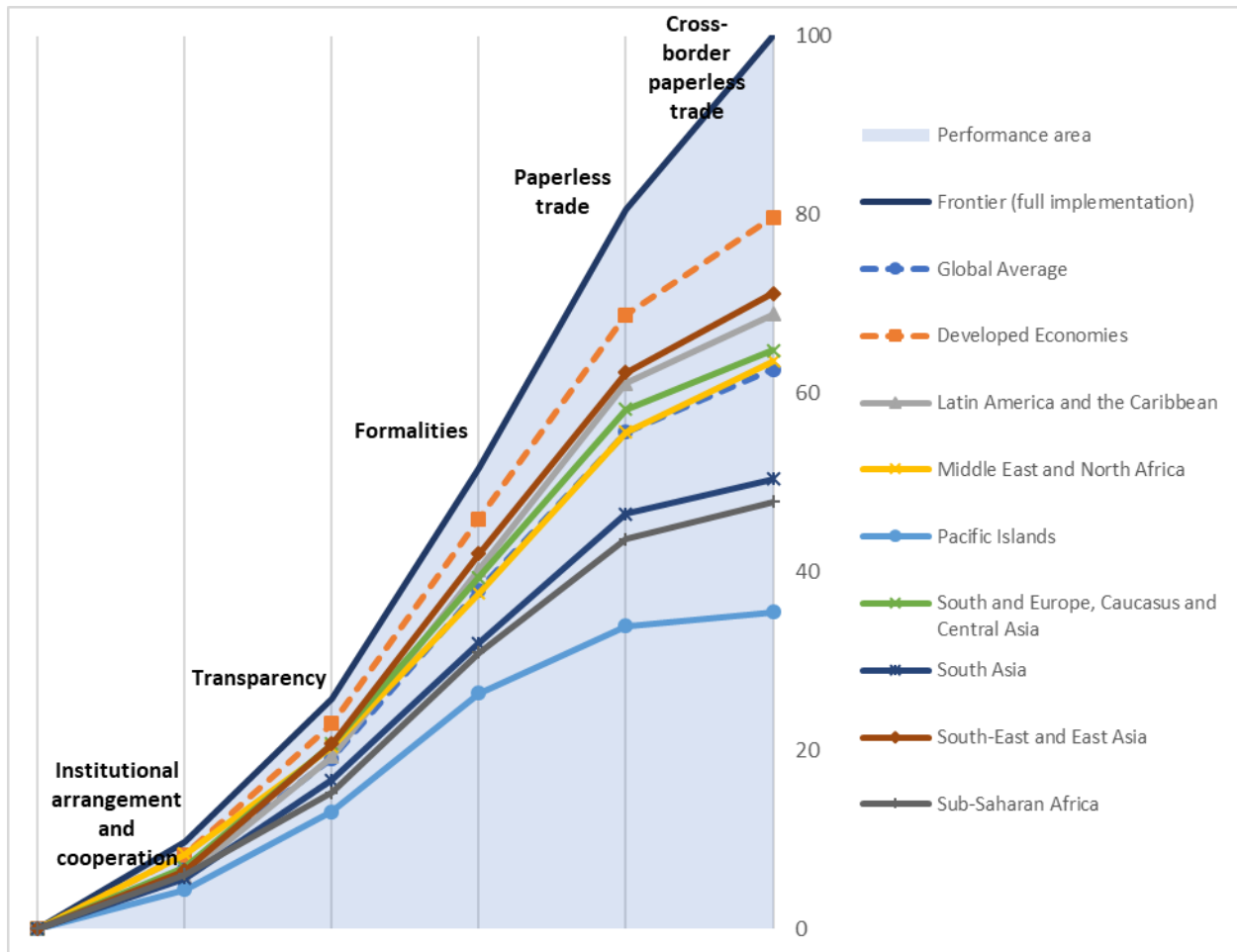
²¹ See, ESCAP (2017). Digital Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific. Available at: <https://www.unescap.org/publications/digital-trade-facilitation-asia-and-pacific-studies-trade-investment-and-innovation-87>

²² This step-by-step process is based on, and generally consistent with, the UN/CEFACT step-by-step approach to trade facilitation towards a single window environment. In practice, however, trade facilitation measures are often very much interrelated across categories. It is not necessary to implement all measures in one category before moving to the next and, as explained in UNNExT brief No.17 (see <https://unnex.unescap.org>). Much time and cost can be saved by adopting a more integrated approach based on a long-term vision.





Figure 26: Moving up the Trade Facilitation Ladder towards seamless International Supply Chains



Note: Figure shows global cumulative trade facilitation implementation scores for different regions for five groups of trade facilitation measures included in the survey. Scores are based on the equally weighted implementation of 31 trade facilitation measures but the number of measures in each of the five groups varies. Full implementation of all measures = 100.

Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

When it comes to “Sustainable Trade Facilitation”, the implementation of “inclusive” trade facilitation measures to promote SMEs and/or the participation of women in trade remains low. SMEs are key players in the global economy and have important roles to play in digitalized trade, yet trade facilitation measures tailored to SMEs are insufficient. As noted in the World Trade Report 2016, SMEs are still facing

disproportionate barriers to trade, and they should be included in the international trade framework.²³ Recommendation 33 of UN/CEFACT recognizes the significance of the single window for trade generally and also SMEs specifically.²⁴ Facilitation for AEOs is also one of the two TFA measures that specifically

²³ WTO (2016). World Trade Report 2016 Levelling the Trading Field for SMEs. https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wtr16_e.htm

²⁴ UN/CEFACT recommendation 33 in ‘Recommendation and Guidelines on establishing a Single Window to enhance the efficient exchange of information between trade and government’





mentions SMEs.²⁵ Therefore, building the capacity of SMEs and taking them into account in trade facilitation policies are of critical importance in achieving sustainable trade facilitation. Similarly, there is a lack of awareness on the importance of gender mainstreaming in trade facilitation. Guiding women in understanding trade procedures, setting guidelines for standards bodies to ensure a more balanced representation of the interests of women and men, and promoting the participation and decision-making of women in trade facilitation and standards related activities, could have an a significant impact on increasing exports and enabling women to achieve higher income opportunities.²⁶

“Trade Finance” is the new group of measures that has, for the first time, been considered in the Global

Survey by three UNRCs. The role of trade finance in international trade is important, and the availability and adequate provision of finance is essential for a healthy trading system. This is particularly true for developing economies and SMEs seeking to benefit from trade opportunities. Financing and payment is an essential part of the overall international trade transaction process. Awareness of trade finance processes seems to be generally lacking among trade policy and facilitation specialists. Trade facilitation policymakers and enforcers need to work together with stakeholders in the financial sectors to see how trade finance can be facilitated and integrated into trade facilitation implementation strategies, including single window development plans.

²⁵ Article 7.2 (b) provides that, to the extent possible, specific criteria to qualify as an authorized operator shall not restrict the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises. Another TFA measure that mentions SMEs concerns advance rulings.

²⁶ UNECE (2017), Briefing note on the contribution of UN/CEFACT to UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, Executive Committee, Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, twenty-third session.





ANNEX 1: DEFINITIONS OF THE VARIOUS STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Stage of implementation	Coding/Scoring
Full Implementation: the trade facilitation measure implemented is in full compliance with commonly-accepted international standards, recommendations and conventions such as the Revised Kyoto Convention, UN/CEFACT Recommendations, or the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); it is implemented in law and in practice; it is available to essentially all relevant stakeholders nationwide, and supported by adequate legal and institutional frameworks, as well as adequate infrastructure and financial and human resources. A TFA provision included in the commitments given under Notifications of Category A may generally be considered as a measure which is fully implemented by the country, with a caveat that the provision will be implemented by a Least-Developed Country (LDC) member within one year of the TFA agreement coming into force. If a country registers positive response for all sub-questions concerning a given trade facilitation measure, that measure should be considered fully implemented.	3
Partial Implementation: a measure is considered to be partially implemented if at least one of the following is true: (1) the trade facilitation measure is in partial - but not in full - compliance with commonly-accepted international standards, recommendations and conventions; (2) the country is still in the process of rolling out the implementation of the measure; (3) the measure is being used but on an unsustainable, short-term or ad-hoc basis; (4) the measure is implemented in some - but not all - targeted locations (such as key border crossing stations); or (5) some - but not all - targeted stakeholders are fully involved.	2
Pilot Stage of Implementation: a measure is considered to be at the pilot stage of implementation if, in addition to meeting the general attributes of partial implementation, it is available only to a very small portion of the intended stakeholder group (or at certain location) and/or is being implemented on a trial basis. When a new trade facilitation measure is at the pilot stage of implementation, the old measure is often continuously used in parallel to ensure that the service is still provided even when there has been a disruption with the new measure. This stage of implementation also includes relevant rehearsals and preparation for the full implementation.	1
Not implemented: a measure has not been implemented at this stage. However, this stage may still include initiatives or efforts towards implementation of the measure. For example, under this stage, (pre)feasibility studies or planning for the implementation can be carried out; and consultation with stakeholders on the implementation may be arranged.	0





ANNEX 2: GROUPING OF COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The following countries are included in the three groups of countries with special needs considered in the survey:²⁷

Least Developed Economies (27): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Comoros, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Zambia

Landlocked Developing Countries (20): Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Paraguay, Republic of North Macedonia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Small Island Developing States (22): Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kiribati, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

²⁷ More details are available at <http://unohrlls.org/>





ANNEX 3: EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. In the process of validating the survey data in 2019, data collected in the first and second global survey in 2015 and 2017 were also reviewed and any errors were corrected.
2. Any missing data element is treated as “Don’t know” (DK).
3. “Not applicable” (NA) was accepted as an answer for the following measures as geographical factors may not permit a country to implement such measures:

Measure 20: Electronic submission of sea cargo manifest

Measure 33: Alignment of working days and hours with neighboring countries at border-crossings

Measure 34: Alignment of formalities and procedures with neighboring countries at border-crossing.

Measure 35: Transit facilitation agreements

Measure 36: Customs authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk assessment

Measure 37: Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation

Measure 38: Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit

In calculating overall implementation rate of a country, these measures were excluded. Furthermore, Measures 39-53 were excluded for calculating the overall implementation rate of a country due to incompleteness of the dataset.

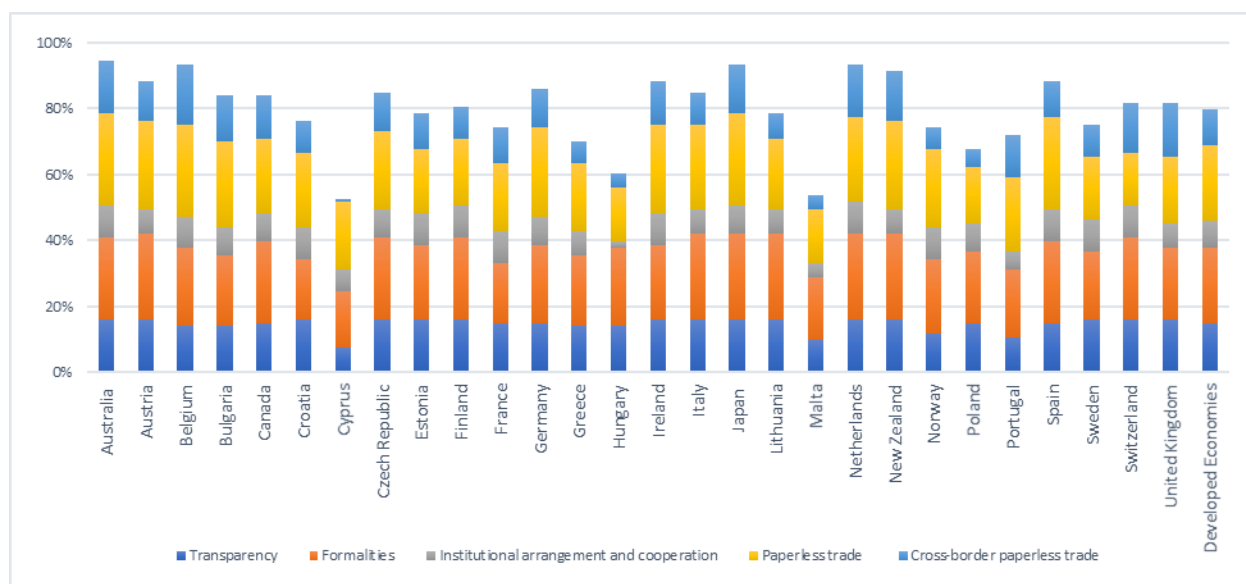
4. The global dataset was finalized on 26 August 2019 after receiving data from the UNRCs.





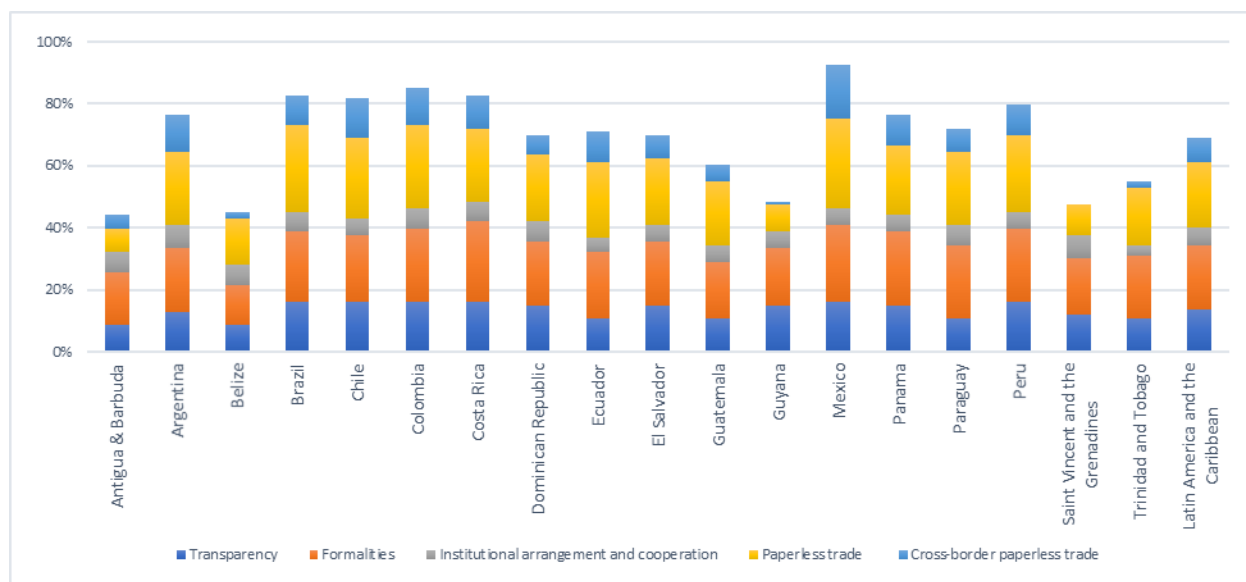
ANNEX 4: TRADE FACILITATION IMPLEMENTATION BY COUNTRIES IN DIFFERENT GROUPS (%)

Figure 27: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in Developed Economies



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 28: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in Latin America and the Caribbean

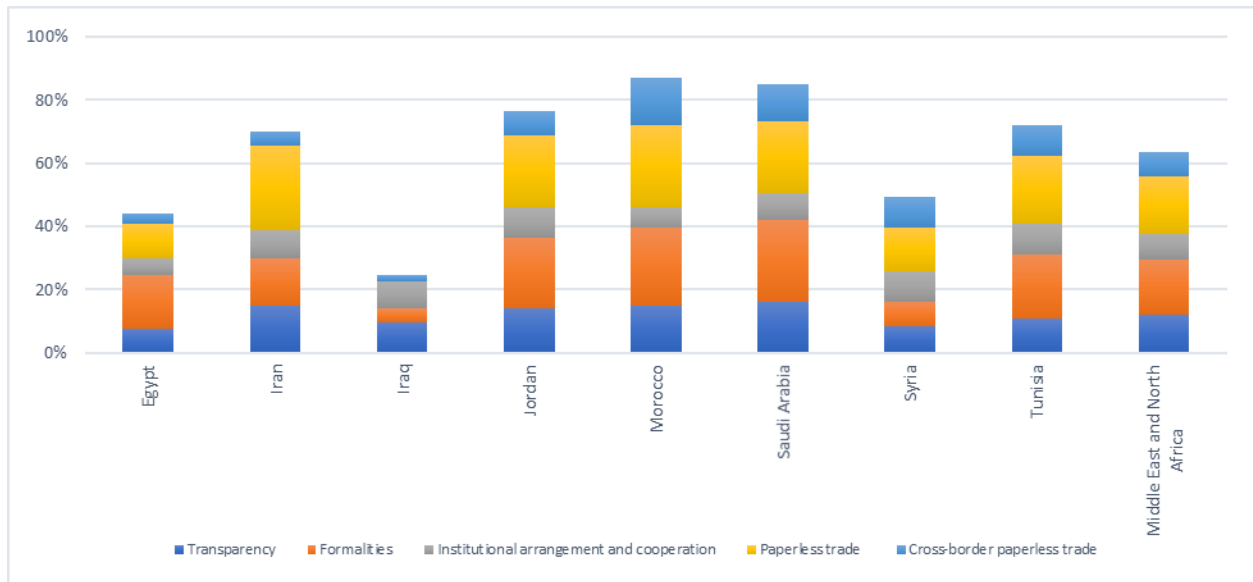


Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019



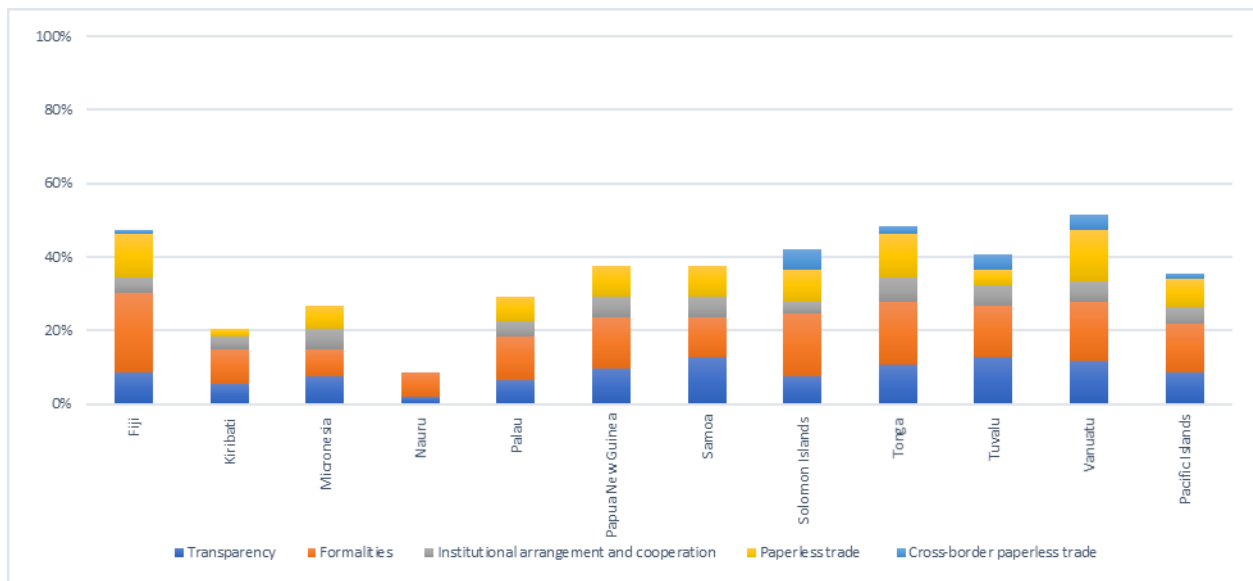


Figure 29: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in Middle East and North Africa



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, [untsurvey.org](https://untdp.org/untsurvey), 2019

Figure 30: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in Pacific Islands

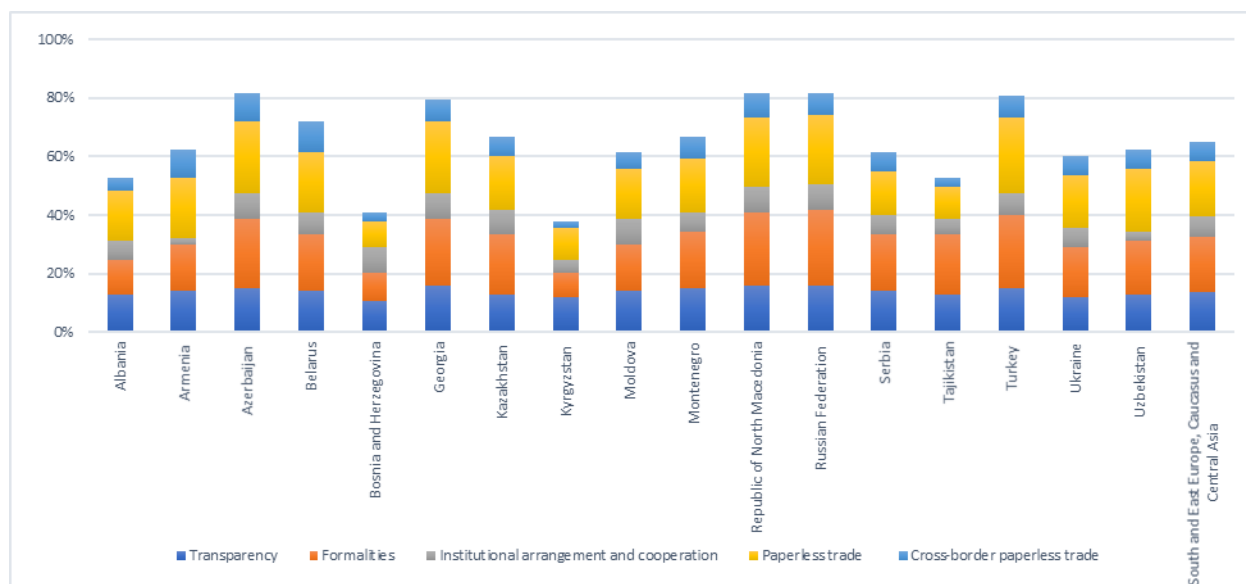


Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, [untsurvey.org](https://untdp.org/untsurvey), 2019



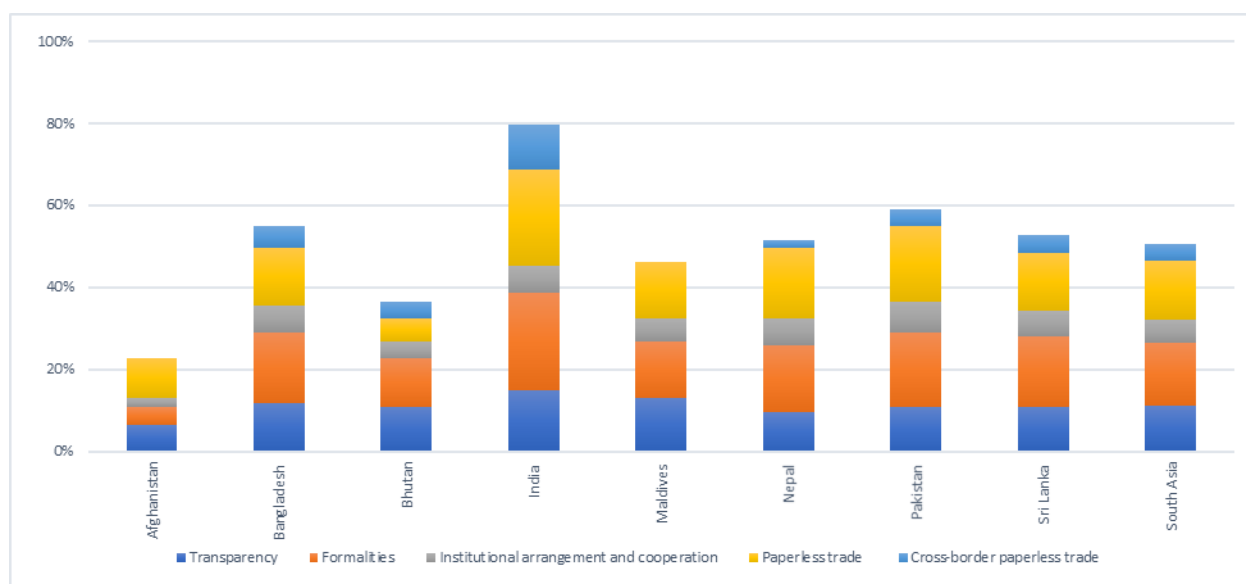


Figure 31: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 32: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in South Asia

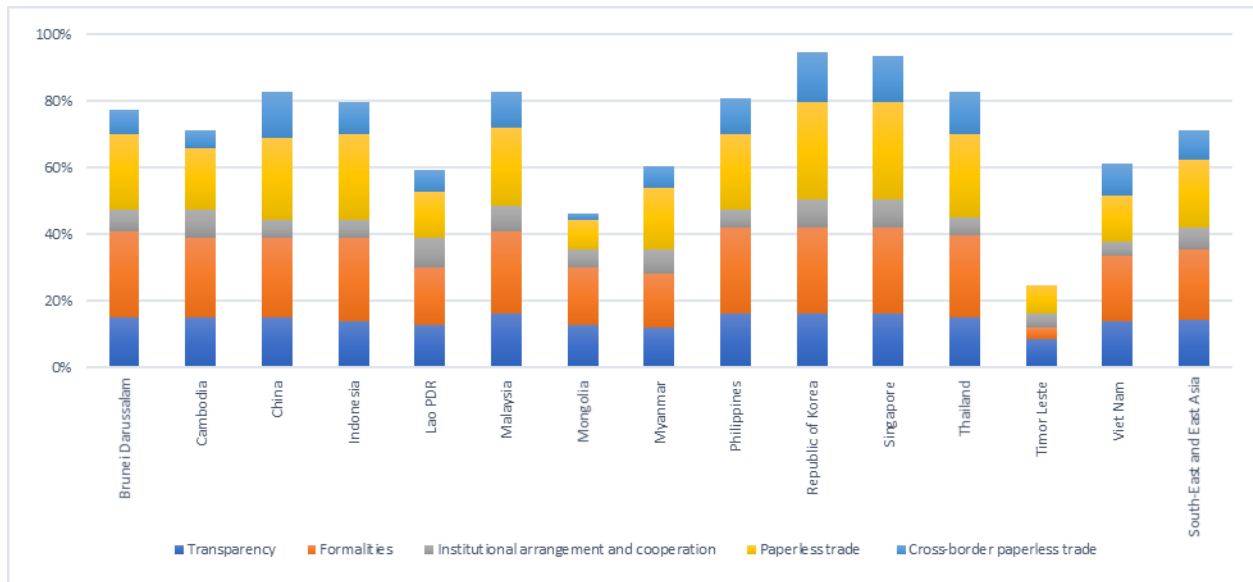


Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019



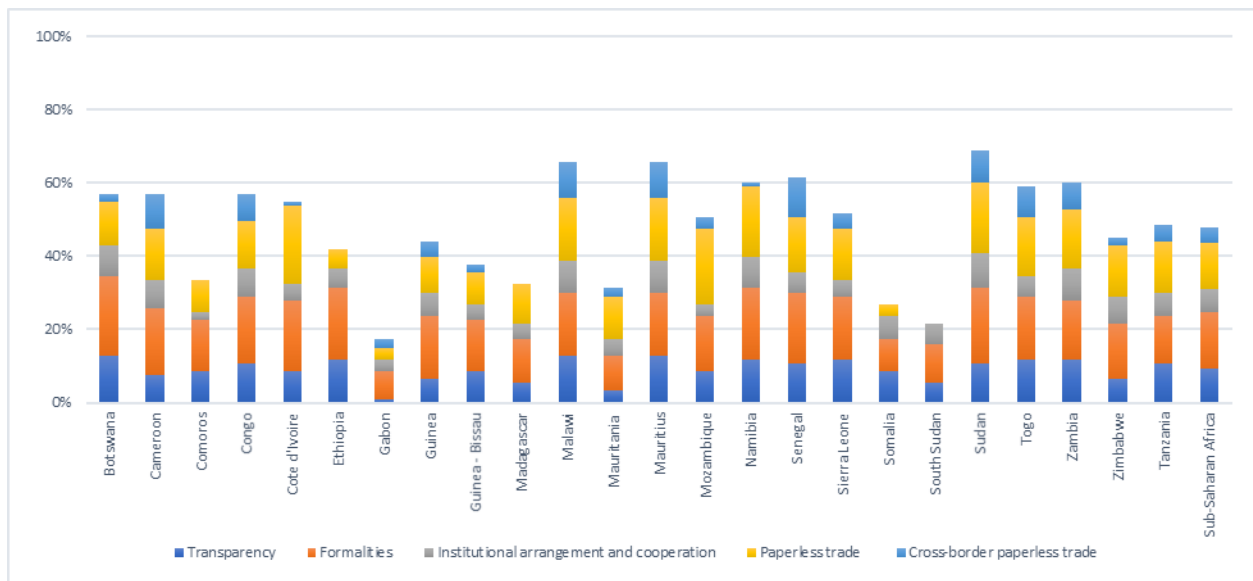


Figure 33: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in South-East and East Asia



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, [untfsurvey.org](https://untdsf.org/), 2019

Figure 34: Average implementation rates of Trade Facilitation measures in Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, [untfsurvey.org](https://untdsf.org/), 2019





ANNEX 5: TRADE FACILITATION IMPLEMENTATION: FULL DATASET VERSUS LIMITED DATASET

To track the progress made by countries in the implementation of trade facilitation measures since 2017, the analysis was limited to 99 countries that participated in both 2017 and 2019 surveys (list below)

Table 4: Countries that participated in both 2017 and 2019 surveys

1	Afghanistan	26	Dominican Republic	51	Malaysia	76	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
2	Albania	27	Ecuador	52	Maldives	77	Samoa
3	Antigua & Barbuda	28	Egypt	53	Malta	78	Serbia
4	Argentina	29	El Salvador	54	Mexico	79	Sierra Leone
5	Armenia	30	Estonia	55	Micronesia	80	Singapore
6	Australia	31	Fiji	56	Moldova	81	Solomon Islands
7	Austria	32	Finland	57	Mongolia	82	Spain
8	Azerbaijan	33	France	58	Montenegro	83	Sri Lanka
9	Bangladesh	34	Gabon	59	Myanmar	84	Sudan
10	Belarus	35	Germany	60	Nauru	85	Sweden
11	Belgium	36	Greece	61	Nepal	86	Switzerland
12	Bhutan	37	Guinea	62	Netherlands	87	Tajikistan
13	Brazil	38	Hungary	63	New Zealand	88	Thailand
14	Brunei Darussalam	39	India	64	Norway	89	Timor Leste
15	Bulgaria	40	Indonesia	65	Pakistan	90	Tonga
16	Cambodia	41	Iraq	66	Palau	91	Trinidad and Tobago
17	Cameroon	42	Ireland	67	Panama	92	Turkey
18	Canada	43	Italy	68	Papua New Guinea	93	Tuvalu
19	Chile	44	Japan	69	Paraguay	94	Ukraine
20	China	45	Jordan	70	Peru	95	United Kingdom
21	Colombia	46	Kazakhstan	71	Philippines	96	Uzbekistan
22	Congo	47	Kiribati	72	Portugal	97	Vanuatu
23	Costa Rica	48	Kyrgyzstan	73	Republic of Korea	98	Viet Nam
24	Cote d'Ivoire	49	Lao PDR	74	Republic of North Macedonia	99	Zimbabwe
25	Croatia	50	Madagascar	75	Russian Federation		





The study team also checked whether the implementation rate of these 99 countries and that of the full dataset (128 countries) are similar. The table below shows that the difference is minor, indicating that these 99 countries were good representatives of the survey results of 2019.

Table 5: Breakdown of countries that participated in both 2017 and 2019 surveys

Developed Economies	Latin America and the Caribbean	South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	South-East and East Asia
1 Australia	1 Antigua & Barbuda	1 Albania	1 Brunei Darussalam
2 Austria	2 Argentina	2 Armenia	2 Cambodia
3 Belgium	3 Brazil	3 Azerbaijan	3 China
4 Bulgaria	4 Chile	4 Belarus	4 Indonesia
5 Canada	5 Colombia	5 Kazakhstan	5 Lao PDR
6 Croatia	6 Costa Rica	6 Kyrgyzstan	6 Malaysia
7 Estonia	7 Dominican Republic	7 Moldova	7 Mongolia
8 Finland	8 Ecuador	8 Montenegro	8 Myanmar
9 France	9 El Salvador	9 Republic of North Macedonia	9 Philippines
10 Germany	10 Mexico	10 Russian Federation	10 Republic of Korea
11 Greece	11 Panama	11 Serbia	11 Singapore
12 Hungary	12 Paraguay	12 Tajikistan	12 Thailand
13 Ireland	13 Peru	13 Turkey	13 Timor Leste
14 Italy	14 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	14 Ukraine	14 Viet Nam
15 Japan	15 Trinidad and Tobago	15 Uzbekistan	
16 Malta	Pacific Islands	South Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa
17 Netherlands	1 Fiji	1 Afghanistan	1 Cameroon
18 New Zealand	2 Kiribati	2 Bangladesh	2 Congo
19 Norway	3 Micronesia	3 Bhutan	3 Cote d'Ivoire
20 Portugal	4 Nauru	4 India	4 Gabon
21 Spain	5 Palau	5 Maldives	5 Guinea
22 Sweden	6 Papua New Guinea	6 Nepal	6 Madagascar
23 Switzerland	7 Samoa	7 Pakistan	7 Sierra Leone
24 United Kingdom	8 Solomon Islands	8 Sri Lanka	8 Sudan
	9 Tonga		9 Zimbabwe
	10 Tuvalu		
	11 Vanuatu		
Middle East and North Africa			
1 Egypt			
2 Iraq			
3 Jordan			





Table 6: Comparison of regional average: full versus limited dataset

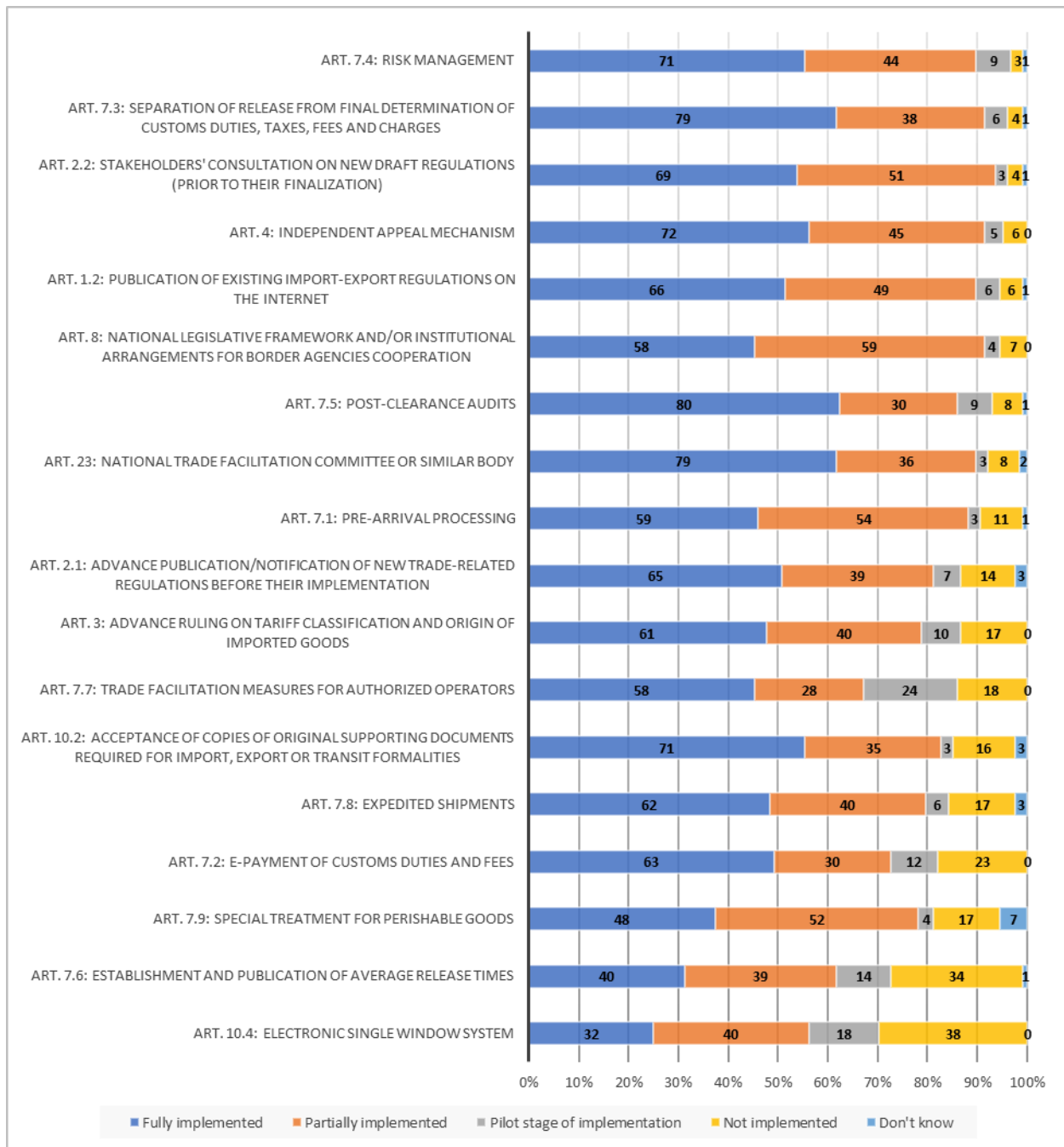
2019 data	Developed Economies	Latin America and the Caribbean	Middle East and North Africa	Pacific Islands	South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	South Asia	South-East and East Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa	Global Average
Limited sample (99)	81.2%	72.4%	48.4%	35.5%	65.4%	50.4%	71.2%	47.6%	64.4%
Full sample (128)	79.7%	68.9%	63.6%	35.5%	64.8%	50.4%	71.2%	47.8%	62.7%





ANNEX 6: IMPLEMENTATION STAGES OF SELECTED WTO TFA-RELATED MEASURES GLOBALLY

Figure 35: Implementation Stages of Selected WTO TFA-Related Measures in General Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade globally

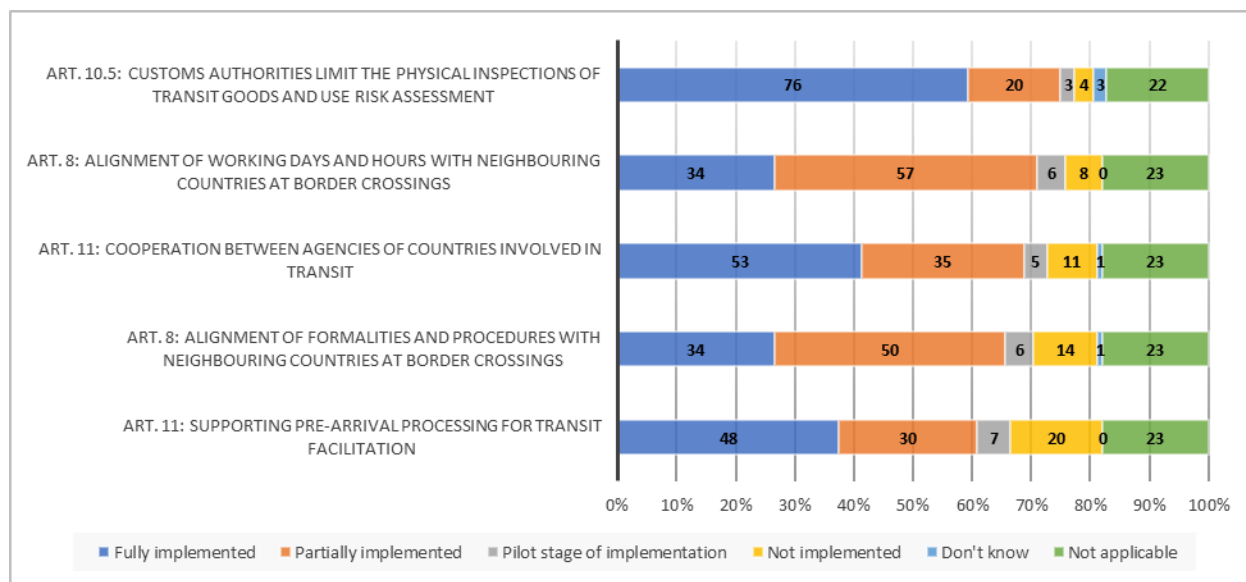


Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019





Figure 36: Implementation Stages of Selected WTO TFA-Related Measures in Transit Facilitation globally



Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

