Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
5th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group
 on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation

Bangkok, 12 and 13 March 2019
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Report on progress made on the implementation of the
Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border
Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

Introduction to a cross-border paperless trade database**

1.   In support of implementation of the Draft road map for the implementation of the substantive provisions in the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, [1] the Secretariat has initiated development of a Cross-border paperless Trade (CBPT) Database. The Database is expected to support implementation of Article 13 of the Framework Agreement, which emphasizes the need for sharing of lessons learned from pilot projects and calls on the Secretariat to "prepare and update a database for collection of best practices, experiences and lessons learned".

2.   The database is being designed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience gained from previous and on-going projects and services on cross-border paperless trade. The content of the database will be based on the information and inputs provided by project and service owners – or experts involved in the project or using the services. Through an online form, individuals will be able to submit information on projects and services to the Secretariat. Once received, information will be verified before being included in the database.

3.   The database will enable users to search for information on a particular project or service on cross-border paperless trade. For each particular project or service, the database will provide detailed information, including objectives, focus and characteristics, status and implementation periods, geographical coverage, participating agencies, user groups, process categories, overall architectures and functionalities, main challenges, lessons learned, benefits, future plans and other aspects. Users can also browse projects and services, and filter by process category, status and geographic coverage.

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*   ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/L.1.

**   This document is being issued without formal editing.

[1]   ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2018/CRP.1.

4.   It is planned that the database will be expanded to include detailed data and information on (1) legal instruments; and (2) technical instruments relevant to cross-border paperless trade. Legal and technical instruments supporting different projects and services will be identified in the individual entries for projects and services. Users will also be able to search and browse separately for these instruments. For legal instruments, international and national law, contractual agreements, international and national non-binding documents could be collected. For technical instruments, electronic message standards, technical communication standards and security related standards could be collected.

5.   The database will be made available at: https://unnext.unescap.org/databases. A beta version of the database, still under construction, has been made accessible through that link since 9 March 2019. Preliminary information on more than 10 projects or services have already been uploaded. Interested parties are welcome to provide comments and suggestions on the further development of the database.

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