Digital Trade Integration: The Role of RTAs

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What is Digital Trade Integration?

• Integration of rules, regulations, principles, processes and technologies in digital trade

• Movement of digital services/technologies, goods, data, capital, ideas, talent + integrated physical and virtual cyber-infrastructure

• Drivers of digital trade integration:
  • Connectivity and information exchange
  • Technological interoperability
  • Exploiting socio-economic benefits of digital trade
  • Regulatory heterogeneity

• Increasing role of Regional Trade Agreements (‘RTAs’) in promoting digital trade integration
Digital Trade Integration

1. Reducing Digital Trade Barriers
2. Digital Trade Facilitation
3. Digital Trade Regulatory Frameworks and Digital Trust Policies
4. Digital Development and Inclusion
5. Institutional Coordination
Digital Trade Integration in RTAs

Reducing Digital Trade Barriers
• Non-discrimination obligations
• Cross-border data flows and data localisation
• Tariffs on electronic transactions

Digital Trade Facilitation
• Facilitating Electronic Transactions for Cross-Border Digital Trade and Paperless Trading
• Logistics and Electronic Commerce
• Electronic Payments
Digital Trade Integration in RTAs

Digital Trade Regulatory Frameworks and Digital Trust Policies

• Privacy and Data Protection
• Online Consumer Protection, Cybersecurity and Spam
• IP and Competition Provisions
Digital Trade Integration in RTAs

Digital Development and Inclusion
• Staggered implementation of commitments
• Technical assistance and capacity building support for LDCs and developing countries
• Facilitation digitalisation of MSMEs in LDCs and developing countries
• Digital Inclusion of Minorities, including digital skills and education

Institutional Coordination
• Mechanisms for cooperation on electronic commerce
• Aligning with the private sector
• Coordinating with internet multistakeholder bodies
• Single coordination mechanism in RTAs
Recommendations and Best Practices for Digital Trade Integration in RTAs

- Binding provisions on cross-border data flows and prohibitions on data localisation with reasonable exceptions
- Non-discriminatory treatment of digital products, no customs duties on electronic transmissions
- Binding provisions on electronic signatures; paperless trading
- Disciplines on electronic payments and cross-border logistics
- Disciplines on data protection, including data certifications/trustmarks, cross-border consumer protection and online dispute resolution
- Mandatory technical assistance and capacity building in RTAs
- Flexible implementation of commitments for LDCs
- Developing a strong, integrated institution for digital trade under RTAs
## Connect

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