

# 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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