

Paperless Trade and Single Window: Concept, Implementation and Lessons Learnt

**26 May 2017
Bangkok, Thailand**

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Paperless Trade

- Paperless Trade

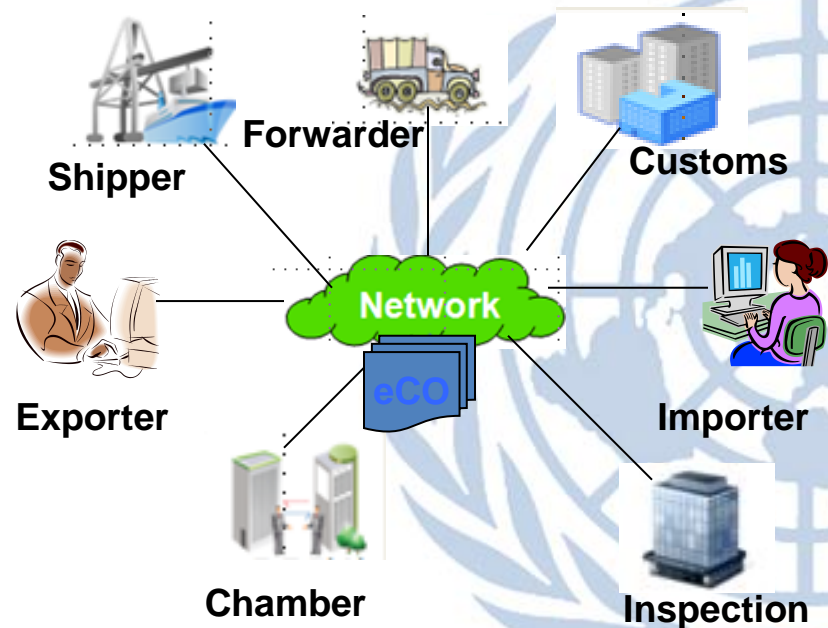
Conduct of trade activities on the basis of electronic rather than paper documents *e.g.*

electronic Customs declaration, electronic cert. of origin

(application of ICT to trade procedures)

- Paperless Trade Systems

Legal/regulatory and technical frameworks in which paperless trade transactions take place *e.g. electronic Single Window facility, e-port management systems, Framework Act on Electronic Transaction (in RoK)*

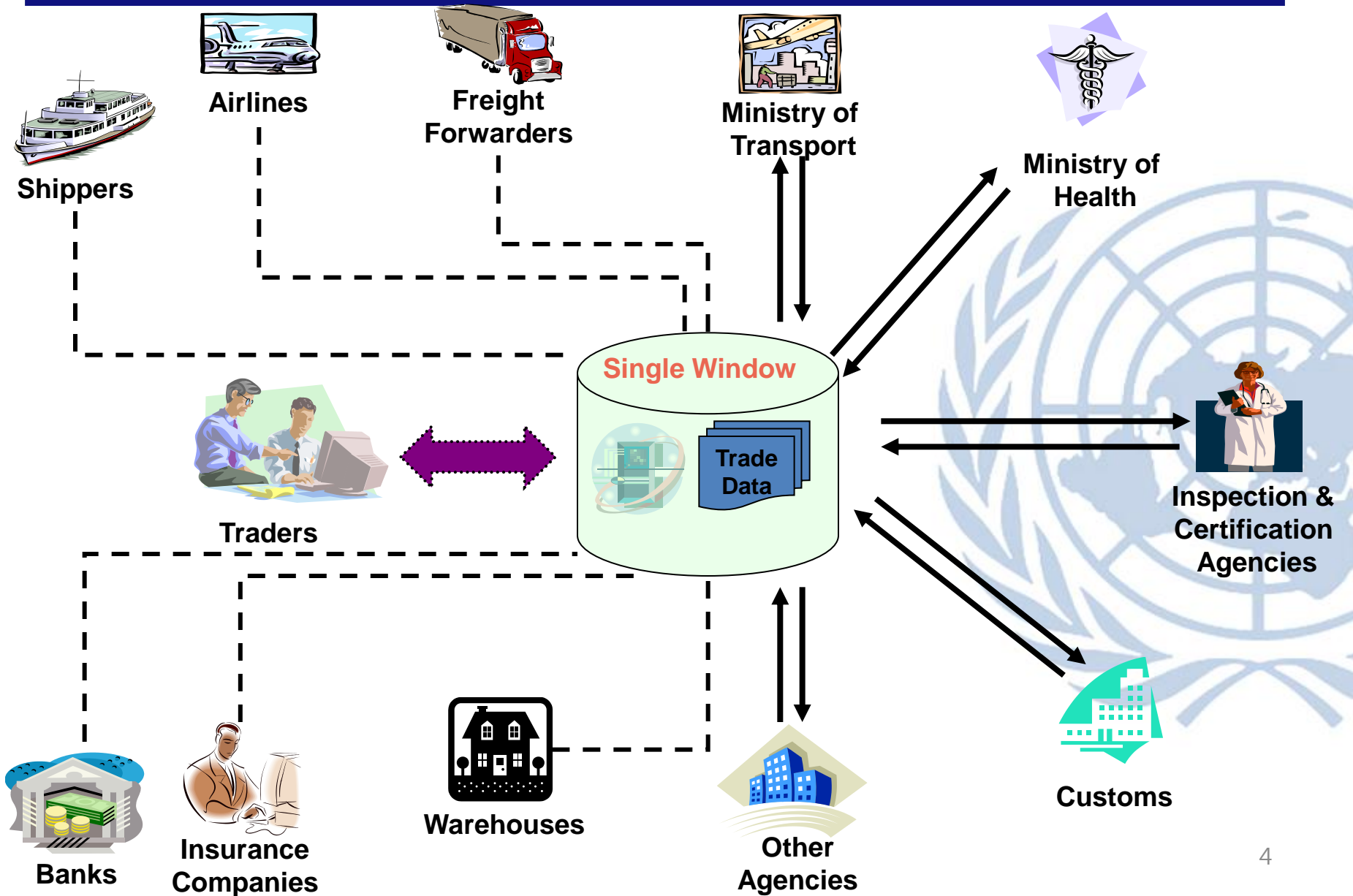


(Electronic) Single Window

A **facility** that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a **single entry point** to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related **regulatory requirements**. If information is **electronic**, then individual data should only be submitted once.



Single Window Environment



Benefits of Paperless Trade & Single Window

Government

Effective & Efficient
Deployment of
Resources

Correct
Revenue
Yield

Improved
Trader
Compliance

Enhanced
Security

Increased
Integrity &
Transparency

**Single
Window**

Traders

Cutting Costs
through
Reducing Delays

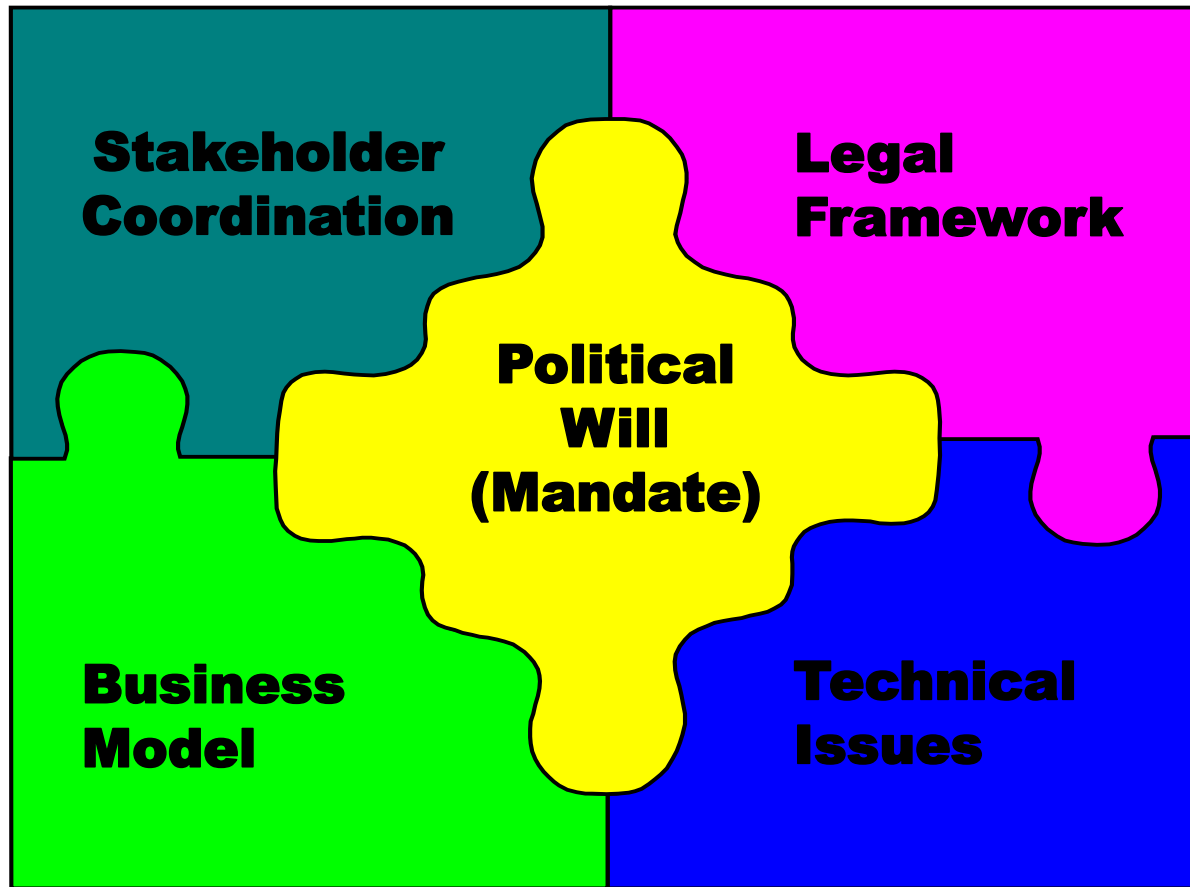
Faster
Clearance &
Release

Predictable
Application and
Explanation of Rules

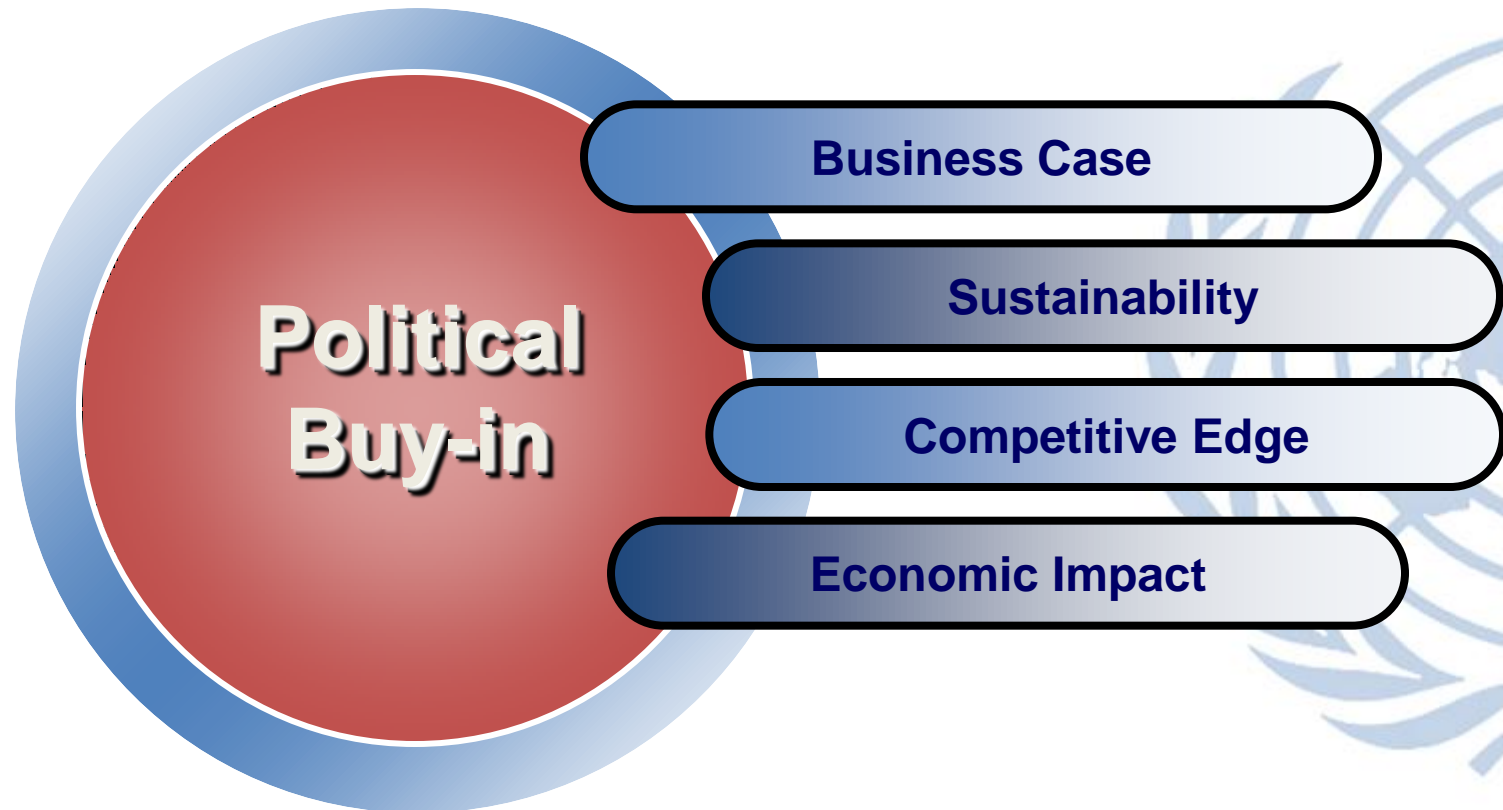
Effective & Efficient
Deployment of
Resources

Increased
Transparency

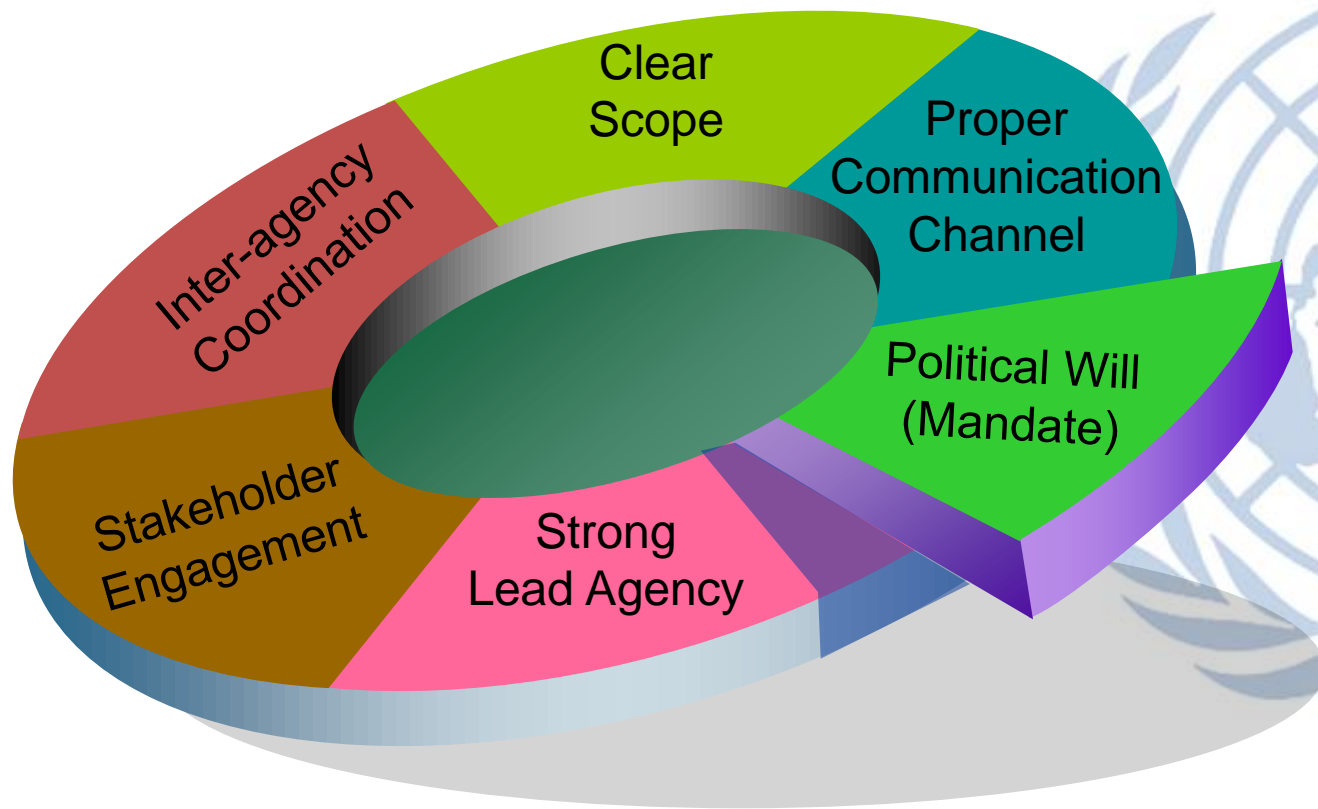
Key Success factors in Implementing National Paperless Trade Systems and Single Window



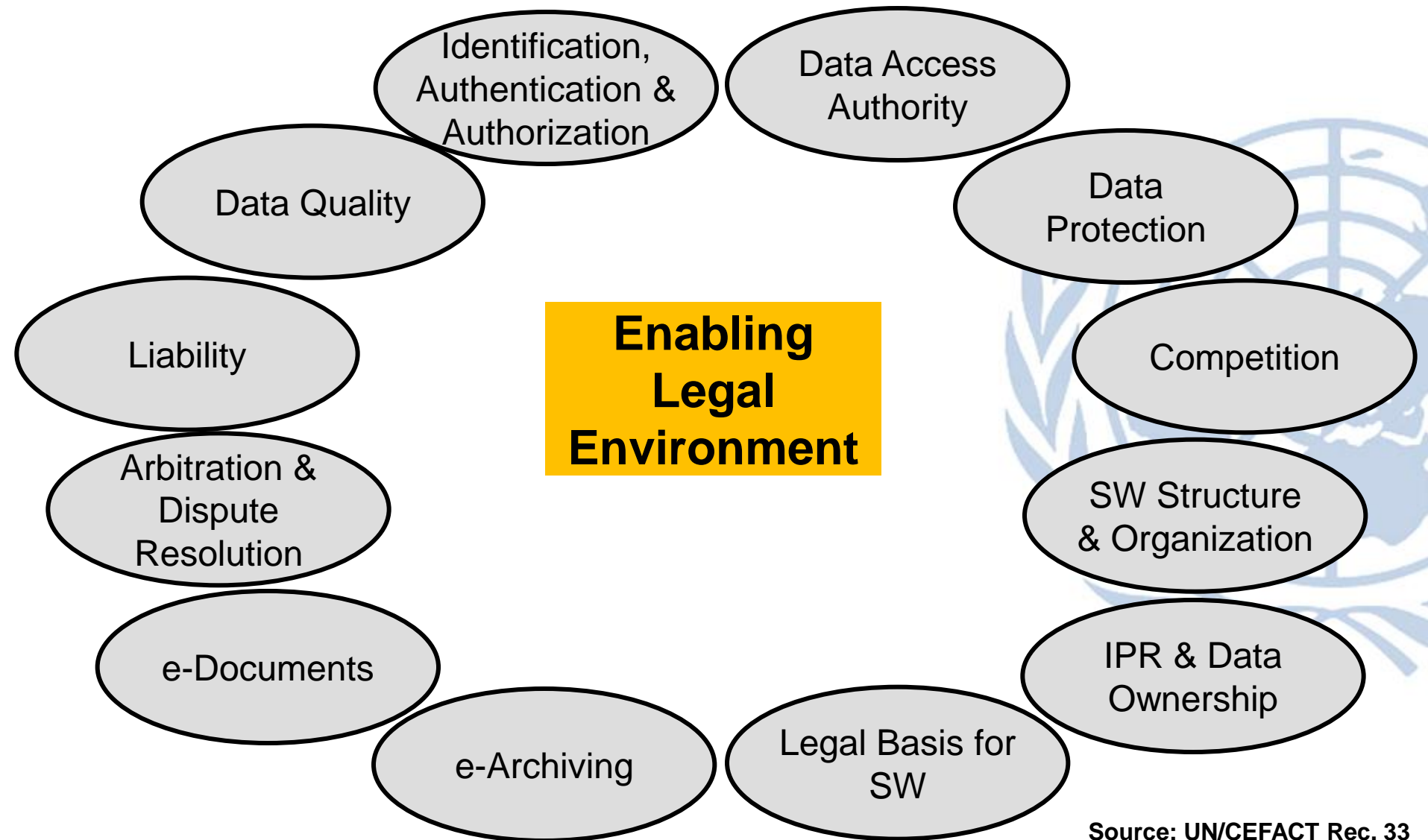
❖ Political Commitment



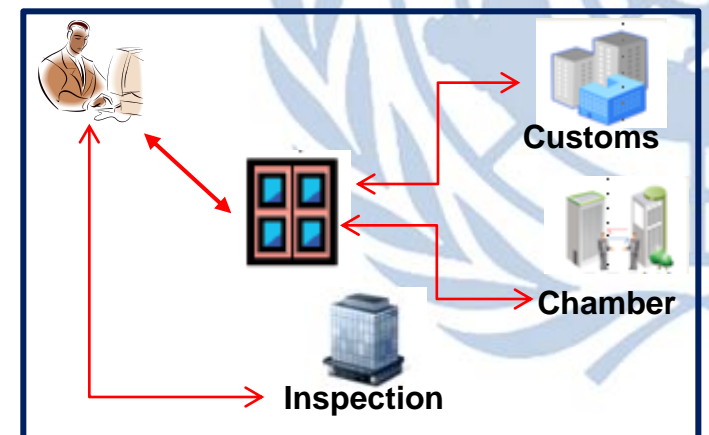
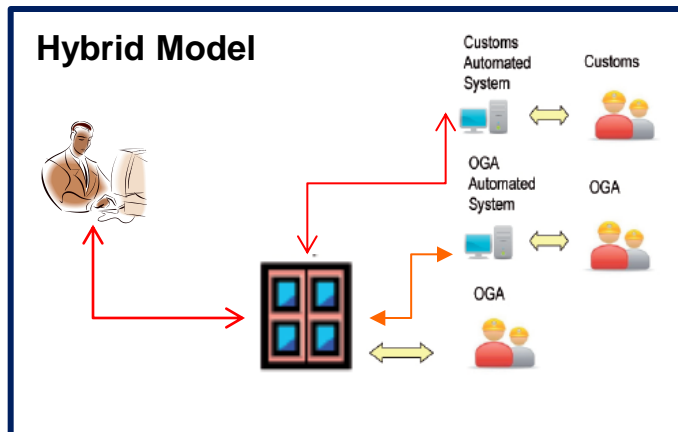
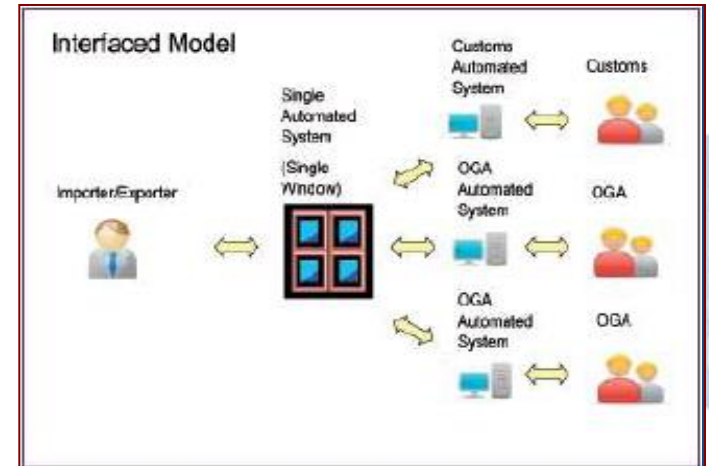
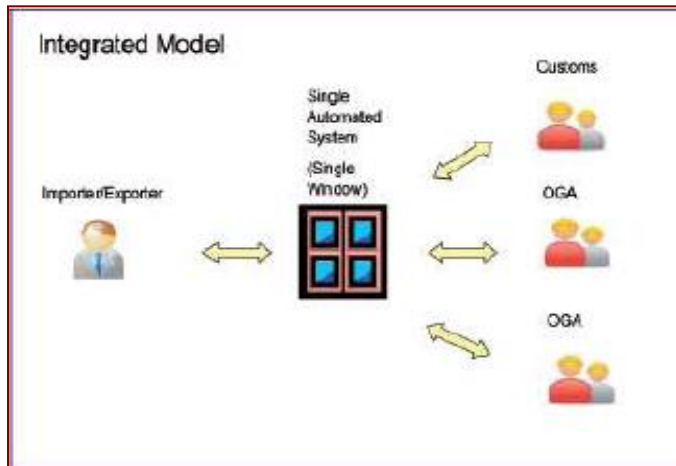
❖ Stakeholder Coordination



❖ Legal Framework



❖ Single Window Models (System View)

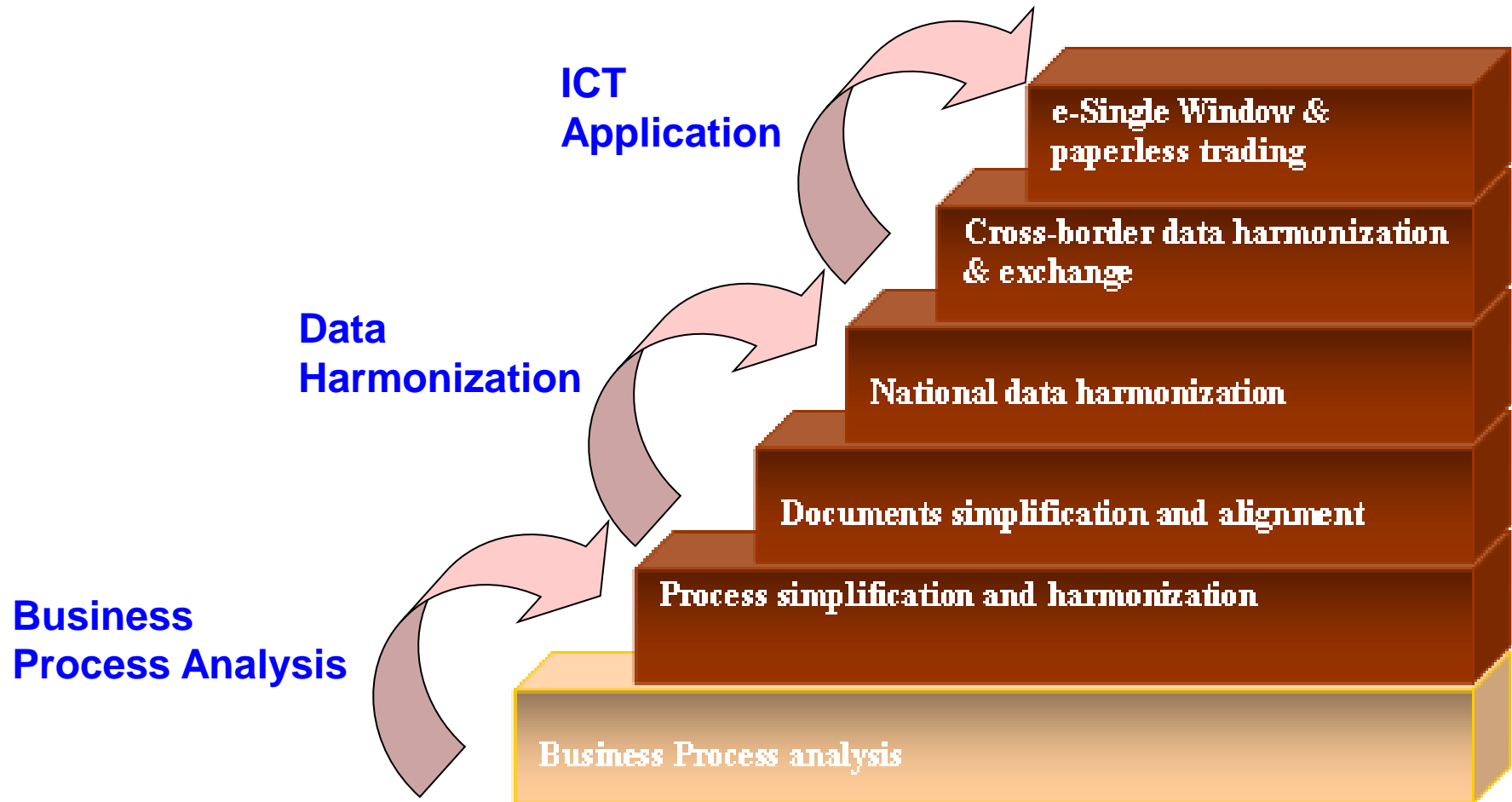


Source: Partly from APEC Single Window Implementation Guide, July 2007

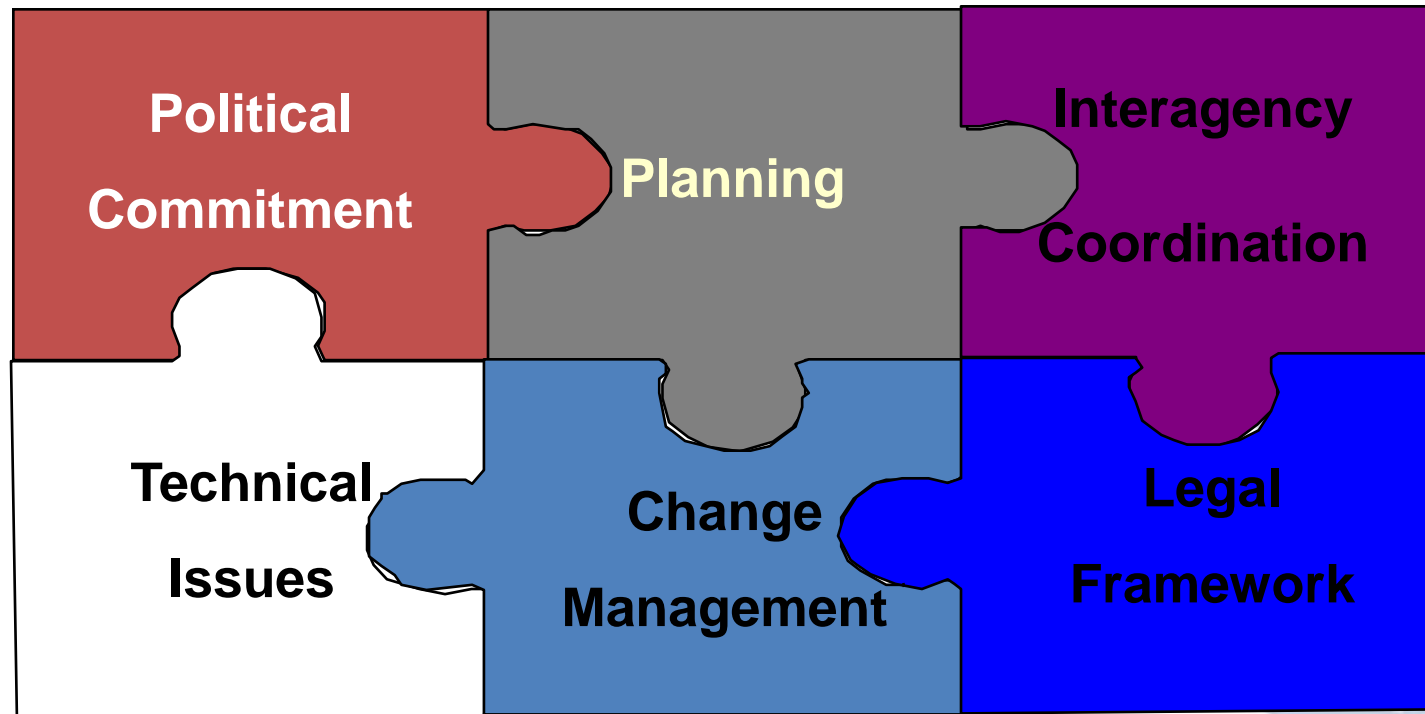
❖ Single Window Models (Establishment and Operation View)

Type	Arrangement	Remarks
Establishment	Public	Govt. budget or donor funding (grant/loan)
	Private	Private Sector Investment (BOT, etc.)
	PPP	Joint Funding
Operation	Government	Customs. Ministry of Trade, etc.
	Service provider	Private Sector
Service Basis	Free of Charge	Government budget
	Fee Based	Service charge

❖ Technical Issues in Single Window (Step-by-step Implementation Approach)



Challenges in Implementing National Paperless Trade Systems and Single Window



Furthering SW and Paperless Trade Beyond Borders

Initiatives for facilitating cross-border trade data exchange in the region and beyond

Legal and technical barriers in information exchange (across borders)

Increased implementation of (national) single window and paperless trade systems, but...

International Supply Chain Integration

Rise of regional and global production networks

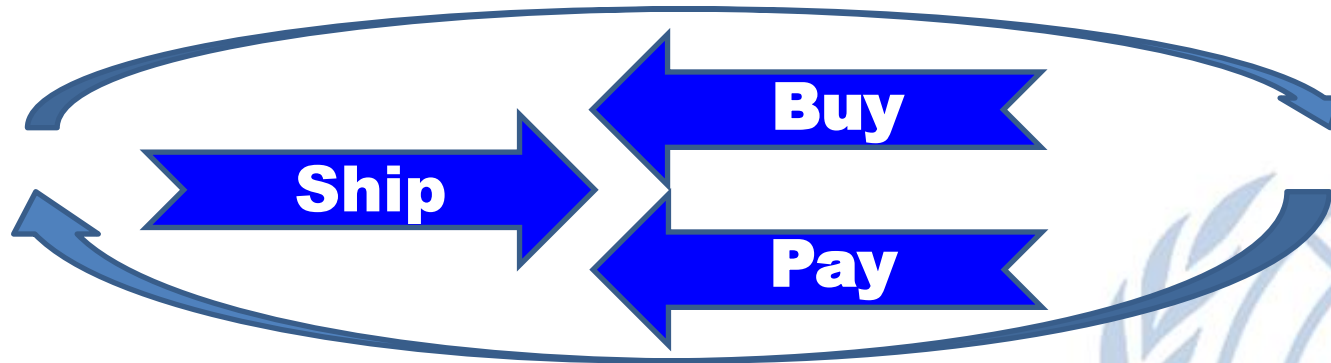
Need for cross-border paperless trade

Enabling Cross-border Data Exchange: Issues

Exporting Country

Goods Flow

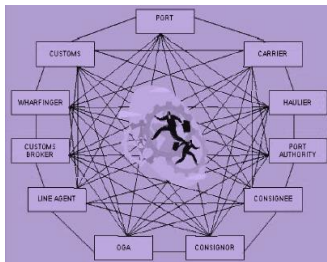
Importing Country



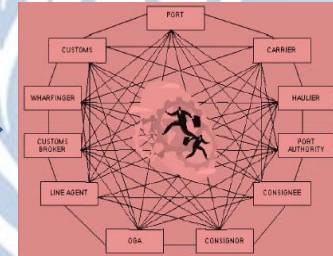
Financial Flow



Information Flow

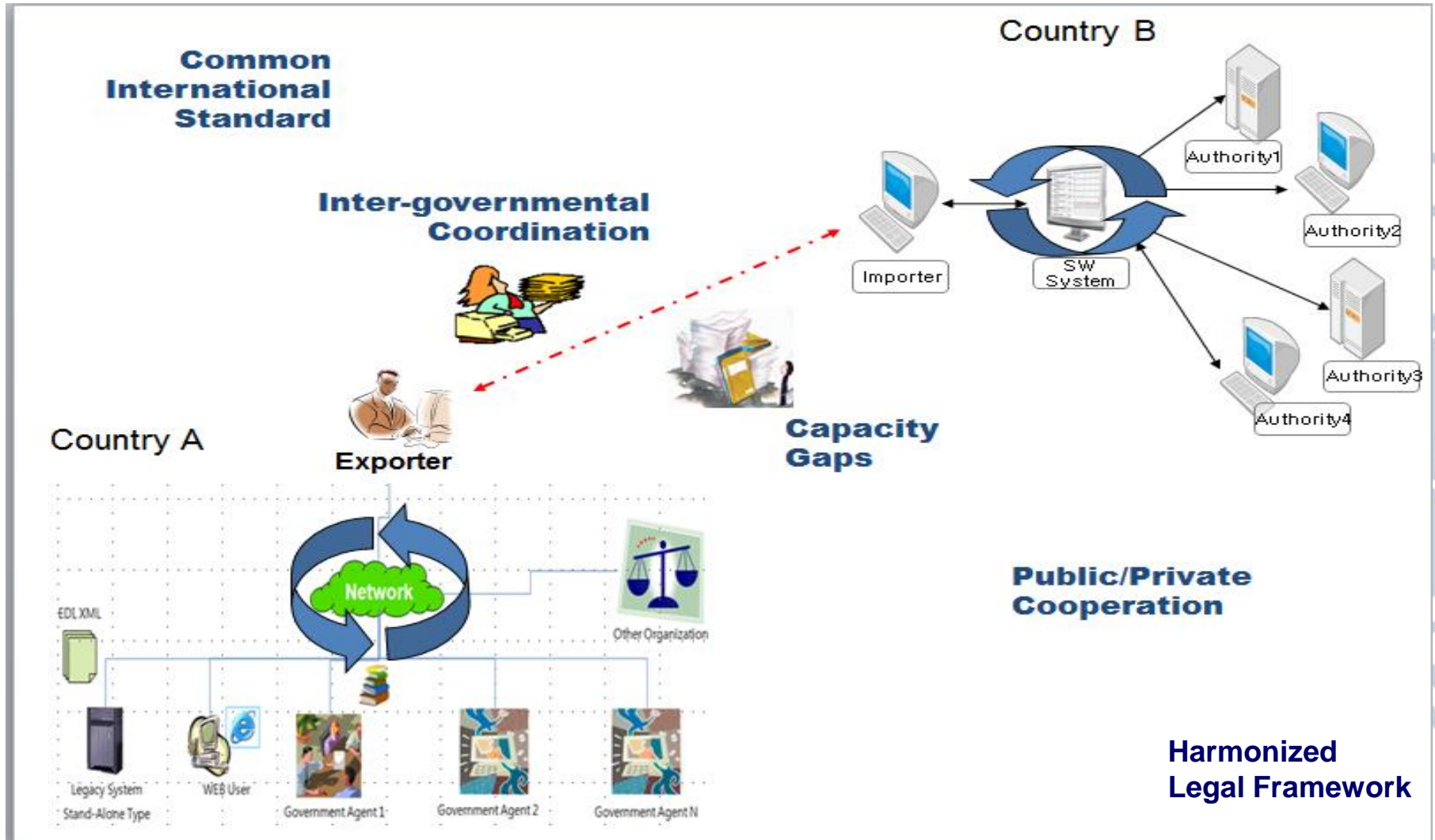


Seller



Buyer¹⁵

Enabling Cross-border Data Exchange: Challenges



Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific - Overview

❑ A new UN Treaty

- Open to interested (53) ESCAP member states (voluntary) to become parties
- Opened for signature on **1 October 2016** at UN Headquarters, New York

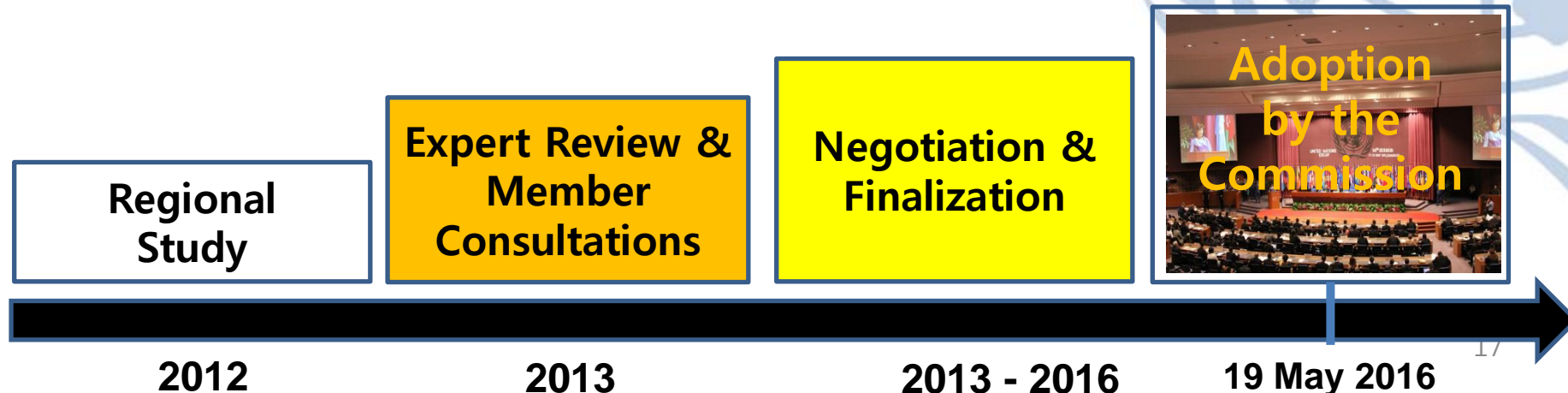
❑ Objective

To facilitate cross-border paperless trade (data exchange) among willing ESCAP member states by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions

- ❑ Complementary to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement as well as (sub)regional efforts

❑ 4 year step-by-step development process (ESCAP resolutions 68/3,70/6,72/4)


- ❑ Over 30 countries directly involved in finalizing the treaty text in March 2016



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CHAPTER X ▾ 20. ▾

STATUS AS AT : 23-11-2016 07:37:20 EDT

CHAPTER X

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

20. Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, 19 May 2016

Not yet in force : in accordance with article 19, the Agreement shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the date on which the Governments of at least five (5) ESCAP member States have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the present Agreement pursuant to article 18, paragraphs 2 and 3.

Text : [Certified true copy](#)
[CN.597.2016.TREATIES-X.20](#) of 23 August 2016 (Opening for signature) and [CN.598.2016.TREATIES-X.20](#) of 23 August 2016 (Issuance of Certified True Copies).

Note : The above Agreement was adopted on 19 May 2016 by resolution [72/4](#) during the seventy-second session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In

Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific: **Contents**

Preamble

Articles 1 to 16: Substantive clauses

Article 1: Objective

Article 2: Scope

Article 3: Definitions

Article 4: Interpretation

Article 5: General principles

Article 6: National Policy Framework, Enabling Domestic Legal Environment and Paperless Trade Committee

Article 7: Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade and Development of national Single Window(s)

Article 8: Cross-border Mutual Recognition of Trade-related Data and Documents in Electronic Form

Article 9: International Standards for Exchange of Trade-related Data and Documents in Electronic Form

Article 10: Relation with Other Legal Instruments Enabling Cross-Border Paperless Trade

Article 11: Institutional Arrangements

Article 12: Action Plan

Article 13: Pilot Projects and Sharing of Lessons Learned

Article 14: Capacity Building

Article 15: Implementation of the present Framework Agreement

Article 16: Other agreements in force

Articles 17 to 25: Final clauses



Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific: **Benefits**

☐ **Region-wide multilateral intergovernmental platform**

Builds upon existing bilateral/subregional initiatives; Supports WTO TFA implementation; Foster harmonization and minimize necessity for numerous bilateral/subregional intergovernmental approach;

☐ **Strong capacity building programme**

Inclusive initiative, open to Asia-Pacific countries at all levels of development; Strong emphasis on knowledge sharing and CB/TA among parties

☐ **Pilot projects**

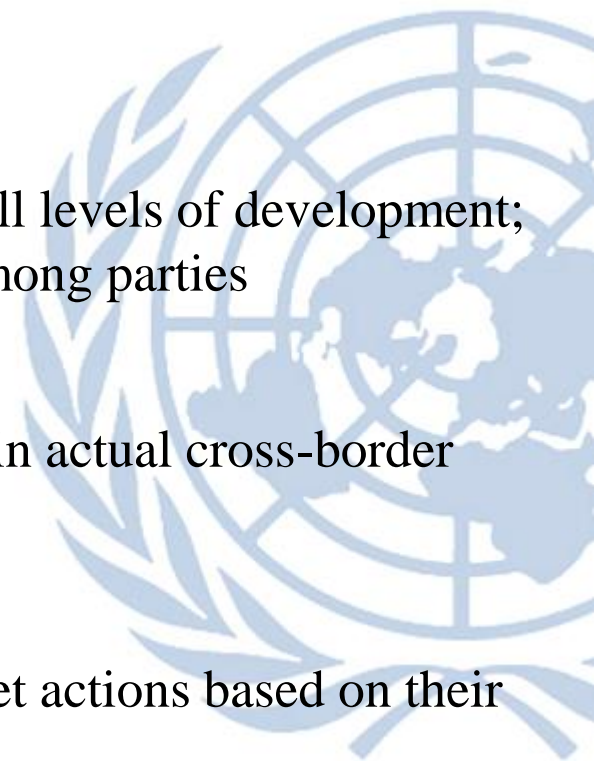
Allow parties to adjust their systems before engaging in actual cross-border trade data exchange

☐ **Action Plan**

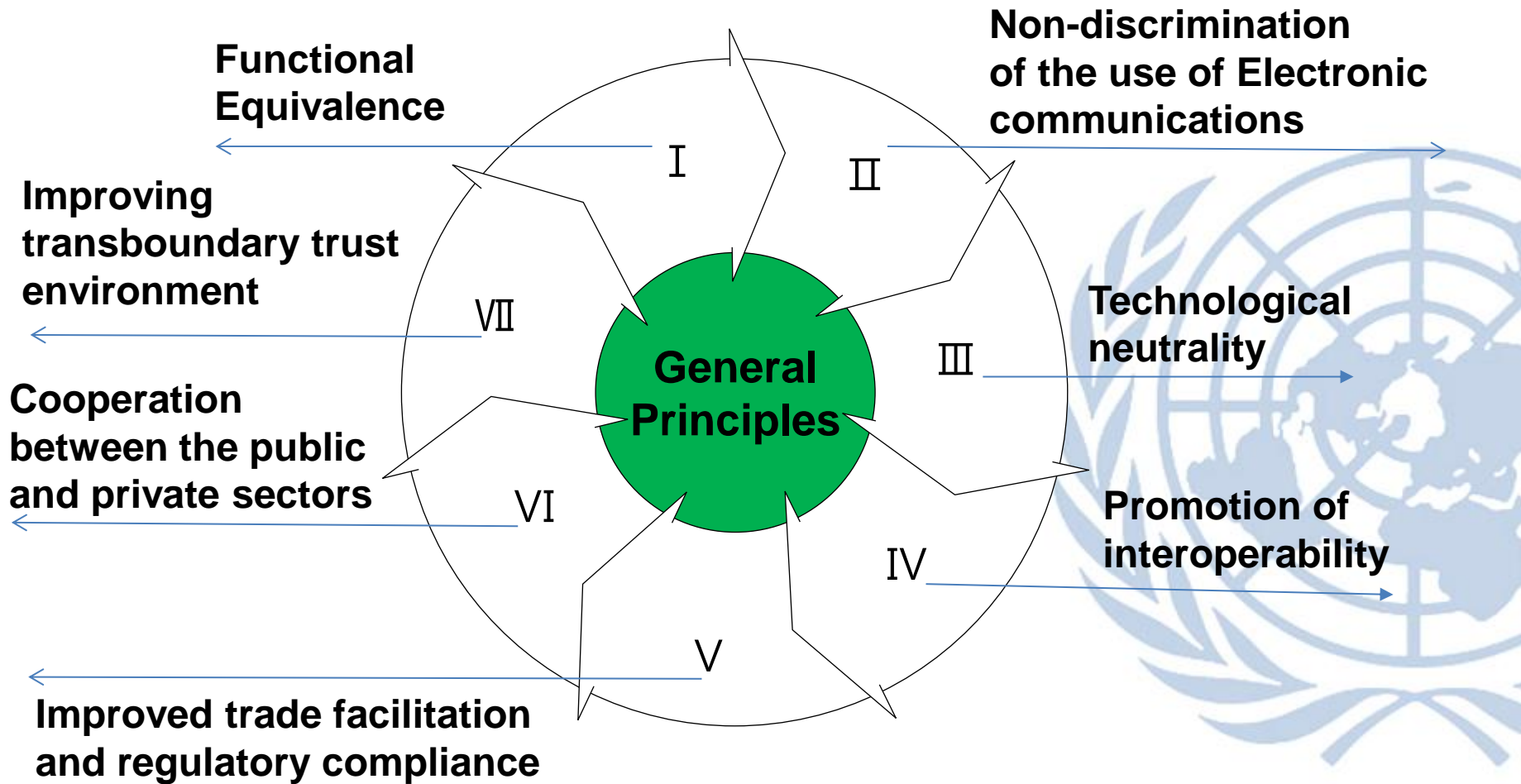
Allow parties with different implementation level to set actions based on their respective readiness

☐ **Mutual recognition**

Commit to the goal, while allowing flexibility in how to materialize the goal



Overview of provisions: General Principles



Overview of provisions: **Key provisions**

Cross-border Mutual Recognition

Article 8

Article 14

Capacity
Building

Article 11

Institutional
Arrangements

**Key
Provisions**

Article 13

Pilot Projects and Sharing of
Lessons Learned

... **Article 12**

Action Plan

Overview of provisions: **Cross-border mutual recognition**

Article 8

Cross-border mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form

1. The Parties shall provide for mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form originating from other Parties on the basis of a substantially equivalent level of reliability.
2. The substantially equivalent level of reliability would be mutually agreed upon among the Parties through the institutional arrangement established under the present Framework Agreement.
3. The Parties may enter into bilateral and multilateral arrangements to operationalize cross-border mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form, in a manner consistent with the principle of the transboundary trust environment and all the other general principles, provided that the provisions of these bilateral and multilateral arrangements do not contradict the present Framework Agreement.

Overview of provisions: Pilot projects and sharing of lessons learned

Article 13

Pilot projects and sharing of lessons learned

1. The Parties shall endeavour to initiate and launch pilot projects on cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form, in particular among customs and other regulatory agencies. The Parties shall collaborate on such pilot projects through the institutional arrangements established under the present Framework Agreement.
2. The Parties shall report to the Standing Committee on the progress of pilot projects to facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned and to establish a collection of best practices for interoperability of cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form. The exchange of experience and lessons learned would extend beyond the Parties to the present Framework Agreement, to the extent possible and as appropriate, in an effort to promote paperless trade implementation throughout the region and beyond.

Overview of provisions: Capacity building

Article 14

Capacity-building

1. The Parties may cooperate to provide technical support and assistance to each other in order to facilitate the implementation of the present Framework Agreement.
2. The Parties may collaborate on capacity-building through the institutional arrangements established under the present Framework Agreement.
3. The Parties shall give special consideration to requests from least developed and landlocked developing countries for technical assistance and cooperation arrangements designed to assist them in developing their paperless trade capacity and in taking full advantage of the potential benefits of the present Framework Agreement.
4. The Parties may invite development partners for more effective technical and financial assistance in the implementation of the present Framework Agreement.

More information: Webpage on the FA

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

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the UN ESCAP website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific. The website header features the UN ESCAP logo and navigation links: About, Commission, Our Work, Subregional Offices, Partners, Research & Data, Home, and Media Centre. The main content area is titled "Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific". Below the title, there is a "Date" field showing "Tuesday, June 28, 2016" and a "Type" field showing "Public information and advocacy materials". An "ABSTRACT" section follows, stating that the Framework Agreement was adopted by the 72nd Session of the ESCAP as resolution E/ESCAP/RES/72/4. It also mentions that the agreement will be open for signature at United Nations headquarters in New York from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017. Further down, there are sections for "Text of the Framework Agreement", "Becoming a Party to the Framework Agreement", and "Background Information on the Framework Agreement". The "Becoming a Party" section lists two options: "a. Signature, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval; or" and "b. Accession". The "Background Information" section includes links to an "Explanatory Note to the Framework Agreement", "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Framework Agreement", "Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation", and "Latest News".

United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific



“an ongoing community of knowledge and practice to facilitate the implementation of single window and paperless trade in the Asia-Pacific region ”

- Tools and guides development activities
- Advocacy and Technical Training Workshops
- Knowledge sharing and

www.unnext.unescap.org



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United Nations Network of Experts for
Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific



UNECE

UNNExT Single Window Implementation Toolkit for Trade Facilitation

SINGLE WINDOW IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT

FOR TRADE FACILITATION



Thank you

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