

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation:

Overview of United Nations Regional Commissions Global Survey 2015

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Background & Objective

of the UNRC Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade

- **Lack of systematic information on implementation of TF measures**

- Sep. 2012: First regional TF & Paperless Trade Survey conducted on the side of the 4th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF 2012)
- Dec. 2013: 2nd Global Forum on Trade Facilitation highlight need for more / better information on implementation of TF measures, in particular paperless trade measures
- Oct. 2014: UNRCs initiate first Global Survey on TF & Paperless Trade Implementation
 - in collaboration with OECD, UNCTAD, ITC and sub-regional organizations

- **Objective:** *“to enable countries to better understand and monitor progress on implementation of TF, including paperless trade measures; to support evidence-based policy making, and highlight capacity building and technical assistance needs”*

Survey Scope

- Goes beyond the scope of the TF measures included in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

- **38** TF measures covered (4 groups):
 - 1) General TF measures
 - 2) Paperless trade
 - 3) Cross-border paperless trade
 - 4) Transit facilitation
-
- ```
graph LR; A[General TF measures] --> B[Transparency]; C[Paperless trade] --> D[Formalities]; E[Cross-border paperless trade] --> F[Institutional arrangement and cooperation];
```

[ General TF measures, transit facilitation measures + some paperless trade measures related to WTO TFA provisions ]

# Survey Scope

## General TF Measures

**Trade facilitation measure (and question no.) in survey questionnaire**

### **Transparency**

- 2. Publication of existing import-export regulations on the Internet
- 3. Stakeholder consultation on new draft regulations
- 4. Advance publication/notification of new regulations before their implementation
- 5. Advance ruling
- 9. Independent appeal mechanism

### **Formalities**

- 6. Risk management
- 7. Pre-arrival processing
- 8. Post-clearance audit
- 10. Separation of release from final determination of duties, taxes, fees and charges
- 11. Establishment and publication of average release times
- 12. Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators
- 13. Expedited shipments
- 14. Acceptance of paper or electronic copies

### **Institutional arrangement and cooperation**

- 1. Establishment of a national trade facilitation committee
- 31. Cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level
- 32. Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities
- 33. Alignment of working days and hours with neighbouring countries at border crossings
- 34. Alignment of formalities and procedure with neighbouring countries at border crossings

## Trade facilitation measure (and question no.) in survey questionnaire

### Paperless trade

- 15. Electronic/automated Customs System established
- 16. Internet connection available for Customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings

### 17. Electronic Single Window System

- 18. Electronic submission of Customs declarations
- 19. Electronic Application and Issuance of Trade Licenses
- 20. Electronic Submission of Sea Cargo Manifests
- 22. Electronic Application and Issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin
- 23. E-Payment of Customs Duties and Fees
- 24. Electronic Application for Customs Refunds

### Cross-border paperless trade

- 25. Laws and regulations for electronic transactions are in place
- 26. Recognized certification authority issuing digital certificates to traders for electronic transactions
- 27. Engagement of the country in trade-related cross-border electronic data exchange
- 28. Certificate of origin electronically exchanged
- 29. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Certificate electronically exchanged
- 30. Banks and insurers retrieving letters of credit electronically without paper-based documents

### Transit Facilitation

- 35. Transit facilitation agreement(s) with neighbouring countries
- 36. Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use of risk assessment
- 37. Supporting pre-arrival processing for trade facilitation
- 38. Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit

# Data Collection Methodology

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- Standard 3-step process:

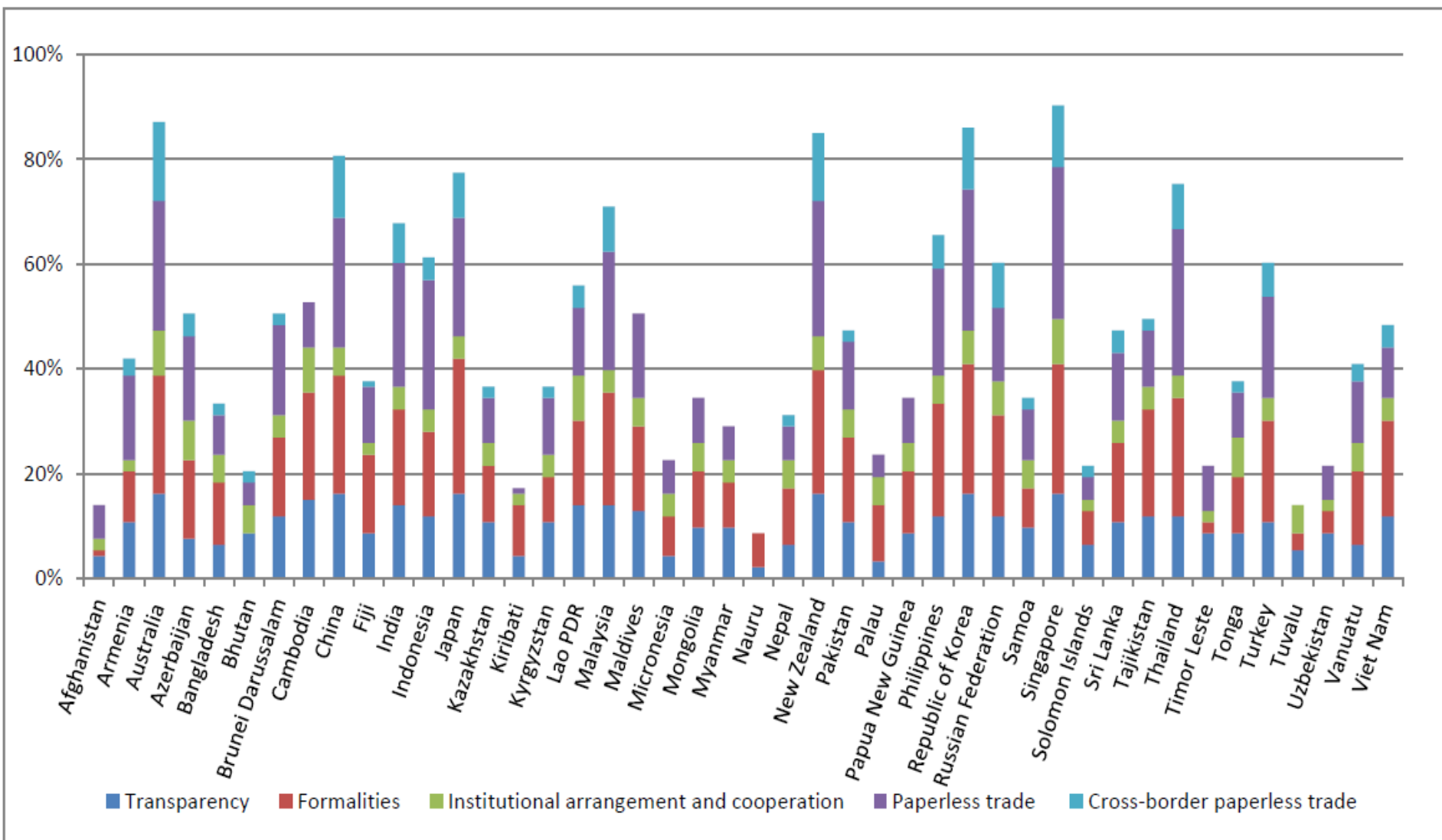
**Step 1:** Data submission by experts (*Sept – Mar 2014*) - survey forms disseminated by UNRCs to experts from governments, private sector and/or academia

**Step 2:** Data verification by UNRCs (*Oct 2014–Apr 2015*) - Staff from UNRCs cross-checked collected data and augmented it through desk research and data sharing among UNRCs and survey partners

**Step 3:** Data verification by governments (*Apr – May 2015*) - Unified country data sent to national government or representatives to ensure that countries have the opportunity to review the dataset and provide additional information

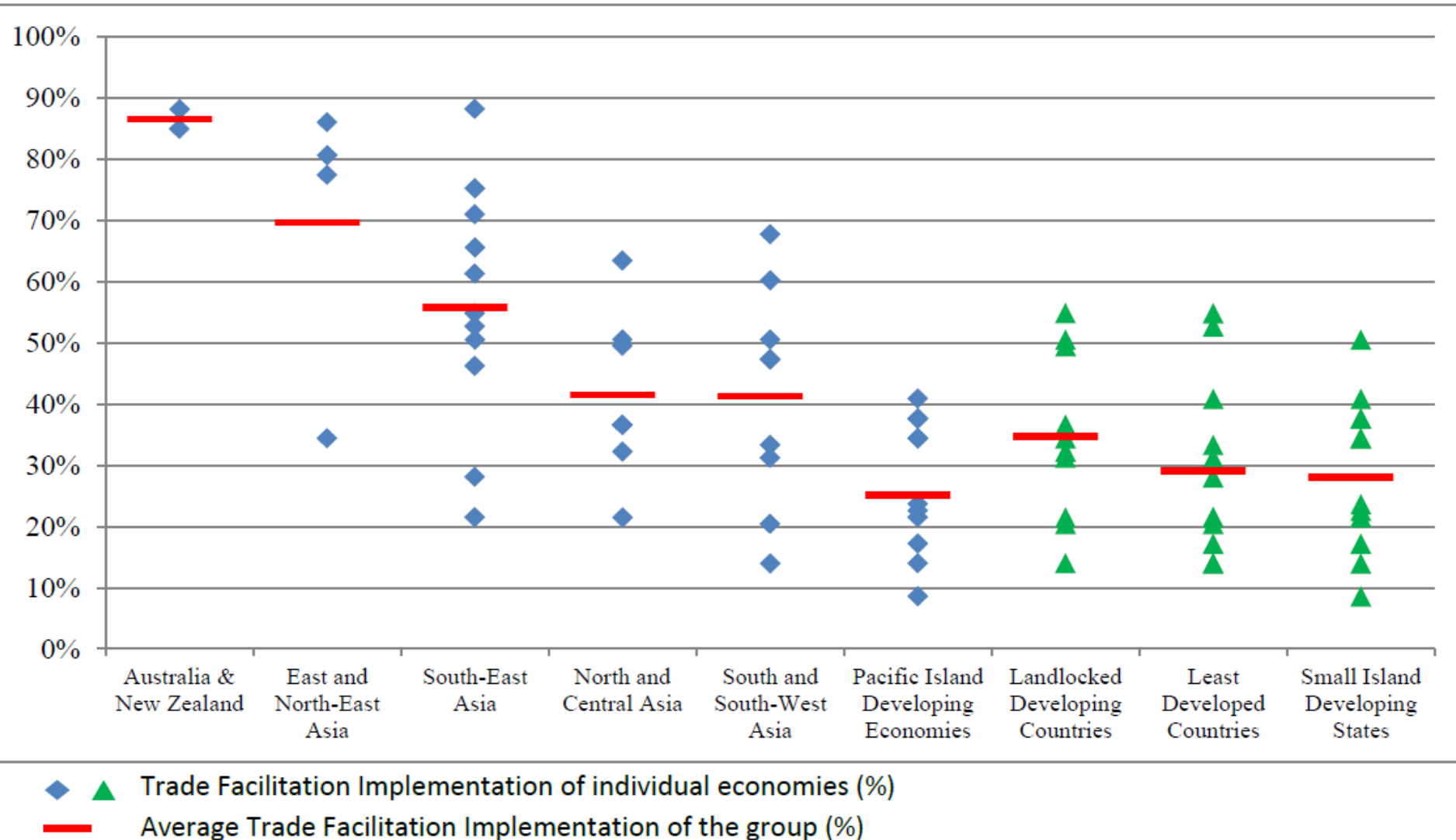
# TF and Paperless Trade Implementation in Asia-Pacific: 2015 Survey Highlights

TF implementation very heterogeneous across the region



# TF and Paperless Trade Implementation in Asia-Pacific: 2015 Survey Highlights

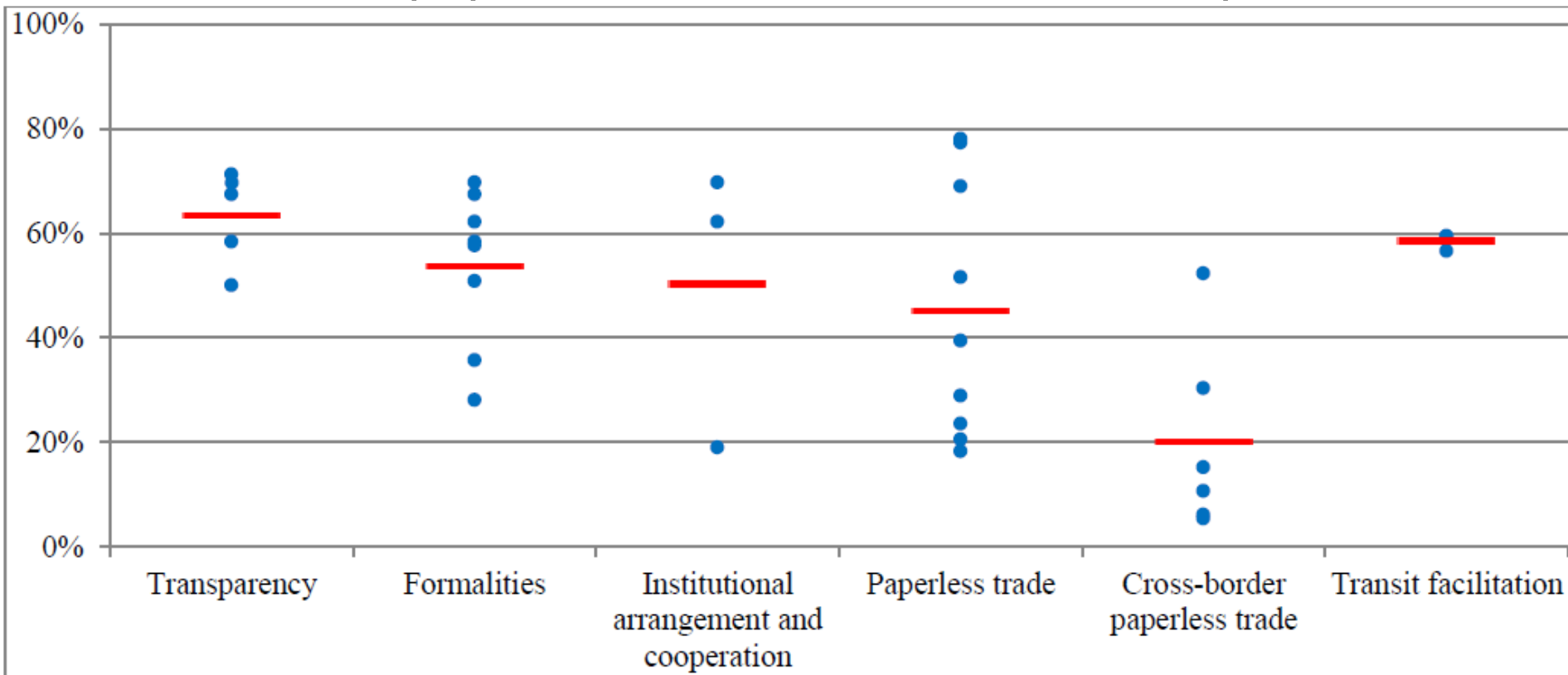
TF implementation very heterogeneous across the region





# TF and Paperless Trade Implementation in Asia-Pacific: 2015 Survey Highlights

Transparency measures most implemented;  
Cross-border paperless trade measures least implemented



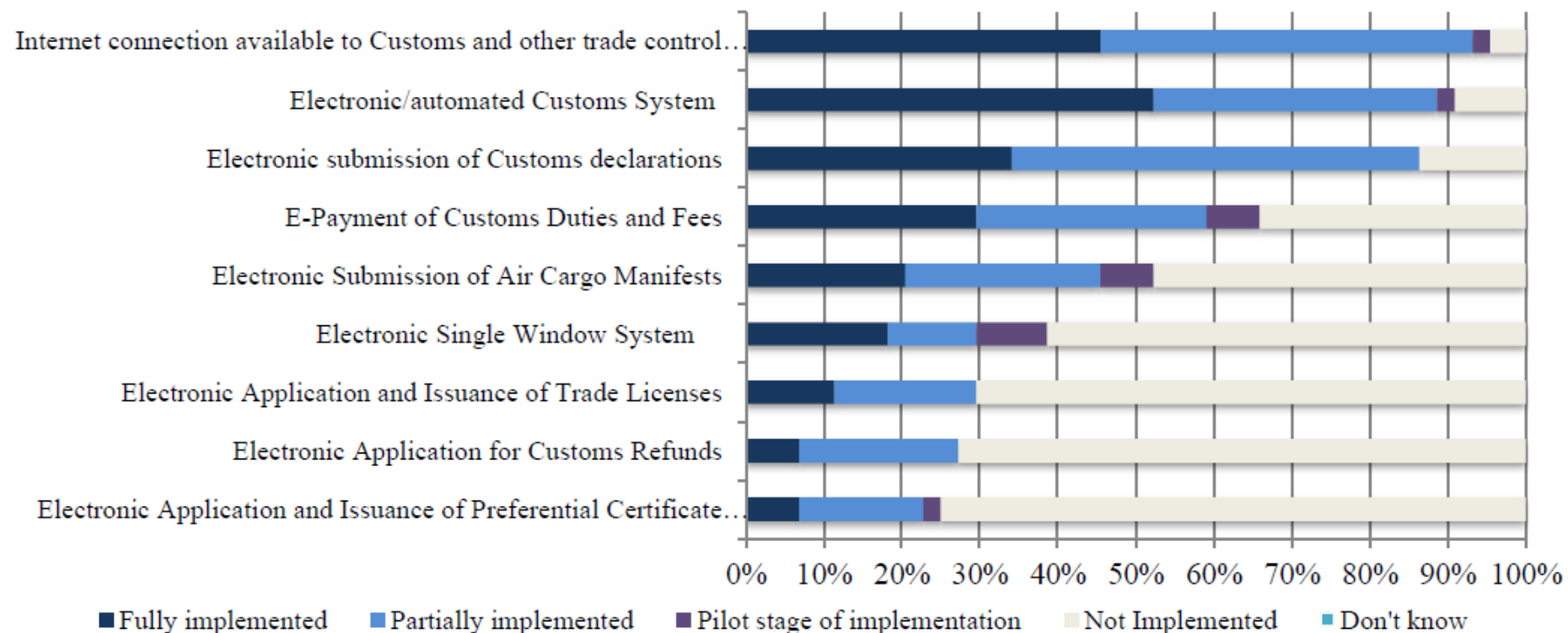
*Note:* Blue dots show regional average implementation level of individual measures within each group.  
— Average regional implementation level by groups of measures.

# TF and Paperless Trade Implementation in Asia-Pacific: 2015 Survey Highlights

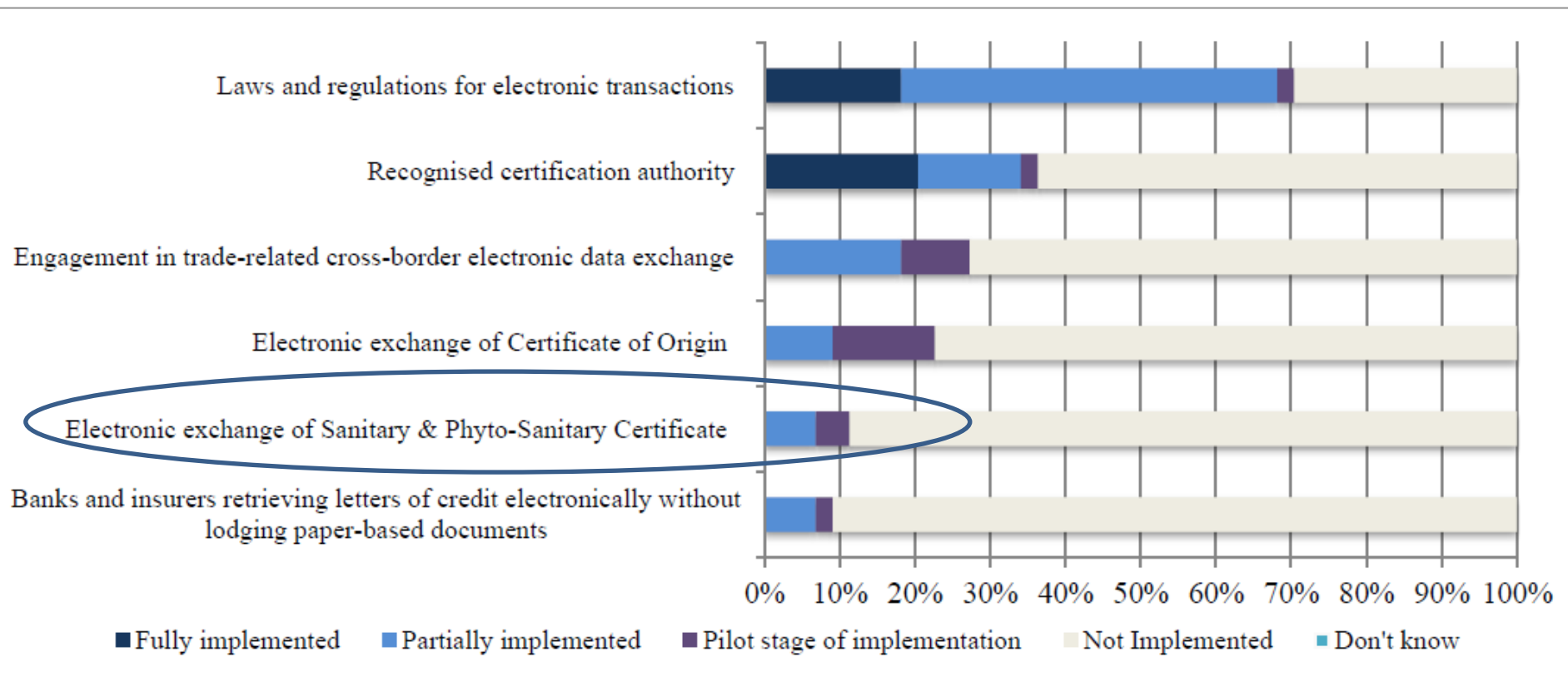
## Most and least implemented TF measures in Asia-Pacific

|                                           | Most implemented                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Least implemented                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transparency                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholder consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their implementation)</li> <li>2. Publication of existing import-export regulations on the internet</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advance ruling (on tariff classification)</li> <li>2. Advance publication/notification of new regulation before their implementation</li> </ol>                                              |
| Formalities                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Risk management</li> <li>2. Pre-arrival processing</li> </ol>                                                                                                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishment and publication of average release times</li> <li>2. Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators</li> </ol>                                                           |
| Institutional arrangement and cooperation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level</li> <li>2. Establishment of National Trade Facilitation Committee</li> </ol>                             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities</li> </ol>                                                                                                                    |
| Paperless trade                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings</li> <li>2. Electronic/automated Customs System</li> </ol>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electronic Application and Issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin</li> <li>2. Electronic Application for Customs Refunds</li> </ol>                                                  |
| Cross-border paperless trade              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Laws and regulations for electronic transactions</li> <li>2. Recognised certification authority</li> </ol>                                                                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Banks and insurers retrieving letters of credit electronically without lodging paper-based documents</li> <li>2. Electronic exchange of Sanitary &amp; Phyto-Sanitary Certificate</li> </ol> |
| Transit facilitation                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit</li> <li>- Customs authorities limit the physical inspections</li> </ul>                                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation</li> </ol>                                                                                                                        |

**Figure 12: State of implementation of “paperless trade” measures in Asia-Pacific economies (in %)**



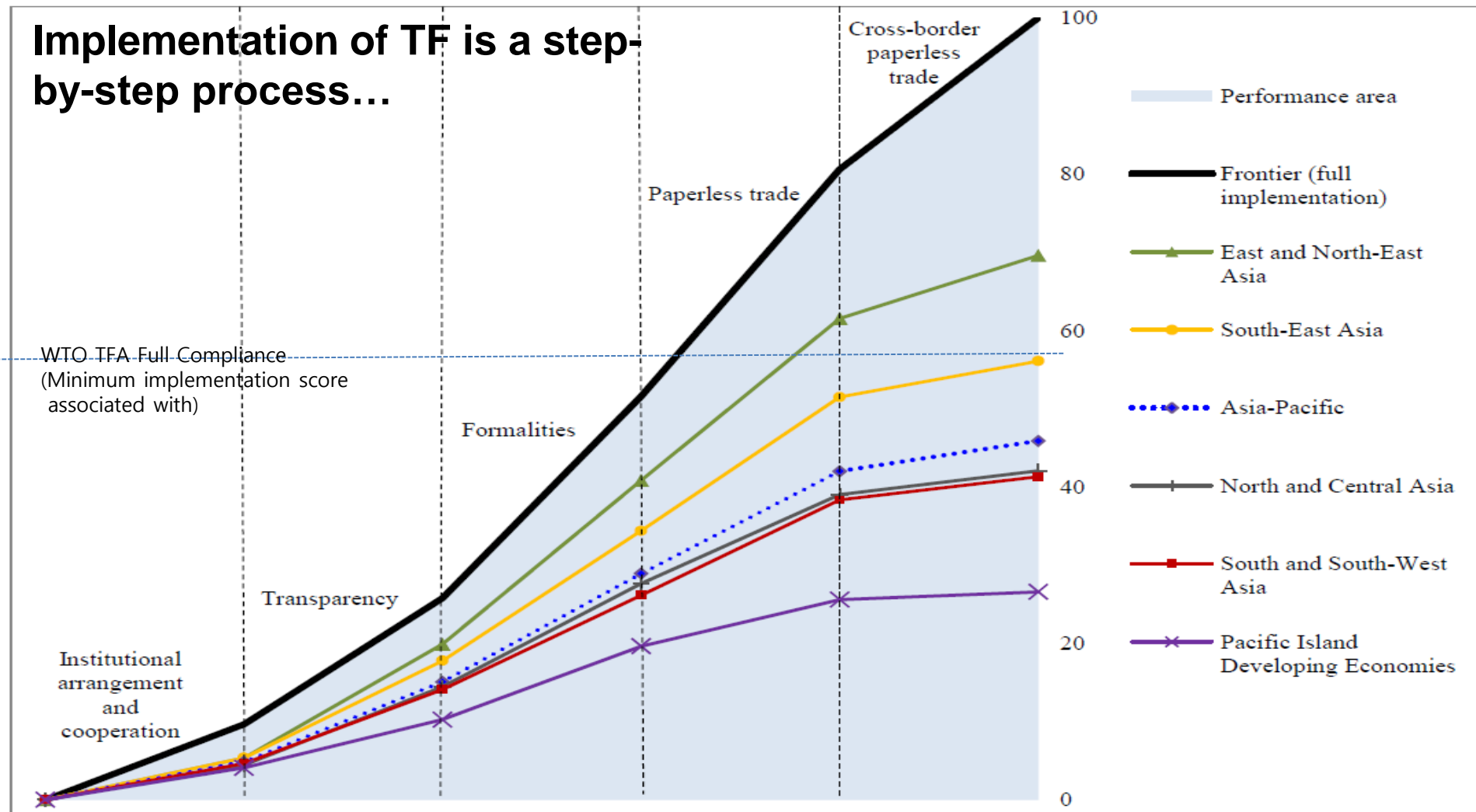
**Figure 14: State of implementation of “cross-border paperless trade” measures in Asia-Pacific economies (in %)**



# Towards “Next Generation” TF in Asia-Pacific

Figure 20: Moving up the trade facilitation ladder towards seamless international supply chains

**Implementation of TF is a step-by-step process...**

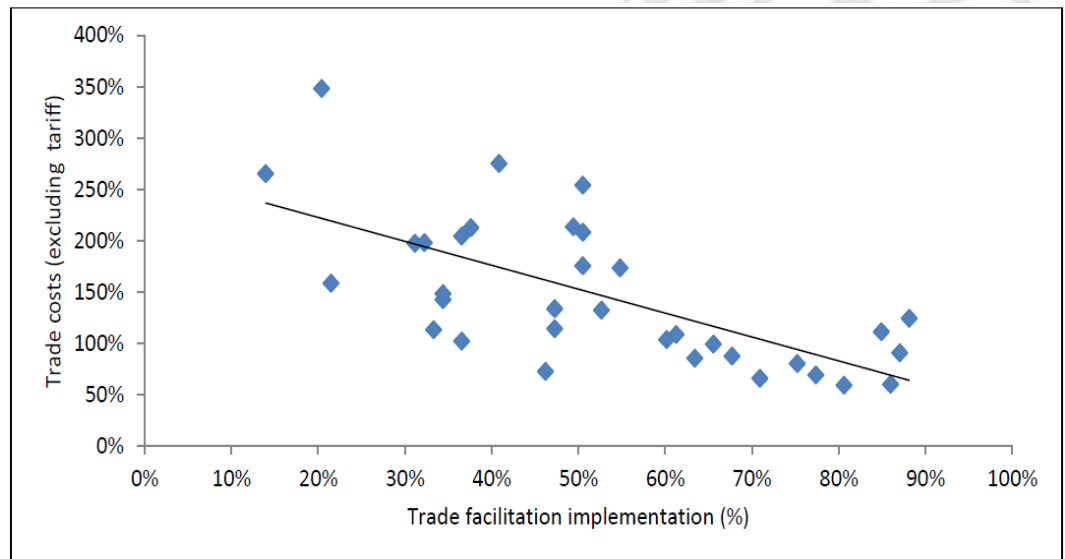


Note: the figure shows cumulative trade facilitation implementation scores of Asia-Pacific sub-regions for five groups of trade facilitation measures included in the survey. Full implementation of all measures = 100.

# Conclusions

- Wide disparities across countries of the region in TF
- But many countries actively moving beyond basic WTO TFA compliance towards paperless trade & cross-border paperless trade

- Benefits are clear



- ESCAP is developing regional intergovernmental platform to facilitate further progress in an inclusive manner

# [unnnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp](http://unnnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <http://unnnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The toolbar shows various icons for navigation and utility. The main content area features a header with the United Nations logo and the text "United Nations Regional Commissions" and "Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2015". Below this, a paragraph explains the survey's purpose and the organizations involved. A section titled "Report and Data" contains six globe icons representing different regions and reports: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia, Global Report, and Countries Report. The browser's status bar at the bottom right shows a zoom level of 125%.

United Nations Regional Commissions

## Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2015

The United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs) including [ECA](#), [ECE](#), [ECLAC](#), [ESCAP](#) and [ESCWA](#), in collaboration with [UNCTAD](#), [OECD](#), [ITC](#), [OCQ](#) and [SELA](#), have conducted a global survey to collect relevant data and information on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation in their respective member states. Outcomes of the survey are expected to enable the countries to better understand and monitor progress in trade facilitation, support evidence-based policy-making, and highlight the needs for capacity building and technical assistance.

The global survey represents a key initiative under the framework of the Joint UNRC Approach to Trade Facilitation, agreed upon in Beirut, January 2010 to enable the five UNRCs to present a joint global view on key trade facilitation issues. The questionnaire for the global survey was jointly prepared and finalized by UNRCs and OECD and is available [here](#). The survey results and data collected are made available below.

### Report and Data

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Western Asia
- Global Report
- Countries Report

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# ANNEX





# [unnnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp](http://unnnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp)

http://unnnext.unescap.org/ASP\_report.asp

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United Nations Regional Commissions

## Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2015

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation in Asia and the Pacific 2015

**Regional Report**

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey 2015: Asia and the Pacific Report

**Sub-Regional Reports**

- East and North-East Asia
- North and Central Asia
- Pacific Island Developing Economies
- South-East Asia
- South and South West Asia
- South-East Asia

**Countries with Special Needs Reports**

- Least Developed Countries
- Landlocked Developing Countries
- Small Island Developing States

**Country Notes**

| East and North-East Asia                                                                                               | North and Central Asia                                                                                                                                                     | South-East Asia                                                                                                                                           | South and South-West Asia                                                                                                                              | Pacific Island Developing Economies                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• China</li><li>• Japan</li><li>• Mongolia</li><li>• Republic of Korea</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Armenia</li><li>• Azerbaijan</li><li>• Kazakhstan</li><li>• Kyrgyzstan</li><li>• Russian Federation</li><li>• Tajikistan</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brunei</li><li>• Darussalam</li><li>• Cambodia</li><li>• Indonesia</li><li>• Lao PDR</li><li>• Malaysia</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Afghanistan</li><li>• Bangladesh</li><li>• Bhutan</li><li>• India</li><li>• Maldives</li><li>• Nepal</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiji</li><li>• Kiribati</li><li>• Micronesia</li><li>• Nauru</li><li>• Palau</li><li>• Papua New</li></ul> |

125%

# unnexnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp

Thailand TFPT Note 2015.pdf - Adobe Reader

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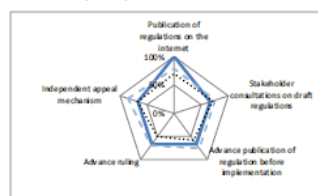
Open 1 / 2 66.3%

## Joint United Nations Regional Commissions Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey 2015

### THAILAND



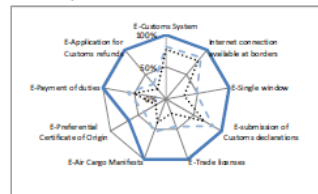
#### Transparency



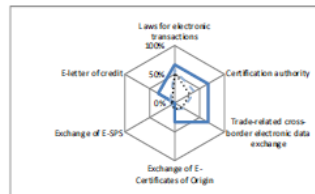
#### Formalities



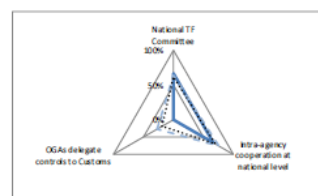
#### Paperless trade



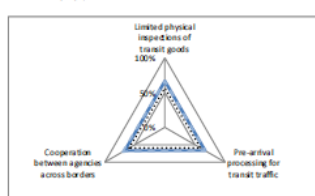
#### Cross-border paperless trade



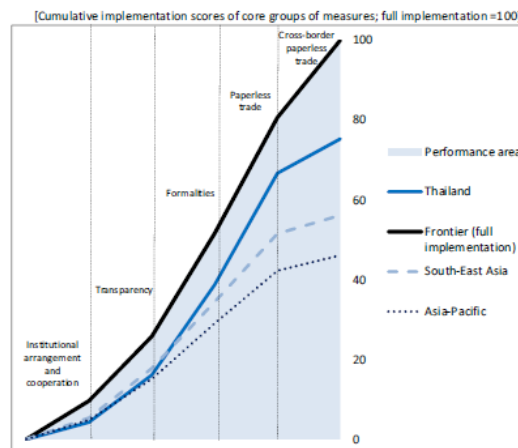
#### Institutional arrangement and cooperation



#### Transit



### THAILAND Moving up the trade facilitation ladder towards seamless international supply chains



The level of implementation of trade facilitation measures in Thailand (69%) is above the level in Asia-Pacific (46.5%). It also exceeds the level of implementation in South-East Asia (56%). Among the five core groups of trade facilitation measures, the most implemented in Thailand are "Paperless trade" measures (96.3%). The least implemented are "Institutional arrangement and cooperation" measures (44.4%) and "Cross-border paperless trade" measures (44.4%).

Implementation of "Transparency" measures is above the regional average but below the sub-regional average. The measures least implemented in this area in Thailand are *Stakeholder consultations on draft regulations*, *Advance publication of regulation before implementation*, *Advance ruling*, and *Independent appeal mechanism*. Implementation of improved "Formalities" is higher than both the regional and sub-regional averages. The least implemented measures in this area are *Risk management*, *Pre-arrival processing*, and *Publication of average release times*.

In "Paperless trade", Thailand's implementation is above both the regional and sub-regional averages. *E-Preferential Certificate of Origin* is least implemented.

Thailand may focus its trade facilitation efforts in particular on full implementation of "Institutional arrangement and cooperation" measures, as well as on moving towards "Cross-border paperless trade".

Disclaimer: The data presented here is for policy research and development purposes only and it should not be construed as statements of legal, or political, views or facts. For more information: please visit <http://unnexnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp>

# THANK YOU!!!

Trade and Investment ... x iru-nelti.org

Tools ? ? ? ? ?

United Nations Regional Commissions

## Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2015

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation in Asia and the Pacific 2015

**Regional Report**



Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey 2015: Asia and the Pacific Report

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[unnexxt.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp](http://unnexxt.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp)

our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation

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**RELATED LINKS**

- UN Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXT)
- Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation
- Capacity Building for WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

**Trade Facilitation**



Cumbersome trade procedures discourage economic activity and make it difficult for firms and countries to participate in regional and global production networks. ESCAP assists countries, particularly least developed and landlocked developing countries (LDCs and LLDCs), with trade facilitation measures that help simplify processes and regulations. The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXT) is the main platform through which ESCAP delivers its activities.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

*Reducing Trade Costs*  
FOR INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**PUBLICATIONS**

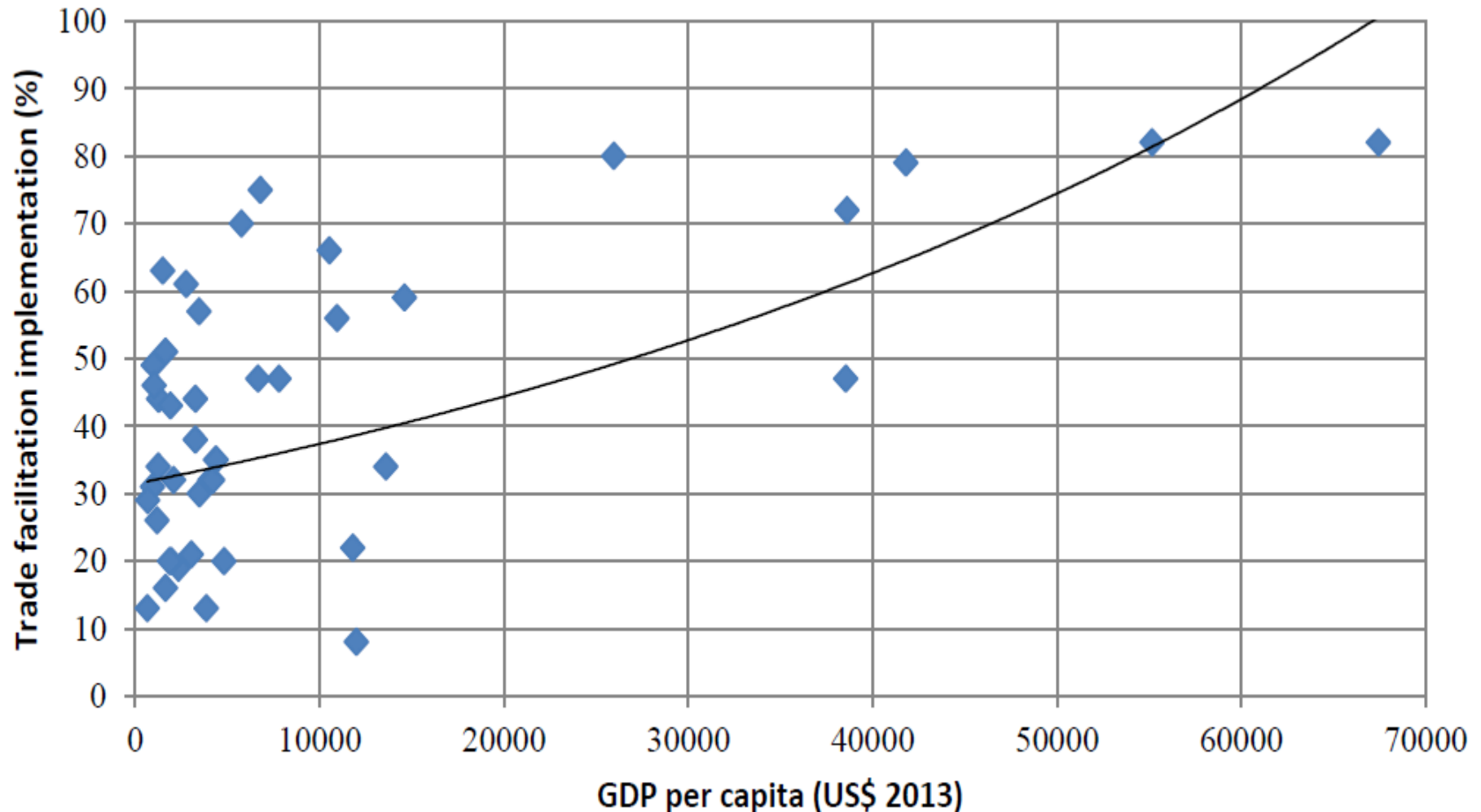
UNNEXT Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey 2015: Asia and the Pacific Report  
23 Jun 2015  
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[www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation](http://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation)

# TF and Paperless Trade Implementation in Asia-Pacific: 2015 Survey Highlights

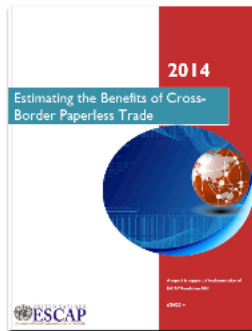
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TF implementation high in some low-income countries



# Benefits of Cross-Border Paperless Trade

## Estimating the Benefits of Cross-Border Paperless Trade



**Date:** Tuesday, June 24, 2014

**Type:** Books

### ABSTRACT

This report estimates the possible economic benefits—export gains, and cost savings—from partial or full implementation of cross-border paperless trade facilitation measures. Simulation results suggest that cross-border paperless trade has significant potential to reduce trade costs and boost trade in the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, there is every reason to believe that these are low-end estimates of the possible economic gains from reform, due to the way in which the simulations are set up on a technical level, and the fact that they focus on implementation of cross-border measures only. In reality, paperless trade is typically implemented on a broader basis, which would tend to increase the level of export gains and cost savings reported here.

### DOWNLOAD:

Benefits of Cross-Border Paperless Trade

✓ Download

**Annual regional export gains :**

**\$36 bn (for partial implementation) to \$257 bn (full implementation)**

**Export time reduction: 24% to 44%**

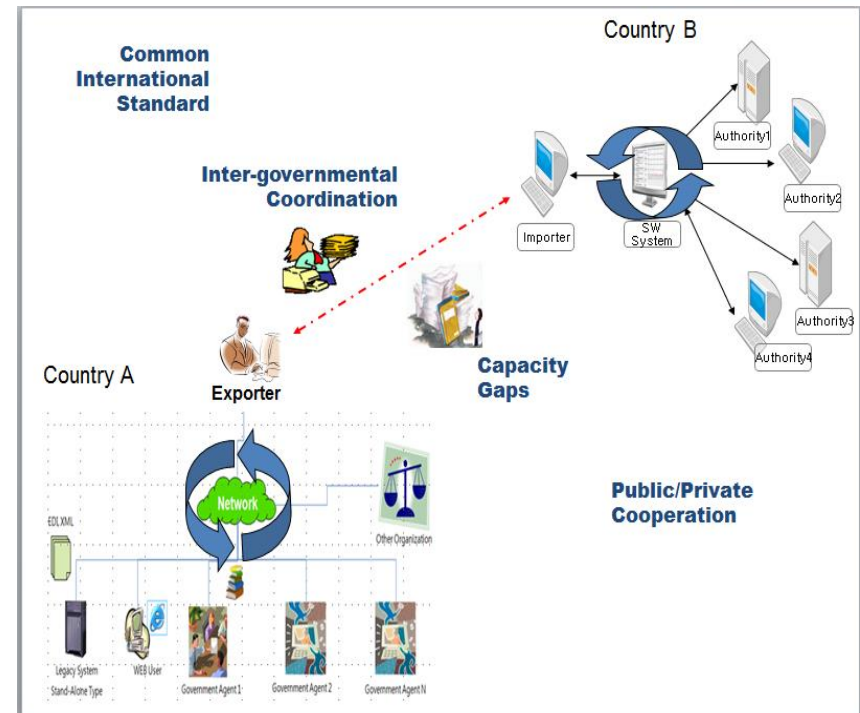
**Export cost reduction: 17% to 31%**

**Total direct cost savings across all trade: \$1bn to \$7bn annually**

Source: <http://www.unescap.org/resources/estimating-benefits-cross-border-paperless-trade>

# Challenges to moving forward on cross-border paperless trade

- Adoption of common International Standards
- Harmonization of legal frameworks
- Capacity gaps among the parties
- Cooperation between public and private sectors
- Lack of intergovernmental coordination mechanism





# ESCAP Resolution 68/3 [2012]



❑ **Title: “Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable trade facilitation”**

❑ **Adopted at the 68<sup>th</sup> ESCAP Commission Session (May 2012)**

❑ **Key features:**

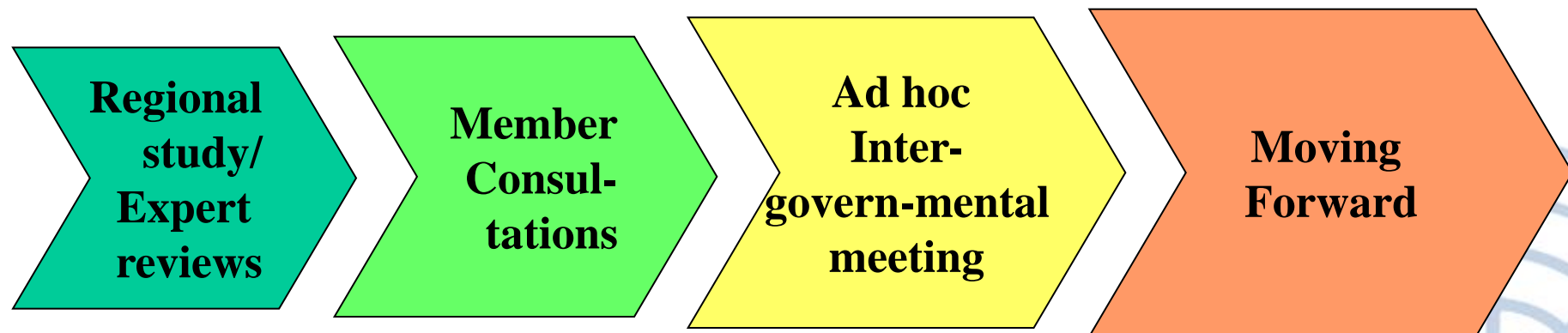
❑ **Strong Capacity Building Component**

❑ **Over 20 subregional/regional capacity building workshops on cross-border paperless trade facilitation organized**

❑ **Mandate for Development of a regional arrangement on cross-border paperless trade**



# Process & progress towards a regional arrangement on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Feasibility Study for a regional arrangement (Aug-Dec 2012)</b></li><li>• <b>Expert Review Meeting (1 Nov 2012) and online Review (Feb. 2013)</b></li><li>• <b>Two Expert Group Meetings (Mar. - May 2013)</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3 sub-regional (Southeast, South &amp; South West, and East and North-East) meetings (July 2013)</b></li><li>• <b>Regional meeting (Sep. 2013)</b></li><li>• <b>Report to 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of Committee on Trade and Investment (Nov 2013)</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Negotiation and improvement of the draft text of regional arrangement (April 2014)</b></li><li>• <b>Decision to establish an Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Report Implementation progress to the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (Aug 2014)</b></li><li>• <b><u>Intergovernmental Steering Group</u> further improved the draft text of a regional arrangement, and agreed to draft a roadmap for implementation (Apr 2015)</b></li><li>• <b>Legal and Technical Working groups established (Sep. 2015)</b></li></ul> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Please visit <http://unnex.unescap.org/reso683.asp> for details.



# Draft **Regional Arrangement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade**

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- The issue: **Facilitating international trade inherently requires that information flows seamlessly across borders along international supply chains, but this has yet to happen as paperless trade systems (e.g., SW) have focused only on electronic exchange of data/documents among domestic stakeholders.**
- **Link to WTO TFA: Complementary to the WTO TFA, as aimed at facilitating application of information and communication technologies to trade facilitation measures (including single window)**

# Draft **Regional Arrangement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade**

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- Key features of current draft text
  - **Objective: to facilitate cross-border paperless trade (by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions)**
  - **A set of general principles to facilitate interoperability between paperless trade systems and that solutions developed under the arrangement lead both to higher levels of trade facilitation and regulatory compliance**
  - **A multi-layered institutional arrangement as an operating platform**
  - **A comprehensive action plan to develop standardized solutions and protocols for cross-border electronic exchange and recognition of trade-related data and documents, including pilot projects**
  - **Strong capacity building provisions**
  - **UN treaty text (i.e., once text is finalized, it would be opened for signature by willing ESCAP Member states; would come into force after xx ESCAP Member States sign and ratify it)**

<http://communities.unescap.org/cross-border-paperless-trade-facilitation>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `communities.unescap.org/cross-border-paperless-trade-facilitation`. The page header features the ESCAP logo and the word "COMMUNITIES". Below the header, a blue navigation bar contains the text "Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation" and a "Login" button. The main content area has a title "Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation" and a brief description: "The Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation was established by ESCAP Commission Resolution 70/6: Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade." Below this, a section titled "The Steering Group is mandated to:" lists three points: (1) make further improvements to the draft text of the regional arrangement on facilitation of cross-border paperless trade as a potential intergovernmental agreement; (2) prepare a draft road map for the implementation of substantive provisions in the draft text of the regional arrangement on facilitation of cross-border paperless trade; and (3) other functions as agreed by the Steering Group. A section titled "For more information about the meetings of the Steering Group see:" lists two items: "First Meeting of the Steering Group: 1-3 April 2015" and "Second Meeting of the Steering group: April 2016 (tbc)". On the right side, there is a sidebar with a "Home" button and a list of links: "Announcements/ Events", "Mandate", "National Focal Points", "Deliverables", and "References and Related Links". At the bottom, there are three photographs: a meeting in progress, a group photo of the steering group members, and a meeting with participants seated around a table.

Interim Intergovernmental ... x +

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COMMUNITIES

Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation Login

## Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation

The Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation was established by ESCAP Commission Resolution 70/6: Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade.

**The Steering Group is mandated to:**

- (1) make further improvements to the draft text of the regional arrangement on facilitation of cross-border paperless trade as a potential intergovernmental agreement;
- (2) prepare a draft road map for the implementation of substantive provisions in the draft text of the regional arrangement on facilitation of cross-border paperless trade; and
- (3) other functions as agreed by the Steering Group.

**For more information about the meetings of the Steering Group see:**

- [First Meeting of the Steering Group: 1-3 April 2015](#)
- [Second Meeting of the Steering group: April 2016 \(tbc\)](#)

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