

**ECE-ESCAP Joint Conference during the 41st UN/CEFACT Forum:
Progress and Way Forward on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
2 October 2023**



ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



Supporting the implementation of paperless trade facilitation: ESCAP tools

Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP



Readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade



Objective

- Assessments of legal and technical readiness to identify where the country stands and analyze the gaps
- Leading to recommendations and individual action plans

Basis: Article 12. Action plan of the Framework Agreement

- ..."develop a comprehensive action plan, which shall include all concrete actions and measures with clear targets and implementation timelines necessary for creating a consistent, transparent and predictable environment for the implementation of the present Framework Agreement"
- "The implementation schedule for each Party shall be developed as part of the action plan based on a self-assessment of their readiness."

<https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade/paperless-trade>

Legal checklist

I. ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS AND SIGNATURES LAW



A General principles

B Electronic signatures and trust services

C Privacy and data protection

D Data sharing

E Data retention and electronic evidence

II. LAWS REGARDING PAPERLESS TRADE SYSTEMS



A Establishment of a paperless trade system

B Quality of information exchanged with the paperless trade system

C Service-level agreements and memorandums of understanding

III. CROSS-BORDER ASPECTS



A International agreements relevant for cross-border paperless trade facilitation

B International standards, guidelines and recommendations

IV. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS



A Ownership of information in the paperless trade system

B Liability issues related to cross-border paperless trade system

C Dispute settlement and conflict of laws

D Electronic payments and records

E Competition laws

Technical checklist

A - PAPERLESS TRADE SYSTEM AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- A1 Governance bodies
- A2 Level of automation
- A3 ICT Infrastructure for Paperless Trade
- A4 Security
- A5 Business process re-engineering
- A6 Data harmonization and standardization
- A7 Capacity building
- A8 Other Matters

B - NATIONAL STATUS TOWARDS CROSS-BORDER DATA EXCHANGE

- B1 Electronic systems
- B2 Single Window System
- B3 Business process re-engineering
- B4 Data harmonization and standardization
- B5 International transit
- B6 Awareness programme
- B7 Other matters

Currently...

18 national readiness assessment studies completed

Central Asia (8)

Armenia (2019)
Azerbaijan (2022)
Georgia (2022)
Kazakhstan (2022)
Mongolia (2019)
Tajikistan (2023)
Turkmenistan (2022)
Uzbekistan (2019)

South-East Asia (6)

Cambodia (2020)
Lao PDR (2022)
Myanmar (2019)
Philippines (2022)
Timore Leste (2020)
Viet Nam (2022)

South Asia (2)

Bangladesh (2019)
Nepal (2020)

Pacific (2)

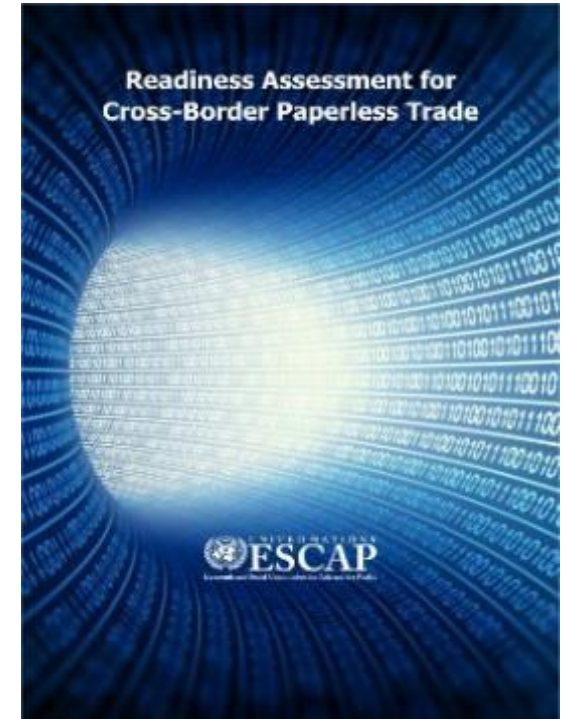
Tonga (2022)
Tuvalu (2023)

1 non Asia-Pacific

Mexico & planned for more

3 Updates

Bangladesh (w ADB), Nepal, Timor-Leste

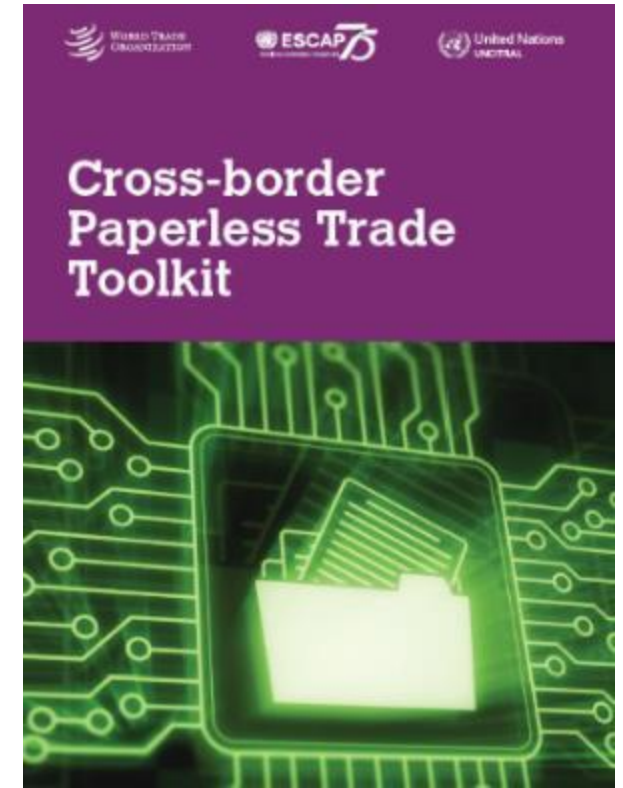


Utilized in...

Online Guide

Interactive guide incl. explanatory notes, good practices and references

<https://readiness.digitalizetrade.org/>



CBPT Toolkit

ESCAP-UNCTRAL-WTO

Based on the Checklists and the Guide, extending outreach to global

https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/paperlesstrade2022_e.htm

Cross-border Paperless Trade Database

ESCAP MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER | ICC Digital Standards Initiative | Cross-Border Paperless Trade Database

Home | Legal Instrument | Implementation Instrument | Projects & Services | Submit a Project | References

CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE DATABASE
Accelerating progress towards trade digitalization through knowledge sharing

More

<https://www.digitalizetrade.org>



The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)

<https://unnex.t.unescap.org/>

UNNExT

- Community of knowledge and practice from Asia and the Pacific
- Established in 2009 by ESCAP and UNECE
- Supporting national, sub-regional and transcontinental Single Window and paperless trade initiatives
- Emphasis is on training, knowledge sharing, and application of international standards

Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

- ❑ Adopted by the Commission as a UN treaty (resolution 72/4) in May 2016
- ❑ The Framework Agreement entered into force on **20 February 2021**.
- ❑ Open to interested (53) ESCAP member states (voluntary) to become parties
- ❑ 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



As of now,
11+1 Parties

THANK YOU



Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Paperless Trade



UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation



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



E-Learning Series on Business Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation



Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment



Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF)



<https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade>

