

# UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

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- 03 A closer look at the implementation of trade facilitation measures
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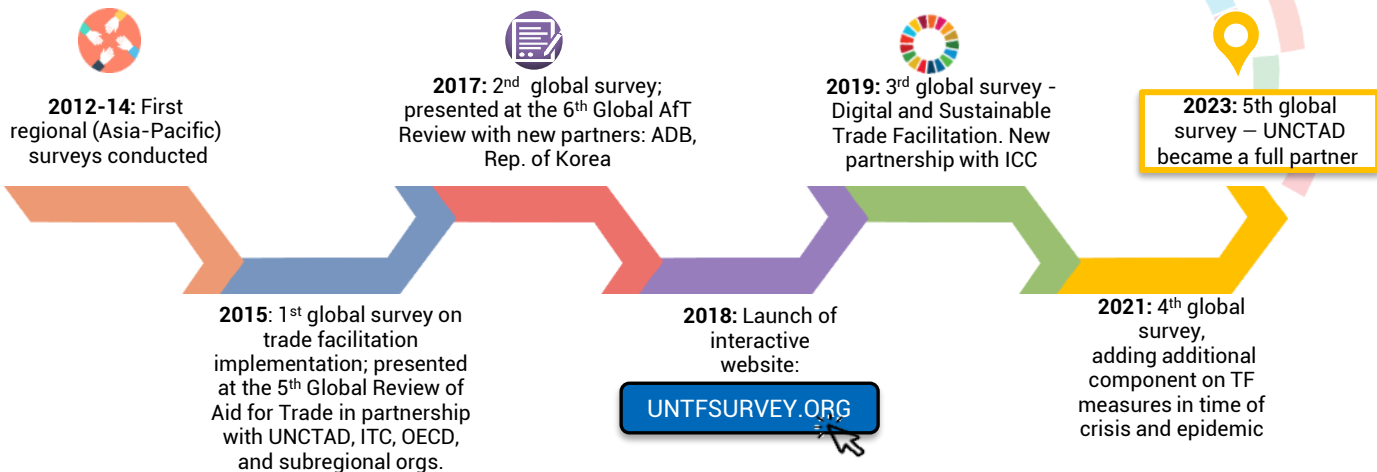


# UN Global Digital and Sustainable TF Survey

*Joint efforts by United Nations Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA) and UNCTAD*

## Objectives:

- » Monitor progress on trade facilitation (TF), including paperless trade and forward-looking measures toward SDGs
- » Enable evidence-based policy-making, capacity building and tech assistance



# Survey Scope: WTO TFA+



60 trade facilitation (TF) measures in 163 countries

1  
**General:** WTO TFA-related measures

+

2  
**Digital TF:** paperless trade & cross-border paperless trade

+

3  
**Sustainable TF:** for SMEs, Agriculture, and Women

+

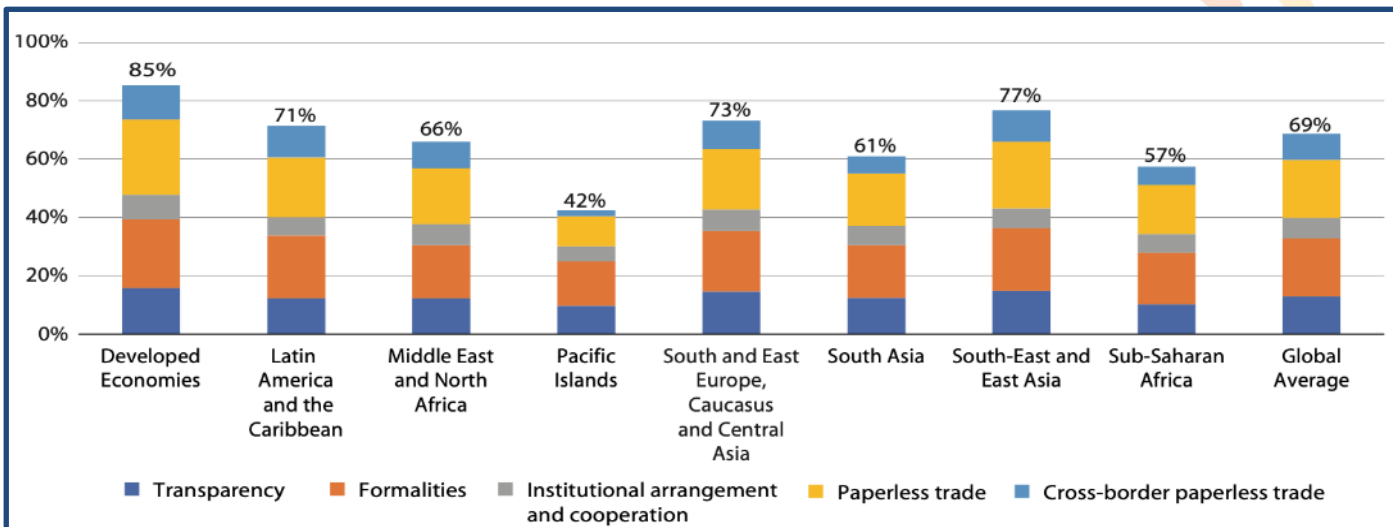
4  
**Other TF:** trade finance, TF in times of crisis



# Implementation varies widely across countries and subregions

- » 2023 global average implementation rate at 69%
- » South-East and East Asia region leading developing regions

Average implementation rates of trade facilitation measures around the world



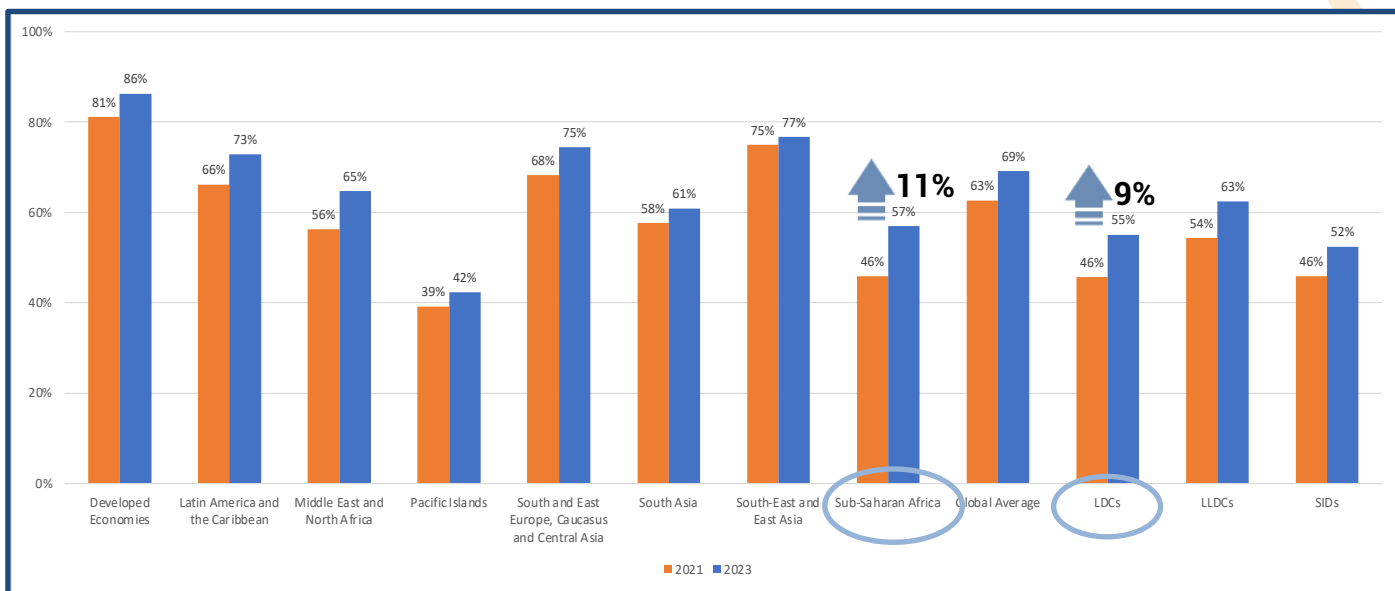
Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Implementation improved in all subregions

- » Global average implementation: increased by 6 percentage points
- » Sub-Saharan Africa and LDCs catching up

Trade facilitation implementation rates by region between 2021 and 2023



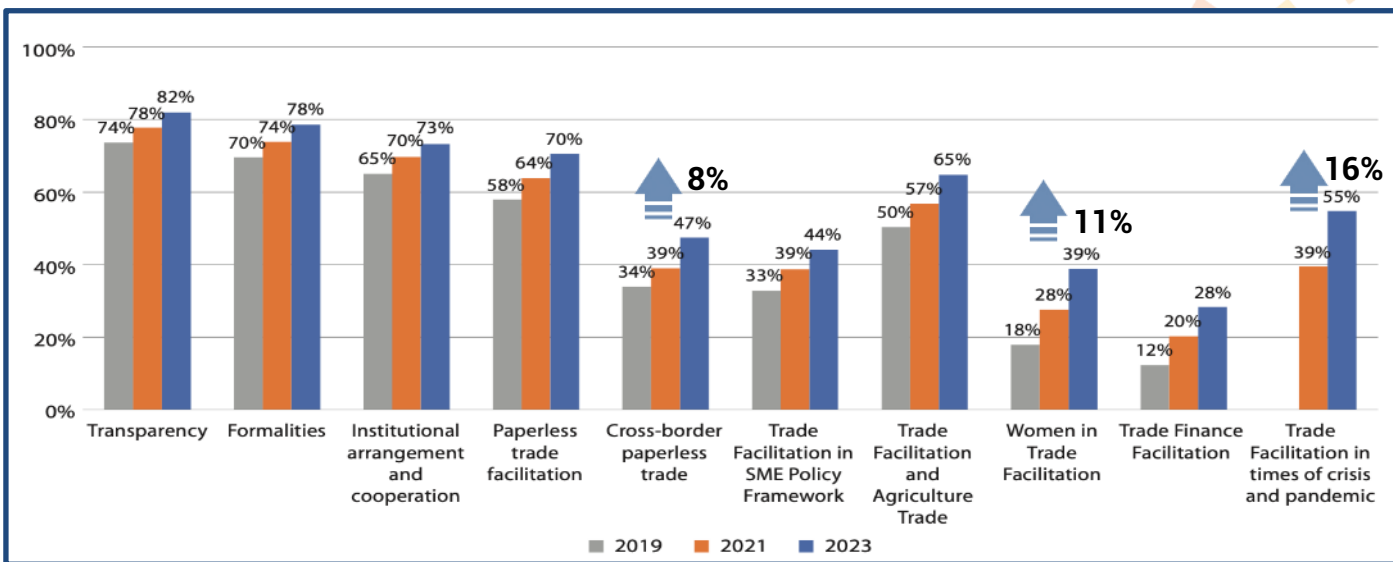
Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Implementation varies across different sub-groups

- » WTO TFA related measures well implemented (>70%)
- » Cross-border paperless trade and sustainable TF measures implementation relatively low, despite good progress made

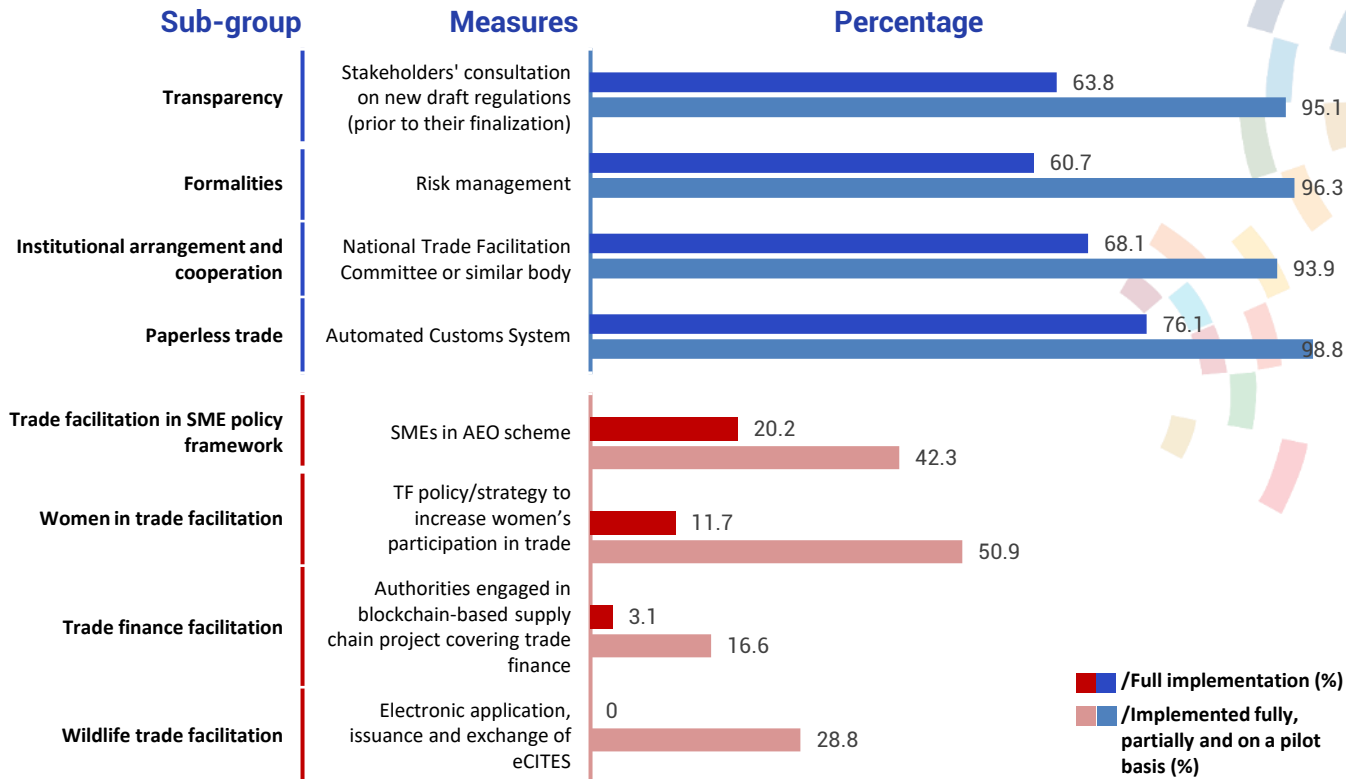
## Progress of global implementation of trade facilitation measures, 2019-2023



Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Top 4 most and least implemented measures



Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023





# Significant room to cut trade costs through trade digitalization

» Digital trade facilitation can reduce trade costs by 14% globally

Simulation results for trade cost reduction as a result of the WTO TFA Implementation

Global: trade costs model	WTO TFA (binding only)		WTO TFA (binding + non-binding)		WTO TFA+ (binding + non-binding + other paperless and cross-border paperless trade)	
	Partially implemented	Fully implemented	Partially implemented	Fully implemented	Partially implemented	Fully implemented
<b>Model 1</b>						
Overall trade facilitation	-1.43%	-3.71%	-2.88%	-6.72%	-7.54%	-13.66%
<b>Model 2</b>						
General trade facilitation measures	-1.18%	-2.93%	-1.92%	-4.53%	-2.32%	-5.11%
Digital trade facilitation measures	-	-	-0.77%	-1.45%	-4.94%	-7.88%



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)  
Data from [www.untfsurvey.org](http://www.untfsurvey.org) and ESCAP/World Bank Trade Cost database.

[UNTFSURVEY.ORG](http://UNTFSURVEY.ORG)

# Conclusion and way forward

## Digital TF

Good progress made in 2021-23; still a long way from full trade digitalization – and reaping the significant trade cost reduction potential

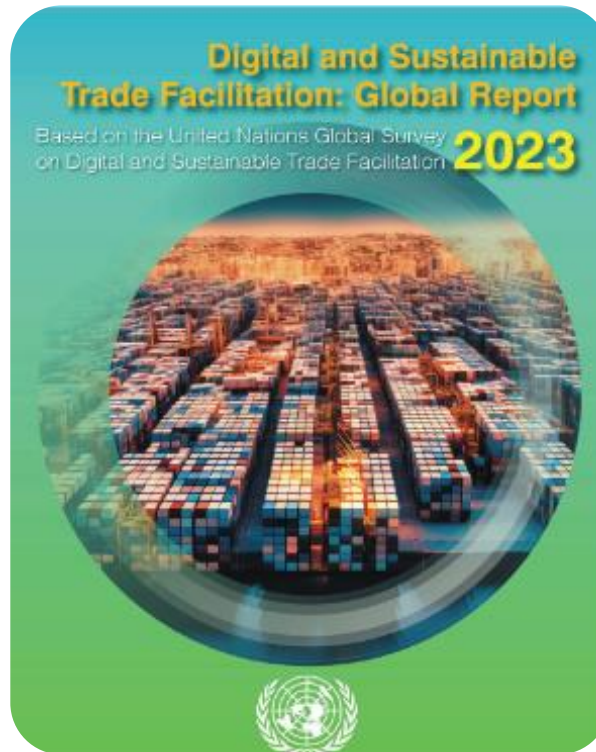
## Sustainable TF

Implementation still very low; More efforts on TF for SMEs and women needed; Next frontier: **Green trade facilitation**



**Partnership is the key!**





Download the report:

<https://www.untfsurvey.org/report>

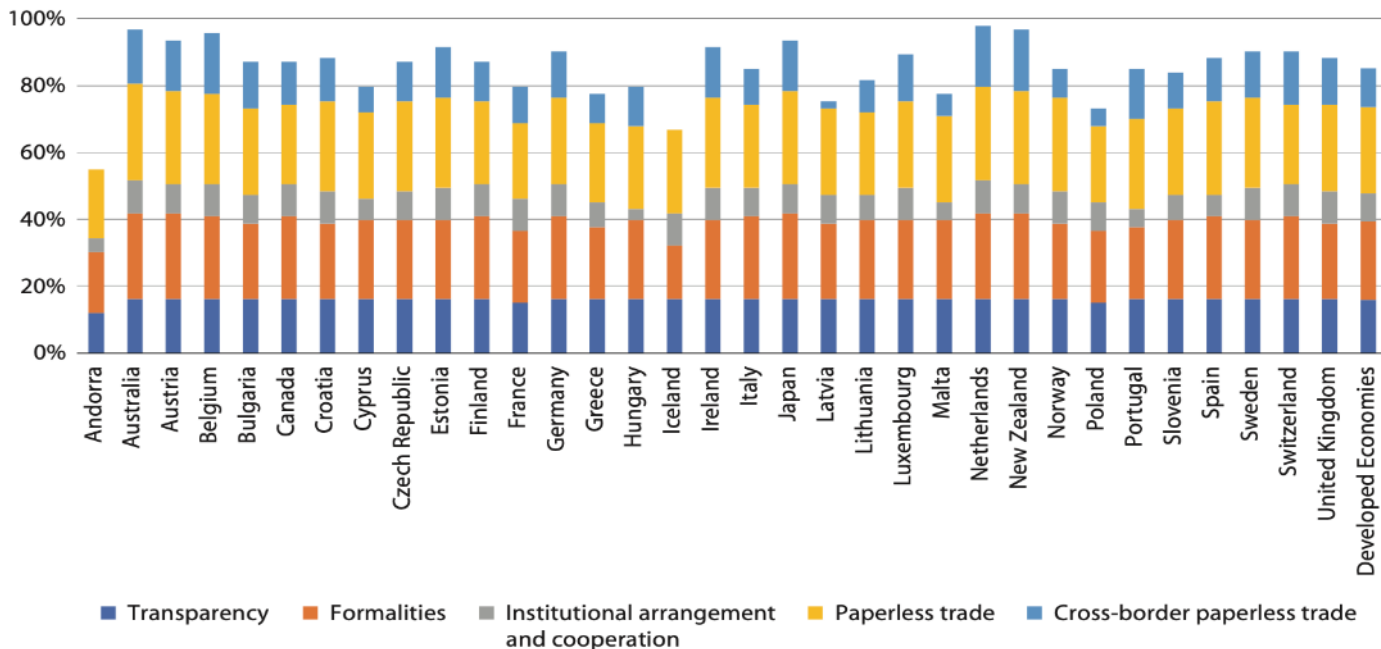


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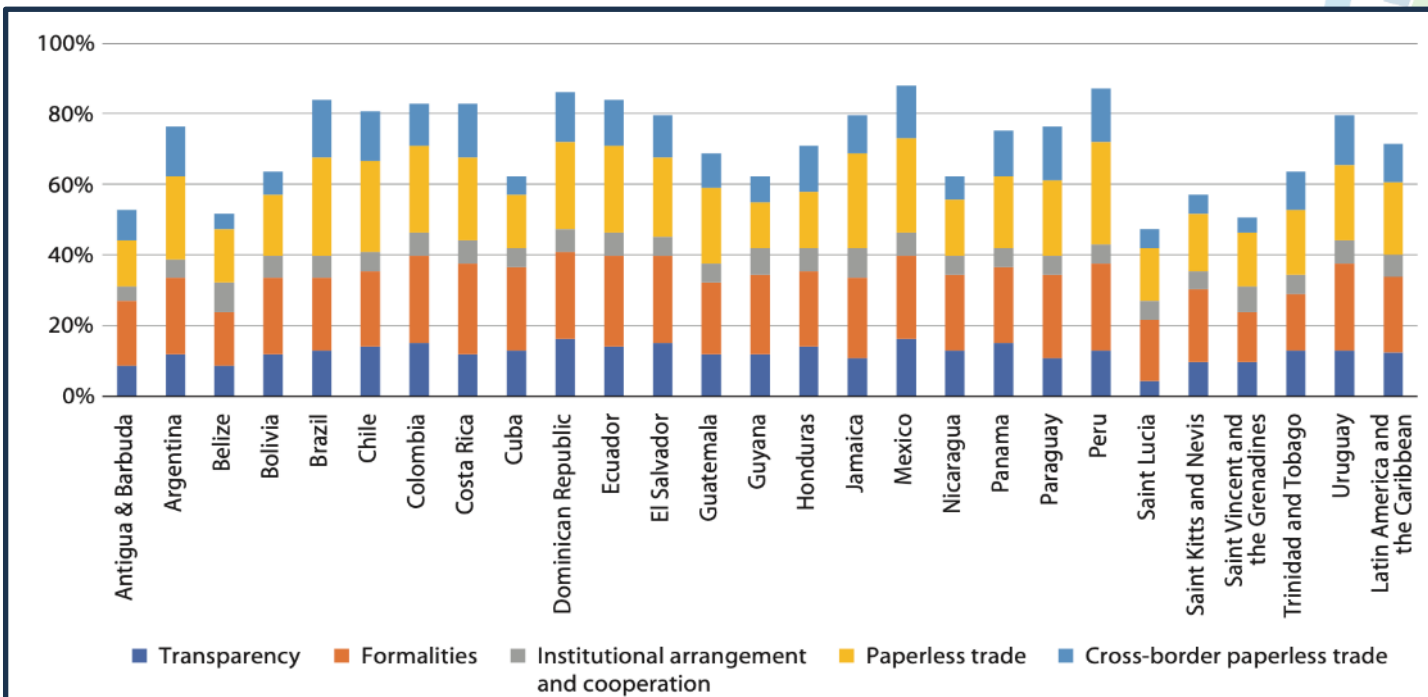
# ANNEXES



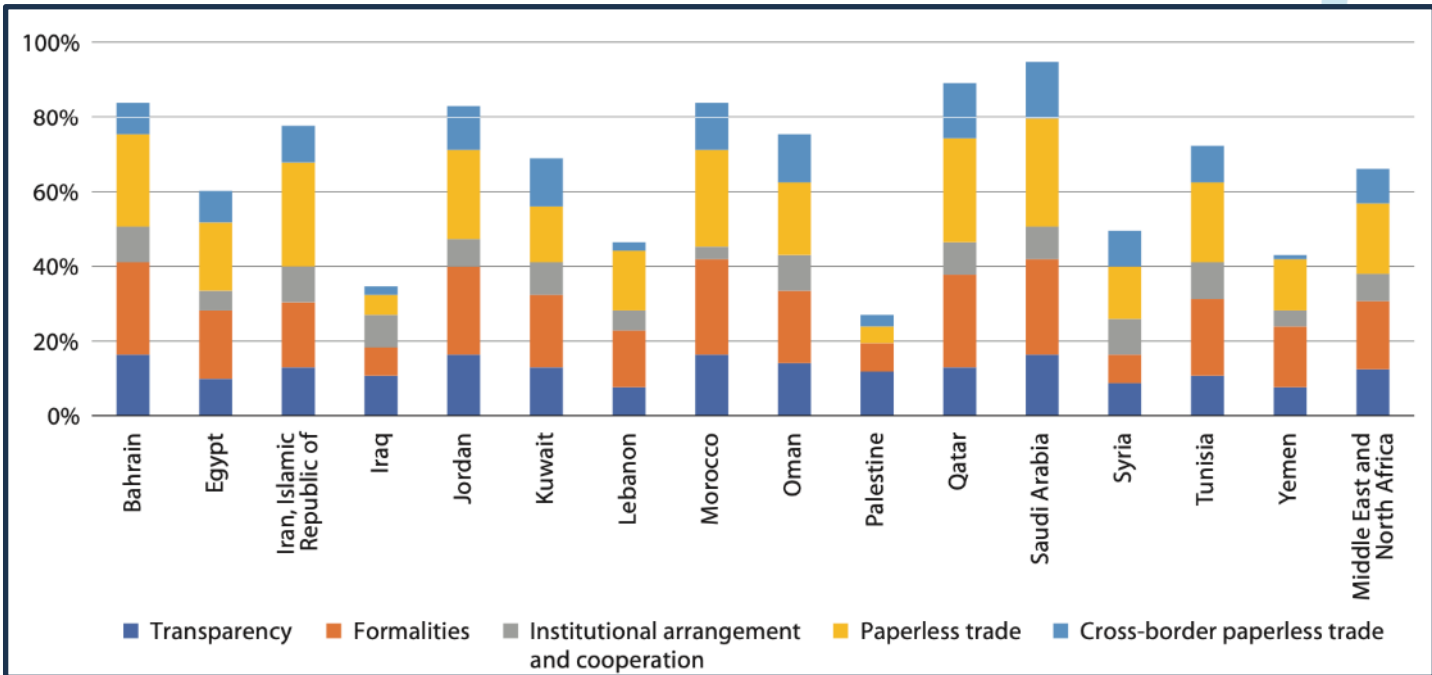
# Annex: Country Implementation benchmarked with Regional Average (Developed Economies)



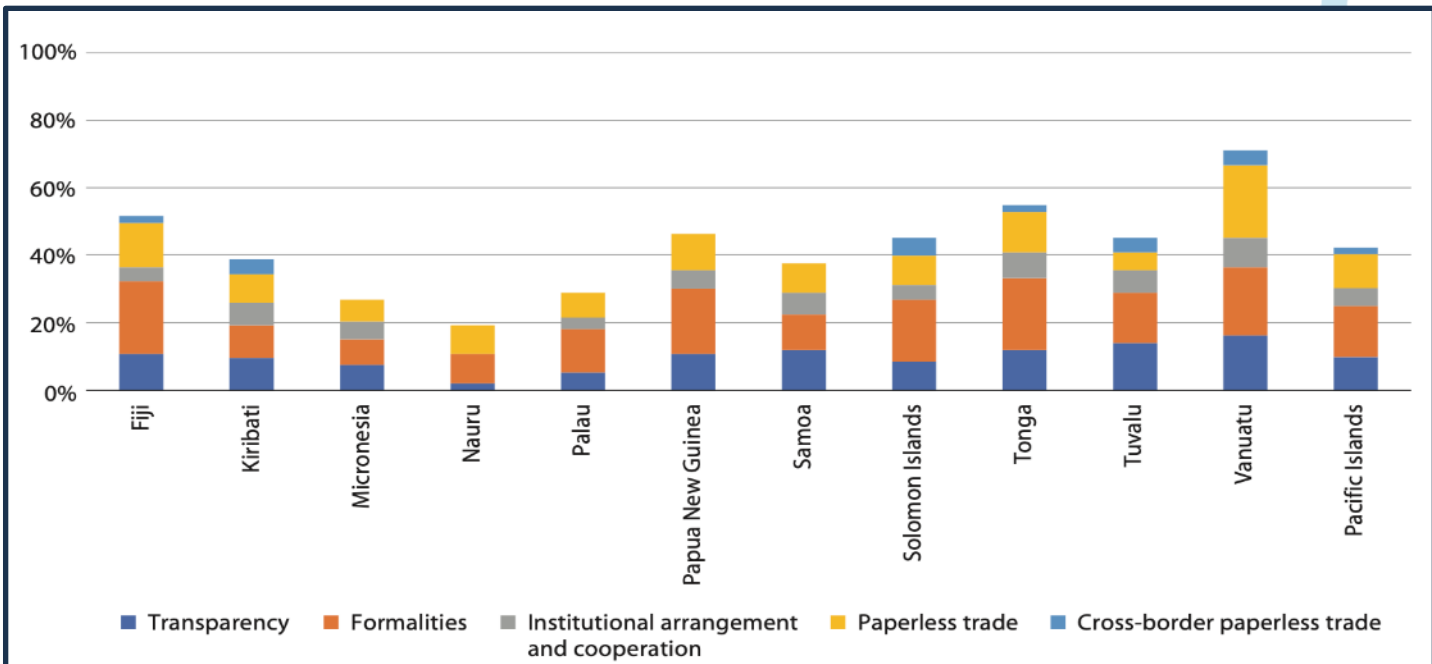
# (Latin America and Caribbean)



# (Middle East and North Africa)

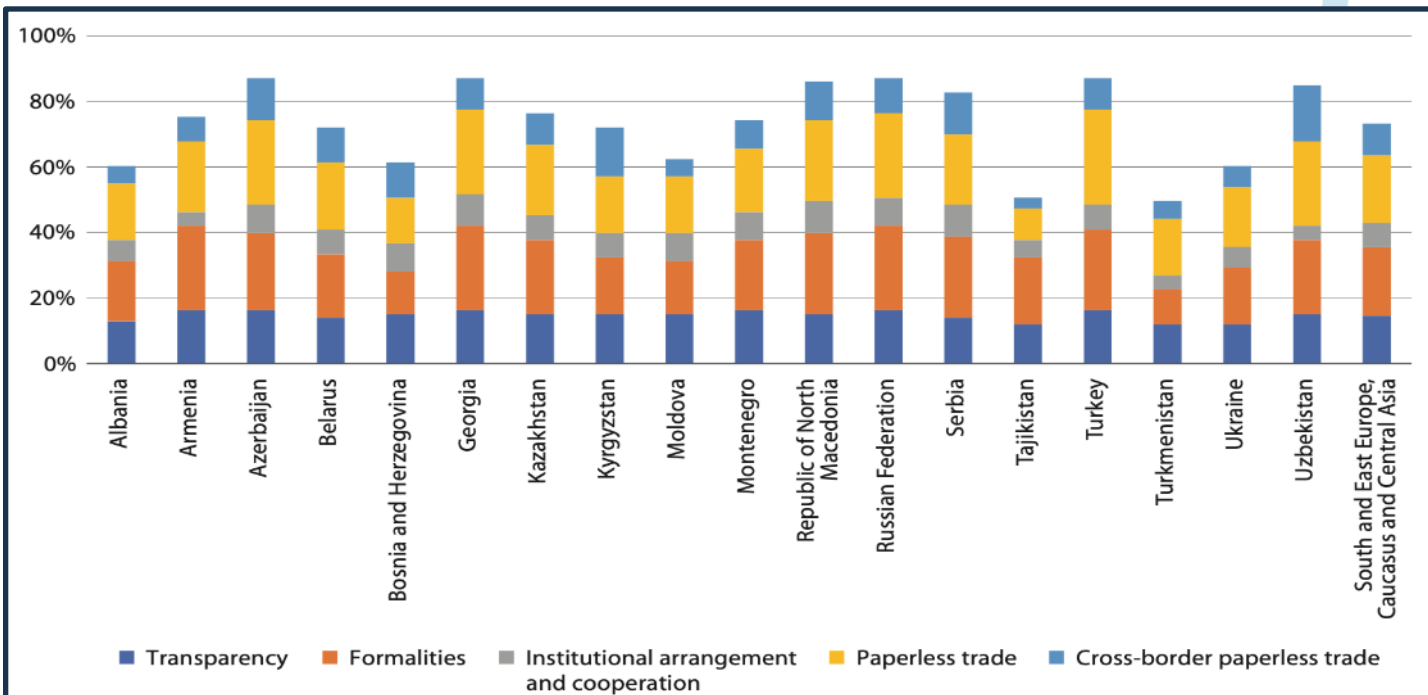


# (Pacific Islands)

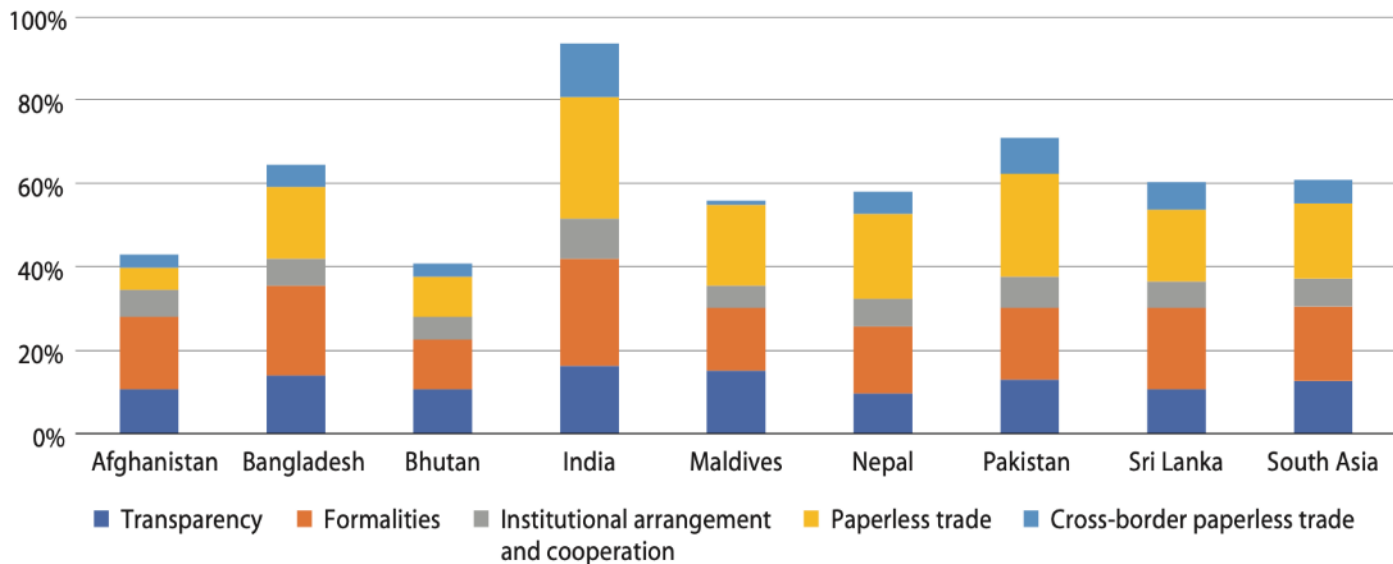




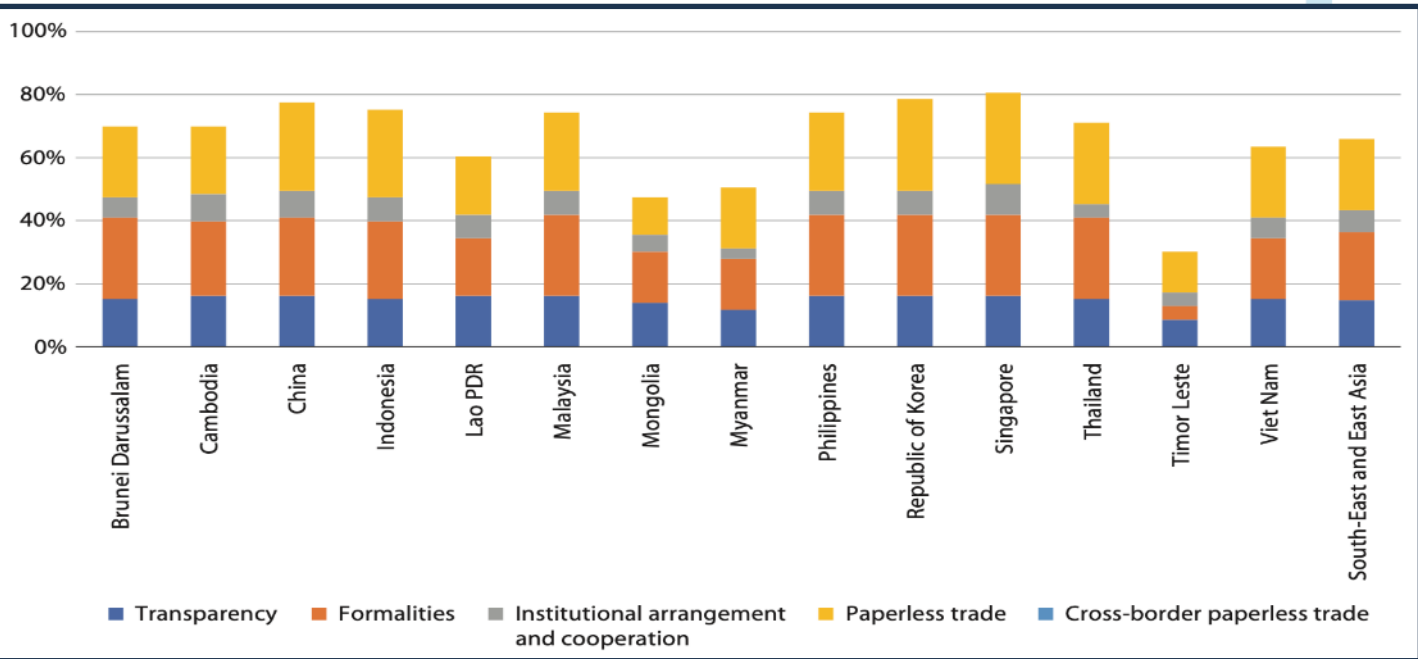
# (South and Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)



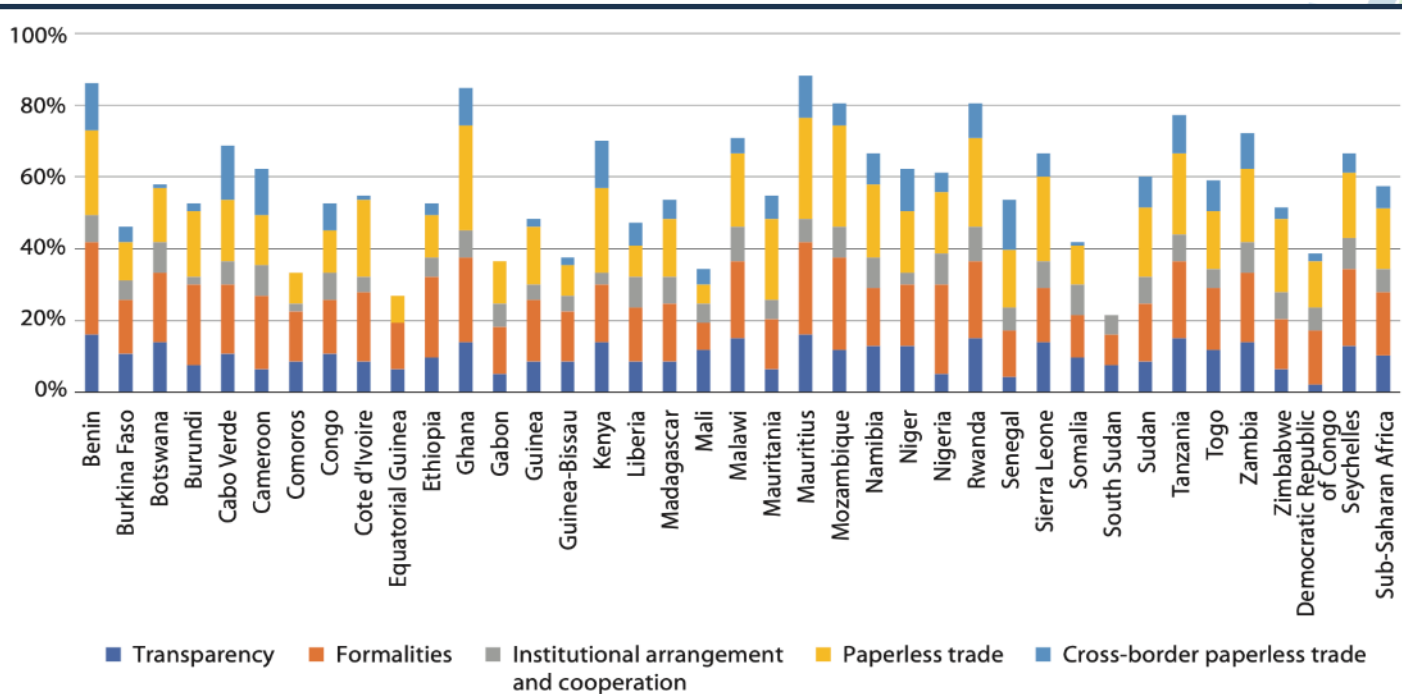
## (South Asia)



# (South-East and East Asia)



# (Sub-Saharan Africa)



# Top 11 countries with the most trade implementation rate increase

Ranking	Country name	TFI 2021	TFI 2023	Improvement	Regions
1	Cabo Verde	25%	69%	44%	Sub-Saharan Africa
2	Niger	28%	62%	34%	Sub-Saharan Africa
3	Luxembourg	56%	89%	33%	Developed Economies
4	Sierra Leone	33%	67%	33%	Sub-Saharan Africa
5	Tanzania	46%	77%	31%	Sub-Saharan Africa
6	Madagascar	25%	54%	29%	Sub-Saharan Africa
7	Guyana	40%	62%	23%	Latin America and the Caribbean
8	Uzbekistan	62%	85%	23%	South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
9	Trinidad and Tobago	42%	63%	22%	Latin America and the Caribbean
10	Nigeria	41%	61%	20%	Sub-Saharan Africa
11	Egypt	41%	60%	19%	Middle East and North Africa



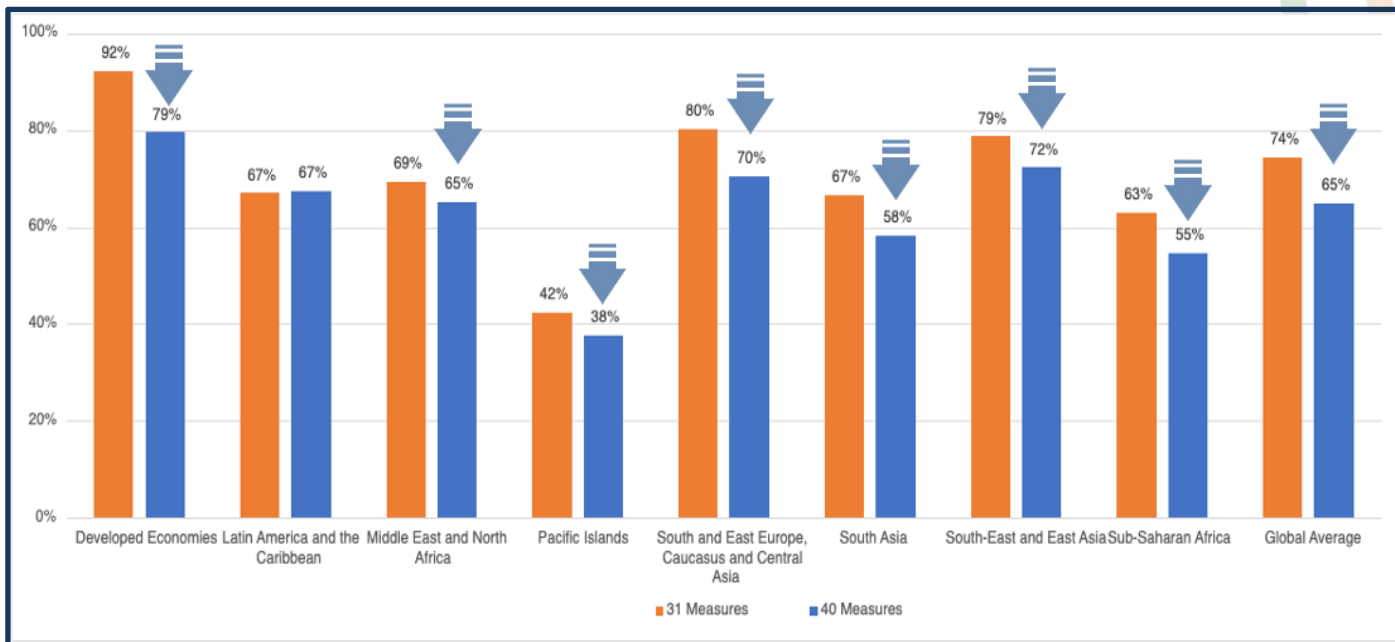
# Measures with highest and lowest implementation rate within each sub-group

Category	Most implemented (% of countries)		Least implemented (% of countries)	
	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)
Transparency	Stakeholders' consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)	95.1 / 63.8	Advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported goods	88.3 / 57.7
Formalities	Risk management	96.3 / 60.7	Establishment and publication of average release times	84.0 / 32.5
Institutional arrangement and cooperation	National Trade Facilitation Committee or similar body	93.9 / 68.1	Government agencies delegating border controls to Customs authorities	66.3 / 31.3
Paperless trade	Automated Customs System	98.8 / 76.1	Electronic Application for Customs Refunds	56.4 / 25.2
Cross-border paperless trade	Laws and regulations for electronic transactions	82.8 / 37.4	Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin	54.6 / 5.5
Transit facilitation	Limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk assessment	77.9 / 60.7	Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation	70.6 / 32.5
Trade facilitation in SME policy framework	Trade-related information measures for SMEs	84.7 / 44.2	SMEs in AEO scheme	42.3 / 20.2
Trade facilitation and agriculture trade	Special treatment for perishable goods	88.3 / 47.9	Electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates	67.5 / 27.0
Women in trade facilitation	Women membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee or similar bodies	65.6 / 12.9	TF policy/strategy to increase women's participation in trade	50.9 / 11.7
Trade finance facilitation	Variety of trade finance services available	74.2 / 28.2	Authorities engaged in blockchain-based supply chain project covering trade finance	16.6 / 3.1
Trade Facilitation in times of crisis and pandemic	Coordination between countries on emergency TF measures	76.7 / 28.8	Plan in place to facilitate trade during future crises	62.0 / 23.3
Trade facilitation for e-commerce	TF measures for cross-border e-commerce	57.1 / 6.7		
Wildlife trade facilitation	Electronic application, issuance and exchange of eCITES	28.8 / 0.0		



# Sustainable TF measures not well implemented

Comparison of implementation rates using 31 measures and 40 measures

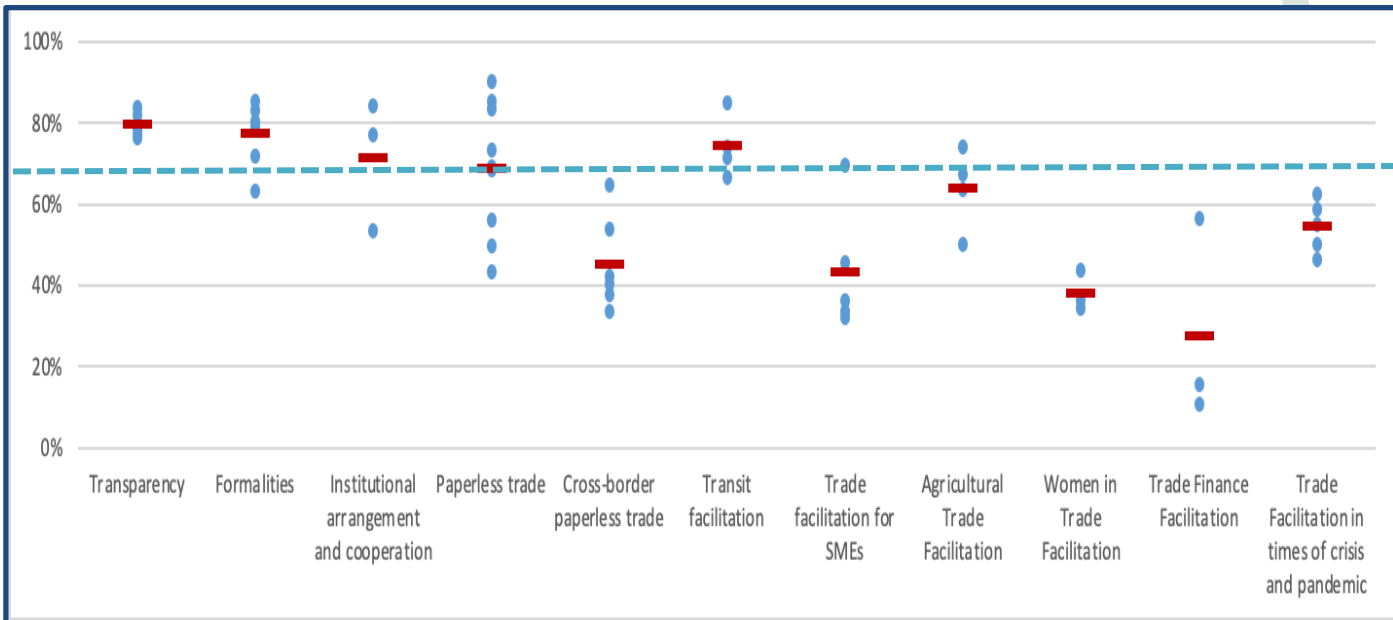


Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Implementation varies across different TF sub-groups of measures

Implementation rates of different groups of trade facilitation measures



Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

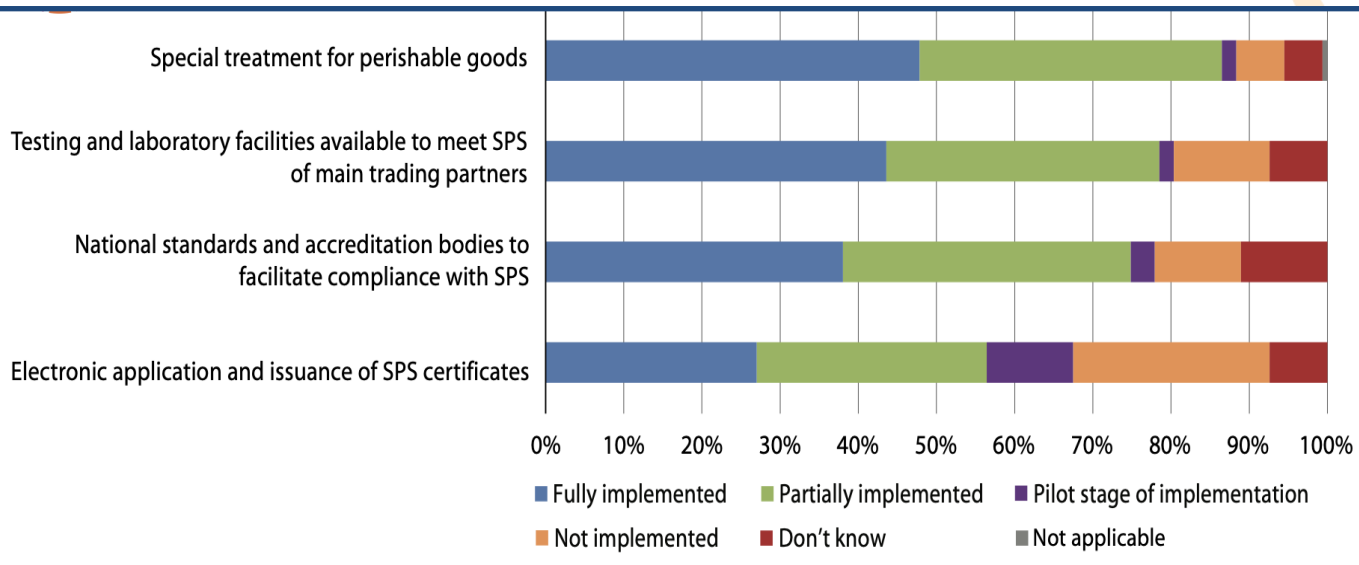




# Agricultural trade facilitation

- » Many of the countries surveyed have, to some extent, implemented the measures under 'agriculture trade facilitation'

State of implementation of agricultural trade facilitation measures globally



\*Note: In this context, 'percentage' refers to the proportion of countries that have either partially or fully implemented these measures, or are currently in the pilot testing phase for their implementation.

Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Good practices on agricultural trade facilitation



The Republic of Korea and the United States of America

Initiated the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos), using the IPPC ePhytos system.

Peru

E-PYMEX, part of e-SW, has a specialized module to assist exporting MSMEs in the agricultural sector.

Uganda

STAR programme focuses on bolstering the resilience of smallholder farmers against natural disasters.

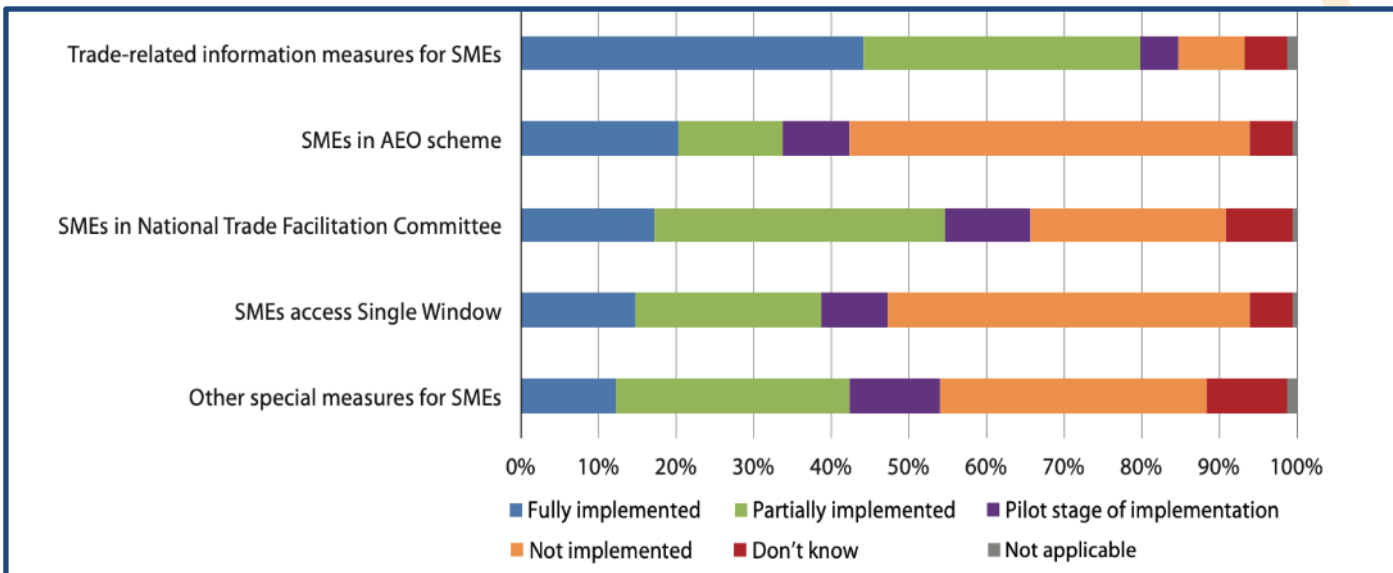
Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Trade facilitation for SMEs

» Limited implementation overall; Trade information portals more ubiquitous

## State of implementation of trade facilitation for SMEs measures globally



\*Note: In this context, 'percentage' refers to the proportion of countries that have either partially or fully implemented these measures, or are currently in the pilot testing phase for their implementation.

Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

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# Good practices on trade facilitation for SMEs



## Iraq

**Strengthen SMEs' position in the market**

Empower SMEs in the agriculture and agri-food value chain

## Lao PDR

**Focus on SMEs in wood processing and coffee**  
sustainable growth, job creation, and reduced vulnerability

## Sri Lanka

**Enhance the competitiveness of SMEs**  
automating the issuance of CoO, introducing online payment solutions

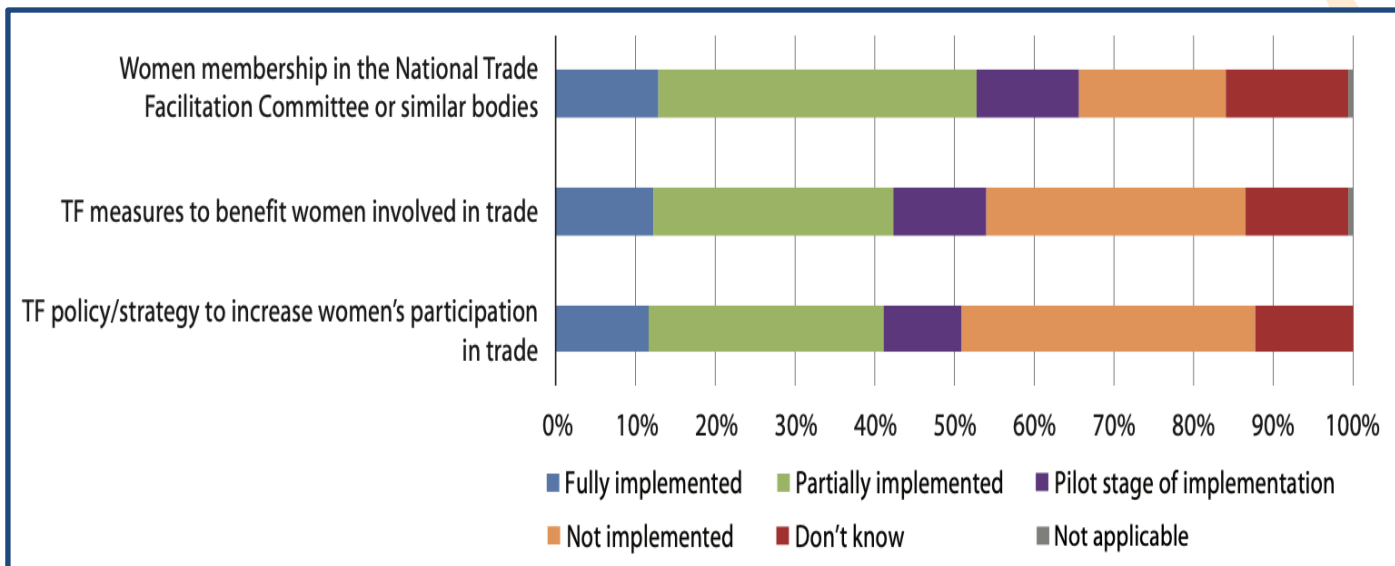


Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

# Women in Trade Facilitation

» Measures that specifically support women in trade facilitation are relatively under-implemented

## State of implementation of women in trade facilitation globally



\*Note: In this context, 'percentage' refers to the proportion of countries that have either partially or fully implemented these measures, or are currently in the pilot testing phase for their implementation.

Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Good practices in women in trade facilitation



## Ghana

**The Ghana Trade and Gender Subcommittee:**  
Established by Ghana NTFC  
Dedicated to integrating gender perspectives into trade policies

## New Zealand-United Kingdom

**NZ-UK FTA includes:**  
gender equality in the workplace  
promoting women's full and equal participation in trade activities

## South America

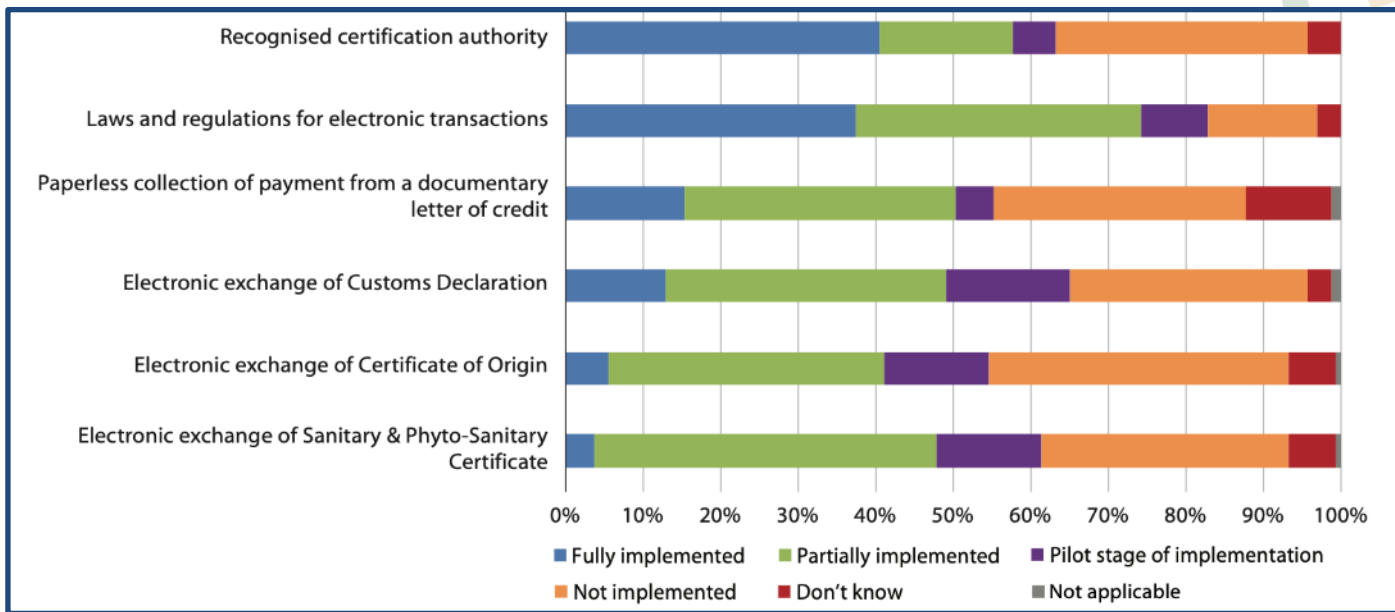
**The SheTrades South America Project:**  
advocacy efforts to promote policies and measures for a supportive environment for women entrepreneurs

Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures remains low

## State of implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures globally



\*Note: In this context, 'percentage' refers to the proportion of countries that have either partially or fully implemented these measures, or are currently in the pilot testing phase for their implementation.

Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023



# Good practices in cross-border paperless trade



## Central Asia

National e-Commerce strategies and legislation, Virtual Border Line Management, Accession to the UN treaty on cross-border paperless trade facilitation

## FIATA

Transport Management System (TMS) and electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) solutions to reduce fraud risks by recording each document on an immutable ledger

## Oman

Bayan system: online Single Window/one-stop service streamlining administrative and logistical procedures

## SADC

e-CoO implementation with advanced security features

## Viet Nam

National plan including the integration of the National Single Window and ASEAN Single Window



Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

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# Content

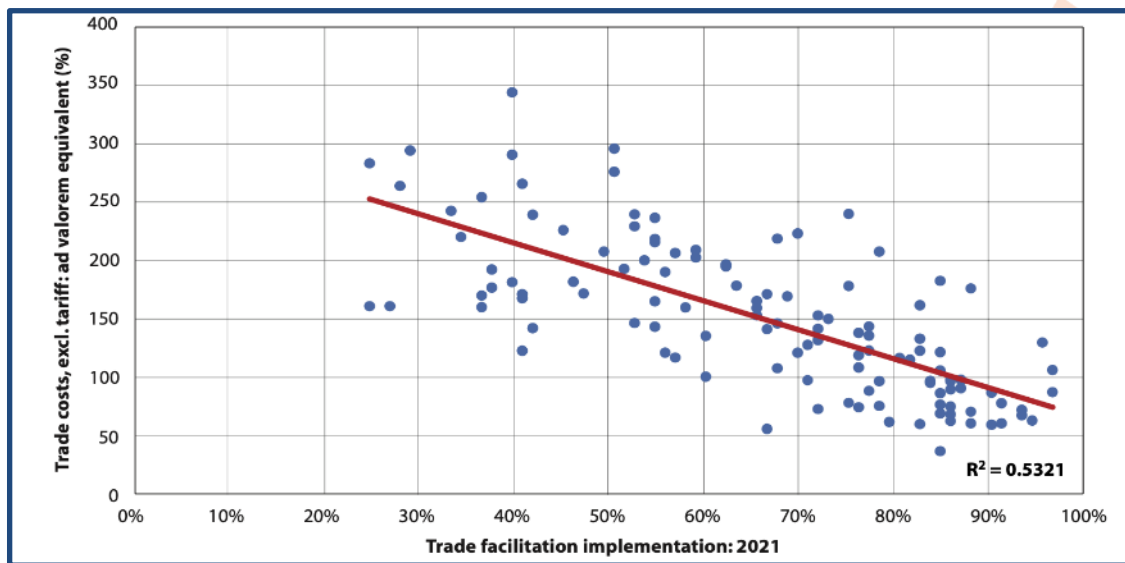
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# Trade facilitation implementation and trade costs

- » Strong correlations exist between the implementation of trade facilitation and levels of trade costs

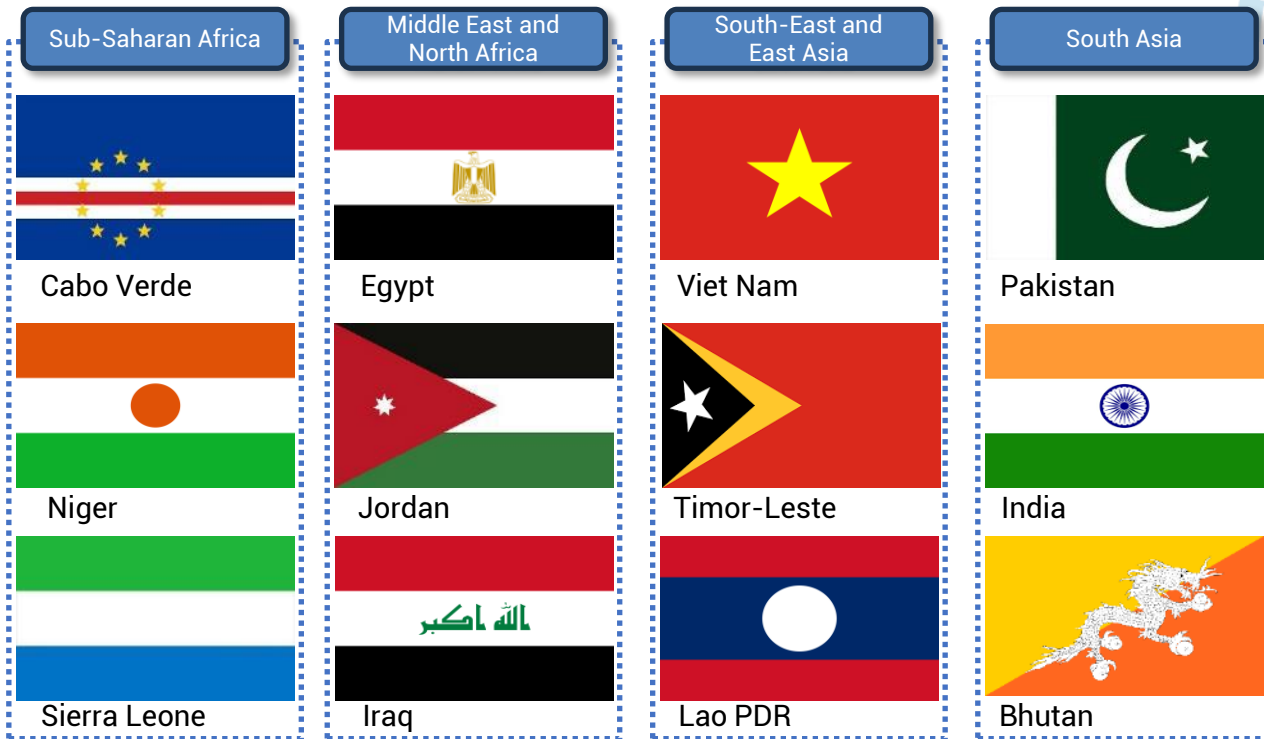
Trade facilitation implementation and trade costs



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)  
Data from [www.untfsurvey.org](http://www.untfsurvey.org) and ESCAP/World Bank Trade Cost database.

# Countries with the most progress

» SSA & MENA countries made significant progress



\*Note: All the units of this slide are in percentage points.

Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

# Countries with the most progress (continued)

## Developed Economies



Luxembourg



Sweden



Portugal

## South and East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia



Uzbekistan



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Armenia

## Latin America and the Caribbean



Guyana



Trinidad and Tobago

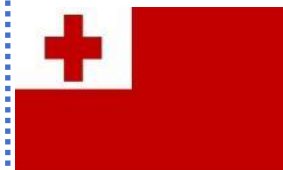


El Salvador

## Pacific Islands



Kiribati



Tonga



Fiji



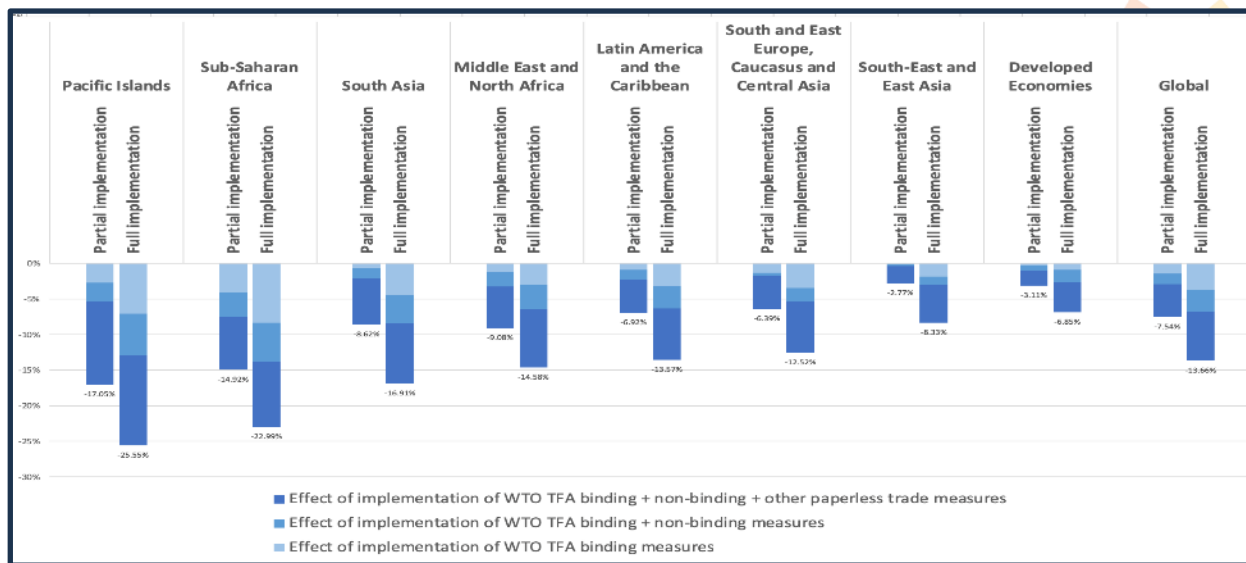
*\*Note: All the units of this slide are in percentage points.*

Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

# Impact of trade facilitation implementation on trade costs by region

» (cross-border) paperless trade leads to significant cost reductions in all regions/country groups

## Impact of trade facilitation implementation on trade costs globally

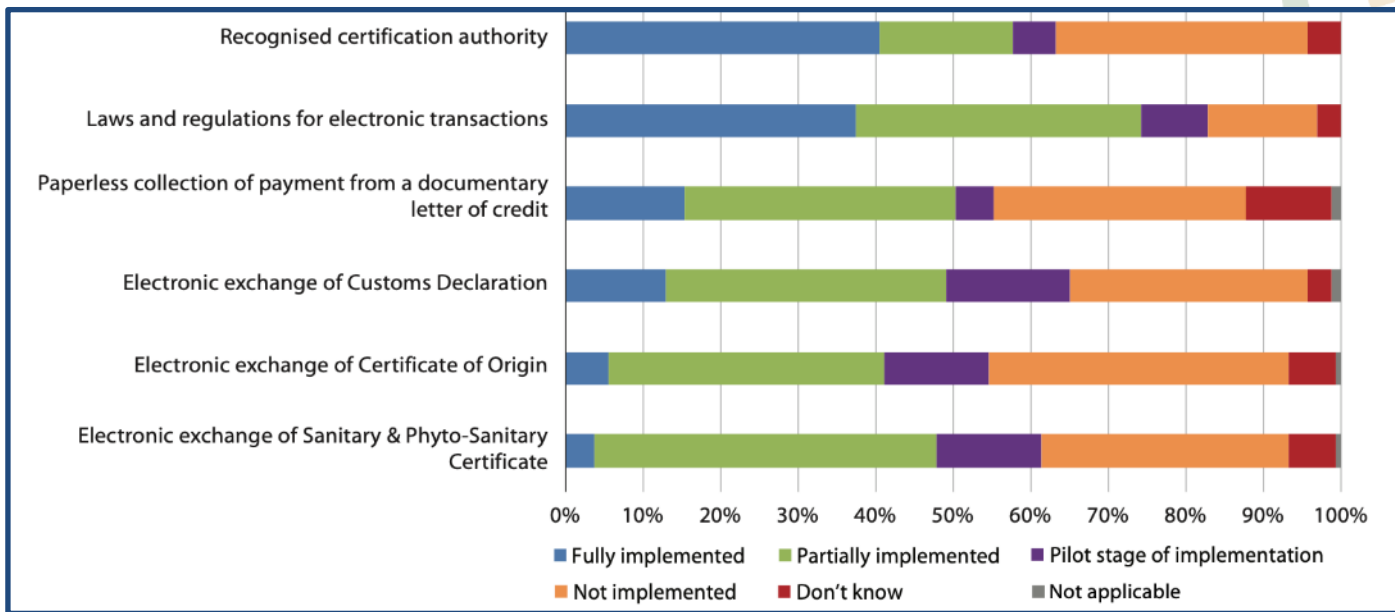


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# Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures remains low

## State of implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures globally



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Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

