

Launch of the Cross-Border Paperless Trade Toolkit
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Readiness Assessment for Cross-border Paperless Trade: Checklists and Guides

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Readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade (CBPT)?

- Purpose:
 - Identify where your country stands
 - Analyze the legal and technical gaps
- Generate recommendations, and individual action plans for countries to move forward toward cross-border paperless trade
 - Action plans may be incorporated into other relevant national development plans

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



UN treaty on cross-border paperless trade facilitation

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

- To facilitate cross-border electronic data exchange and legal recognition among willing ESCAP member States, including through single window
 - by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions
 - Parties to conduct self-assessment and develop own action plan
- **Legal + Technical Readiness Checklists developed**
- by ESCAP Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation and UNNExT

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/cpta>

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

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



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READINESS ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR **CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE**

Facilitating self-assessments of legal and technical readiness on cross-border paperless trade



DOWNLOAD
THE CHECKLISTS



PLAN
THE ASSESSMENT



FOLLOW
THE GUIDES



TAKE
QUICK ASSESSMENT

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

Legal and technical guides

Navigating

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Technical Guide

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On this page:

B2.1 Support of cross-border data exchange

B2.2 Function as the national single window

B2 SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

Open All

B2.1 If a single window system mentioned in A2.2 has been implemented, does it support cross-border data exchange?

Background

A single window system is meant to connect systems of the stakeholders in the country via a single point of connectivity providing more efficient integration/interfacing. Likewise, a national single window is also meant to support cross-border data exchange. It acts as the national single point of connectivity which will ease integration/interfacing for cross-border data exchange with dialogue partners.

Good Practices

The single window system normally acts as the national single point of connectivity with all public and private stakeholders within the countries and also with dialogue partners. With the single point of connectivity, it eases integration and interfacing for cross-border data exchange. The country needs to engage with dialogue partners to discuss and agree on potential mutual benefits and challenges of cross-border electronic data exchange along value chains, namely information exchange between single windows. The challenges also focus on interoperability and suitable models between single windows to exchange and use information, in secure manner agreeing to a mutual recognition protocol, across borders without additional effort on the part of the users.

References and Case Studies

- Cross-border single window interoperability: a managerial guide (particularly on Chapter 4: D. Connectivity), <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/CROSS->

Explanatory notes, good practices and references for each question

Quick assessments

QUICK TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT: A6 DATA HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION

A6.1 Has the data harmonization and standardization been conducted on the data elements for paperless trade:

A6.1.1 At the agency level? *

- Yes
 Partially Yes
 No
 To be confirmed

A6.1.2 At the national level? *

- Yes
 No
 To be confirmed

A6.1.3 (If A6.1.1 and/or A6.1.2 is yes) has a data model been adopted and is it based on international standards/guidelines such as UN rules for data exchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport; UN Codes for Trade and Transport Locations; Core Component Technical Specification; core component library; and/or the World Customs Organization Data Model?

- *
 Yes
 Partially Yes
 No
 To be confirmed

Submit

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Take quick assessment for
recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS: A6 DATA HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION

A6.1 Has the data harmonization and standardization been conducted on the data elements for paperless trade:

Recommendations

- Conduct data harmonization and standardization on the data elements at the agency level, especially for each agency responsible for cross-border regulatory trade transactions that has not conducted data harmonization and standardization yet.
- Consider conducting data harmonization and standardization on the data elements for paperless trade at the national level. All key stakeholders or their representatives of cross-border trade supply chain shall participate in the analysis, harmonization and standardization of all data elements required for cross-border trade supply chain transactions. The national harmonized data set should be the outcome of this exercise. This national harmonized data set is the basis for streamlining and implementing the paperless trade and single window systems of the country.
- Consider revising the national data set of the country by incorporating all key international standards/guidelines such as UN rules for data exchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport; UN Codes for Trade and Transport Locations; Core Component Technical Specification; Core Component Library; and WCO Data Model.

National CBPT readiness assessments

- 14 completed

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam

- 5 on-going and planned

Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Mexico



Partnerships & way forward

- Readiness Assessment Guide: ESCAP-EIF-UNCITRAL
- **CBPT Toolkit: ESCAP-UNCITRAL-WTO**
- ASEAN
 - Framework Agreement identified in the Work plan on the implementation of ASEAN Agreement on E-Commerce
 - Encouraging all ASEAN countries to conduct the readiness assessment studies
- **UN ECLAC: Spanish version; Mexico assessment**

THANK YOU



UN Treaty on Cross-border Paperless Trade

■ Framework Agreement

- *Article 12. Action plan*
- *1. The Standing Committee, under the supervision of the Paperless Trade Council, shall 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, including the implementation schedules of the respective Parties. The Parties shall implement the action plan in accordance with the schedule, and the implementation status of each Party shall be reported to the Standing Committee.*
- *2. The implementation schedule for each Party shall be developed as part of the action plan based on a self-assessment of their readiness.*

■ Draft road map for the implementation of the substantive provisions in the Framework Agreement

Action: *Develop a comprehensive action plan*

Task:

Prepare a legal/technical gap checklist

Conduct a legal/technical readiness assessment using the legal/technical gap checklist