

Multi-year Expert Meeting  
on Transport, Trade Logistics and  
Trade Facilitation  
10th Session

**Coordination and digitalization as a  
means to accelerated and climate-smart  
trade facilitation**

17–19 July 2023

**Trade facilitation implementation  
in vulnerable economies: SIDS  
implementation and support**

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Pacific Islands Forum

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# Trade facilitation implementation in vulnerable economies

SIDS implementation and support

Andrea Giacomelli, Pacific Islands Forum



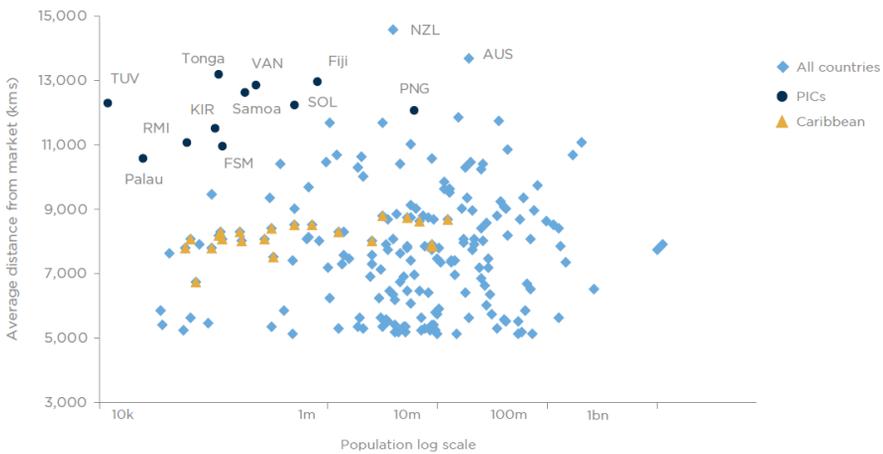
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## Why Trade Facilitation

... already it takes lots of time and money to import and export

... don't want to add further time and costs at the border



Source World Bank staff calculations using World Development Indicators and CEPII, GeoDist.  
 Note (i) x axis in log scale; (ii) average distance from market is the average of distance to other economies weighted by their GDP.



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# The Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy 2020-2025

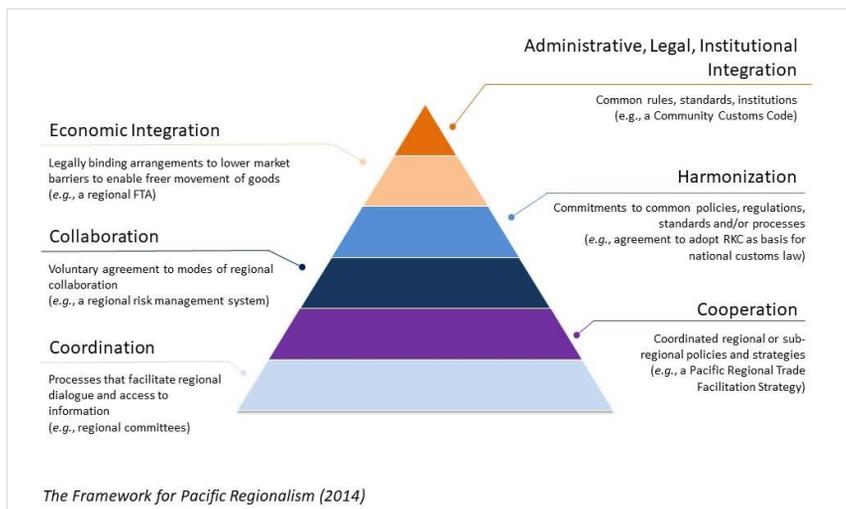
	Assessment	Strategy	Implementation	Governance M&E
Connectivity – Labour mobility	✓	✓		
Services				
E-commerce	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deepening Markets:				
• Trade Policies and Agreements	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Trade Facilitation	✓	✓		
• Quality Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓



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# Regionalism and its forms



Action a country undertakes as part of a group instead of on its own to:

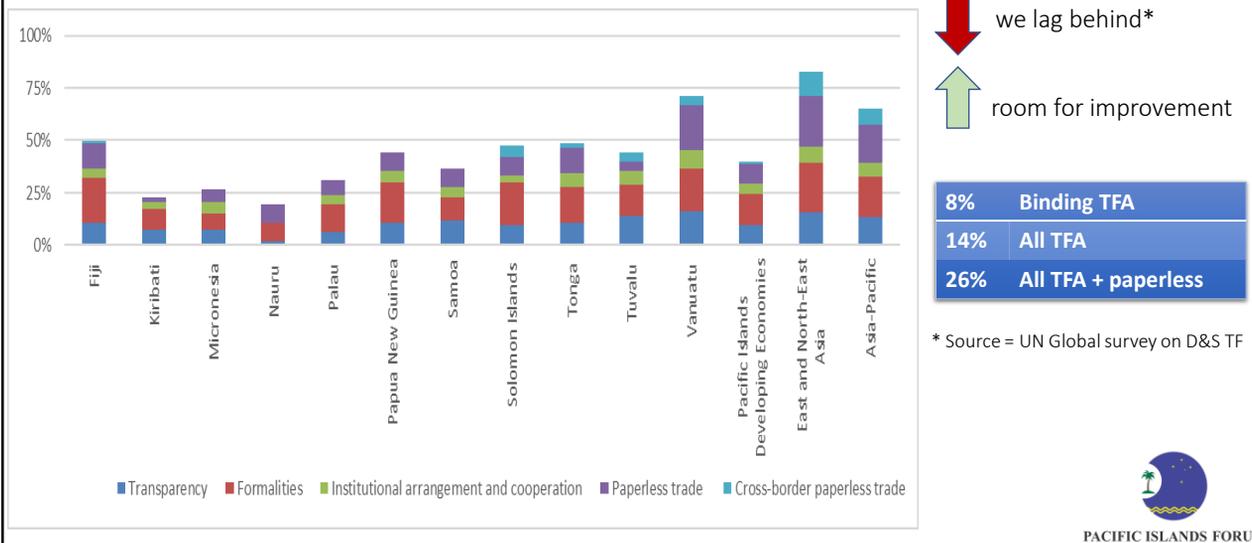
- save time
- save money
- overcome capacity constraints
- improve business environment



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## State of play on TF



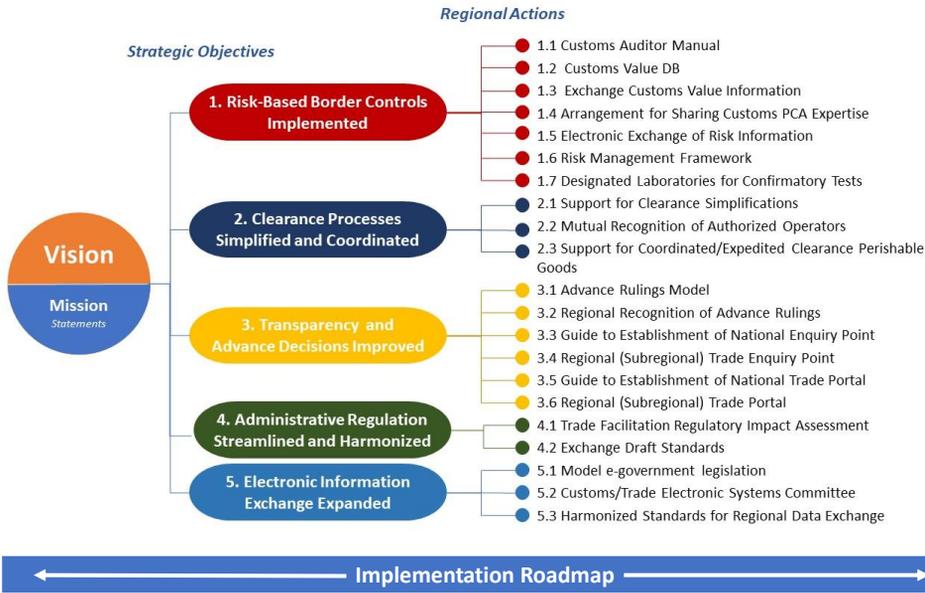
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## Pacific Trade Facilitation Initiative Progress so far

- Oct 2020 >> PIFS and ComSec regional workshop on TF
  - Regional approaches (PHP on COVID-19)
  - CARICOM TF Strategy (WB support)
  - PIFS to prepare a proposal
- Aug 2021 >> FTMM endorses strategy development with support from WB
- **Nov 2021 >> inception workshop** preceded by regional survey
- **Jan–Jun 2022 >> national consultations** (11 FICs) and additional survey
- **Oct 2022 >> Draft strategy**
- Dec 2022 >> First validation workshop
- June 2023 >> Second validation workshop
- **August 2023 >> Formal endorsement**

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# The Pacific TF Strategy - Overview



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# The Pacific Trade Facilitation Strategy Overview

- Chosen Actions
  - Included in trade agreements (including TFA)
  - Representing common needs
  - Requiring financial / technical support
  - Supporting regional initiatives
- TF elements are present in all regional AFT initiatives coordinated by the PIFS
  - E-commerce
  - Quality Infrastructure



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# Pacific E-commerce Initiative



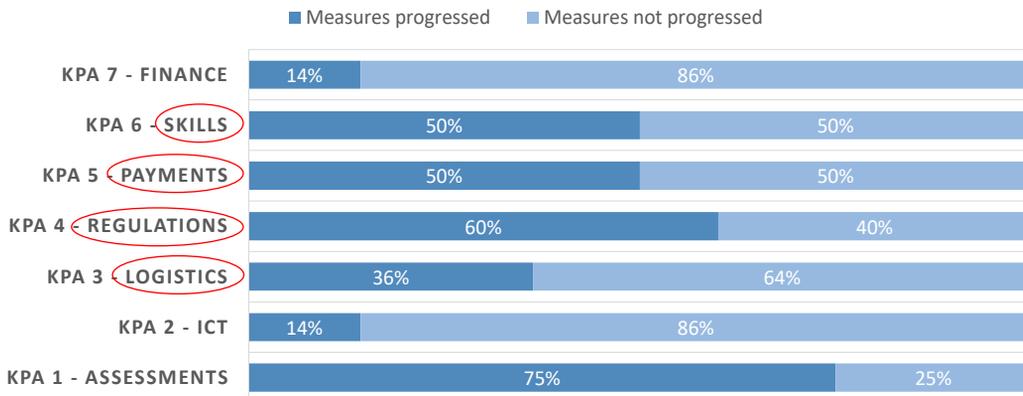
- Regional work starts in 2017
- 2017-2021 - **diagnostic E-commerce studies**
- August 2021 - [Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap](#)
- **54 regional measures** covering the 7 UNCTAD E-commerce Policy Areas
- **Focus is now on implementation** – activities ongoing at PIFS and partner agencies



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## Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap- Overall



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## Pacific QI Initiative - TF aspects



- **Progress so far**
  - Diagnostics 2019
  - Conceptual framework 2020
  - Implementation from 2021, together regional and international partners
- **Standardization**
  - Regional standards
- **Metrology**
  - Equipment and capacity for trade measurements
- **Conformity Assessment**
  - Equipment and accreditation for testing laboratories
  - Regional procurement (testing and certification)



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## Conclusions

- TF is a Pacific priority, in both strict and broad sense
- Efforts in multiple directions of structured regional AFT initiatives
- Partnership is key for implementation

Want to know more?

- Pacific Trade Facilitation Initiative [HERE](#)
- Pacific Quality Infrastructure initiative [HERE](#)
- Pacific e-commerce initiative [HERE](#)



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# Trade facilitation implementation in vulnerable economies

SIDS implementation and support

Thank you