

UNDA COVID-19 PROJECT CLOSING EVENT: TRANSPORT AND TRADE CONNECTIVITY IN THE AGE OF PANDEMICS
Session on Seamless Connectivity – Advancing Trade Digitalization in Times of Crisis

22 June 2022

Readiness Assessment for Cross-border Paperless Trade

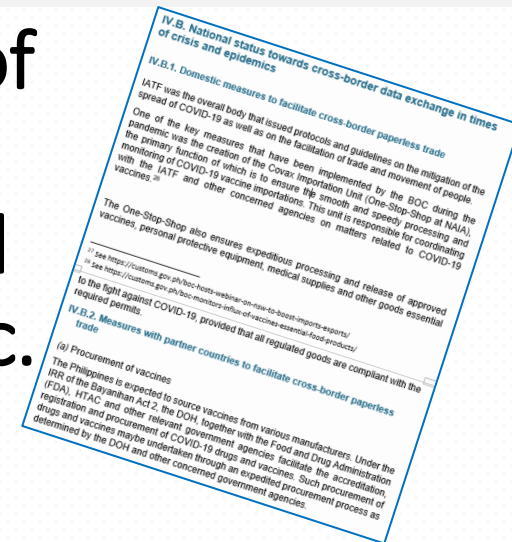
Contactless solution for seamless connectivity

Soo Hyun Kim, United Nations ESCAP



Trade facilitation measures in times of crisis and epidemics - the Philippines case study

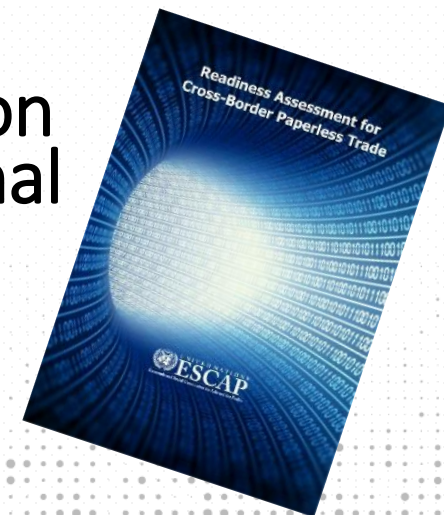
- The readiness assessment report of the Philippines examined trade facilitation measures implemented in response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Paperless trade was recognized as an effective way to mitigate trade disruptions during the COVID-19 crisis, providing more seamless and resilient trade opportunities.



Readiness assessment for cross-border paperless trade

- Assessments of legal and technical readiness to:
 - Identify where the country stands
 - Analyze the gaps
- Leading to recommendations, and individual action plans for countries to move forward toward cross-border paperless trade
- Action plans may be further elaborated upon and 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



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

- 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
- Legal and Technical Readiness Checklists developed by the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group to support the implementation of the Framework Agreement


<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



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/>

Navigating

Top
Menu

Technical Guide

On this page:

B2.1 Support of cross-border data exchange

B2.2 Function as the national single window

[Home](#) » [Guide to Technical Readiness Checklist](#)

B2 SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

Open All

B2.1 If a single window 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-BORDER%20SINGLE%20WINDOW%20INTEROPERABILITY.pdf>
- UNECE Recommendation NO. 36: Single Window Interoperability, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE-TRADE-431E_Rec36.pdf
- Case Example: ASEAN Single Window Architecture, <https://asw.asean.org/index.php/faq>,

Explanatory
notes, good
practices and
references for
each question

Country reports

- 14 completed studies

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

- 4 ongoing and planned

Tajikistan, **Tonga**, **Tuvalu**, Mexico (supported by ECLAC)

Partnerships

- Readiness Assessment Guide: ESCAP-EIF-UNCITRAL
- CBPT Toolkit: ESCAP-UNCITRAL-WTO
 - To raise awareness of the technical and legal tools to adopt cross-border paperless trade systems
- 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
- ECLAC: multilingual Guide & Mexico+