Making Implementation work: UNCTAD’s Implementation Support Mechanism

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Why an Implementation Support Mechanism (ISM)?

- A Stock-taking meeting during the eWeek 2019 gathered **Focal Points** and eTrade for all partners to discuss ways forward to fast-track the implementation of eT Ready recommendations.
- **Lessons learned** highlighted the importance of good practices among key stakeholders on the lead of the country implementation process.
- A consensus emerged on the need to continue this kind of **stakeholder engagement and experience sharing**, building on the respective countries' challenges and achievements.

**Who are the Focal Points?**
Typically senior officials in trade ministries, with a lead role in shaping the e-commerce development agenda.
UNCTAD’s ISM at a glance

Since 2020 the ISM helps building capacities to:

• Foster in-country dialogue and a whole of government approach in the implementation process

• Share knowledge and foster learning on countries’ experiences in the implementation of e-commerce enabling initiatives

• Nurture a community of practice & empower the Focal Points

• Enable partnerships, mobilize technical and financial support

⚠️ The ISM is not the eT Ready implementer, it doesn’t establish an M&E framework and is not a funding facility
Implementations Reviews: a cornerstone of the ISM

IRs are based on:

- A regular update of the methodology and survey-based data collection
- Voluntary participation of partner countries
- The proactive role of a lead ministry and Focal Point
- The involvement of various ministries and agencies

- Since 2020, **25** countries have been reviewed at least once
- **Bhutan, Cambodia, Senegal** and **Togo** have shown significant implementation achievements
- In addition, countries like **Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Nepal, Uganda, Zambia** have participated in all **3 reviews**
eTrade Workshops as a community-building tool

• Since 2020, a series of stakeholder engagement and capacity-building workshops organized by UNCTAD

• Building on the findings and recommendations of the IRs, they have contributed to:
  ✓ Build connections among Focal Points
  ✓ Share experiences and take stock of progress
  ✓ Empower Focal Points
  ✓ Sensitize on good practices
  ✓ Advise on governance frameworks for implementation

eTrade Capacity Building Workshop
9-10 May 2024
Engagement in the ISM context: main take-aways

• Integrate the implementation dimension from the start
• Focal Points play a critical role but are not sufficient
• Dedicated team and inter-ministerial body needed to ensure coordination
• Development partner interventions remain fragmented
• Countries express interest in leveraging digital solutions in their follow-up
The eTrade Reform Tracker at a glance

A project management and monitoring tool, providing added value to a wide range of stakeholders involved in the implementation of national and regional e-commerce strategies, policies and action plans.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNICATION</th>
<th>PLANNING MEETINGS</th>
<th>QUALITY CONTROL</th>
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<td>Different profiles of users/team members can communicate and collaborate with each other via an embedded private message/chat function, in relation to the execution of specific tasks</td>
<td>These can be scheduled directly from the Tracker, members from various implementation teams can be invited</td>
<td>Lead agencies can inform the relevant coordination body (i.e. e-commerce committee secretariat or implementation unit) of the completion of tasks and finalization of deliverables, to request a final endorsement, to ensure quality control.</td>
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Expected outcomes of the Tracker

If the eTrade Reform Tracker is regularly used and information recorded, it can:

• **Provide a real-time view of the results** of the overall implementation process (with a focus on gender-responsive measures), track the status of deliverables, assess the progress made and challenges encountered

• **Generate statistics** and charts related to the implementation, as well as to the actual usage of the Tracker

• **Facilitate monitoring and evaluation**, as it can generate valuable data and implementation performance metrics
Roll out of the Tracker

Live demonstration and interactive group work scheduled at the upcoming eTrade Capacity Building Workshop (Session 2, Thu 9 May 3pm-6pm)

- Lead Ministry flags interest
- Roll-out perspectives and conditions are discussed

- Lead Ministry engages with national stakeholders
- Sensitization Workshop

- Signing of License Agreement
- Tracker is set-up and training plan defined
Thank you for your attention