Economic and Social Council

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

5th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group
 on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation

Bangkok, 12–13 March 2019

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the 5th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (section I) and the annotations thereto (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting:

   (a) Opening statements;

   (b) Election of officers;

   (c) Adoption of the agenda.

2. Report on progress made on the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

3. Report on progress made by the Legal and Technical Working Groups.

4. Discussion on future operations of the Steering Group.

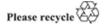5. Other matters.

6. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

(a) Opening statements

The tentative programme for the opening of the meeting will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/fifth-meeting-interim-intergovernmental-steering-group-cross-border-paperless-trade.

A senior official from the secretariat will open the meeting and deliver an opening statement.

(b)   Election of officers

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/fifth-meeting-interim-intergovernmental-steering-group-cross-border-paperless-trade.

The meeting will elect a chair and vice-chairs.

(c)   Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/L.1)

Annotation

The meeting will adopt the agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2.   Report on progress made on the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Report on progress made on the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/1)

Introduction to a cross-border paperless trade database (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/CRP.1)

Annotation

The meeting will review progress made on the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, including the progress made by member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in completing their domestic procedures for joining the Framework Agreement. The meeting will also discuss any follow-up actions that may be taken to facilitate participation of interested ESCAP member States in joining the Framework Agreement. The meeting will also discuss further development of a new database designed to support the sharing of information on ongoing cross-border paperless trade projects and initiatives.

3.   Report on progress made by the Legal and Technical Working Groups

Documentation

Report on progress made by the Legal and Technical Working Groups in their mandated tasks (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/2)

Cross-border paperless trade: a legal readiness checklist (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/3)

Cross-border paperless trade: a technical readiness checklist (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/4)

Mechanism for cross-border mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/CRP.2)

Template for individual action plans (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/CRP.3)

Annotation

The meeting will review the progress made so far by the Legal and Technical Working Groups in their mandated tasks. The meeting will review supporting documents for a draft road map for the implementation of the substantive provisions of the Framework Agreement, prepared by the Working Groups, including the legal and technical readiness checklists and a template for individual action plans. The two checklists are intended to support legal and technical gap assessments in implementing cross-border paperless trade and the development of individual action plans. The meeting may discuss any further actions for developing supporting documents and facilitating their use by interested stakeholders.

4. **Discussion on future operations of the Steering Group**

In light of the progress already made by the Steering Group on its mandated tasks, the meeting will discuss the next steps and the future work direction of the Steering Group, including its Legal and Technical Working Groups.

5. **Other matters**

Under this agenda item, the meeting may wish to consider other matters.

6. **Adoption of the report of the meeting**

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2019/L.2)

Annotation

The meeting will consider the draft report for adoption.

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