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6th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation

Bangkok, 25 and 26 January 2021 Item 4 of the provisional agenda* Report on progress made by the Legal and Technical Working Groups

Template for individual action plans

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present document contains a template for individual action plans prepared by the Legal and Technical Working Groups under the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation. The template for individual action plans is one of the supporting documents for a draft road map for the implementation of the substantive provisions of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. It is intended to help parties to the Framework Agreement in developing and reporting on their individual action plan.

I. Introduction to the template

- 1. Article 12 of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific specifies the need for parties to develop an action plan. The draft road map for the implementation of the substantive provisions of the Framework Agreement further elaborates on the preparation of individual action plans and mandates the preparation of a template for individual action plans as one of the supporting documents for implementation of that article.
- 2. Accordingly, a template has been prepared for use by parties to the Framework Agreement in developing and reporting on their individual action plan (see annex). The template is aligned with the structure of the draft road map, listing actions and tasks related to each provision of the Agreement. Each party would need to specify actions involved in each task with an indication of the level of priority; intended timeline (implementation schedule) for completing each individual action; progress made (in the case of an update from an initial/previous action plan); capacity-building needs; and potential key agencies.



^{*} ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/L.1.

3. An expected prerequisite process is that parties are to nominate national representatives to the Paperless Trade Council and the Standing Committee in the process of operationalizing institutional arrangements (article 11) of the Framework Agreement, upon its entry into force or when they become parties to it. Such nominated national representatives are expected to submit their countries individual action plan, as well as any subsequent revisions based on progress made. The individual action plan is expected to be prepared and/or updated by a designated national committee (article 6) on the basis of a legal and technical readiness assessment, which may be conducted using the checklists developed by the Steering Group.

II. Consideration by the Steering Group

- 4. The Steering Group may wish to consider taking the following actions:
- (a) Review the current template for its completeness in preparing individual action plans;
- (b) Endorse the current template or provide further guidance to the Legal and Technical Working Groups for its further development.

2 B20-00800

Annex

Template for individual action plans

- Country:
- Agency (national representatives):
- Year:

Article number	Goals	Tasks	Timeline	Capacity-building needs
12	Develop a comprehensive (individual) action plan	Conduct a legal readiness assessment using the legal readiness checklist		
		Conduct a technical gap assessment using the technical gap checklist		
		Prepare and update individual action plan		
		Report on implementation of the individual action plan and its update		
6	Establish / designate national committee	Establish a national committee or designate a similar body already functioning domestically in lieu of establishing such a committee		

B20-00800 3

Article number	Goals	Tasks	Actions (in sequence)	Priority level	Potential key agencies	Deliverables	Timeline (implementation schedule)		Progress made (in the case of	Capacity- building
							Original	Adjusted	update)	needs
6	Establish a national policy framework for paperless trade	Develop and implement a national policy framework for paperless trade								
	Create an enabling domestic legal environment for paperless trade	Align the domestic legal framework with selected international legal frameworks and best practices								
10	Take into account and adopt available and accepted international legal instruments	Apply selected legal instruments or relevant provisions within the legal instruments in conjunction with the result of the legal readiness assessment								

4 B20-00800

Article number	Goals	Tasks	Actions (in sequence)	Priority level	Potential key agencies	Deliverables	Timeline (implementation schedule) Original Adjusted		Progress made (in the case of update)	Capacity- building needs
9	Select and use relevant international standards and guidelines	Apply selected international standards and guidelines								
		Participate in the development of relevant international standards and best practices								
7	Develop or upgrade paperless trade systems consistently with the general principles	Develop or upgrade paperless trade systems, including single window systems, consistently with the general principles of the Framework Agreement								

B20-00800 5

Article number	Goals	Tasks	Actions (in sequence)	Priority level	Potential key agencies	Deliverables	Timeline (implementation schedule) Original Adjusted		Progress made (in the case of update)	Capacity- building needs
13	Initiate and launch pilot projects	Plan and implement pilot projects								
		Report the progress of pilot projects to the Standing Committee								
8	Develop and agree on a mutual recognition scheme for exchange of trade-related data in electronic form	Operationalize mutual recognition								
14	Cooperate in providing technical support and assistance	Request and offer capacity-building								

[Annexes to individual action plans: I. Outcome of legal readiness assessment; and II. Outcome of technical readiness assessment]

6 B20-00800