



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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

Bangkok, 25 and 26 January 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the 6th 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. Review of regional progress in cross-border paperless trade.
3. Report on progress made in the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.
4. Report on progress made by the Legal and Technical Working Groups.
5. Discussion on the future operation of the Steering Group.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Steering Group on its 6th meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

(a) Opening statements

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

The Steering Group will elect a chair and vice-chairs.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/L.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Steering Group, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Review of regional progress in cross-border paperless trade

Documentation

Results and implications of the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/1)

Annotation

The document, containing the summary of the latest results of the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation for Asia and the Pacific, will serve as general background information for this agenda item. Led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is a biennial survey jointly conducted by the five regional commissions and several global and regional partners. The survey covers 53 measures, including digital trade facilitation measures for both paperless and cross-border paperless trade. Survey data is available at <https://untfsurvey.org/>. Available preliminary results of the 2021 Global Survey will be presented and discussed, including on paperless trade measures taken as a result of the coronavirus disease pandemic.

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

Documentation

Report on progress made in the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/2)

Annotation

The Steering Group will review progress made in the implementation of the Framework Agreement, including progress made by interested ESCAP member States with regard to completing domestic procedures to become parties. The Steering Group may wish to discuss any follow-up actions that may be taken to facilitate the participation of interested ESCAP member States in the Framework Agreement.

4. 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/2021/3)

Legal readiness assessment checklist for cross-border paperless trade (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/4)

Technical readiness assessment checklist for cross-border paperless trade (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/5)

Template for individual action plans (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/6)

Annotation

The Steering Group will review the progress made by the Legal and Technical Working Groups in their mandated tasks. The Steering Group will review supporting documents and related tools for a draft road map for the implementation of the substantive provisions of the Framework Agreement, prepared by the Working Groups, including updated legal and technical readiness assessment checklists for cross-border paperless trade, a template for individual action plans, an online guide for cross-border paperless trade readiness assessment and cross-border paperless trade database. The Steering Group may wish to discuss further action needed and priorities for developing the supporting documents and related tools and facilitating their use by interested stakeholders.

5. Discussion on the future operation of the Steering Group

In light of the progress already made in its mandated tasks, the Steering Group will discuss its next steps and future work direction, including for its Working Groups.

6. Other matters

The Steering Group may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

7. Adoption of the report of the Steering Group on its 6th meeting

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/PTA/IISG/2021/L.2)

Annotation

The Steering Group will consider and adopt the report on its 6th meeting for submission to the Commission at its seventy-seventh session.
