

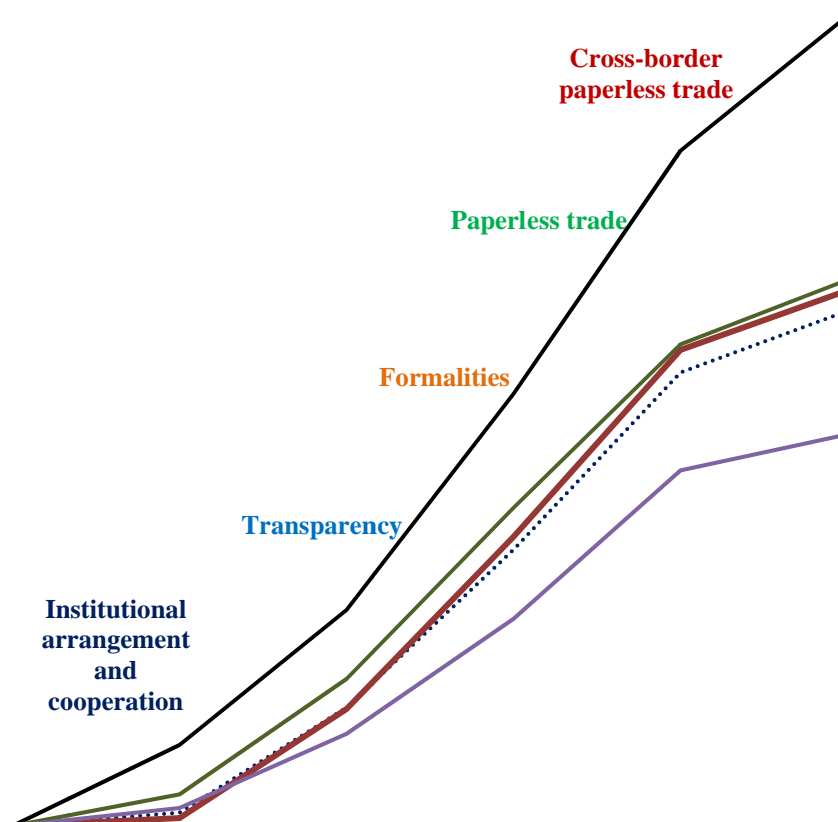


UNITED NATIONS



Joint United Nations Regional Commissions
**Trade Facilitation and
Paperless Trade
Implementation Survey 2015**

Latin America and the Caribbean



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Preface

The *Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2014-2015* (“Global Survey”) is a global effort led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the other four United Nations Regional Commissions, namely, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The goal of the Global Survey is to gather information from the member states of the respective Regional Commissions on trade facilitation and paperless trade measures and strategies implemented at the national and regional levels. The results of the survey will enable countries and development partners to better understand and monitor progress on trade facilitation, support evidence-based public policies, share best practices and identify capacity building and technical assistance needs.

The Global Survey is a key initiative under the *Joint UNRC Approach to Trade Facilitation* (the “Approach”) agreed upon in Beirut, Lebanon in January 2010 by the Executive Secretaries for all five United Nations Regional Commissions. The Approach was designed to enable the Regional Commissions to present a joint and global view on trade facilitation issues in light of the World Trade Organization Doha Round and the heightened importance of global supply chains. With the conclusion of negotiations of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement in December 2013, and with the ratification of the Agreement underway, the Approach becomes even more significant on a regional and global scale. Within this framework, the Global Survey was designed by the United Nations Regional Commissions together with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Trade Centre, and the World Customs Organization.

The questions included in the Global Survey draw from Sections I and III of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, as well as the Draft Text of the “Agreement/Framework Agreement/Framework Arrangement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific”, currently under negotiation among ESCAP member states.¹ In Latin America and the Caribbean, nineteen countries participated in the Global Survey. The results of the survey, as included in this report, aim to provide a preliminary benchmark on the implementation of trade facilitation and paperless trade measures in the region.

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¹ See draft text *online* at http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/PTA_IISG1_WP1_E.pdf

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Abbreviations

ADB.....	Asian Development Bank
AEO.....	Authorized economic operator
APoA.....	Almaty Programme of Action
ASEAN.....	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASYCUDA.....	Automated System for Customs Data
ECA.....	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECE.....	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC.....	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ENEA.....	East and North-East Asia
ESCAP.....	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA.....	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU.....	European Union
GATT.....	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GCC.....	Gulf Cooperation Council
ICT.....	Information and communications technology
IRU.....	International Road Transport Union
ITC.....	International Trade Centre
LDC.....	Least developed country
LLDC.....	Landlocked developing country
WEST ASIA.....	West Asia
NCA.....	North and Central Asia
NTFC.....	National trade facilitation committee
OECD.....	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SELA.....	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System
SSWA.....	South and South-West Asia
TF.....	Trade facilitation
TFA.....	Trade Facilitation Agreement
UAE.....	United Arab Emirates
UN/CEFACT.....	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCTAD.....	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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