First Meeting of Legal and Technical Working Groups of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation

Introduction to Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group and mandated tasks to the Working Groups

> 9-11 September 2015 Bangkok, Thailand



Trade and Investment Division United Nations ESCAP

ESCAP Resolutions 68/3 & 70/6 and Intergov. Steering Group & Working Groups



Background for ESCAP Resolution 68/3



Need for cross-border paperless trade

Challenges to moving forward on cross-border paperless trade

- Adoption of common International Standards
- Harmonization of legal frameworks
- Capacity gaps among the parties
- Cooperation between public and private sectors
- Lack of intergovernmental coordination mechanism



Overview of ESCAP Resolution 68/3

- Invites member States to work towards the development of regional arrangements on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade
- ✤ And, request the Executive Secretary to:
- 1) support and facilitate the process for the development of regional arrangements on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade, including by conducting studies, developing potential options, and and in this regard to present its results to the Committee on Trade and Investment at its third session
- 2) ensure that the regional arrangements take into account and are consistent with the existing international and regional agreements, mechanisms, and undertakings...
- 3) continue and further strengthen the secretariat's support for capacitybuilding activities

Progress in Implementing ESCAP Resolution 68/3

*** 36 members and associate members have nominated focal points** to support implementation (as of February 2015)

*****Designated webpage for implementation: to maximize transparency and availability of information related to implementation progress (to be updated) <u>http://unnext.unescap.org/reso683.asp</u>

*****Members are kindly requested to update existing national focal points or nominate new ones

Progress in Implementing ESCAP Resolution 68/3



* ERM: Expert Review Meeting 7 EGM: Expert Group Meeting

ional Connectivity: Towards a Regional Arrangement ion of Cross-border Paperless Trade, Studies in Trade t No. 78

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Books

ACT

ipal aim of this publication is to analyze the current status of paperless trade ntation in the region and assess a practical approach to the facilitation of crossaperless trade in the Asia-Pacific region, as this will contribute to regional rity. With world-leading paperless trade systems already in place in several of Asia and the Pacific, including a few cases of successful cross-border paperless a exchange, the region is fast moving towards a paperless trade environment. isic cross-border nature of international trade has resulted in increasing demand ation of cross-border paperless trade, as more and more countries in the region nt this approach. However, facilitating cross-border paperless trade poses more is than those involved in implementing paperless trade at the national level, ecause it requires the coordination and harmonization of different legal, y and technical requirements in two or more countries. While the private sector facilitate cross-border paperless trade through innovations in business practices, dure for coordinating and harmonizing the legal, regulatory and technical ents ultimately has to rely on an intergovernmental mechanism. This increasing for facilitation of cross-border paperless trade and the necessity for an

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4-Introduction

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