

## **ESCAP Resolution 68/3 for paperless trade and the issuance of the electronic certificate of origin**

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### **Presentation Structure**

- **ESCAP Resolution 68/3**
  - ❖ Background and Objectives
  
- **Electronic CoO**
  - ❖ Context for APTA
  - ❖ Benefits

## I. Introduction of ESCAP Resolution 68/3

“Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation”

- ✓ Adopted at the 68<sup>th</sup> ESCAP Commission Session: 23 May 2012
  - Sponsored by: ROK, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Mongolia
- ✓ Structure:
  - Preamble: Background and Importance
  - Legislative: Necessary actions for member States and the Secretariat

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## II. Necessary actions for member states

1. *Invites* member States to work towards the development of regional arrangements on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade;
2. *Encourages* all members and associate members:
  - (a) *To support and participate* in the knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum and *related activities* supported by regional and international organizations active *in the field of trade facilitation*;

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## II. Necessary actions for member States (cont'd)

(b) To initiate or accelerate the implementation of national paperless trade systems, including national single windows defined in United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business recommendation No. 33 and related recommendation No. 35;

(c) To take into account, and whenever possible adopt, available international standards made by relevant United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and other international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization and the International Organization for Standardization, when implementing these systems so as to facilitate their interoperability;

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## II. Necessary actions for member States (cont'd)

(d) To participate in the development of new international standards to achieve the seamless exchange and recognition of trade-related information and documents across borders among all relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors;

(e) To share lessons learned and the outcomes of existing bilateral and subregional pilot projects on the recognition and exchange of trade related electronic data and documents with other members and associate members, and to initiate new ones;

(f) To consider entering into bilateral and subregional agreements on the cross-border recognition and exchange of trade-related documents as building blocks towards regional and global cross-border paperless trade;

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### III. Necessary actions for the Secretariat

#### 3. Requests the Executive Secretary:

- (a) To 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 organizing expert review and member consultations, and in this regard to present its results to the Committee on Trade and Investment at its third session;

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### III. Necessary actions for the Secretariat (cont'd)

- (b) To ensure that the regional arrangements take into account and are consistent with the existing international and regional agreements, mechanisms, and undertakings as well as build on existing international standards and conventions and are developed in consultation with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the World Customs Organization and other relevant international bodies;
- (c) To continue and further strengthen the secretariat's [support for capacity-building activities related to trade facilitation and paperless trade](#), including transit facilitation, particularly with regard to least developed and landlocked developing countries and for the preparation, in consultation with member States, of such regional arrangements;

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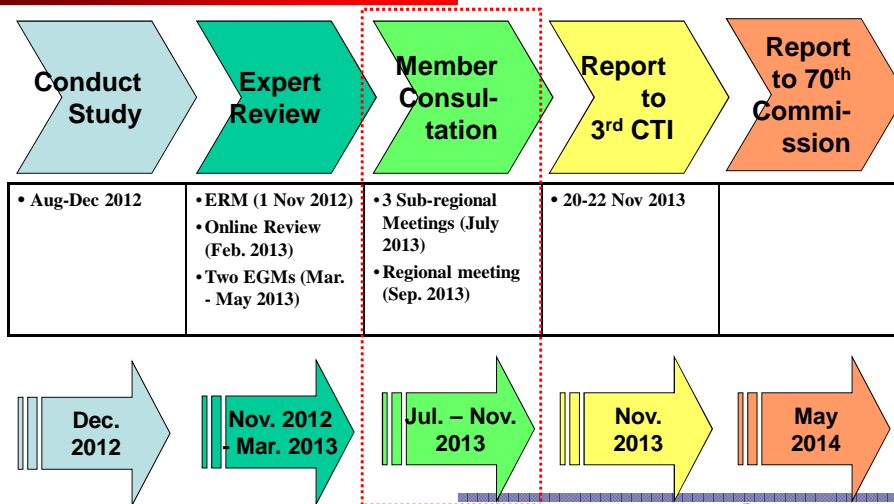


### III. Necessary actions for the Secretariat (cont'd)

4. Also requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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### IV. Implementation schedule



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# APTA AND ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

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## Electronic Certificate of Origin – The Mandate

- The Operational Certification Procedures of APTA prescribes :
  - **Article 2: Application**
    - (1) The exporter and/or the manufacturer of products qualified for preferential treatment shall apply in writing (manually or **electronically**) to the relevant Issuing Authorities requesting the pre-exportation verification/registration of the origin of the products.
  - **Article 4: Issuance of Certificate of Origin**
    - (1) A Certificate of Origin shall be issued manually or **electronically** by the Issuing Authorities of the exporting Participating State at the time of exportation or within three working days from the date of shipment whenever the products to be exported can be considered originating in that Participating State within the meaning of the Rules of Origin under the APTA. A Certificate of Origin shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.

## Subsequent discussion

- 42<sup>nd</sup> Committee meeting: noted the proposal of the APTA Secretariat on the issuance of a certificate of origin by electronic means, as part of the future road map of APTA.

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## Purpose of Electronic Certificate of Origin

- **APTA:** reduce transaction cost and as on date nothing prevents a PS to start issuing it electronically. The purpose is to harmonize its issuance.
- **ASEAN-Japan:** pathway to promoting the international interoperability

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