UNITED NATIONS
**ESCAP**
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

# Implementation of ESCAP Resolution 68/3

**Regional Meeting on Development of Regional Arrangements for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade**

**12 September 2013**

**Beijing, China**

# 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 68th ESCAP Commission Session: May 2012
❖ Sponsored by: ROK, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Mongolia
❖ Structure:

➢ Preambular: Background and Importance

➢ Legislative: Action (Members and Secretariat)

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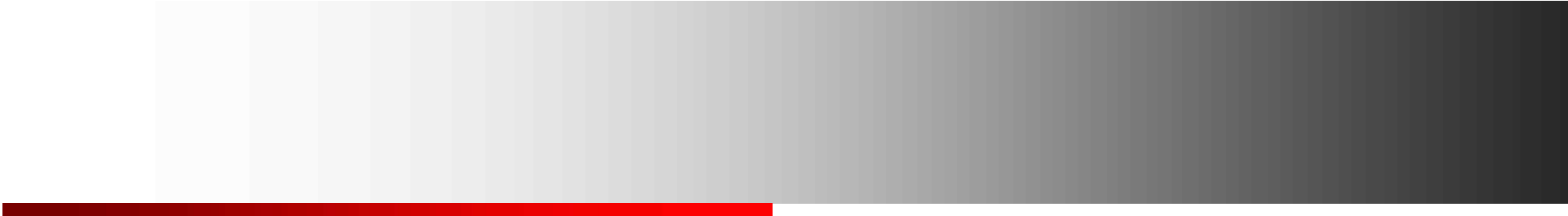Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

# ESCAP Resolution 68/3, 1 - 2

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;

(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;

# ESCAP Resolution 68/3, 2 (Cont'd)

(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;

(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 traderelated 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;

# ESCAP Resolution 68/3, 3 - 4

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;

(b) To ensure that the regional arrangements take into account and are consistent with the existing international and regional agreements,