

Legal and Technical Working Group (LTWG) of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation

The draft Capacity Building Strategy (CBS) is prepared to support implementation of Article 14 of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (FA). Article 14 of the FA specifies that:

- 1. The Parties may cooperate to provide technical support and assistance to each other in order to facilitate the implementation of the present Framework Agreement.*
- 2. The Parties may collaborate on capacity-building through the institutional arrangements established under the present Framework Agreement.*
- 3. The Parties shall give special consideration to requests from least developed and landlocked developing countries for technical assistance and cooperation arrangements designed to assist them in developing their paperless trade capacity and in taking full advantage of the potential benefits of the present Framework Agreement.*
- 4. The Parties may invite development partners for more effective technical and financial assistance in the implementation of the present Framework Agreement.*

REQUIREMENTS FROM THE PROVISION

1. Based on paragraph 2, the Parties to the FA may collaborate on capacity-building through the institutional arrangements. For effective collaboration on capacity-building through the institutional arrangements, possible options and mechanisms for collaboration on capacity-building in the context of the FA should be developed, including a customization strategy to take into account such contexts as geographical location and development status at national, subregional and regional levels.
2. Based on paragraph 1 and 3, the Parties to the FA may make a request and provide technical support and assistance. To make it clear how to make a request and provide support each other, procedures should be clearly defined, including possibly designing a request form.
3. Based on paragraph 4, the Parties to the FA may invite development partners for technical and financial assistance in the process of implementing the FA. It would be beneficial to clearly define procedures and scope for engaging development partners in implementing the FA.

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MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS

1. Options and mechanisms for collaboration on capacity-building

Mechanism	Options	Implementation Level
Awareness-raising	Seminar/Conference Briefing PR Publication	National Subregional Regional (Inter)national
Advisory Service	Expert advice	National Subregional (limited) Regional
Training	Online lecture Workshop Training of trainers	National Subregional Regional (Inter)national

2. Request mechanism

Any party in need of capacity building may make a request for technical assistance, using a request form in Annex 1 through the secretariat:

- (1) Parties may make a request as part of their individual action plan, by specifying their needs in capacity building needs
- (2) Parties may make a request on an ad hoc basis using a request form, by specifying assistance required in relation to relevant article of the Framework Agreement

3. Offer mechanism

Any party wishing to provide capacity building may offer technical assistance, using an offer form in Annex 2 through the secretariat:

- (1) Any party, whenever wishing to provide technical assistance, may announce its intention by completing and circulating an offer form, attached in Annex 2.
- (2) Upon receiving a specific request, other parties may consider providing technical assistance by reviewing requested assistance specified in a request form and respond with an offer, using an offer form in Annex 2

4. Procedure to invite development partners

The Secretariat would communicate the request to development partners. This may be done through a dedicated open website to ensure transparency.

5. Types of assistance to be requested to development partners

- Technical assistance: as specified in options and mechanisms
- Financial assistance: grant, loan, non-refundable Loan expert, contribution in kind, partial self-contribution bound support

6. Reporting mechanism

(To be added)

7. Role of Secretariat

Both request and offer may be addressed to the Secretariat of the Framework Agreement. The Secretariat would facilitate match request and offer

Annex 1. Request Form

Request for Capacity Building Support

Country:

Purpose:

Type of assistance:

Link to the Individual Action Plan (or Article of the Framework Agreement):

Details on assistance required:

Contribution or commitment from the requesting country/organization (e.g., local support team, other resources):

Tentative timeline:

Annex 2. Offer Form

Offer of Capacity Building Support

Country of offer:

Target country (if this offer is specifically in response to a request from certain country):

Details on assistance offered (including type and relevant article of the Framework Agreement):