**9th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF 2019)**

**“Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation for Regional Prosperity”**

**17-18 September 2019 – New Delhi, India**

**Pre-Forum questionnaire for country participants & experts**

ADB and ESCAP look forward to welcoming you to the 9th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF).

In preparation for the Forum, we would like you to kindly request developing country participants and experts to complete the following questionnaire to the best of their knowledge. You may consult with your relevant colleagues in your office and country to ensure your answers are as complete and accurate as possible.

This questionnaire comprises two parts (A and B). Part A includes questions on implementation of digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures in your country. Part B includes questions for APTFF Impact Assessment & Improvement.

Kindly complete the below questionnaire and submit it to: [aptff@un.org](mailto:aptff@un.org)

by 13 September 2019 at the latest. Should you have any questions in completing the questionnaire, please feel free to contact Mr. Sangwon Lim, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, United Nations ESCAP ([lim6@un.org](mailto:lim6@un.org)) anytime. Individual answers will not be made publicly available and only presented in aggregate form.

|  |
| --- |
| **Your Name:**  **Title:**  **Orgnization(s):**  **Country:** |

***Part A: Implementation of Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Measures and Challenges in your country***

**Part A**

**1. Priorities for implementing digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures**

The following digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures are among those listed in the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019.[[1]](#footnote-1) For each listed measures, please **indicate priority level (H: High, M: Medium, L: Low)** in your country context; and **inform of planned related actions, if any, between now and August 2021.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Measures** | **Priority Level (H,M or L)** | **Planned actions for implementation (for next 2 years; i.e., from now up to August 2021)** |
| 1. Acceptance of electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities |  |  |
| 2. Electronic/automated Customs System established |  |  |
| 3. Internet connection available to customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings |  |  |
| 4. Electronic Single Window System |  |  |
| 5. Electronic submission of customs declarations |  |  |
| 6. Electronic application and issuance of Import and Export Permit |  |  |
| 7. Electronic submission of sea (or transit) cargo manifests |  |  |
| 8. Electronic submission of air cargo manifests |  |  |
| 9. Electronic application and issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin |  |  |
| 10. E-payment of customs duties and fees |  |  |
| 11. Electronic application for customs refunds |  |  |
| 12. Laws and regulations for electronic transactions (e.g., e-commerce law, e-transaction law) |  |  |
| 13. Recognized certification authority issuing digital certificates to traders to conduct electronic transactions |  |  |
| 14. Customs declaration electronically exchanged between your country and other countries |  |  |
| 15. Certificate of origin electronically exchanged between your country and other countries |  |  |
| 16. Sanitary and phytosanitary certificate electronically exchanged between your country and other countries |  |  |
| 17. Banks and insurers in your country retrieving letters of credit electronically without lodging paper-based documents |  |  |
| 18. Making single windows more easily accessible to SMEs (e.g., by providing technical consultation and training services to SMEs on registering and using the facility) |  |  |
| 19. Automation of application, verification and issuance of SPS certificates |  |  |
| 20. Single window facilitates traders access to finance |  |  |
| 21. Banks allow electronic exchange of data between trading partners or with banks in other countries to reduce dependence on paper documentation and advance digital trade |  |  |
| 22. Other measures (Please specify as many as you wish\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) |  |  |

**2. Institutional mechanisms for facilitating implementation of digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| 1. Does a national trade facilitation committee or another similar facilitation body exist in your country | [ ] Yes [ ] No  If Yes, please write its name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 2. If your answer to Q #1 is yes, does it function (having regular meeting, discussing related issues, developing and implementing actions, etc.)? | [ ] Yes [ ] No  If no, please specify reasons (you can write down multiple reasons) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 3. If your answer to Q #1 is yes, does it also handle trade finance issues? | [ ] Yes [ ] No  If no, please indicate which organization does\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 4. Does the NTFC or related body have separate working groups on digital trade facilitation (e.g. electronic single window) or on trade facilitation for specific sectors (e.g. Agriculture) or for groups/stakeholders with special needs (e.g., SMEs, women, …)? ***Please elaborate on the scope of work of the NTFC (or other relevant bodies in you country) in this area:*** | |

**3. Challenges and Way Forward**

* **What are the most serious challenges faced by your country in implementing digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures?**

*(Please rank challenges from 1 to 5 scale. ‘1’is the most challenging factor; while ‘5’ is the least challenging factor)*

|  |
| --- |
| [ ] Lack of coordination between government agencies  [ ] Lack of political will  [ ] Lack of legal framework (relevant laws and regulations)  [ ] No clearly designated lead agency  [ ] Financial constraints  [ ] Limited human resource capacity[ ]  [ ] Poor information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure  [ ] Others (Please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

* **Suggestions for regional level activities in support of implementation of digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures (*be as specific as possible*)**

|  |
| --- |
| (1)  (2)  (3) |

**Selected Reference materials:**

1) UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation: <https://untfsurvey.org>

2) Making the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement work for SMEs: <https://www.unescap.org/resources/making-wto-trade-facilitation-agreement-work-smes>

3) Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific: <https://www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific>

3) Cross-border paperless trade: readiness checklists:

LEGAL: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/IISG_2019_3_English.pdf>

TECHNCIAL: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/IISG_2019_4_English.pdf>

***Part B***

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of information, experiences and practice on trade facilitation. The APTFF has been organized by UN ESCAP and ADB and growing number of partners since 2009. Recent Forums have attracted over 200 participants from over 30 countries. The last time the APTFF was held was in Yoyakarta, Indonesia in September 2017.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Did you attend APTFF 2017?

  a. Yes         b. No

1. Did you (if yes for question #1) or the former APTFF participants from your country share the knowledge they acquired from the past APTFFs?

a. Yes b. No c. Don’t know

1. Do you agree that the policy making skills of you (if yes for question #1) or former APTFF participants from your country improved partly because of their APTFF experience?

a. Yes b. No c. Don’t know

1. Did the knowledge acquired at the previous APTFF contribute to your institution's (your country's) trade facilitation policy making processes?

a. Yes b. No c. Don’t know

1. To the best of your knowledge, what trade facilitation-related policies were improved in your country partly because of the knowledge acquired from participating in any of the past APTFFs?
2. How can APTFF be more effective in building the capacity of your country in the area of trade facilitation?

**\*\*\*\*\*THANK YOU\*\*\*\*\***

1. <https://unnext.unescap.org/content/un-global-survey-digital-and-sustainable-trade-facilitation-2019> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Information about APTFF 2017 is available at: <https://unnext.unescap.org/content/asia-pacific-trade-facilitation-forum-2017-5-8-september-2017-yogyakarta-indonesia> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)