

# **Terms of Reference for Working Groups of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation**

## **1. Names**

The two working groups under the Steering Group shall be called the Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group.

## **2. Membership**

Officials and/or experts nominated by the national focal points on implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 or by the Governments of ESCAP members and associate members.

## **3. Functions**

The Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group shall further improve the draft text of the regional arrangement as a potential intergovernmental agreement, prepare a draft road map for the implementation of substantive provisions in the draft text and perform any other tasks directed by the Steering Group.

1. The Legal Working Group shall carry out the following duties:

- (a) To lead overall revision of the draft text of the regional arrangement;
- (b) To review and revise legal provisions in the draft text of the regional arrangement;
- (c) To prepare the legal provisions of the draft road map;
- (d) To carry out any other tasks assigned to it by the Steering Group.

2. The Technical Working Group shall carry out the following duties:

- (a) To take responsibility for preparing the draft road map for the implementation of substantive provisions in the draft text;
- (b) To review and revise technical provisions in the draft text of the regional arrangement;
- (c) To prepare the technical provisions in the draft road map;
- (d) To carry out any other tasks assigned to it by the Steering Group.

## **4. Mode of operation**

1. The Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group shall have both physical and virtual meetings, with at least two physical meetings between each of the meetings of the Steering

Group. In each physical meeting, the Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group shall have joint sessions to coordinate their respective work.

2. The Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group may each elect a Chair and Vice-Chair(s).

3. Participation in the meetings of the Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group will be on a self-financed basis.

4. To the extent possible, physical meetings shall be held in conjunction with other main ESCAP events related to trade.

5. The Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group may invite relevant regional experts, including experts of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT), to assist in carrying out their duties.

6. The Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group shall cease to exist once they have completed their duties.

7. All the meetings will be conducted in English only.

8. The decisions of the Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group shall be made on a consensus basis.

## **5. Reporting**

The Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group shall report progress made in conducting their duties to each meeting of the Steering Group.

## **6. Secretariat**

The Trade Facilitation Unit of the ESCAP secretariat shall serve as the secretariat of the Legal Working Group and Technical Working Group.