



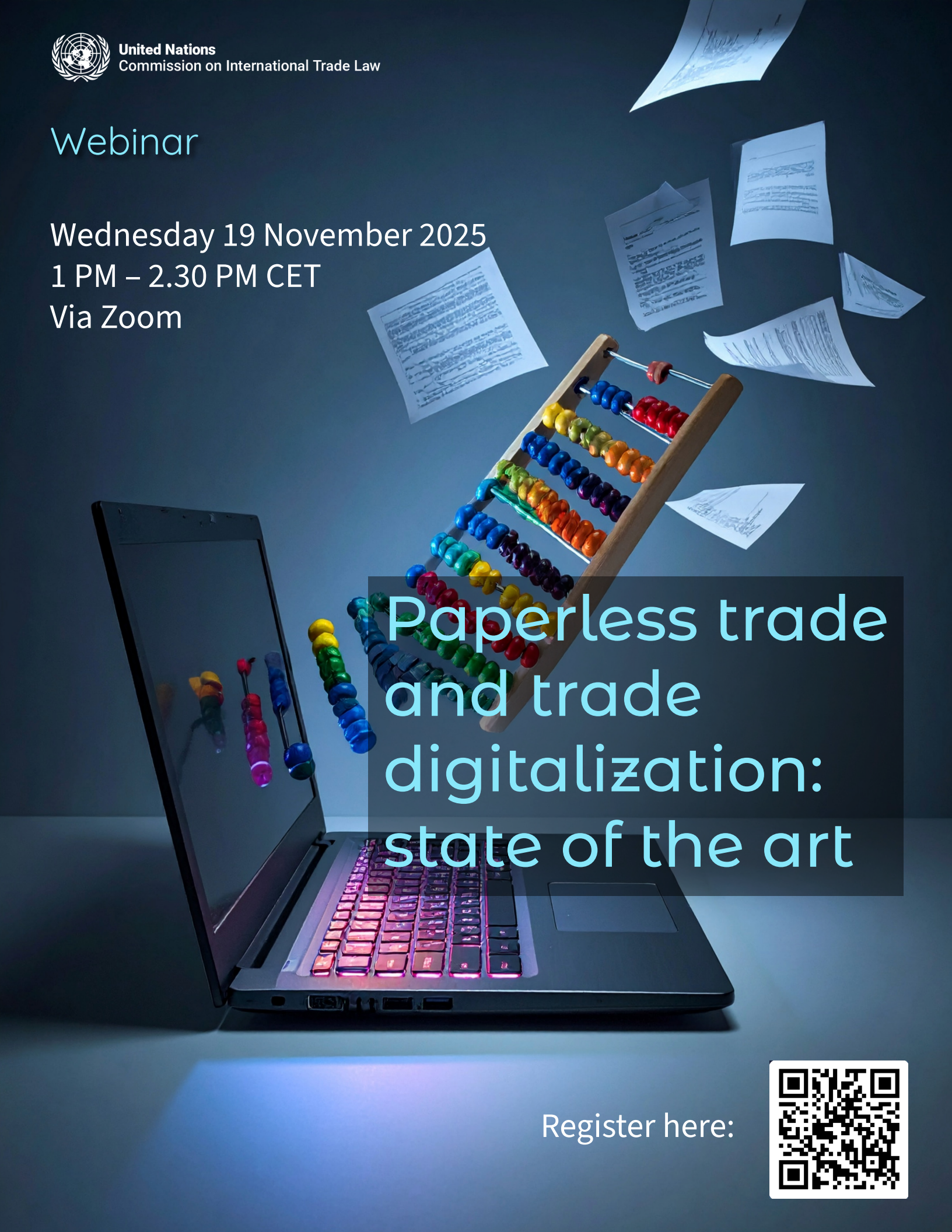
United Nations
Commission on International Trade Law

Webinar

Wednesday 19 November 2025

1 PM – 2.30 PM CET

Via Zoom

The background image is a composite. At the bottom, a laptop is open, showing a dark screen and a keyboard with red backlighting. Above the laptop, a wooden abacus with colorful beads (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) is tilted. Several white papers with text are floating in the air around the abacus and laptop. The overall color scheme is dark blue and black with some light blue highlights.

Paperless trade and trade digitalization: state of the art

Register here:





Further to the work on establishing an enabling legislative environment for end-to-end trade digitalization and as requested by UNCITRAL, the UNCITRAL secretariat is organizing a Colloquium on Digital Payments and Paperless Trade, to be held in Vienna (19-21 January 2026).

In preparation for that Colloquium, this webinar will take stock of trends, policy and legal issues relating to paperless trade.

For background, OECD and OSCE have recently issued policy documents on paperless trade ([The Digitalisation of Trade Documents and Processes: Going Paperless Today, Going Paperless Tomorrow \(OECD\)](#); [A Practical Guide to Cross-border Facilitation \(OSCE\)](#)). Moreover, the World Bank has released the [Digital Trade Regulatory Readiness \(DTRR\) dataset](#) to measure trade digitalization. One DTRR pillar refers to electronic transactions, and one policy area to paperless trade.

These documents provide a guiding framework in which UNCITRAL can carry out its preparatory work on paperless trade and trade digitalization, mindful that, while paperless trade, as a B2G process, is part of end-to-end trade digitalization, it may still require specific enabling legal solutions.





Programme

1:00 - 1:05 p.m. — Introductory remarks by Luca Castellani, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL secretariat

1:05 - 1:25 p.m. — Silvia Sorescu, Policy Analyst, OECD — OECD Trade Policy Paper: The Digitalisation of Trade Documents and Processes, Going Paperless Today, Going Paperless Tomorrow

1:25 - 1:45 p.m. — Satya Prasad Sahu, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, the World Bank Group — Digital Trade Regulatory Readiness (DTRR) database

1:45 - 2:05 p.m. — Johan Boelts, Economic Connectivity Officer, Economic Governance Unit, OSCE — OSCE report: A Practical Guide to Cross-Border Facilitation

2:05 - 2:30 p.m. — Discussion and Q & A

Speaker

Silvia Sorescu
Policy Analyst, Project Lead Trade Facilitation
Trade Policy Division
Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

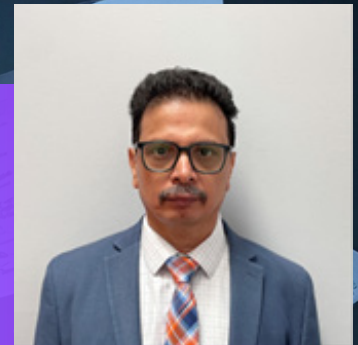


Silvia Sorescu joined the OECD's Trade and Agriculture Directorate in 2010 and currently leads the Directorate's work on trade facilitation. In this context, she oversees the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators, covering over 160 economies. Her work focuses on the evolving trade policy landscape, with a strong focus on the intersection between trade facilitation and digital trade, including as regards the use of new technologies and paperless trade systems. Her research is also examining how trade facilitation policies can enhance the resilience, competitiveness and environmental performance of global supply chains. Before joining the OECD, Silvia was a Research Associate at the World Economy Group at Sciences Po Paris.



Speaker

SP Sahu
Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist
World Bank Group

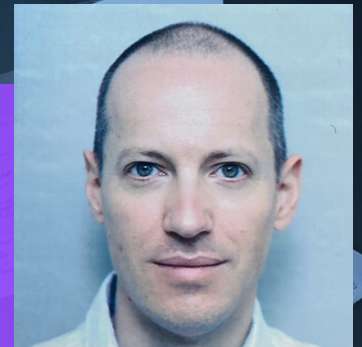


Satya Prasad Sahu, known as "SP" to his colleagues, is a dedicated professional at the World Bank in Washington, DC, working within the Global Trade and Regional Integration Unit. His expertise spans various projects, analytical studies, and technical assistance programs focused on trade facilitation, trade logistics, port automation, border management, and Customs modernization. Currently, he is instrumental in supporting the implementation of national single windows in multiple countries and is spearheading a global study on port community systems. Additionally, he actively participates in several global standard-setting groups dedicated to the digitalization of trade initiatives. Notably, he led a comprehensive global study on the development of Port Community Systems and Air Cargo Community Systems, which culminated in the World Bank publication titled Port Community Systems, driving trade in the 21st Century. Mr. Sahu also specializes in the application of remote sensing technologies, geospatial analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) within the logistics and transport sectors. He recently authored a forthcoming study titled "Reimagining Logistics and Connectivity from Space: Artificial Intelligence and Satellite Imagery Applications." Prior to his current role, Mr. Sahu served in the Government of India with the Customs Service and the World Customs Organization (WCO). During his tenure with Indian Customs, he was involved in customs automation projects and policy matters. He has extensive experience in international trade and transport data standards, as well as Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) systems that support international trade. At the WCO, his significant contributions included the development of the WCO Data Model Version 3.0, updating the ICT Guidelines to the Revised Kyoto Convention, creating the Single Window Compendium, and producing passenger data reporting standards. Mr. Sahu holds master's degrees each in computer science and business administration.



Speaker

Johan Boelts
Economic Connectivity Officer
OSCE Secretariat



Johan Boelts is the Economic Connectivity Officer at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. In this position he oversees the implementation of a connectivity project in Central Asia, Mongolia and the South Caucasus. Prior to joining the OSCE Johan worked at the German MFA as well at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE in Vienna, being responsible for the third (human) and second (economic and environmental) dimension, respectively. Prior to these assignments Johan managed a 7.5 Million EUR project at Climate Analytics providing support to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States during the international climate change negotiations with legal, scientific, economic, policy and strategic advice (Paris Agreement), worked as Deputy Head of Office at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Moscow and Programme Manager South Eastern Europe being responsible for five country offices as well as two regional sector programmes (Rule of Law, Media Freedom), and as Economic Consultant to the World Bank in South Eastern Europe. He studied international relations at the University of Bologna in Italy and the University of California in Berkeley in the US as well as holds a Master Degree in international security and international political economy from the London School of Economics.

