

# UNCITRAL Texts and COVID-19 Response and Recovery

## Digital Economy and Trade Finance

9 July 2020

**SAVE LIVES.  
SAVE LIVELIHOODS.  
SAVE SMEs.**

Government Call to Action



Corporate Call to Action



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# Change is overdue

- Trade finance often derided as an antiquated market

Time's up

## Trade finance is nearing a much-needed shakeup

The world's oldest and most intricate paper trail is about to be ripped up

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All this explains why an industry that is global by definition is parochial and antiquated.

”

# COVID-19 issues

## Traders

- Delays in shipping of original documents
- Reductions in trade
- Unacceptable costs

## Banks

- Need for ad hoc indemnities
- Added legal risk

# What to do about this?

URGENT  
6 April 2020

## ICC MEMO TO GOVERNMENTS AND CENTRAL BANKS ON ESSENTIAL STEPS TO SAFEGUARD TRADE FINANCE OPERATIONS

- **COVID-19 issues**
- Increased cost.
- Increased time.
- Increased legal risk.
- **Immediate and medium-term asks**
- As a temporary measure, void any legal requirements for trade documentation to be in hard copy.
- As a subsequent step, we encourage all governments to rapidly adopt the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records.

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Trade finance

has long followed outmoded practices. Now might be its chance to blow everyone's socks off. ■

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Only if States adopt the MLETR!





**Thank you!**