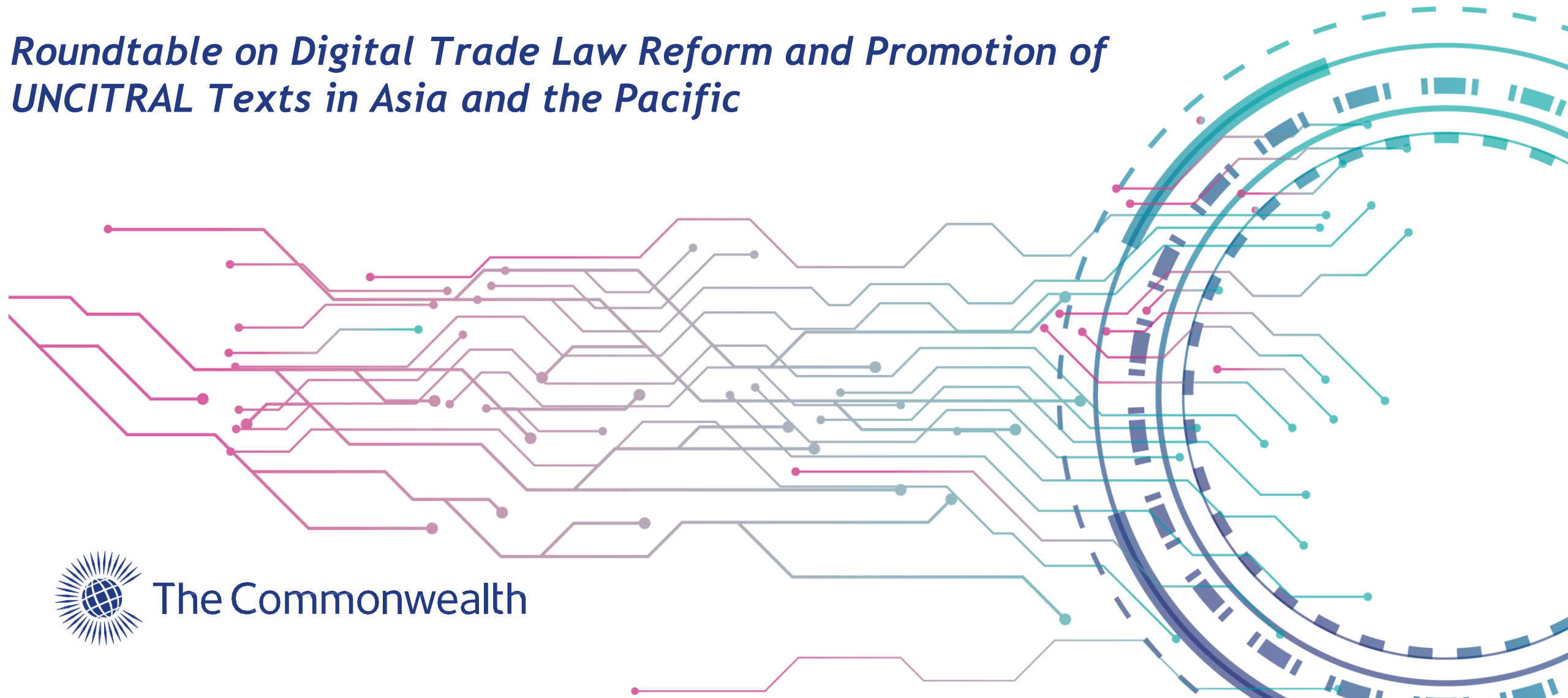


Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda

*Roundtable on Digital Trade Law Reform and Promotion of
UNCITRAL Texts in Asia and the Pacific*



The Commonwealth



Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda

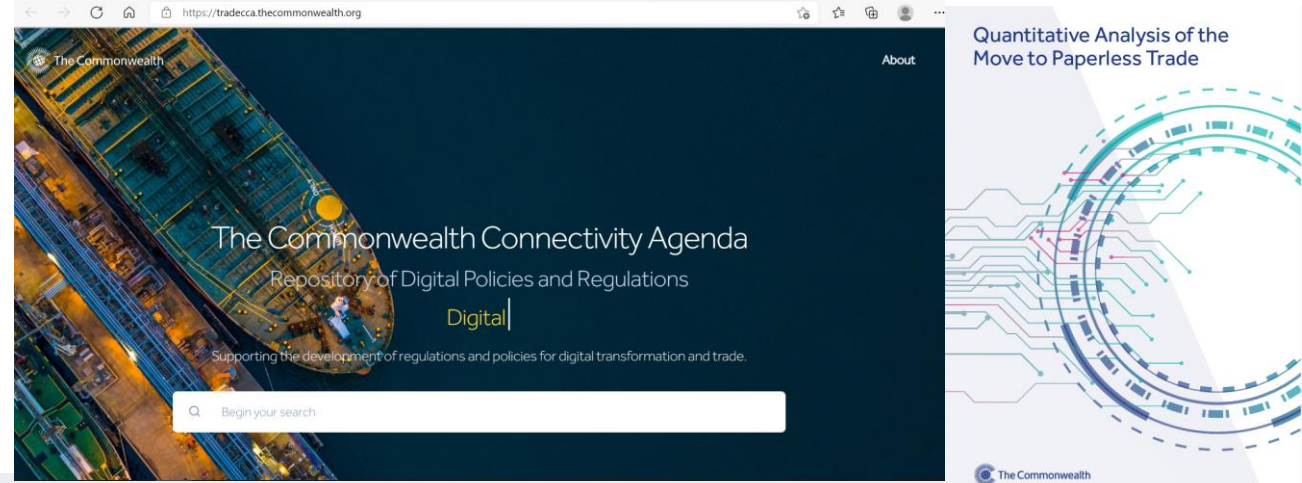


Commonwealth Leaders adopted the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda (CCA) at CHOGM in April 2018, with a view to boosting trade and investment links across the Commonwealth and raising intra-Commonwealth trade to US\$2 trillion by 2030.

- **Physical Connectivity** focusing on digital infrastructure and led by The Gambia
- **Digital Connectivity** focusing on digital transformation and the digital economy and led by Mauritius
- **Regulatory Connectivity** focusing on the regulatory environment for MSMEs and led by Barbados
- **Business-to-Business Connectivity** focusing on improving Commonwealth business links and led by Bangladesh
- **Supply Side Connectivity** focusing on participation and upgrading of MSMEs in agribusiness value chains and led by Vanuatu

<https://thecommonwealth.org/connectivity-agenda>

Context



- Digital trade facilitation across borders could increase trade across the Commonwealth by approx. US\$90 billion, and legal reform to support the digitalisation of electronic records could unleash as much as US\$1.1 trillion, bringing the total benefits from paperless trade to nearly US\$1.2 trillion by 2026.

Quantitative Analysis of the Move to Digital Trade Report 2022: [https://production-new-commonwealth-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-04/Quantitative_Analysis_of_the_Move_to_Paperless_Trade_UPDF%20\(3\).pdf?VersionId=lavpVx8RNZqWF17D0XY5B0HfkvbrXMr4](https://production-new-commonwealth-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-04/Quantitative_Analysis_of_the_Move_to_Paperless_Trade_UPDF%20(3).pdf?VersionId=lavpVx8RNZqWF17D0XY5B0HfkvbrXMr4)

- Repository of Digital Policies and Regulations: <https://tradecca.thecommonwealth.org/>

Asia & Pacific Region



- Advisory Support and Assistance in the implementation of its National e-Commerce Strategy and Implementation Roadmaps
- Capacity Building Training on Legal Frameworks for Building the Digital Economy
- Establishment of Legal Reform and Digitalisation Working Group
- Capacity Building Training on Leveraging Digital Infrastructure and Regulatory Coherence to Address Digital Divide
- Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda's Cross-Regional Connectivity Grants program

Capacity Building on Legal Frameworks for Building the Digital Economy

- The CCA is partnering with PIF and ADB in order to deliver a three (3) day training workshop in relation to the development of legal frameworks within the region that support the digital economy on **October 18-20, 2023 in Suva, Fiji.**

- Key legislative areas: -
 - Electronic Transactions
 - Electronic Payment & Taxation
 - Telecommunications
 - Consumer Protection
 - Intellectual Property
 - Customs and Border Management/Trade Facilitation
 - Data Protection & Cross Border Data Flows
 - Fintech & Regulatory Sandboxing
 - Cybersecurity
 - Competition
 - Digital Identity and Authentication
 - Quality Infrastructure

Legal Reform and Digitisation Working Group



- Commonwealth Trade Ministers, at the meeting held in London in June 2023, mandated the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda CCA to establish a **Working Group on Legal Reform and Digitalisation** to assist member states in transitioning to paperless trade.
- The Working Group will, *inter alia*,:
 - ✓ identify the legal implications of transitioning to paperless trade and building the digital economy, identifying key legal areas to be addressed, and propose legal reforms that address specific country conditions
 - ✓ consider the most appropriate regulatory frameworks paperless trade

Capacity Building Training on Leveraging Digital Infrastructure and Regulatory Coherence to Address Digital Divide

- The CCA will be conducting training on Leveraging Digital Infrastructure and Regulatory Coherence to Address Digital Divide from **6-8 December in Tarawa Kiribati**.
- The Specific Objectives of the training will include:
 - ✓ Introduction to Commonwealth Good Regulatory Practices (CGRP) principles
 - ✓ Understanding regulatory reform for digital economy and trade



Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda's Cross-Regional Connectivity Grants Program

- The [Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda's Cross-Regional Connectivity Grants Program](#) will support Commonwealth member states in undertaking cross-regional peer-to-peer learning activities aimed at enhancing their knowledge, building their capacity, and enhancing their expertise to increase and facilitate trade and investment.
- This program supports member states to deliver such activities while enabling interventions and engagements that work toward achieving Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda objectives such as reducing trade frictions among members and supporting greater cross-Commonwealth trade and investment.
- The application window closes on **27 October 2023**.



Thank you

Feel free to contact us should you require further information

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