



Accelerating Digital Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific

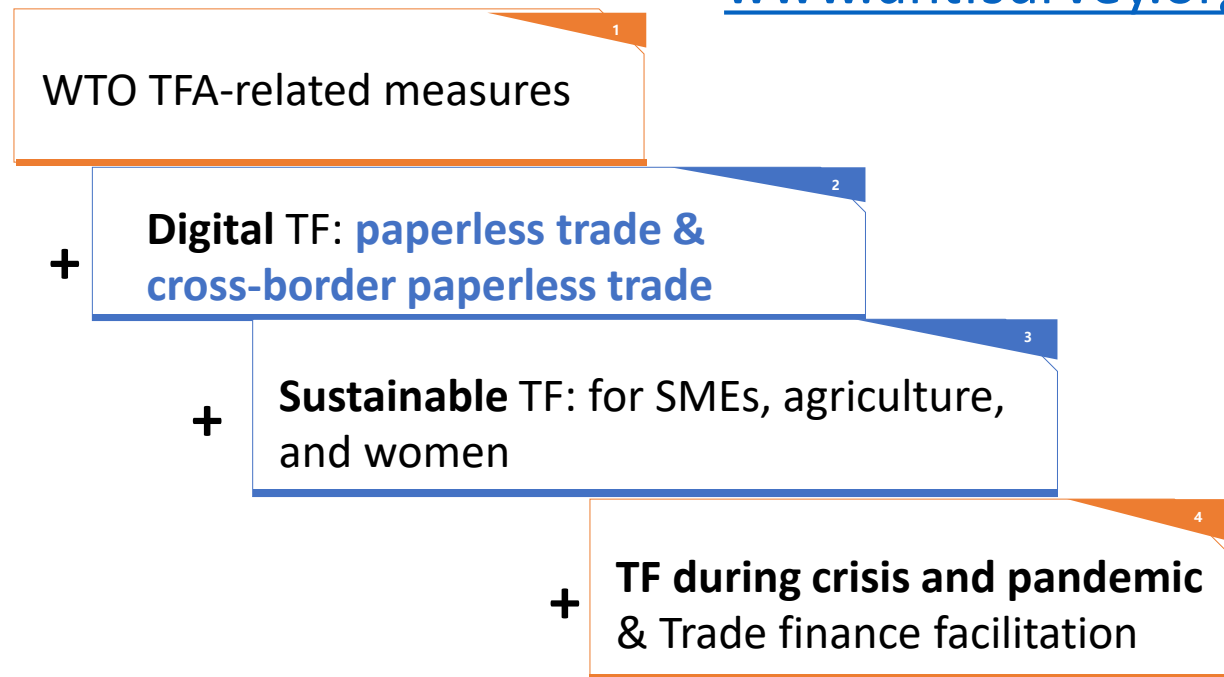
Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP

UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

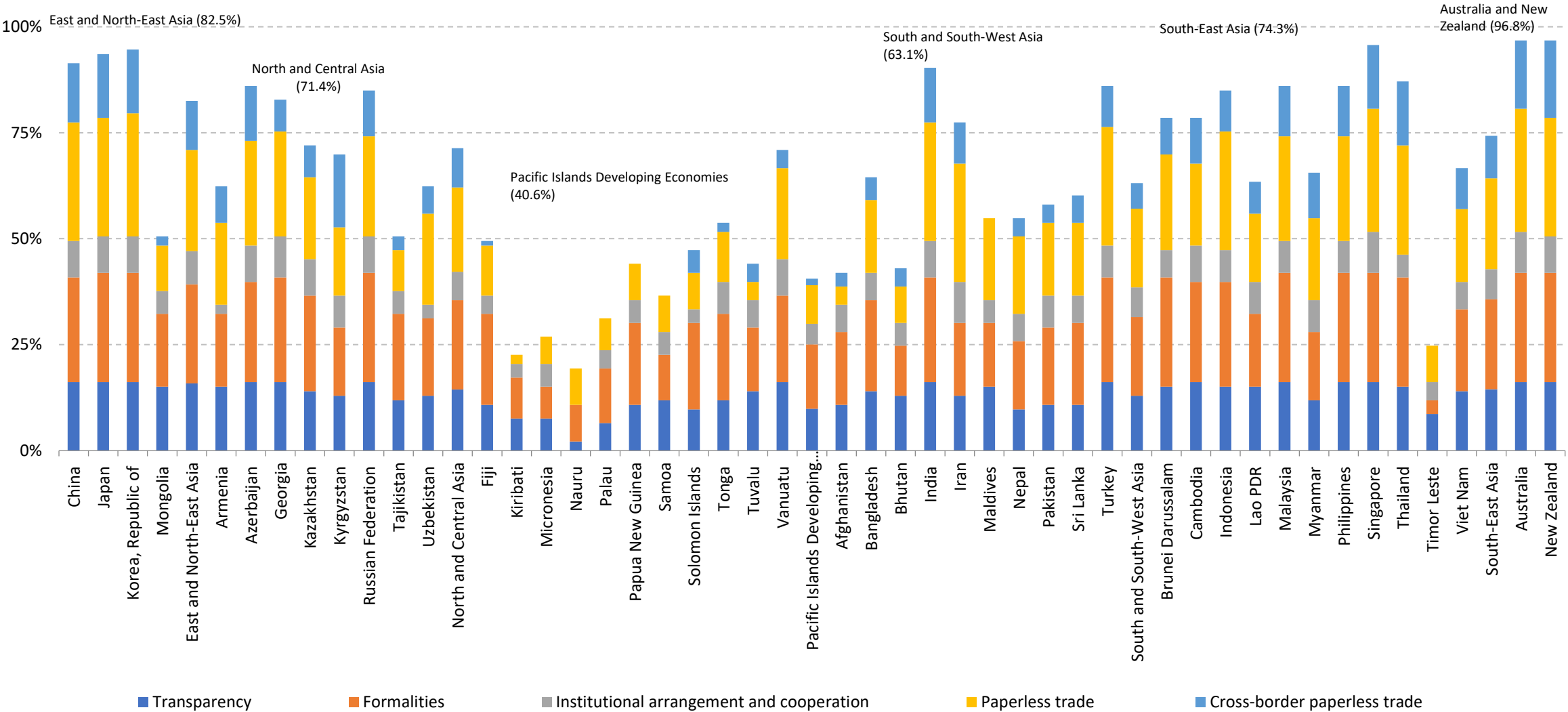
- *Conducted jointly by all five UN Regional Commissions and UNCTAD, in collaboration with global and (sub)regional partners*
- ***WTO TFA+ 58 trade facilitation measures**
(2015-2021)*
- ***144+ economies globally, 46 from Asia-Pacific region***



www.untfsurvey.org

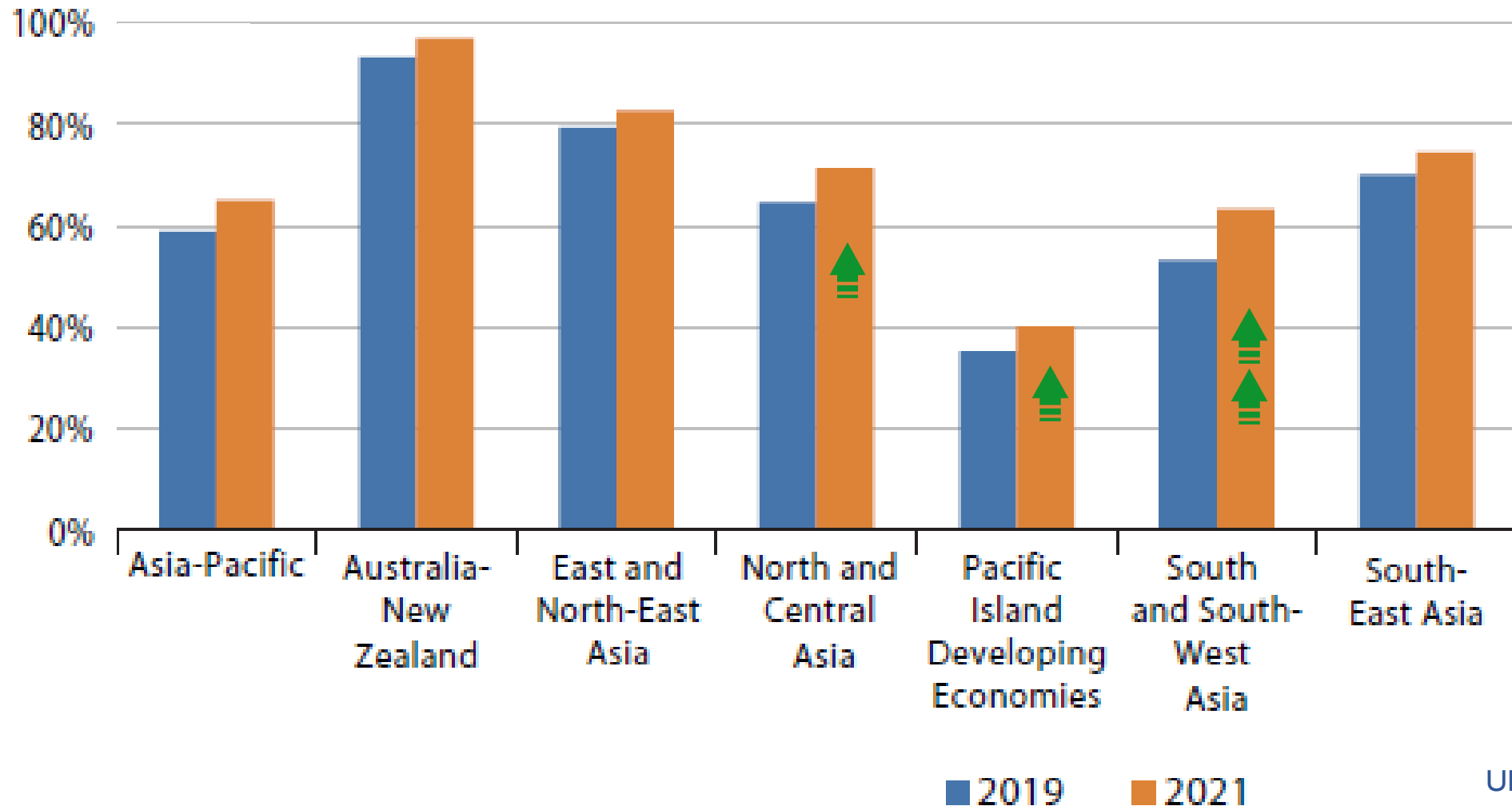


Implementation varies widely across countries and subregions



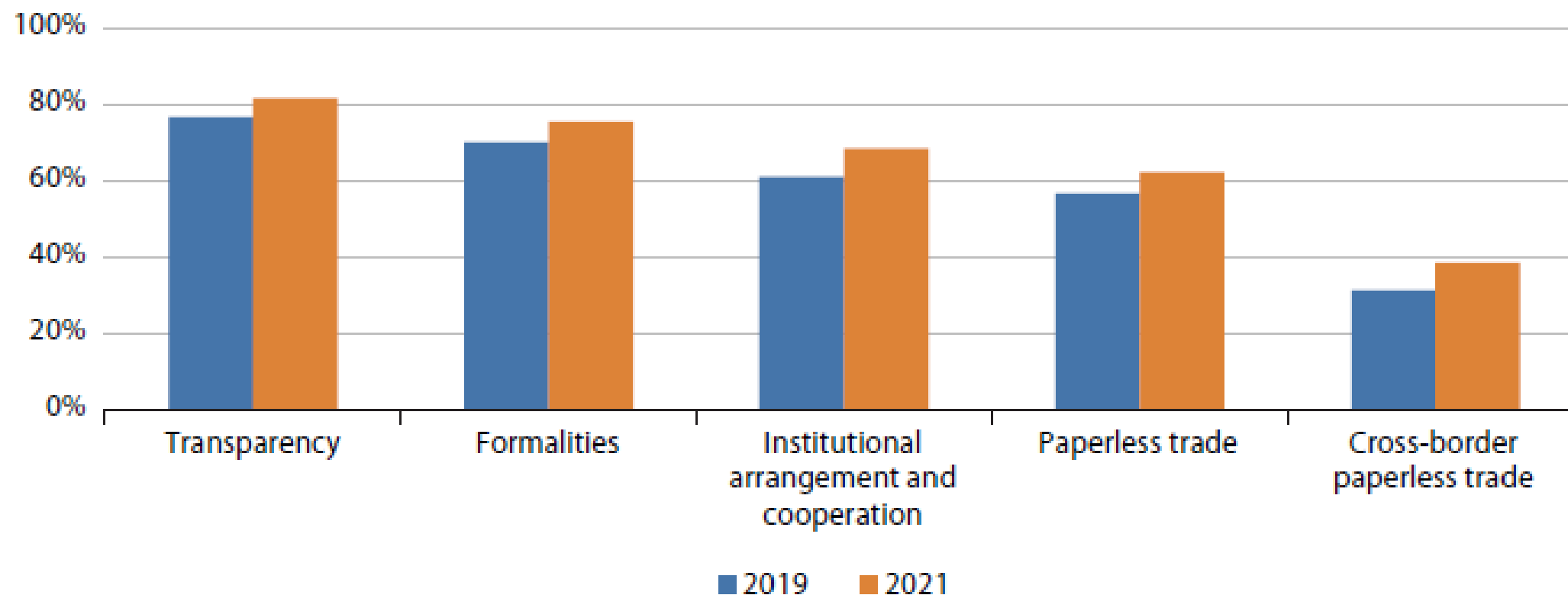
Implementation accelerated in all subregions

Trade facilitation implementation by subregions in Asia and the Pacific, 2019 and 2021



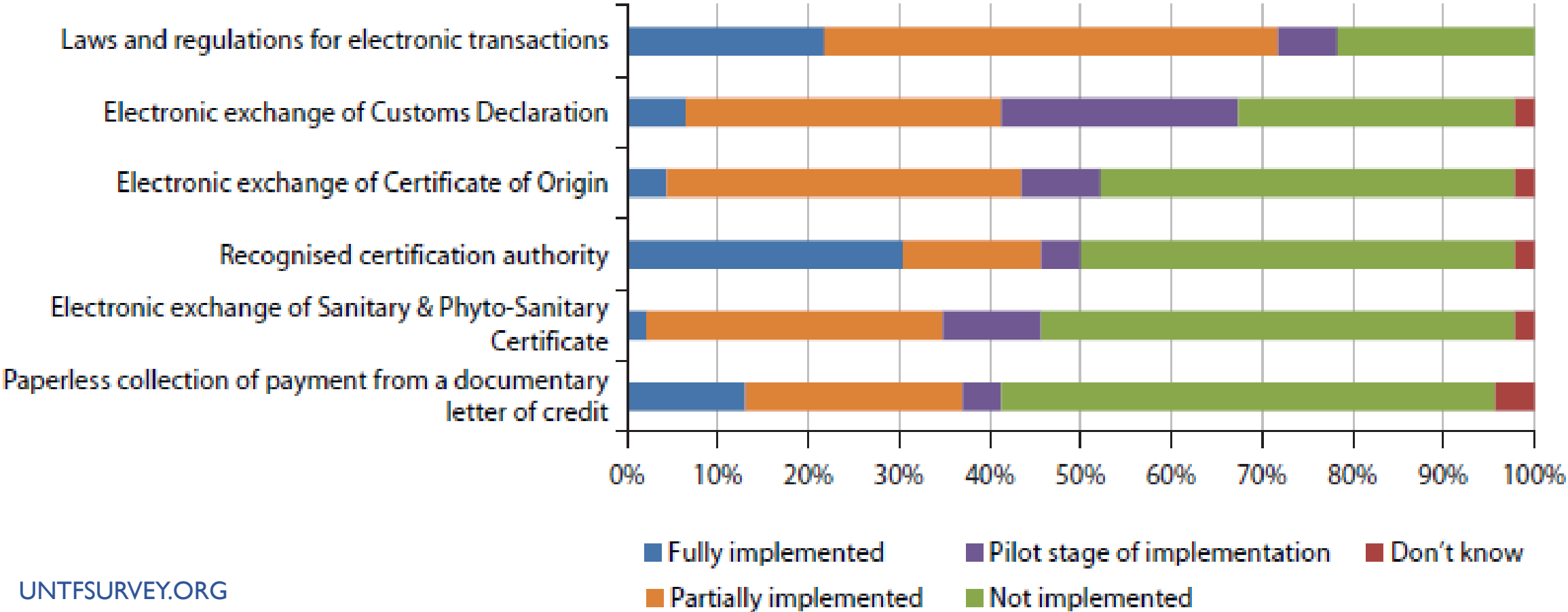
Implementation of cross-border paperless trade is still a challenge despite most progress made

Implementation of different groups of trade facilitation measures in Asia-Pacific, 2019 and 2021



Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures remains low

State of implementation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific



Significant room to cut trade costs through trade digitalization



Changes in trade costs in Asia and the Pacific resulting from implementation of trade facilitation and paperless trade (per cent)

Asia-Pacific: Trade costs model	WTO TFA (binding only)		WTO TFA (binding + non-binding)		WTO TFA + (binding + non-binding + other paperless and cross-border paperless trade)	
	Partially implemented	Fully implemented	Partially implemented	Fully implemented	Partially implemented	Fully implemented
Model 1						
Overall trade facilitation	-1.74	-4.11	-2.81	-6.64	-7.65	-13.40
Model 2						
General trade facilitation measures	-0.56	-1.36	-0.73	-1.91	-0.92	-2.18
Digital trade facilitation measures			-1.56	-2.80	-8.78	-13.09

Source: ADB/ESCAP, 2021, Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2021.

Supporting Digital TF: Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

❑ A UN Treaty: enabling and action-oriented

- ✓ Open to interested (53) ESCAP member states (voluntary) to become parties

❑ Objective

- ✓ To facilitate cross-border paperless trade (data exchange) among willing ESCAP member states by providing a dedicated multilateral platform to develop legal and technical solutions for cross-border e-exchange of trade-data
- ✓ Complementary to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as well as (sub)regional efforts (FTAs and DEAs)

8 parties accounting for 40% of Asia-Pacific trade

3 new countries acceded in 2022:

- **Timor Leste**
- **Turkmenistan**
- **Mongolia**

1st Session of the Standing Committee of the CPTA: 12-15 Dec 22

Progress



More Information on the Framework Agreement

Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific with subtitles

Watch later Share

Video Contents

-Overview of key provisions in the Framework Agreement

- Article 1. Objective
- Article 5. General principles
- Article 8. Cross-border mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form
- Article 11. Institutional arrangements
- Article 12. Action plan
- Article 13. Pilot projects and sharing of lessons learned
- Article 14. Capacity-building

-How to become a Party to the Framework Agreement

Watch on YouTube

<https://www.unescap.org/projects/cpta>



Supporting the Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- ❑ United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXt)
- ❑ **NEW** Cross-border Paperless Trade database
www.digitalizetrade.org
- ❑ Legal and Technical Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade
readiness.digitalizetrade.org
- ❑ Paperless Trade and Environment Research
 - ❑ Paperless trade implementation in AP = planting 400+ million trees
 - ❑ Climate-smart Business Process Analysis





Cross-Border Paperless Trade Database

Home

Legal Instrument

Implementation Instrument

Projects & Services

Submit a Project

References



Latest Projects

Morpheus.Network

Operating
Global
Commercial Transactions, Regulatory/official control

SGS eCert Platform

Operating
Global
Commercial Transactions, Forwarding and cargo

eTIR Project and Piloting between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

Pilot
Bilateral

14 national readiness assessment studies completed

Central Asia (6)

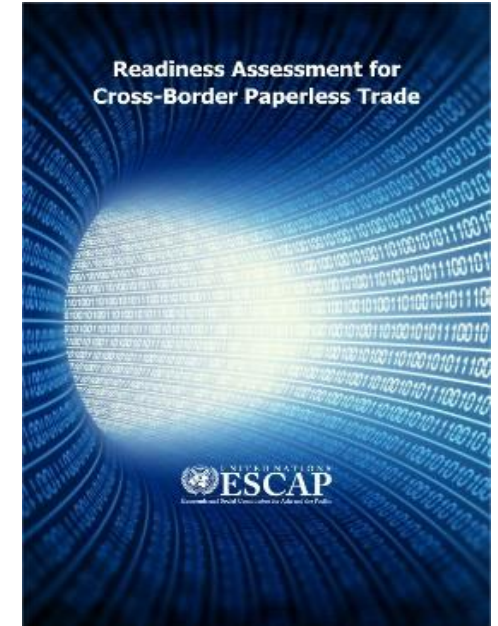
Armenia (2019)
Azerbaijan (2022)
Georgia (2022)
Kazakhstan (2022)
Mongolia (2019)
Uzbekistan (2019)

South-East Asia (6)

Cambodia (2020)
Lao PDR (2022)
Myanmar (2019)
Philippines (2022)
Timore Leste (2020)
Viet Nam (2019)

South Asia (2)

Bangladesh (2019)
Nepal (2020)



4 on-going or planned

Tajikistan, Tonga, Tuvalu, ... Mexico...

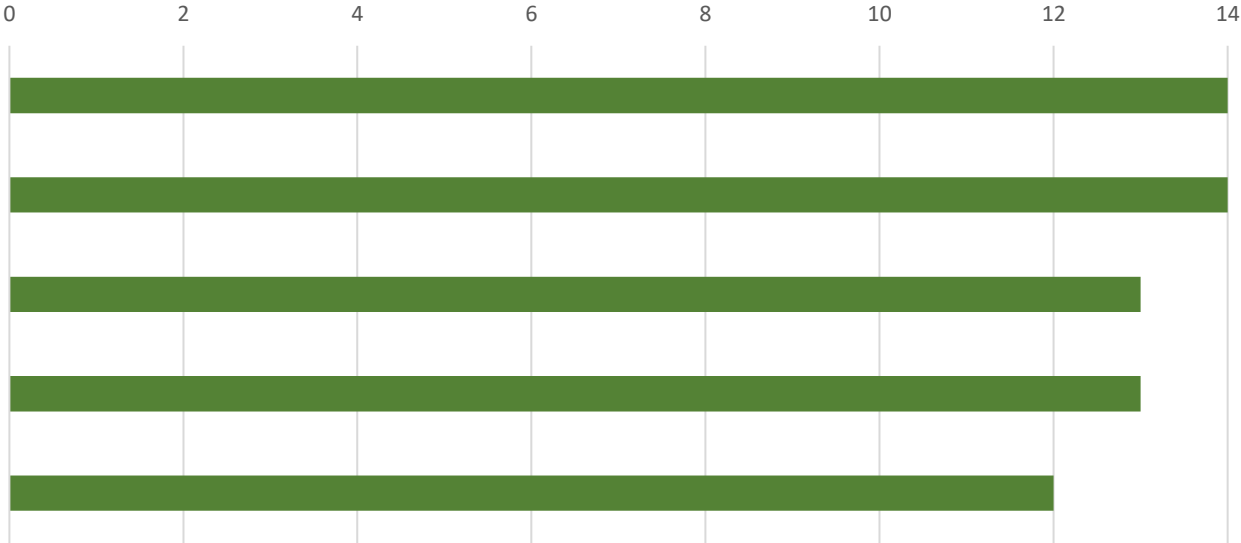
(##): Year of completion of the Assessment



Top 5 recommendations – technical and legal

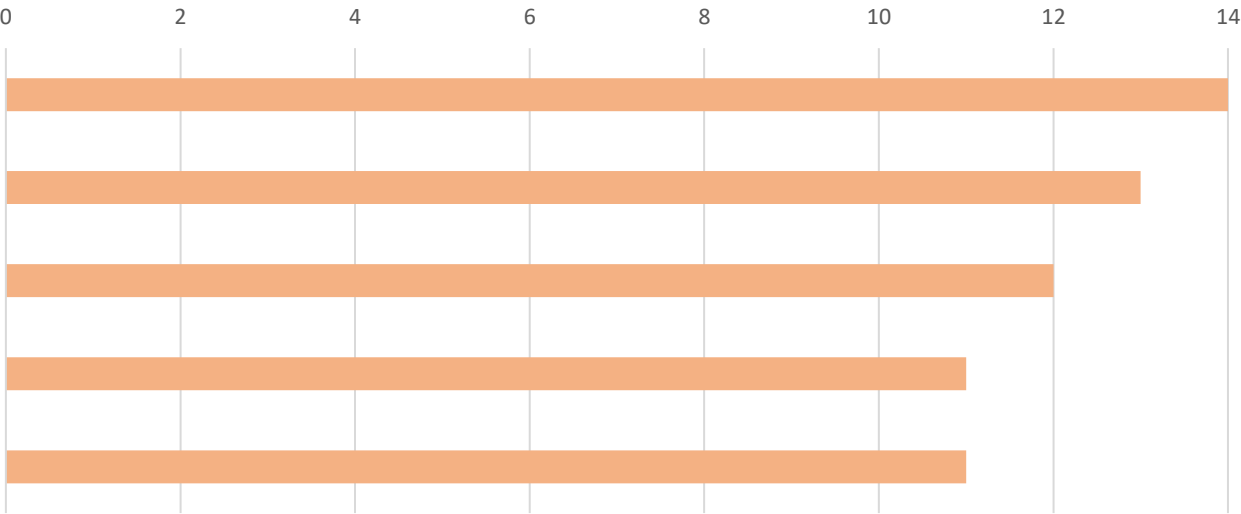
Technical

- Establish or strengthen the stakeholder coordination mechanism
- Enhance awareness and conduct capacity building of on cross border paperless trade
- Establish / enhance / implement strategic plan and guidelines on business continuity of ICT systems, incl. a disaster recovery
- Conduct data harmonization for the implementation and upgrading of the ICT system [on the basis of international standards]
- Conduct Business Process Re-engineering on the implementation and upgrading of ICT system relevant to trade related regulatory agencies



Legal

- Modernize, simplify, streamline laws and regulations governing electronic transactions
- Adopt / amend the law on use of data / data governance / data flows, incl. protection of privacy and confidentiality
- Conduct awareness / capacity-building on legal issues related to paperless trade
- Establish / improve legal basis for paperless trade environment / operation of the NSW
- Initiate /participate in multilateral and bilateral cross-border paperless trade interoperability initiatives (including joining the CBPTA)



THANK YOU



**Framework Agreement on
Cross-Border Paperless Trade**



**UN Global Survey on Digital and
Sustainable Trade Facilitation**



**United Nations Network of Experts for
Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia
and the Pacific (UNNExT)**



**E-Learning Series on Business
Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation**



**Cross-Border Paperless Trade
Readiness Assessment**



**Regional Organizations Cooperation
Mechanism for Trade Facilitation
(ROC-TF)**



<https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade>

