

# Trade Facilitation under APoA: Status, Challenges and International Instruments



**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific



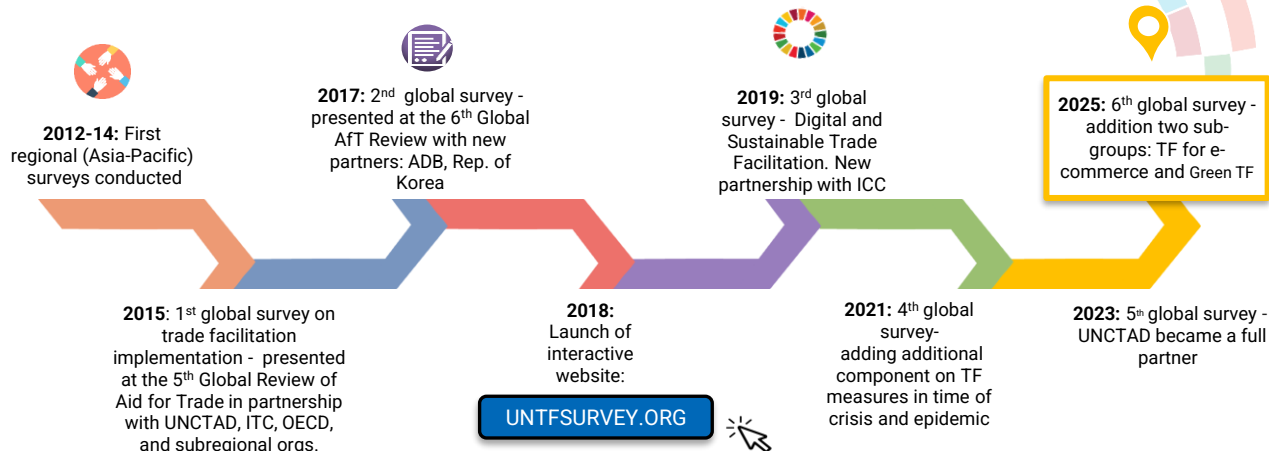
# UN Global Survey Digital and Sustainable TF: Background

## Objectives:

- Monitor progress on trade facilitation (TF), including paperless trade and forward-looking measures toward SDGs
- Enable evidence-based policy-making, capacity building and tech assistance

## Coverage:

- ❖ WTO TFA++ (incl. Digital TF)
- ❖ 180 countries
- ❖ 60+ TF measures





# UN Global Survey 2025 | WTO TFA++ (62 measures)

## ESTABLISHED AREAS – comparison across years

### General -WTO TFA related (14 Measures)

NTFC, risk-management based inspections, pre-arrival processing, post-clearance audits, average release time publication,....

### Digital TF (24 Measures)

Electronic Single Window System, legal framework to facilitate cross-border electronic transactions, exchange of electronic declarations, SPS certificates,....

### Sustainable TF (12 Measures)

access of SMEs to trade-related information or to the single window, special support to women's participation in trade, treatment given to perishable goods,....

## EMERGING AREAS

**NEW!**

### Trade facilitation for e-Commerce (5 Measures)

Legal framework, small value shipments, waiver of Customs duties, AEO programmes ...

**NEW!**

### Green trade facilitation (4 Measures)

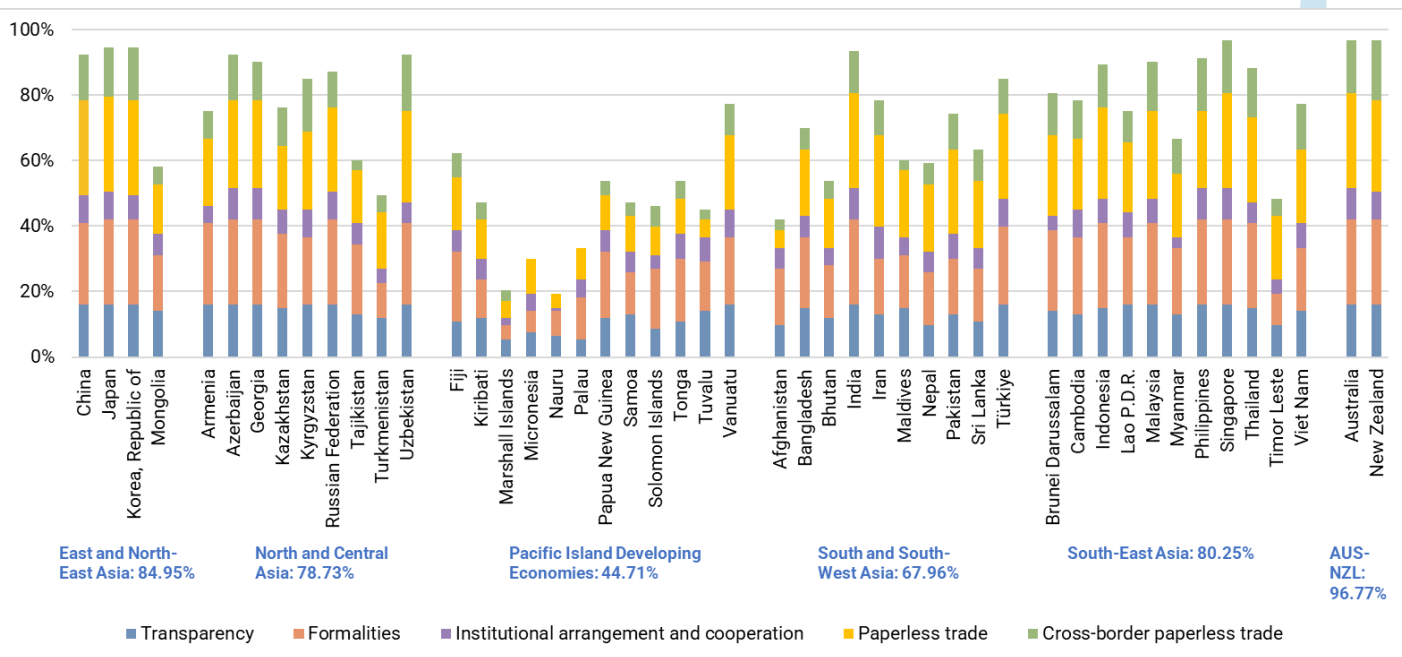
sustainability reporting, expedition of green and climate-smart goods, eCITES, TF in waste and harmful substances...

### Trade finance for trade facilitation (3 Measures)

facilitating traders' access to finance, emerging tech trade finance projects, trade finance services...

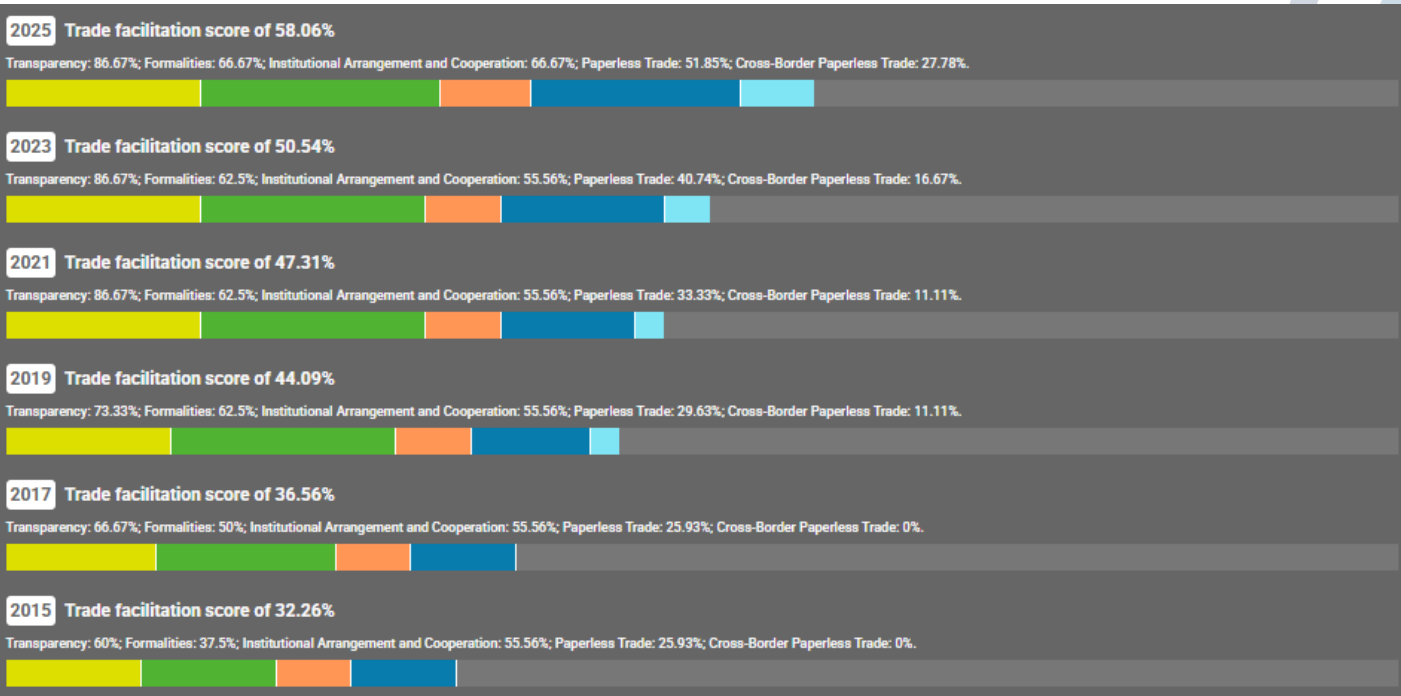
# Asia-Pacific (48 countries) TF implementation rate: 70%

## Varying level of implementation across countries



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2025)

# TF implementation in Mongolia (progress since 2015)

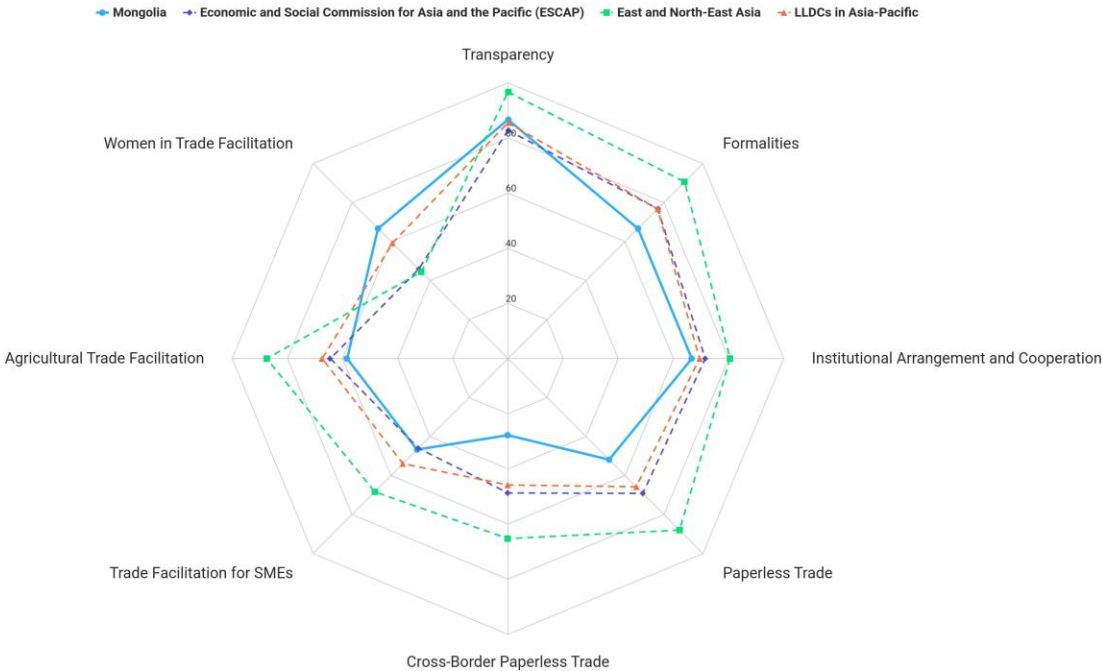


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2025)

# TF implementation in Mongolia (2025)

## Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2025



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2025 | [UNTFSSURVEY.ORG](https://unfssurvey.org)

# Key Trade Facilitation provisions in APoA

## **Simplification and Streamlining of Border Procedures**

“Encourage simplification and streamlining of documentation and border crossing procedures with the aim of substantially reducing port and border delays and costs.”

## **Development of Transport Corridors and Transit Facilitation**

“develop and strengthen transport corridors, including through streamlined border procedures, the implementation of legal frameworks and transit rule policies...”

## **Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Trade Facilitation**

“improve their trade facilitation, including by harmonizing, simplifying and standardizing their transit rules, documentation requirements, border crossing processes and customs procedures, in line with existing international standards and best practices...”



# Key Trade Facilitation provisions in APoA (cont.)

## **Digitalization of Trade and Customs Procedures**

“support the digitalization of trade and customs procedures to establish interconnectivity and ensure the fast and secure exchange of data and information concerning cargo and means of transport...”

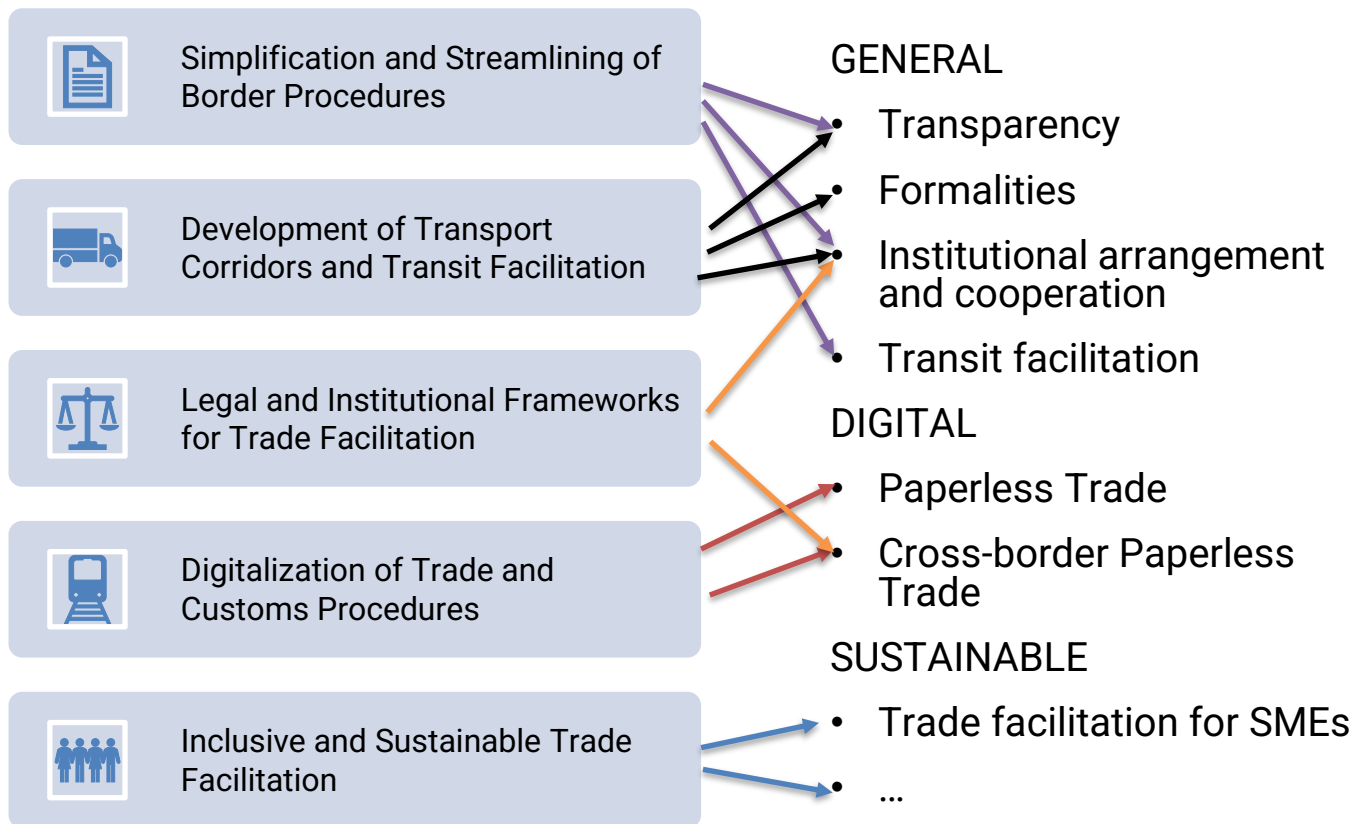
## **Inclusive and Sustainable Trade Facilitation**

“encourage the development and the implementation of inclusive trade policies that can contribute to advancing gender equality and women’s economic empowerment...”



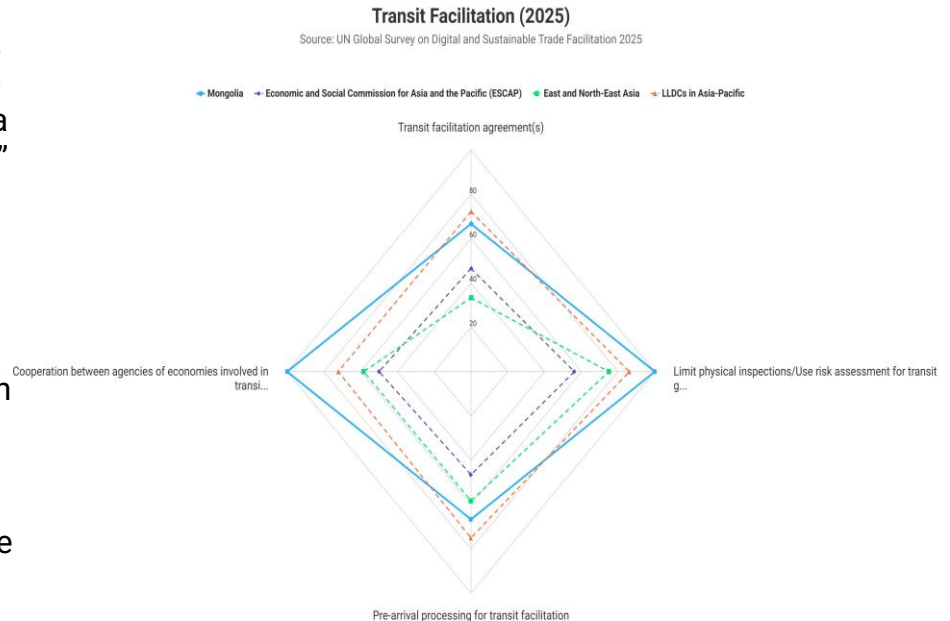


# APoA TF measures in the Global Survey



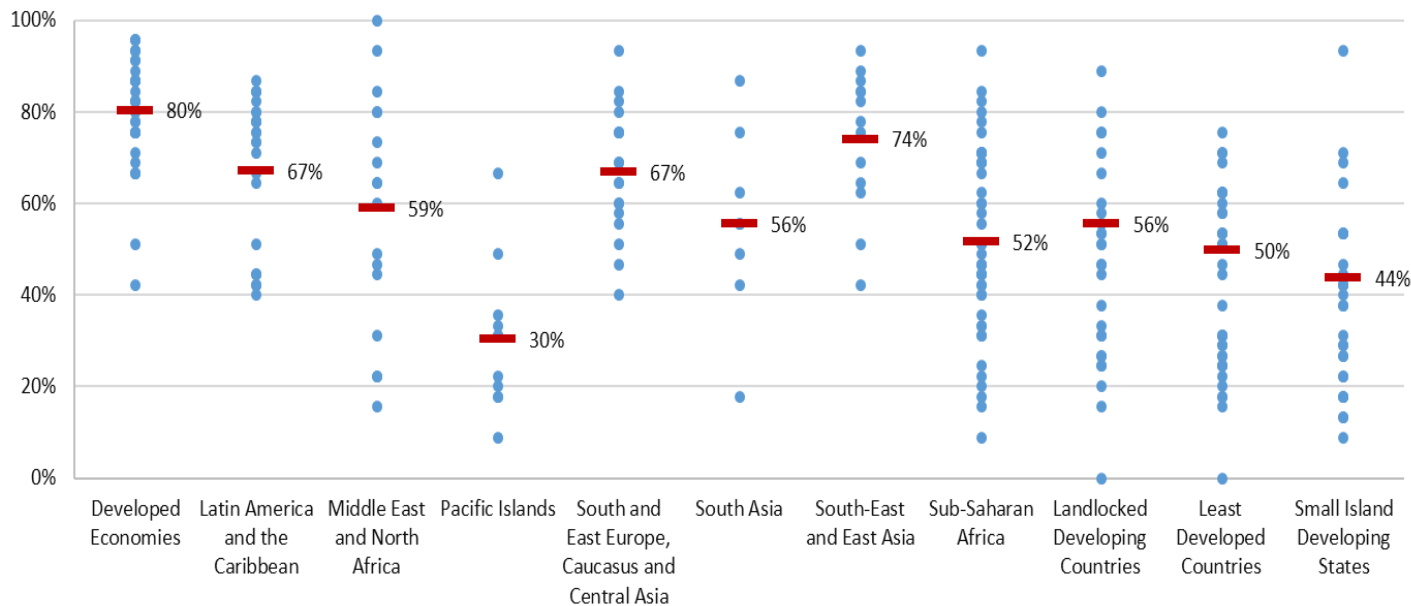
# Development of Transport Corridors and Transit Facilitation

**APoA:** “We reaffirm our commitment to unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport...” and “We encourage landlocked developing countries and transit countries to develop and strengthen transport corridors, including through streamlined border procedures, the implementation of legal frameworks and transit rule policies...”



# Trade Digitalization Index - based on UNTF Survey 2025 data

Significant variations within each regional group and among countries with special needs, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS



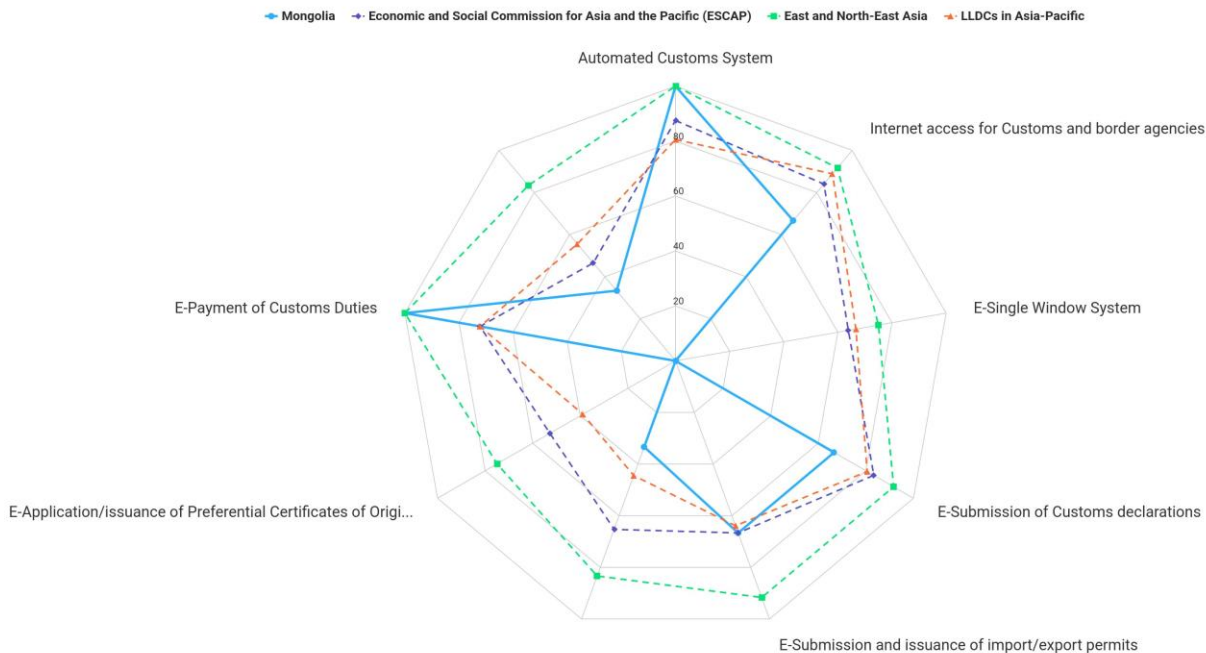
Source: The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, 2025.

# Digitalization of Trade and Customs Procedures

**APoA:** “We will support the digitalization of trade and customs procedures to establish interconnectivity and ensure the fast and secure exchange of data and information concerning cargo and means of transport...”

## Paperless Trade (2025)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2025

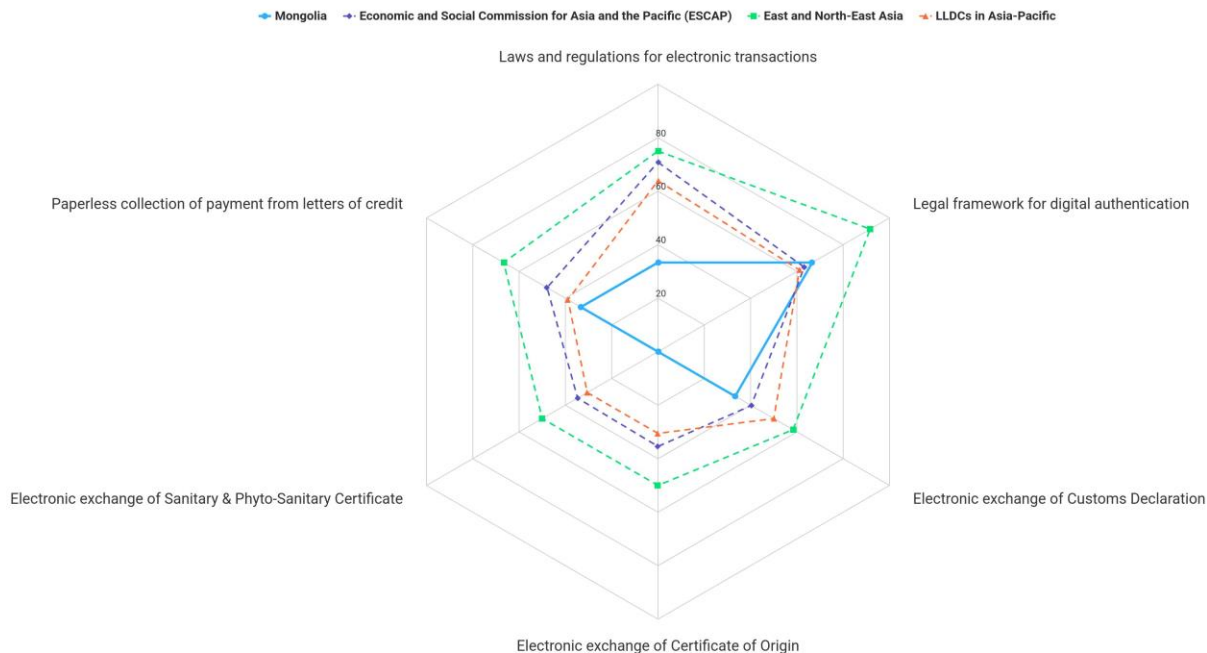


# Digitalization of Trade and Customs Procedures

**APoA:** “We will support the digitalization of trade and customs procedures to establish interconnectivity and ensure the fast and secure exchange of data and information concerning cargo and means of transport...”

## Cross-Border Paperless Trade (2025)

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2025



# Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

Fully supporting APoA on  
Digitalization of Trade and  
Customs Procedures+

An enabling UN Treaty to accelerate trade digitalization

- Open to all ESCAP member states to become parties

Objective

- To facilitate cross-border paperless trade by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions

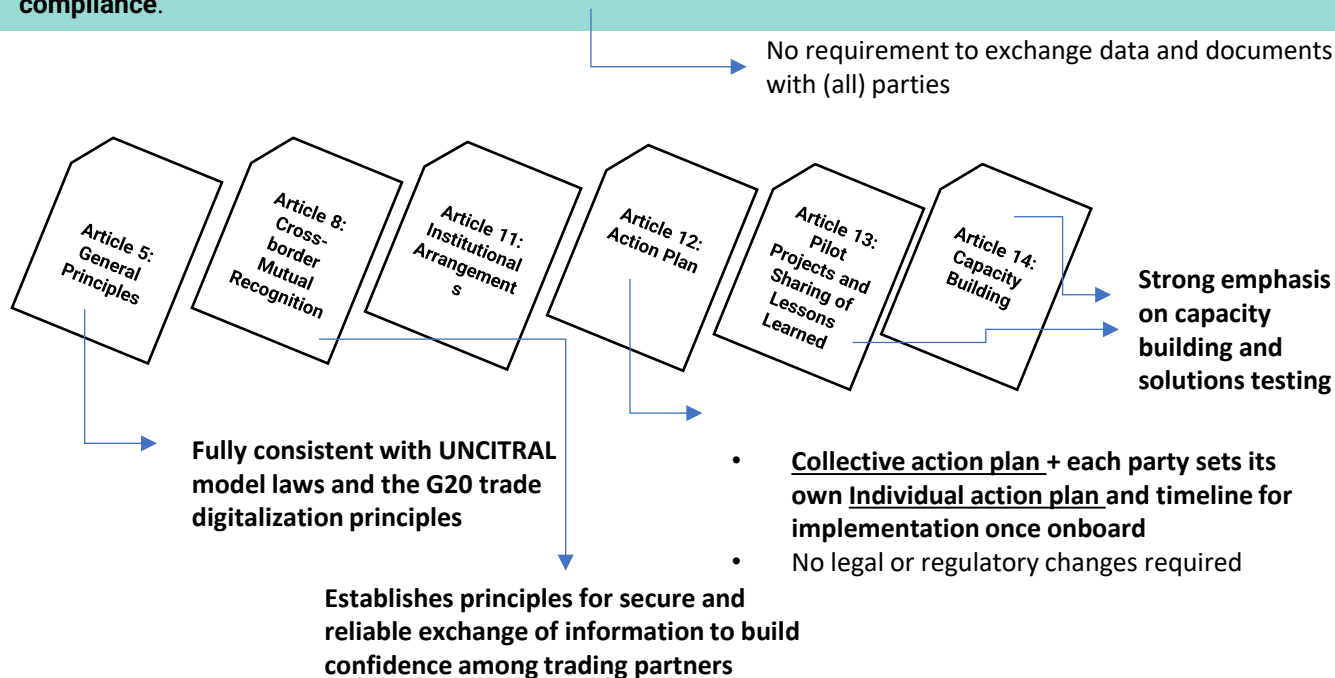
A young UN treaty: growing fast

- But growing fast: from 5 parties in 2022 to 15 parties in 2025
- **Mongolia joined in July 2022 and have actively participated in the discussions and implementation of the substantive provisions**

# Key Provisions of the CPTA

## Article 1: Objective

The objective of the present Framework Agreement is **to promote cross-border paperless trade** by enabling the exchange and mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form and facilitating interoperability among national and subregional single windows and/or other paperless trade systems, for the purpose of **making international trade transactions more efficient and transparent while improving regulatory compliance.**



# 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>

