



Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in North and Central Asia

Sub-Regional Report 2019

Based on the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reducing trade costs is essential in enabling economies to effectively participate in regional and global value chains and for them to continue to use trade as an important engine of growth and sustainable development. Reducing non-tariff sources of trade costs, including cumbersome regulatory trade procedures and documentation, is essential to lower trade costs and make trade more inclusive. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and new regional trade digitalization initiatives provide guidance on measures that should be considered for implementation.¹

In this context, this report presents results of the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation for 8 countries in North and Central Asia, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Turkmenistan has been excluded from this report as the country did not provide any data for the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019.

The WTO TFA+ Survey was conducted during the first half of 2019 and covered 53 trade facilitation measures divided into four categories: “General Trade Facilitation”, “Digital Trade Facilitation”, “Sustainable Trade Facilitation” and “Trade Finance Facilitation”. The report reveals that:

- North and Central Asia implementation rate stands at 65.6% and is slightly higher than the regional average (59.7%). Within the Asia-Pacific region, implementation rate of trade facilitation and paperless trade in North and Central Asia countries comes after Australia and New Zealand, East and North-East Asia and South-East Asia.
- Implementation in North and Central Asia is quite heterogenous. The Russian Federation and Azerbaijan achieved high levels of implementation, both standing at over 80%. In contrast Kyrgyzstan has an implementation rate of 38%.
- Most North and Central Asian economies made faster progress in implementing trade facilitation reforms than the Asia-Pacific region as a whole over the past 2 years. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan made the most progress in streamlining formalities and moving towards paperless trade between 2017 and 2019.
- North and Central Asian countries have implemented many of the WTO TFA related measures, in particular transparency, transit and formalities related measures. However, cross-border paperless trade implementation remains still relatively low compared to the implementation levels of the other measures.
- Measures under the “Sustainable Trade Facilitation” category are very diversely implemented. These measures are not specified in multilateral and/or regional agreements but need to be further emphasized to ensure trade facilitation benefits a wider range of stakeholders. Measures related to agriculture or targeting SMEs are relatively well implemented (60% and 44% implementation rates, respectively) whereas the regional implementation rate of measures

¹ For example, the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific was signed or acceded to by six countries, namely, Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Azerbaijan. About 20 other States are at various stages of the treaty accession process and also participate annually in the interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation, a body that spearheaded the negotiation of the treaty and is now supporting its implementation.

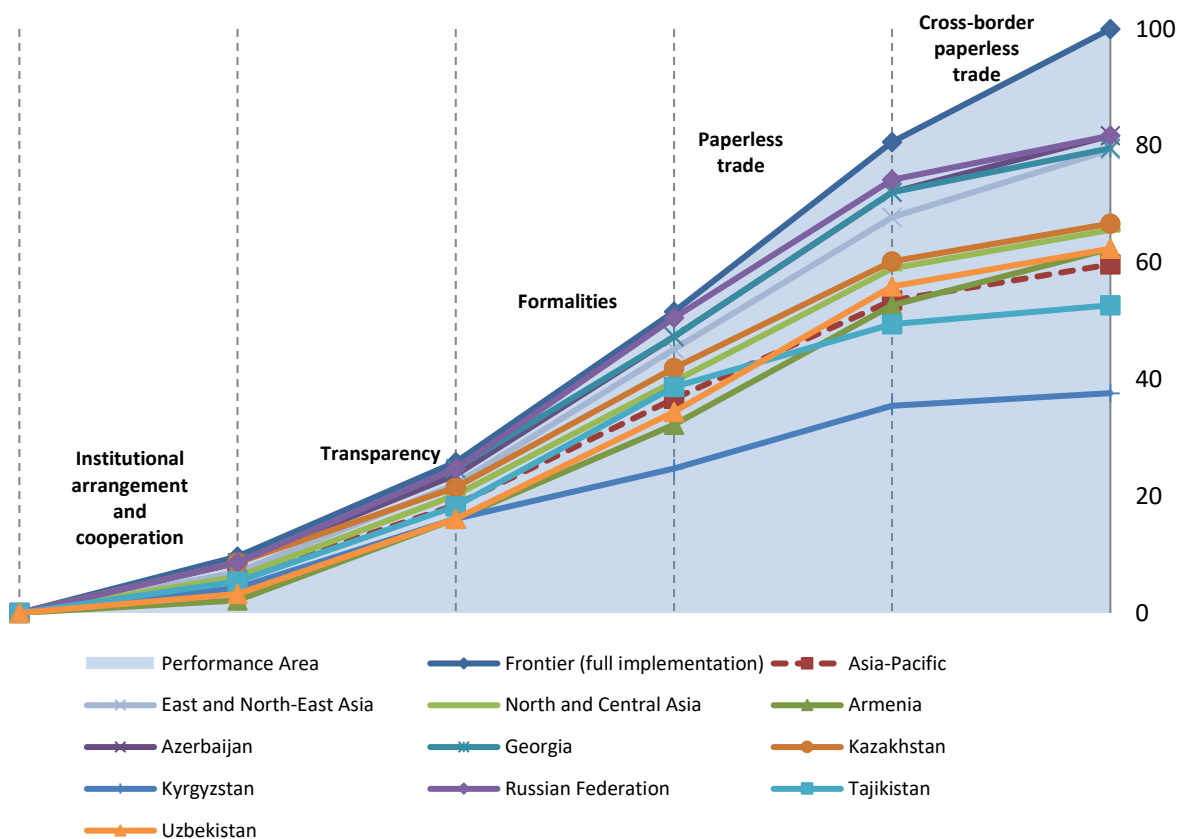
targeted at facilitating women participation in trade, approximately 32%, shows that there is still plenty of room for improvement in this area.

- Data on implementation of “Trade Finance Facilitation” measures were collected for the first time this year and does not provide a complete picture. It suggests, however, a serious lack of awareness about the importance of these measures and how they could be integrated in trade facilitation strategies.

The report also includes an analysis of the impact on trade costs from implementation of WTO TFA and other trade facilitation measures in North and Central Asia. While full implementation of all TFA measures included in the survey result in a 11% reduction in international trade costs for North and Central Asia, a TFA+ package of measures involving full digital implementation of the TFA together with enabling the seamless electronic exchange of trade data and documents across borders results in much larger trade costs reductions of over 19%.

This North and Central Asia report may best be read in conjunction with the Global and Asia-Pacific reports on the results of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019, available at <https://untfsurvey.org/>.²

Moving up the trade facilitation ladder towards seamless international supply chains



Note: the figure shows cumulative trade facilitation implementation scores of Asia-Pacific sub-regions for 31 common trade facilitation measures included in the survey. Full implementation of all measures =100.
 Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

² See also ADB-ESCA Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2019: Bridging Trade Finance Gaps through Technology. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/publications/asia-pacific-trade-facilitation-report-2019>

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Maria-Theresa Pisani and Salehin Khan of the United Nations Economic and Commission for Europe (ECE), as well as Yuhua Zhang and Sangwon Lim from ESCAP also contributed to the survey efforts, in particular by facilitating data collection from relevant experts as well as data validation in several countries. The active participation of the participants to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Trade Digitalization for Sustainable Regional Integration and the interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation, held on 12-15 March 2019, in the initial data collection effort is gratefully acknowledged. The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT), a knowledge community supported by ESCAP and ECE, also greatly facilitated data collection.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEO	Authorized economic operator
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ENEA	East and North-East Asia
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ICT	Information and communications technology
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDC	Least developed country
LLDC	Landlocked developing country
NCA	North and Central Asia
NTFC	National trade facilitation committee
OCO	Oceania Customs Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PIDE	Pacific Island Developing Economies
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEA	South-East Asia
SELA	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System
SIDS	Small island developing states
SSWA	South and South-West Asia
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNNExT	United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport for Asia and the Pacific
UNRC	United Nations Regional Commission
WTO	World Trade Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

It is well understood that reducing trade costs is essential in enabling economies to effectively participate in regional and global value chains and continue to use trade as a main engine of growth and sustainable development. As shown in Table 1, comprehensive non-tariff trade costs between the North and Central Asian economies are still significantly higher than the costs of trading goods among the three largest European Union economies (113% tariff-equivalent vs. 42% tariff-equivalent) or those between China, the Republic of Korea and Japan (55% tariff-equivalent).

Recent studies suggest that much of the trade cost reductions achieved over the past decade have been through elimination or lowering of tariffs. Further trade cost reduction therefore will have to come from tackling non-tariff sources of trade costs, such as inefficient transport and logistics, infrastructure and services, as well as cumbersome regulatory procedures and documentation. In this context, this report provides an overview of the results for countries of North and Central Asia of the 2019 United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, conducted between January and July 2019.

Table 1: Intra- and extra-regional comprehensive trade costs in the Asia-Pacific region

Region	ASEAN-4	East Asia-3	North and Central Asia-4	Pacific Islands Developing Economies	SAARC-4	AUS-NZL	EU-3
ASEAN-4	76.1% (1.3%)						
East Asia-3	78.3% (6.0%)	55.0% (7.6%)					
North and Central Asia-4	334.1% (-7.8%)	168.6% (-4.5%)	113.1% (-7.3%)				
Pacific Islands-2	168.5% (-7.9%)	162.6% (-6.6%)	378.2% (21.5%)	133.3% (-0.5%)			
SAARC-4	132.8% (5.1%)	124.2% (0.6%)	304.9% (7.0%)	253.2% (-19.4%)	121.3% (10.3%)		
AUS-NZL	102.6% (3.6%)	87.8% (-2.2%)	373.0% (5.5%)	88.6% (4.2%)	137.2% (-4.5%)	55.5% (3.0%)	
EU-3	104.5% (-4.1%)	85.6% (0.8%)	149.9% (-3.8%)	197.2% (-7.3%)	114.3% (0.2%)	107.5% (-2.0%)	42.1% (-5.6%)
USA	87.6% (6.7%)	65.2% (5.6%)	181.2% (0.8%)	164.0% (-0.6%)	114.7% (7.1%)	101.1% (2.0%)	67.5% (2.3%)

Note: Trade costs may be interpreted as tariff equivalents and are calculated based on the 4 most recent years for which data is available (i.e., 2014-2017). Numbers in parenthesis are changes in trade costs between 2011-14 and 2014-2017. ASEAN-4: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand; EastAsia-3: China, Japan, Republic of Korea; North and Central Asia-4: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation; Pacific Island Developing: Fiji, Papua New Guinea; SAARC-4: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; AUS-NZL: Australia, New-Zealand; EU-3: Germany, France, United Kingdom; USA: the United States of America.

Source: ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database (July 2019 update). <https://artnet.unescap.org/databases>

1.2 SURVEY INSTRUMENT AND METHODOLOGY

The survey instrument was prepared according to the final list of commitments included in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the regional UN treaty on cross-border paperless trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific³. The survey covers 53 main trade facilitation measures which are categorized into four main categories, namely: “General Trade Facilitation”, “Digital Trade Facilitation”, “Sustainable Trade Facilitation” and ‘Trade Finance Facilitation’ measures⁴.

The first category, “General Trade Facilitation” measures includes many of the WTO TFA measures under 4 groups: ‘Transparency’, ‘Formalities’, ‘Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation’ and ‘Transit Facilitation’. The second category, “Digital Trade Facilitation” measures includes 2 groups: ‘Paperless Trade’, and ‘Cross-Border Paperless Trade’. The third category, “Sustainable Trade Facilitation” measures includes 3 groups: ‘Trade Facilitation for SMEs’, ‘Agricultural Trade Facilitation’ and ‘Women in Trade Facilitation’. The fourth category, ‘Trade Finance Facilitation’ has been added in the 2019 Survey and was developed in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Banking Commission.

Based on the data collected, each of the trade facilitation measures included in the survey was rated as “fully implemented”, “partially implemented”, “on a pilot basis”, or “not implemented”⁵. A score (weight) of 3, 2, 1 and 0 was assigned to each of the 4 implementation stages to calculate implementation scores for individual measures across countries, regions or sub-regions.

³ <http://www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific>

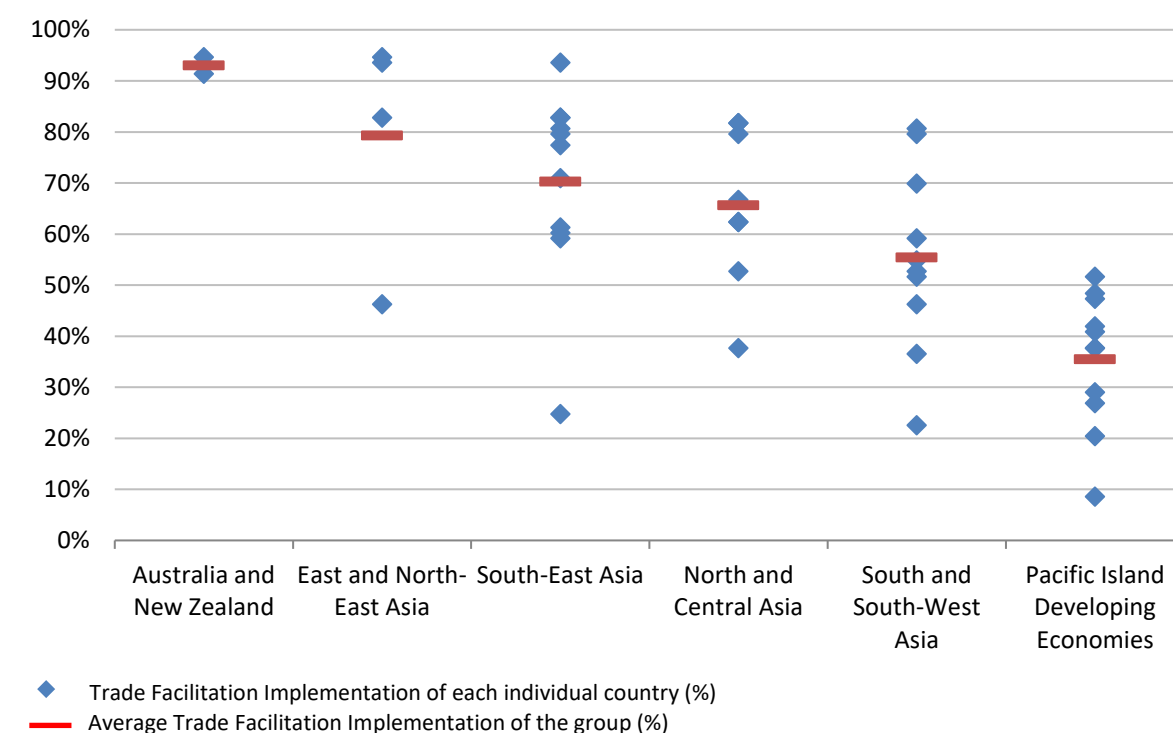
⁴ Complete list of measures is available in the appendix.

⁵ Definitions for each stage are provided in the appendix.

2. TRADE FACILITATION IMPLEMENTATION IN NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA: OVERVIEW

The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019 reveals that the average implementation of a common set of 31 trade facilitation and paperless trade measures by North and Central Asian countries stands at 65.6%, slightly higher than the Asia-Pacific regional average of 59.7%.⁶ Within the region, North and Central Asia implementation levels come after Australia and New Zealand, East and North-East Asia and South-East Asia (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Trade facilitation implementation in Asia-Pacific sub-regions including North and Central Asia



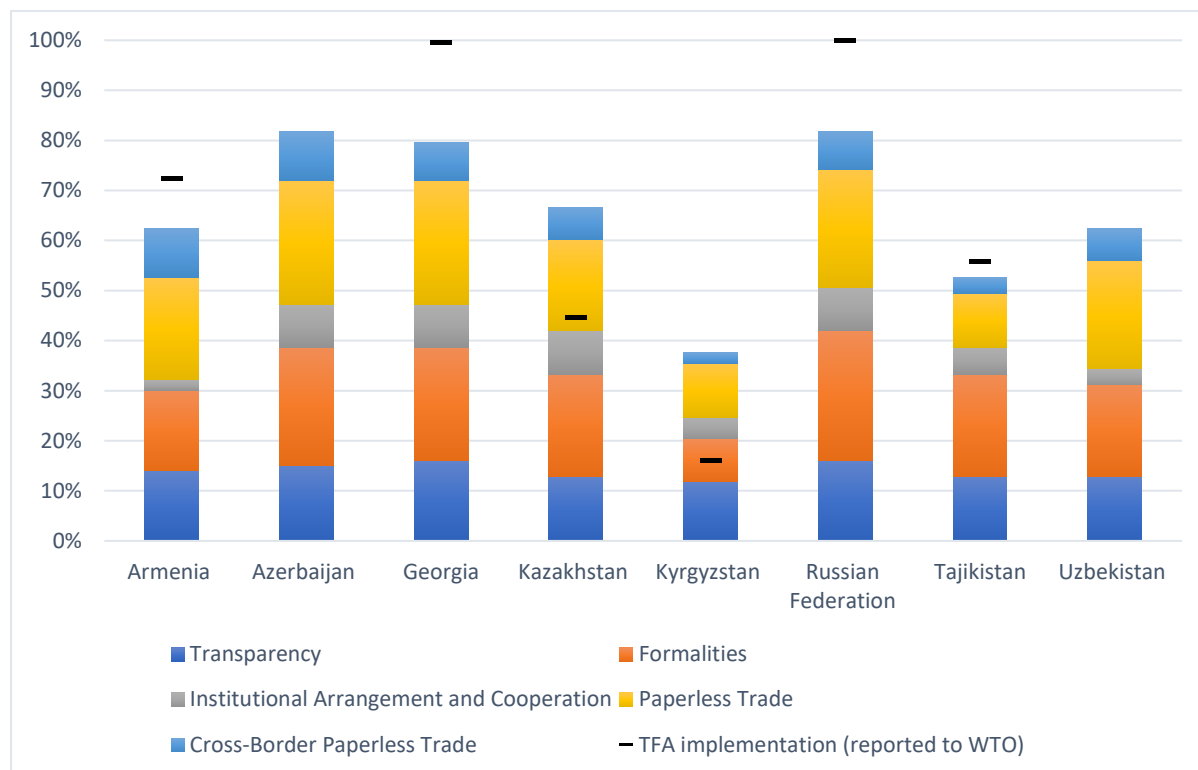
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 2 reveals that the overall implementation levels of North and Central Asian countries are quite different in regard to the specific country. Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation achieve high implementation rates of over 80%. Compared to the regional average, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

⁶ The survey questionnaire covers 53 trade facilitation measures which are categorized into ten groups, namely: *Transparency, Formalities, Institutional cooperation and arrangement, Transit facilitation, Paperless trade, Cross-border paperless trade, Transit facilitation, Trade facilitation for SMEs, Trade facilitation and agricultural trade, Women and trade facilitation and Trade Finance Facilitation*. The *General trade facilitation measures* and *Transit facilitation* measures are essentially measures featured in the WTO TFA. In contrast, most paperless trade and, in particular, cross-border paperless trade measures, are not specifically featured in the WTO TFA, although their implementation in many cases would support the better and digital implementation of the TFA. To better reflect trade facilitation in the context of SDGs, three groups of trade facilitation measures including *Trade facilitation for SMEs, Trade facilitation for agricultural trade* and *Women in trade facilitation* were also added to the Survey in 2017. The 2019 Survey added another group of measures on a pilot bases, i.e. *Trade finance facilitation*.

have as well higher implementation rates, standing at 67% and 63% respectively. Kyrgyzstan is the country with the lowest Implementation rate, standing at 38%.

Figure 2: Overall implementation of trade facilitation measures in North and Central Asian countries



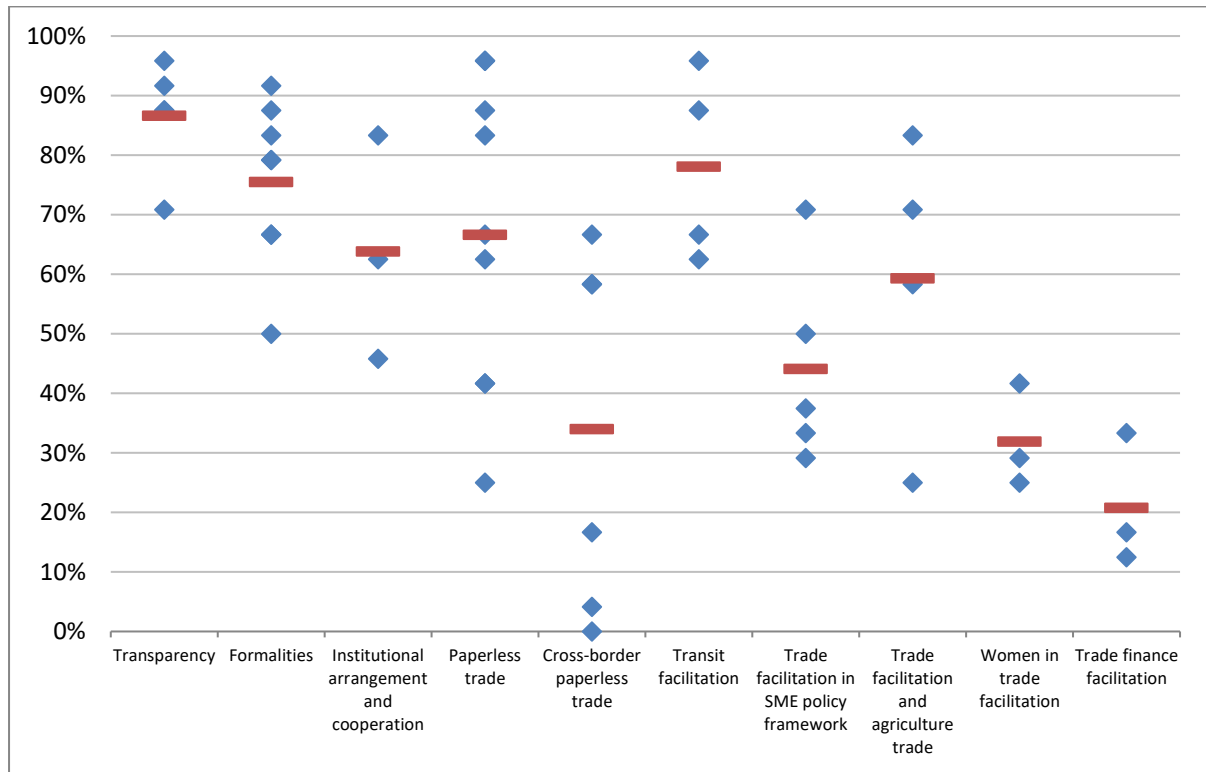
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Note: Implementation rate based on a WTO TFA+ set of 31 trade facilitation and paperless trade measures from the UN Global trade facilitation survey. The TFA implementation (reported to WTO) rate shown, obtained from <https://www.tfadatabase.org/> (accessed 25 October 2019), is for reference only and is based on a more limited and different set of measures.

North and Central Asian countries have implemented trade facilitation measures related to transparency to a large extent: implementation rate of these measures is at over 86%. Measures related to formalities and transit also have a high implementation rate, standing at over 75%. Measures related to institutional arrangement and cooperation and measures related to paperless trade stand both at over 60%. Cross-border paperless trade measures stand at approximately 34%, showing that there is still room for improvement.

Considering the importance of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, challenges still remain for the implementation of women in trade facilitation measures in North and Central Asian countries, as they stand at only 31%. North and Central Asian countries achieve a relatively high rate in implementing measures regarding agricultural trade facilitation, as they stand at almost 60%. The implementation of inclusive measures to promote SMEs stands at 44%, showing that there is still room for improvement. Measures related to trade finance facilitation are the least implemented group of measures, standing at slightly over 20% (see Figure 3)

Figure 3: Implementation of different groups of trade facilitation measures by North and Central Asian countries

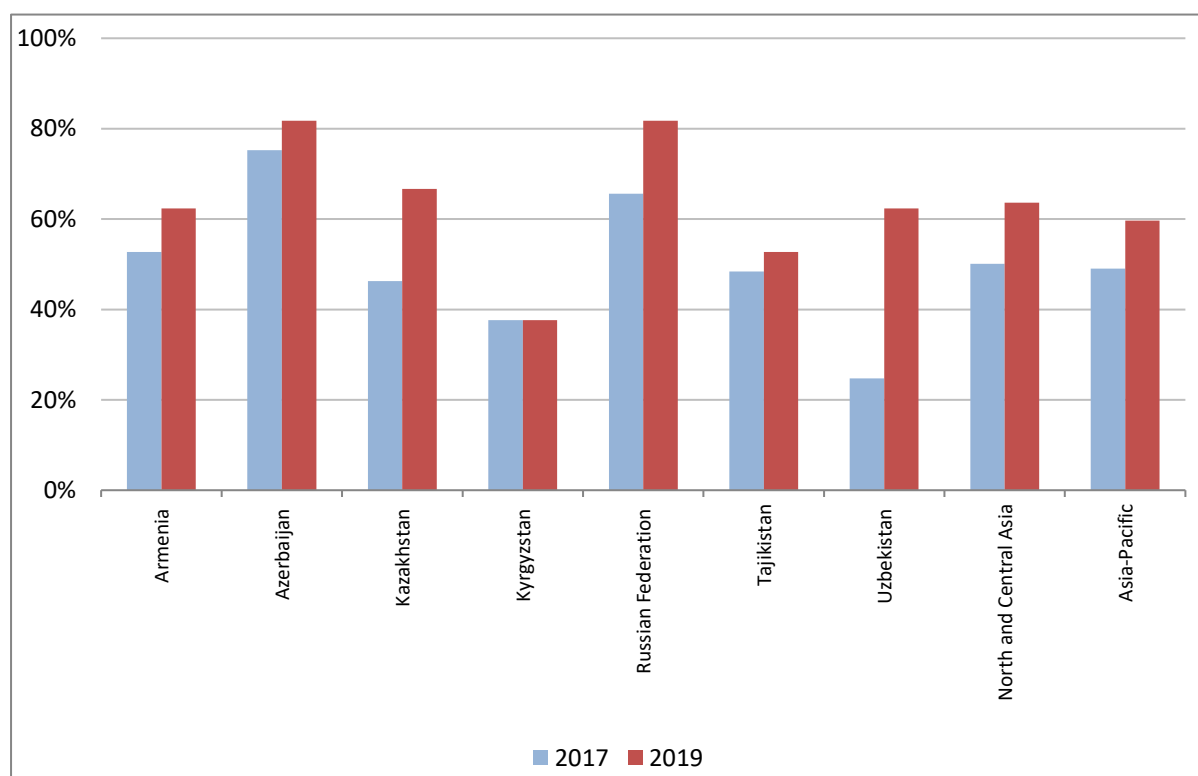


● Regional average implementation level of individual measures within each group.
— Average regional implementation level by groups of measures.
 Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

2.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION BETWEEN 2017 AND 2019

Progress has been made between the years 2017 and 2019 in North and Central Asia as a whole. Average implementation rate has increased by 14 percentage points from 50% in 2017 to 64% in 2019. The highest progress is recorded in Uzbekistan, whose implementation rate increased by 37 percentage points (from 25% in 2017 to 62% in 2019) followed by Kazakhstan (from 46% in 2017 to 67% in 2019). Kyrgyzstan is the only North and Central Asia countries that did not make any progress between 2017 and 2019 and stood at approximately 38% implementation rate. Tajikistan is the country that made the smallest progress in North and Central Asia, i.e. 5 percentage points. As shown in figure 4, overall trade facilitation implementation rate in North and Central Asian countries (64%) is slightly higher than the rate in Asia-Pacific (59%).

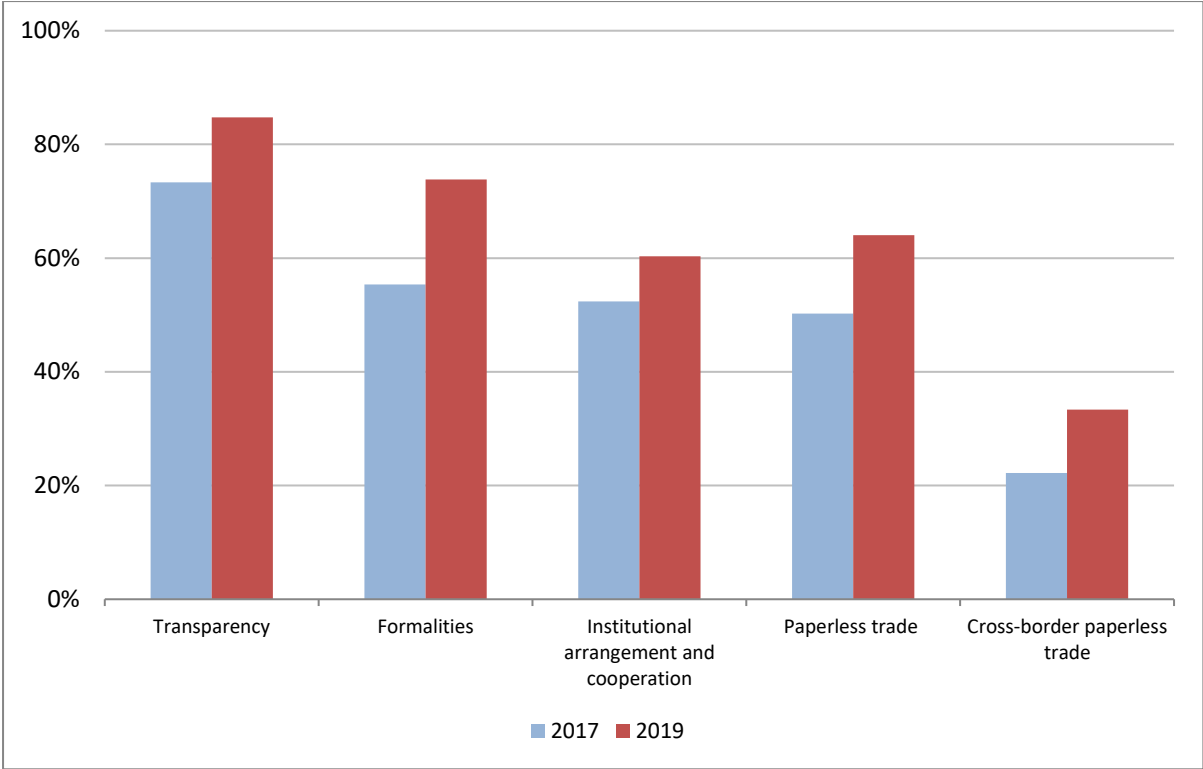
Figure 4: Trade facilitation implementation by North and Central Asian countries between 2017 and 2019



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

North and Central Asian countries made the most progress in implementing 'Formalities' related measures between 2017 and 2019: implementation rates rose by 19 percentage points (from 55% in 2017 to 74% in 2019). Implementation rate of 'Paperless trade' measures increased significantly as well from 50% in 2017 to 64% in 2019 while implementation rate of 'Transparency' measures and 'Cross-border paperless trade' measures rose by 12 and 11 percentage points respectively. North and Central Asian countries made the smallest progress of 8 percentage points in implementing 'Institutional arrangement and cooperation' measures, from 52% in 2017 to 60% in 2019 (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Average implementation of different groups of trade facilitation measures in North and Central Asian countries between 2017 and 2019



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

2.2 MOST AND LEAST IMPLEMENTED MEASURES BY NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

Table 2 provides information on the most and least implemented trade facilitation measures under each subcategory of measures included in the survey. For example, the most implemented ‘Transparency’ measure is *Independent appeal mechanism*, while *Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities* is the least implemented ‘Institutional arrangement and cooperation’ measure.

Table 2: Most and least implemented measures in each group of trade facilitation measures by North and Central Asian countries

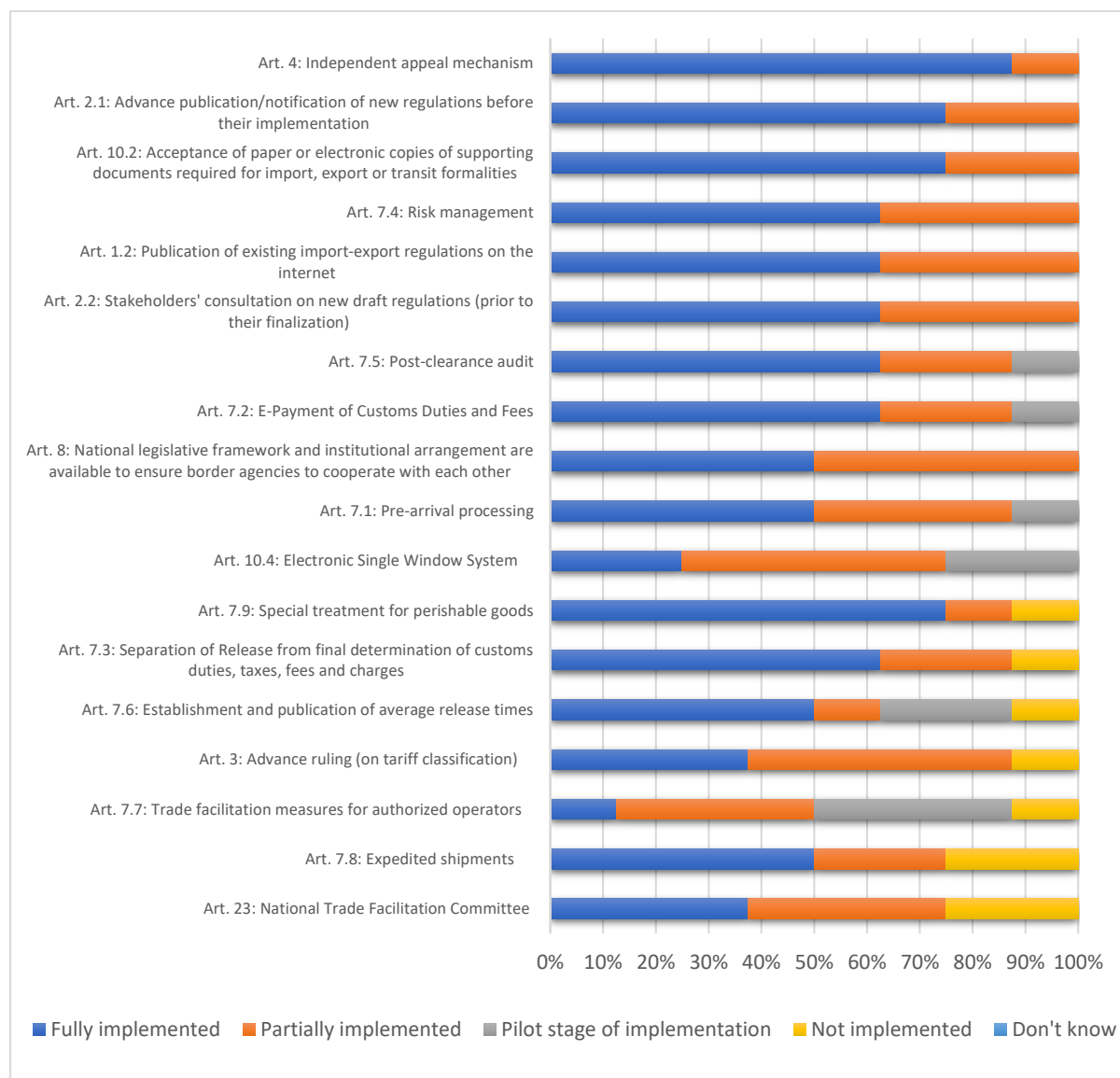
Category	Most implemented (% of countries)		Least implemented (% of countries)	
	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)	Measure	Implemented fully, partially and on a pilot basis (%) / Full implementation (%)
Transparency	Independent appeal mechanism	100 / 87.5	Advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported good	87.5 / 37.5
Formalities	Acceptance of copies of original supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities; Risk management	100 / 75	Expedited shipments	75 / 50
Institutional arrangement and cooperation	National legislative framework and/or institutional arrangements for border agencies cooperation	100 / 50	Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities	50 / 37.5
Paperless trade	Internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies; Automated Customs System	100 / 87.5	Electronic submission of Air Cargo Manifests	37.5 / 12.5
Cross-border paperless trade	Laws and regulations for electronic transactions	100 / 12.5	Paperless collection of payment from a documentary letter of credit	10 / 0
Transit facilitation	Cooperation between agencies involved in transit	100 / 50	Transit facilitation agreement(s)	75 / 25
Trade facilitation in SME policy framework	Trade facilitation measures targeting SMEs	87.5 / 50	SMEs in National Trade Facilitation Committee	50 / 0
Trade facilitation and agriculture trade	National standards and accreditation bodies to facilitate compliance with SPS	75 / 25	Electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates	50 / 0
Women in trade facilitation	Trade facilitation measures aimed at female traders	62.5 / 0	Female membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee	25 / 25
Trade finance facilitation	Banks allow electronic exchange of data between trading partners	37.5 / 25	Single window facilitates traders to access to finance	12.5 / 12.5

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Figure 6 also shows the level of implementation of measures directly related to the WTO-TFA articles, based on data collected during the survey. The results are largely consistent with the information

provided by countries in official notifications to the WTO.⁷ The most implemented measures in North and Central Asian countries are *Independent appeal mechanism*, *Advance publication/notification of new trade-related regulations before their implementation* and *Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities*. The least implemented measures are *Expedited shipments* and *National Trade Facilitation Committee* which have not been implemented in 25% of the countries.

Figure 6: level of implementation of WTO-TFA related measures (excluding transit measures) by North and Central Asian countries



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

⁷ For more information on the implementation of the WTO TFA in Asia and the Pacific, see the UN ESCAP Trade Insights, Issue No. 26: Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Asia and the Pacific: 2 years on. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/resources/implementation-wto-trade-facilitation-agreement-asia-and-pacific-2-years-escap-trade> (accessed September 2019).

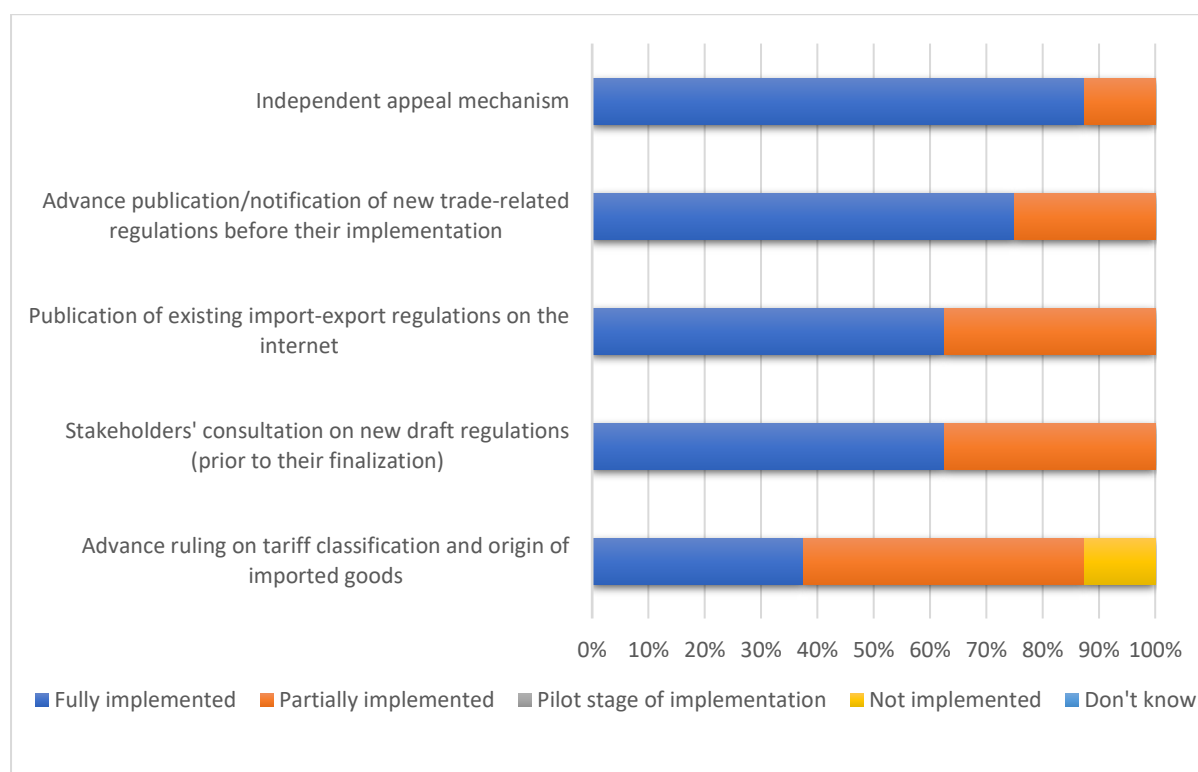
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES: A CLOSER LOOK

3.1 'TRANSPARENCY' MEASURES

Five trade facilitation measures included in the survey are grouped as 'Transparency' measures which are related to the Articles 1-5 of the WTO TFA and GATT Article X on Publication and Administration of Trade Regulations. The average level of implementation of all five 'Transparency' measures by North and Central Asian countries is at approximately 87%, higher than the Asia-Pacific average.

Figure 7 shows that most of the 'Transparency' measures have been fully or partially implemented in all the countries with the exception of *Advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported goods* which has not been implemented in approximately 10% of the countries. The most fully implemented measure is *Independent appeal mechanism*, which has been implemented in almost 90% of the countries, followed by *Advance publication/notification of new trade-related regulations before their implementation*, implemented in nearly 80% of the countries.

Figure 7: State of implementation of 'Transparency' measures for trade facilitation in North and Central Asia



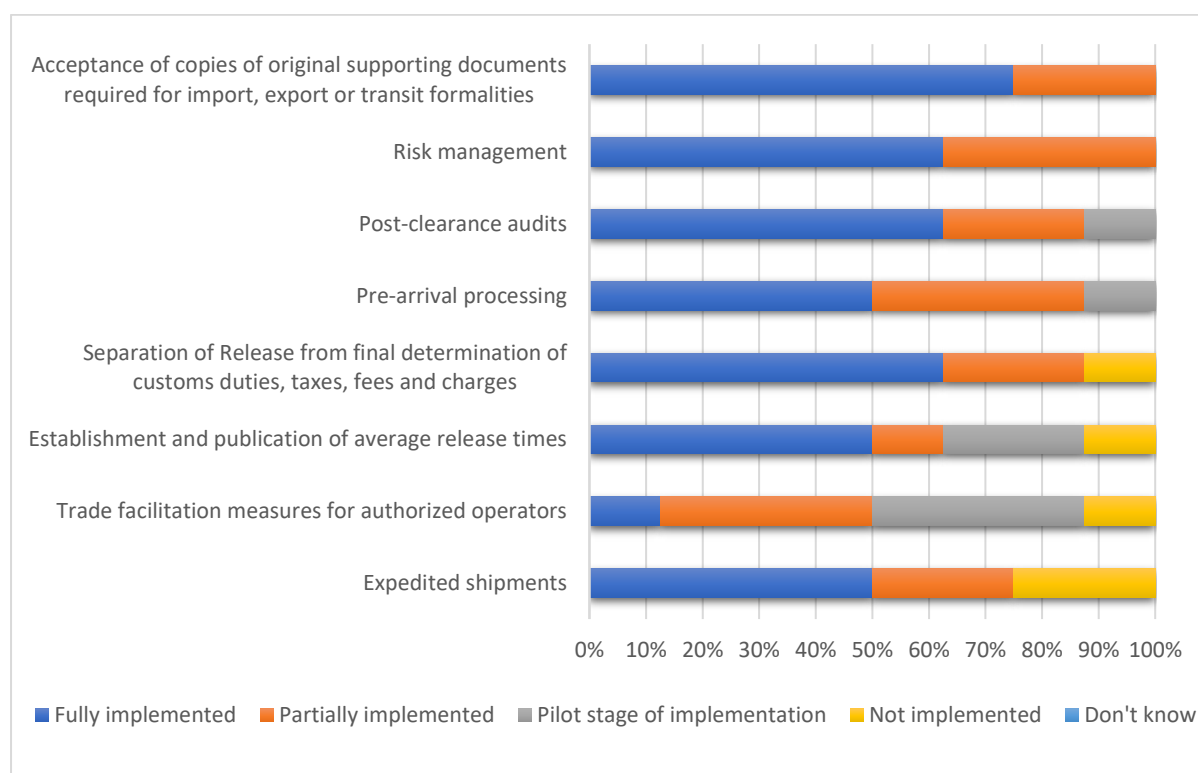
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

3.2 'FORMALITIES' MEASURES

Eight of the general trade facilitation measures included in the survey are grouped as 'Formalities' facilitation measures which are related to streamlining and/or expediting regulatory trade procedures. They are related to the Articles 6-10 of the WTO TFA and GATT Article VIII on "Fees and Formalities connected with Importation and Exportation". The average level of implementation of all eight 'Formalities' measures by North and Central Asian countries is at approximately 75%, higher than the Asia-Pacific average.

Most of the 'Formalities' measures have been fully or partially implemented in over 50% of the countries with the exception of *Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators* which has been fully implemented in slightly over 10% of the countries. *Acceptance of copies of original supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities* and *Risk management* have been fully or partially implemented in all of the countries. *Expedited shipments* is the least implemented measure as it has not been implemented in 25% of the countries (see Figure 9).

Figure 8: State of implementation of trade 'Formalities' facilitation measures in North and Central Asia



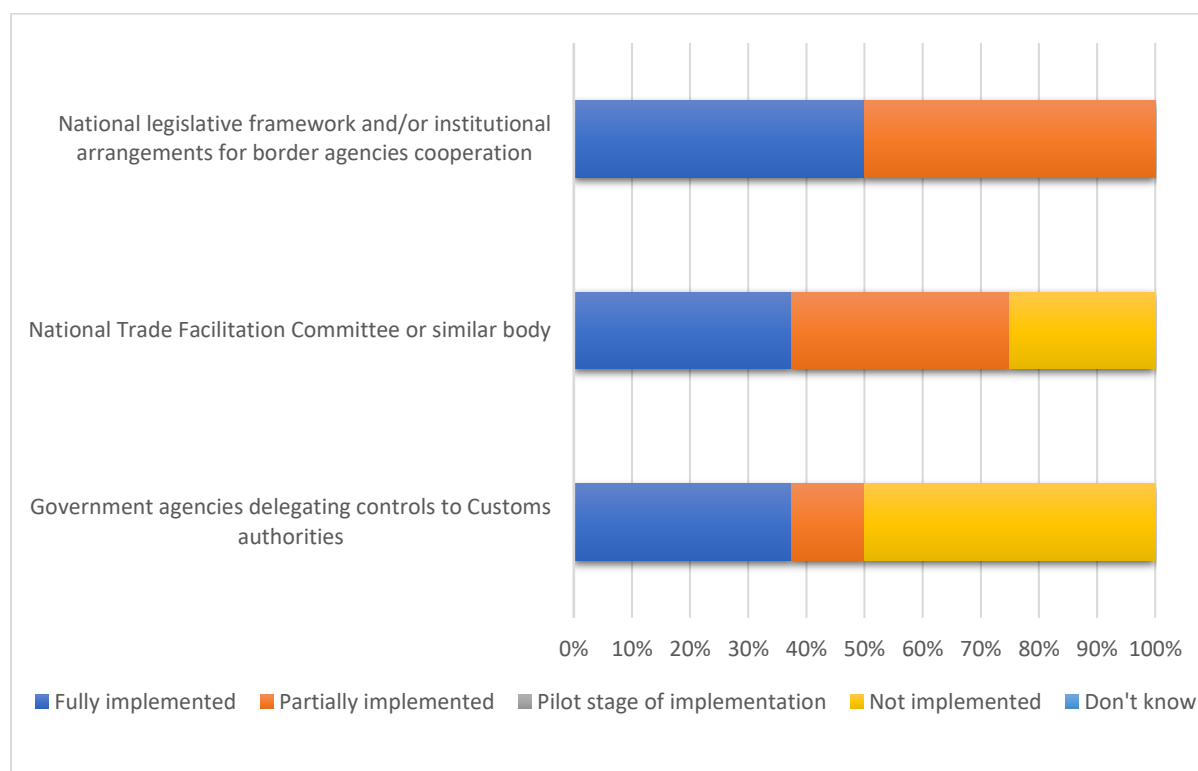
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

3.3 'INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND COOPERATION' MEASURES

Three trade facilitation measures featured in the survey are grouped as 'Institutional arrangement and cooperation' measures. They are related to the long-standing recommendation that a national trade facilitation body and other measures be implemented to ensure coordination and cooperation among the various government agencies and other stakeholders involved in facilitating trade.⁸ All three measures are also specified in various Articles of the WTO TFA. Implementation rate of the three 'Institutional arrangement and cooperation' measures in North and Central Asia is at over 50%, which is lower than the Asia-Pacific regional average level.

Figure 9 shows that *National legislative framework and/or institutional arrangements for border agencies cooperation* has been fully or partially implemented in all the countries. In contrast, 50% of the countries have not implemented *Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities*, making it the least implemented measure of this group.

Figure 9: State of implementation of 'Institutional arrangement and cooperation' measures for trade facilitation in North and Central Asia



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

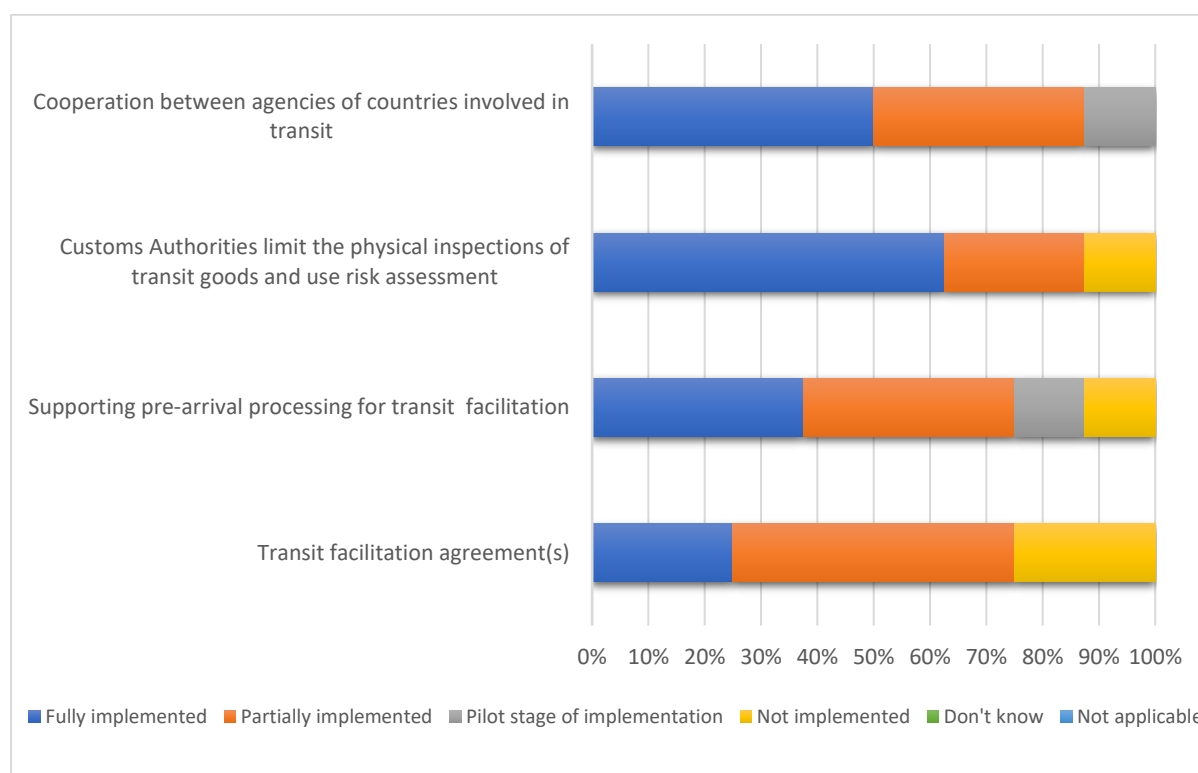
⁸ See, for example, UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 4 on establishment of national trade facilitation bodies, first issued in 1974.

3.4 'TRANSIT FACILITATION' MEASURES

Three trade facilitation measures included in the survey relate specifically to transit facilitation and WTO TFA Article 11 on *Freedom of Transit*. The intent of these measures is to simplify, as much as possible, the formalities associated with traffic in transit, allowing goods to be seamlessly transported through one or more transit countries. These measures are particularly important to landlocked developing countries whereas goods typically need to go through a neighboring country's territory for transit. The implementation level of 'Transit facilitation' measures in North and Central Asian countries stands at over 70%, higher than that of the Asia-Pacific region.

North and Central Asian countries have full or partially implemented or it is on a pilot stage of implementation *Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit*, whereas the least fully or partially implemented measure is *Transit facilitation agreement(s)* which has not been implemented by 25% of the countries. *Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation* and *Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk assessment* have not been implemented in over 10% of the countries (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: State of implementation of 'Transit facilitation' measures in North and Central Asia



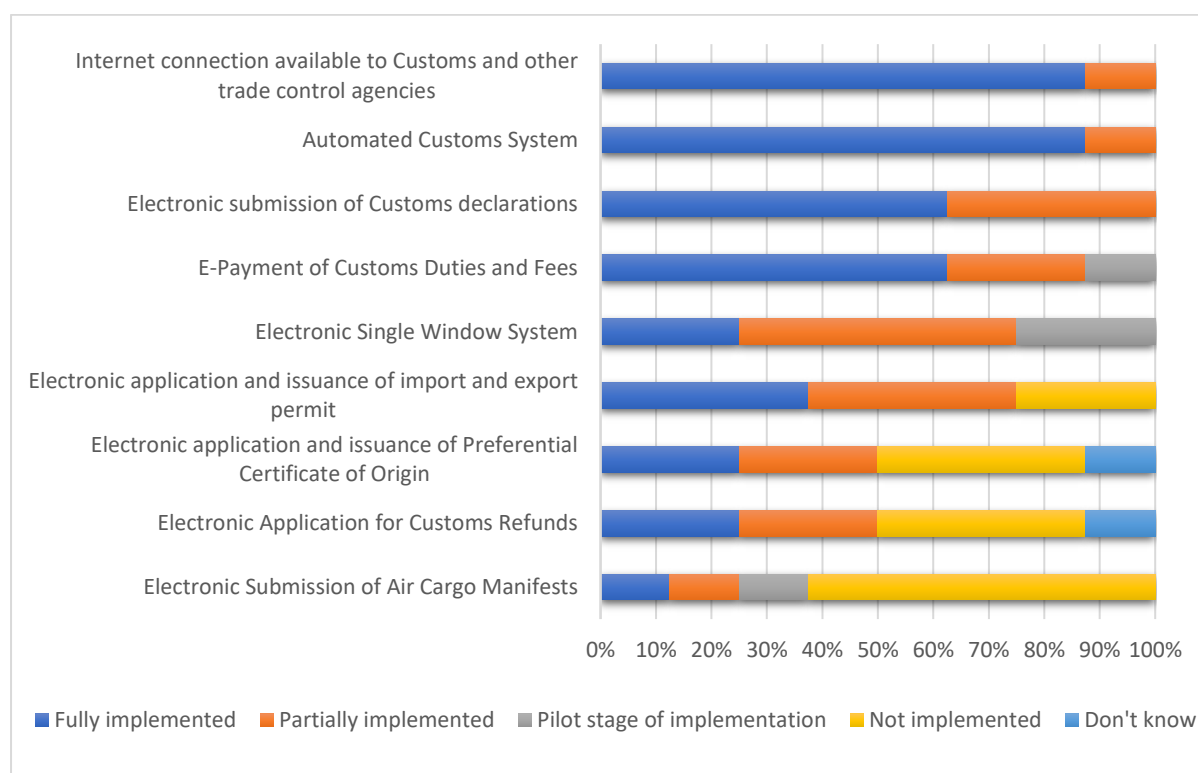
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

3.5 'PAPERLESS TRADE' MEASURES

Nine of the trade facilitation measures included in the survey are grouped as 'Paperless trade' measures. All these measures involve the use and application of modern information and communications technologies (ICT) to trade formalities, starting from the availability of internet connections at border-crossings and customs automation to full-fledged electronic single window facilities. Many of the measures featured here are closely related to those specified in the WTO TFA, although the new WTO agreement typically only encourages economies to work towards implementation of such measures, rather than make them a requirement.⁹ The implementation rate of 'Paperless trade' measures in North and Central Asia is at 66%.

As shown in Figure 11, all the countries have either fully or partially implemented *Internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies*, *Automated Customs System* and *Electronic submission of Customs declarations*. The least implemented measure is *Electronic submission of Air Cargo Manifests* as it has not been implemented in over 60% of the countries and in 15% of the countries is on a pilot stage of implementation.

Figure 11: State of implementation of 'Paperless trade' measures in North and Central Asia



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

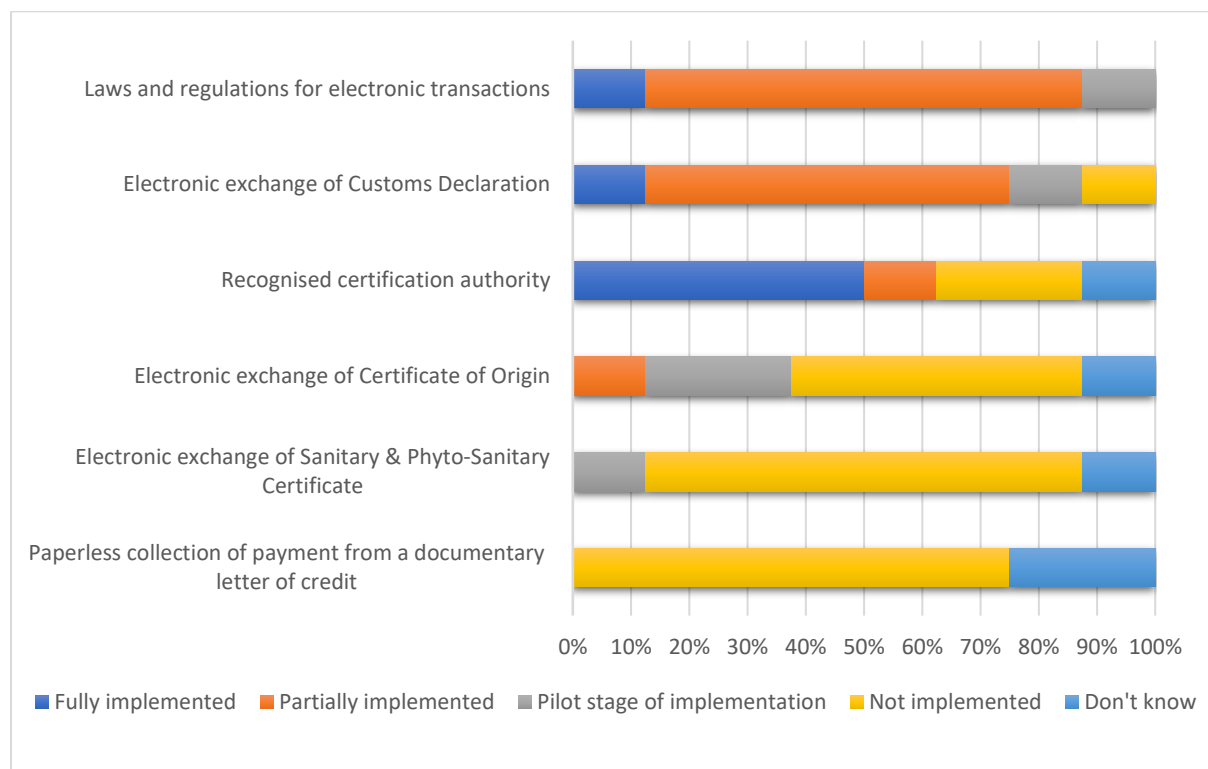
⁹ An example of this is the WTO TFA Article 10.3 on Single Window, which reads as follows: "Members shall endeavour to establish or maintain a single window, enabling traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements for importation, exportation, or transit of goods through a single-entry point to the participating authorities or agencies... Members shall, to the extent possible and practicable, use information technology to support the single window."

3.6 'CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE' MEASURES

Six of the trade facilitation measures included in the survey are grouped as 'Cross-border paperless trade' measures, as shown in Figure 12. Two measures, *Laws and regulations for electronic transactions* and *Recognized certification authority*, are basic building blocks towards enabling the exchange and legal recognition of trade-related data and documents not only among stakeholders within a country, but ultimately also between stakeholders along the entire international supply chain. The other four measures relate to the implementation of systems enabling the actual exchange of trade-related data and documents across borders to remove the need for sending paper documents. The implementation rate of 'Cross-border paperless trade' measures in North and Central Asia stands at slightly over 30%.

Figure 12 reveals that the most fully or partially implemented measure is *Laws and regulations for electronic transactions*, whereas the most fully implemented measure is *Recognized certification authority*. The least implemented measure is *Paperless collection of payment from a documentary letter of credit*, which has not been implemented in 75% of the countries and another 25% of the countries responded that they do not know about the implementation of the measure.

Figure 12: State of implementation of 'Cross-border paperless trade' measures in North and Central Asia

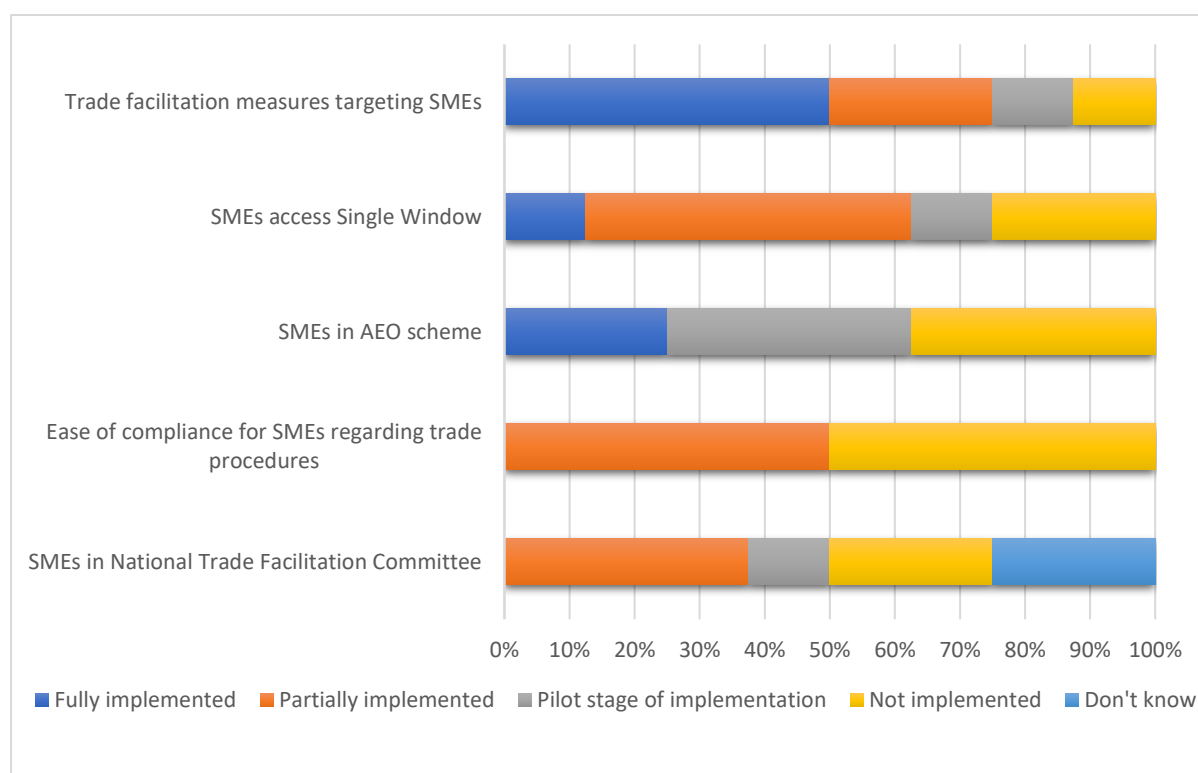


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

3.7 'TRADE FACILITATION FOR SMES' MEASURES

CAREC countries implementation rate of the overall five 'Trade facilitation for SMEs' measures stands at approximately 44%. As shown in Figure 13, the most fully or partially implemented measures are *Trade facilitation measures targeting SMEs* and *SMEs access Single Window*. *SMEs in AEO scheme* has been fully implemented in 25% of the countries and is on a pilot stage of implementation in another 40% of the countries. *Ease of compliance for SMEs regarding trade procedures* has not been implemented in 50% of the countries.

Figure 13: State of implementation of 'Trade facilitation for SMEs' measures in North and Central Asia

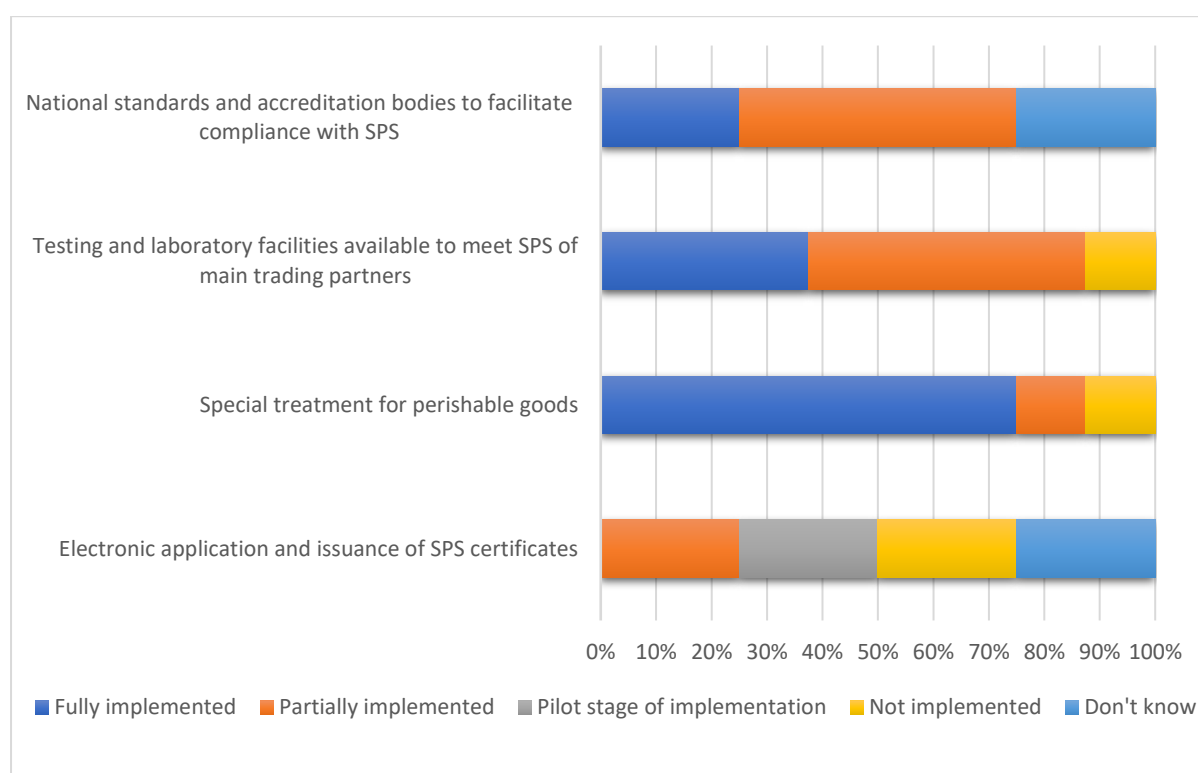


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

3.8 'AGRICULTURAL TRADE FACILITATION' MEASURES

The implementation of 'Agricultural trade facilitation' measures is relatively high in North and Central Asia countries and stands at almost 60%. *Testing and laboratory facilities available to meet SPS of main trading partners* and *Special treatment for perishable goods* are the most fully or partially implemented measures followed by *National standards and accreditation bodies to facilitate compliance with SPS* (see Figure 14). *Electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates* is the least implemented measure as it has been partially implemented in only 25% of the countries and is on a pilot stage of implementation in another 25% of the countries.

Figure 14: State of implementation of 'Agricultural trade facilitation' measures in North and Central Asia



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untsurvey.org, 2019

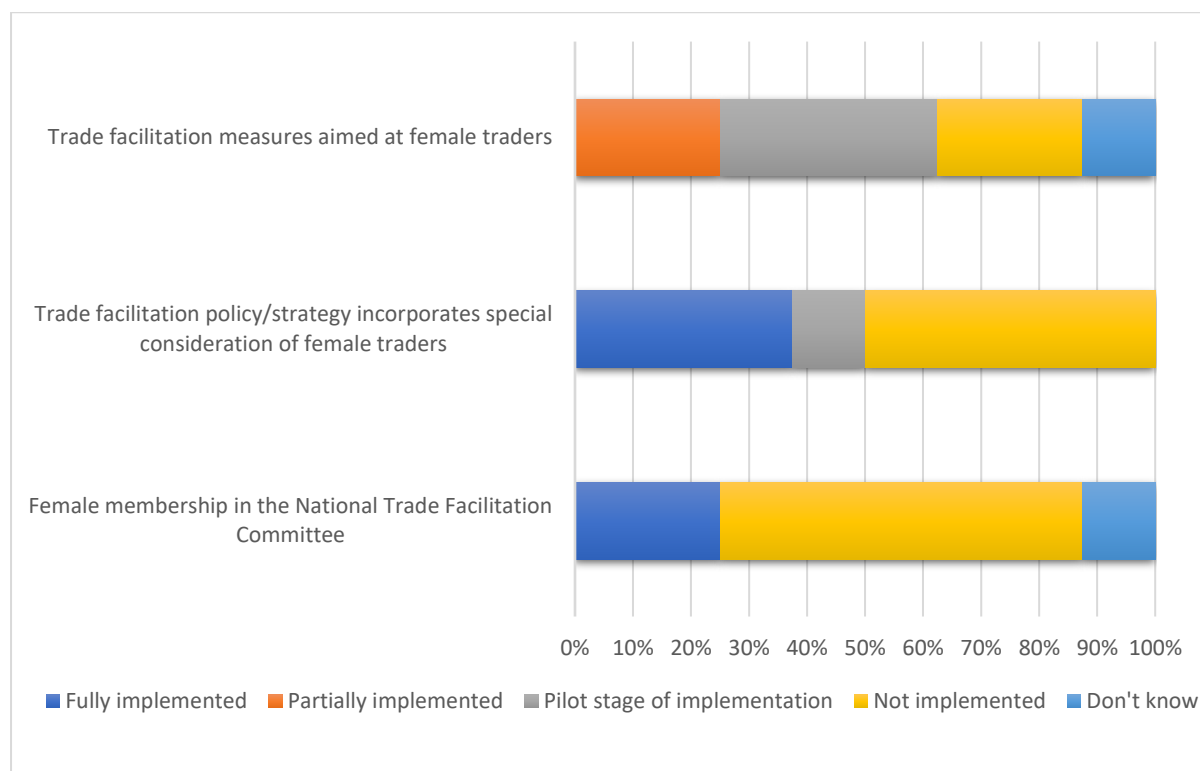
3.9 'WOMEN IN TRADE FACILITATION' MEASURES

The North and Central Asia level of implementation of 'Women in trade facilitation' measures is relatively low, standing at approximately 32% and making it thus the least implemented group of measures in this grouping of countries after 'Trade finance facilitation' measures. The North and Central Asia level of implementation shows that there is still plenty of room for improvement. This could be explained by the fact that despite gender equality being mainstreamed in many policy initiatives, specific gender concerns for female traders remain limited and do not extend to trade facilitation.

As shown in Figure 15, the most fully implemented measure is *Trade facilitation policy/strategy incorporates special consideration of female traders* which has been implemented in almost 54% of the countries and in another 10% is on a pilot stage of implementation. The least fully implemented measure is *Female membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee*, which has been fully or partially implemented in only 25% of the countries.

Given that gender equality and the empowerment of women are important elements of the Sustainable Development Agenda - and the typically limited participation of women in trade and trade facilitation - more countries may consider measures to enhance gender balance in national trade facilitation committees.

Figure 15: State of implementation of 'Women in trade facilitation' measures in North and Central Asia



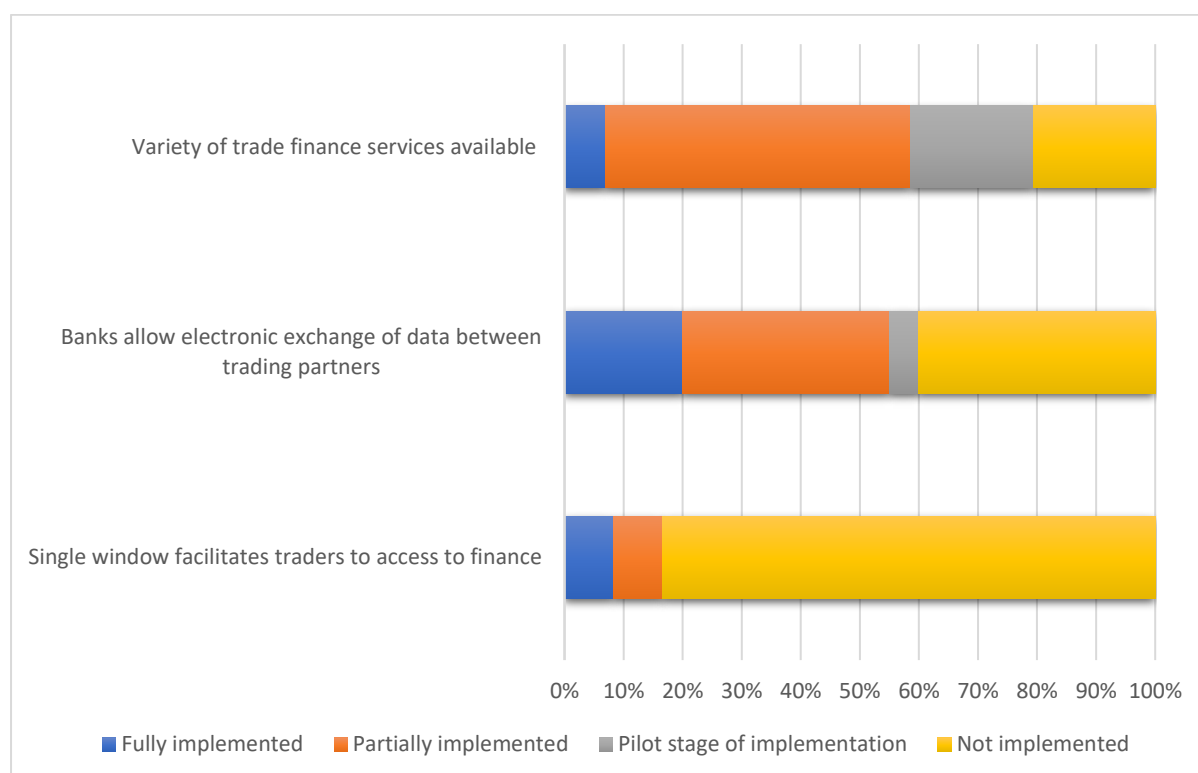
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

3.10 'TRADE FINANCE FACILITATION' MEASURES

The 2019 UN Global Survey incorporated on a pilot basis a new group of measures, i.e. 'Trade finance facilitation' measures given their importance as an enabler of international trade transactions. However, data on this topic was found to be very difficult to collect as part of the Survey and this indicates general unfamiliarity with trade finance. Traditional trade facilitation actors, including Customs and Ministries in charge of trade, may see procedures related to financing and payment of international trade transactions as outside their scope of work. Given the interdependence between goods and financial flows, however, the results suggest a need for greatly enhanced coordination and cooperation between them and those involved in developing financial and payment services.

However, 'Trade finance facilitation' measures stand at approximately 21%, making them the least implemented category of measures in North and Central Asia. As shown in Figure 16, *Variety of trade finance services available* is the most fully or partially implemented measure, whereas *Single window facilitates traders to access to finance* is the least fully or partially implemented measure.

Figure 16: State of implementation of 'Trade finance facilitation' measures in North and Central Asia



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

4. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF TRADE FACILITATION IN NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

In order to assess the potential impact of implementation of trade facilitation measures in North and Central Asia, we estimate a trade cost model as a function of trade facilitation implementation rates based on the UN Survey data presented above, in addition to other traditional trade cost factors such as natural geographic factors (distance, “landlockedness”, and contiguity), cultural and historical distance (e.g., common official language, former colonial relationships), the presence of regional trade agreements and maritime connectivity. The model is based on ADB/ESCAP (2019) by capturing the changes in trade costs resulting from each countries’ own implementation of trade facilitation measures. The overall trade cost reductions that can be expected in North and Central Asia from implementation of three sets of trade facilitation measures are shown in Table 4. The first set of trade facilitation measures is limited to implementation of WTO TFA binding measures only.¹⁰ The second set of measures includes all binding and non-binding WTO TFA measures included in the UN Survey. The final and most ambitious set is a WTO TFA+ set of measures, including digital implementation of TFA measures and cross-border paperless trade. For each set of measures, average changes in trade cost achieved if all North and Central Asian countries at least partially implement all measures, or if they all fully implement all measures, are calculated.

Table 3: Changes in trade costs in North and Central Asia resulting from implementation of trade facilitation and paperless trade

Trade costs reduction for TF improvement: NCA	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 TFI	-3.05%	-6.53%	-4.76%	-10.76%	-11.80%	-19.19%
Model 2						
General TFI	-1.71%	-3.54%	-2.26%	-5.09%	-2.70%	-5.60%
Paperless and cross-border paperless	-	-	-1.32%	-2.92%	-10.22%	-14.47%

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, unfsurvey.org, 2019

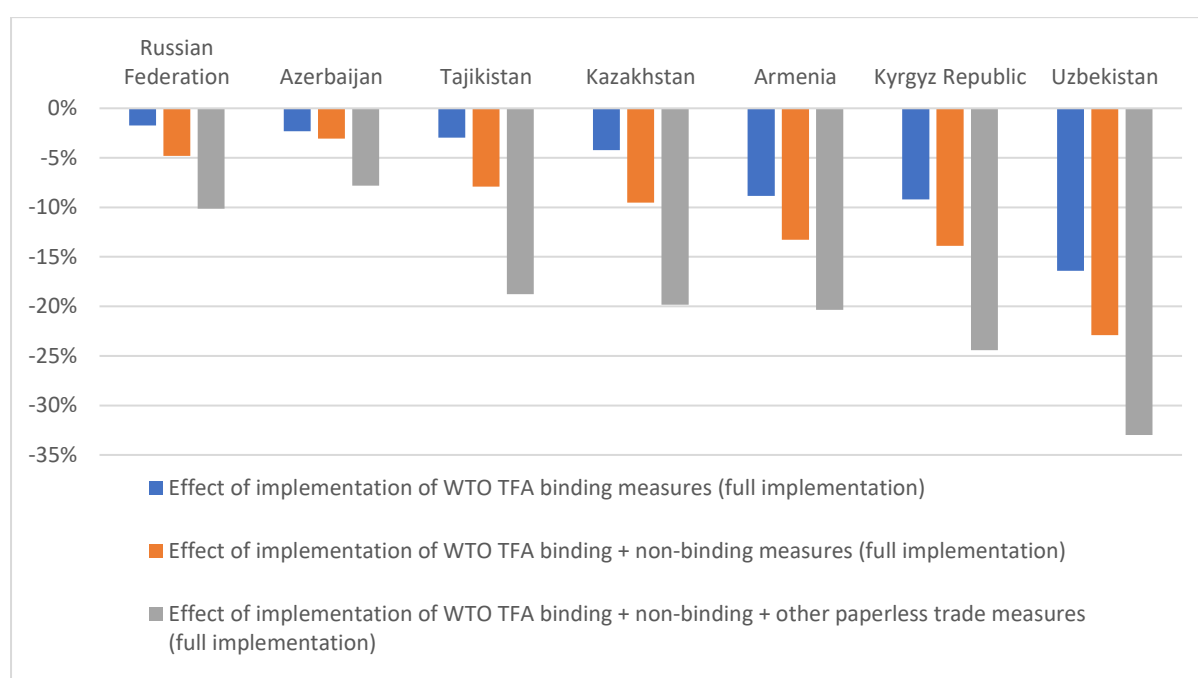
Two main findings emerge from this impact analysis. First, achieving basic compliance with WTO TFA by implementing only binding measures results in only modest trade cost reductions. Full implementation of binding measures results in a decrease of trade costs of about 3.5-6.5%, while full implementation of all measures results in an 11% reduction. Second, the paperless implementation of the TFA measures together with enabling the seamless electronic exchange of trade data and documents across borders results in much larger trade costs reductions, averaging above 19% for

¹⁰ The list of binding and non-binding WTO TFA measures is available in the Appendix of ADB/ESCAP (2019)

North and Central Asia as a whole. Results of model 2 also suggest that most of the trade cost reductions are associated with paperless trade measures rather than conventional trade facilitation measures.

All North and Central Asian economies stand to make significant gains from accelerating trade facilitation implementation.¹¹ As shown in Figure 17, the full implementation of the three different sets of trade facilitation measures in all economies results in trade costs reductions for all economies. As expected, the trade costs reductions are much larger when cross-border paperless trade is achieved. Achieving such trade cost reductions will require closer cooperation between economies on developing interoperable paperless trade systems, however, as envisaged in the FA-CPT (see Box 1).

Figure 17: Impact of trade facilitation implementation on trade costs of North and Central Asian economies



Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Box 1 – A regional UN treaty “leaving no one behind” to accelerate trade digitalization

Developed by a diverse group of more than 25 Asian and Pacific countries at very different stages of development over 4 years, the *Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific* (FA-CPT) was adopted at ESCAP in May 2016. It is designed as an inclusive and enabling platform that will benefit all participating countries regardless of where they stand in terms of trade facilitation implementation.

The Framework is fully dedicated to the digitalization of trade processes and enabling the seamless electronic exchange and legal recognition of trade-related data and documents across borders, rather than only between stakeholders located in the same country. Full implementation

¹¹ Note that Viet Nam is missing because trade costs of Viet Nam is available up to 2013 (and previous study is based on average trade costs of 2013-2015).

of cross-border paperless trade will not only reduce transaction time and costs but also increase regulatory compliance and enable the more direct engagement of small and medium-size enterprise (SMEs) in international trade and cross-border e-commerce. Importantly, the FA-CPT aims to facilitate and enable mutual recognition of electronic trade data and documents but does not make electronic data exchange mandatory among all Parties.

Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, and Iran signed the Agreement in 2017. Azerbaijan acceded to the treaty in 2018 and another 20 countries are completing domestic procedures to accede, according to the most recent intergovernmental steering group meeting held in March 2019. The treaty will enter into force after five members have ratified or acceded to it. Implementing the framework agreement is expected to help ESCAP members meet and exceed single-window commitments of the WTO TFA, among others.

Achieving cross-border paperless trade across the region is a long and difficult endeavor; And it cannot be achieved without close collaboration between countries. The Framework Agreement is expected to support the process by providing a dedicated institutional framework for countries with proven political will to develop legal and technical solutions for cross-border paperless trade, including through pilot projects, capacity building and technical assistance, based on existing international standards. Some of the benefits for ESCAP member states who become parties to the FA-CPT include:

(a) Accelerated progress towards a paperless trade environment at the national level on the basis of the political will demonstrated during the accession process to the FA-CPT; and through access to structured and regular sharing of lessons learned on implementation of best practices;

(b) Reduction in overall investment costs and maximization of return from investments in paperless trade systems, through concurrent development of national paperless trade systems and environment for cross-border trade data exchange;

(c) Ready access to potential counterpart countries interested to negotiate and achieve cross-border data exchange, avoiding or reducing needs for engaging in numerous and/or potentially incompatible bilateral initiatives;

(d) Direct participation in the development of pragmatic solutions for the cross-border exchange of trade documents. For more advanced countries with relevant experience and existing practices, this will enable them to ensure that new regional systems and solutions will be harmonized and interoperable with what they have already achieved on a bilateral and/or sub-regional basis;

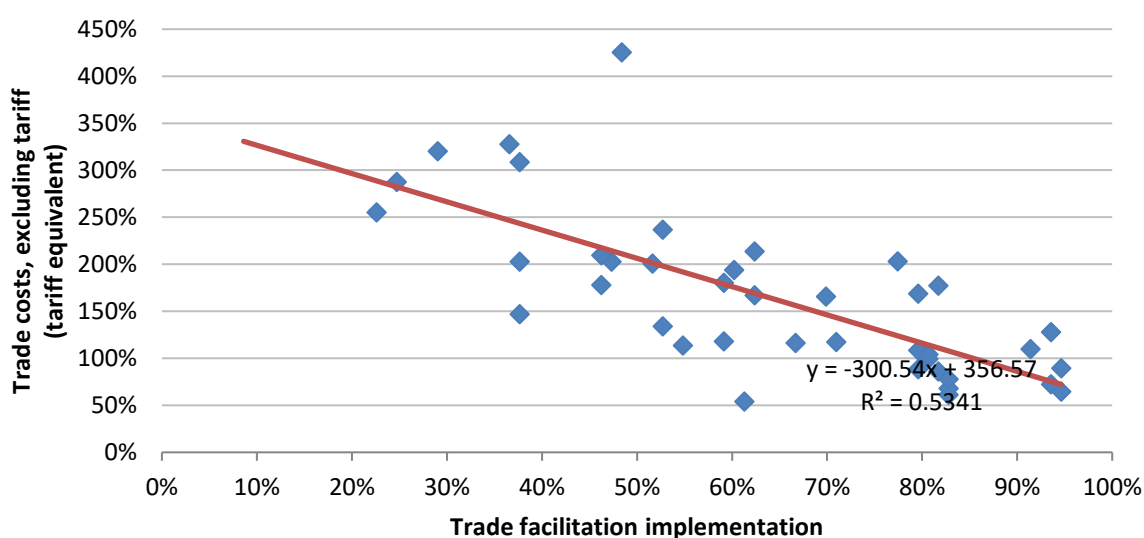
(e) Compliance with commitments the party may have made through in its bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements (RTAs) to collaborate on exchanging electronic of data and documents (typically featured in "Paperless Trading" Articles in RTAs, or related provisions or agreements).

More details on the Framework Agreement, including a draft implementation roadmap, are available at: <http://www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific>

5. CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

This report presented data on digital and sustainable trade facilitation implementation collected from eight North and Central Asian countries and other 38 economies across the Asia-Pacific region, taking also into consideration that Turkmenistan did not provide any data for the UN Global Survey 2019. The survey covered not only implementation of general trade facilitation measures, including most of those featured in the WTO TFA, but also more advanced ICT-based trade facilitation measures, as well as measures targeted at the agricultural sector, SMEs, women traders and trade finance. Figure 18 confirms the strong relationship between Asia-Pacific countries international trade costs and their level of trade facilitation implementation.¹²

Figure 18: Trade facilitation implementation and Trade Costs of Asia-Pacific economies



Notes: Countries' trade costs are based on average comprehensive bilateral trade costs with Germany, China and the USA and expressed as ad valorem equivalents (%).

Source: ESCAP-World Bank International Trade Cost Database (June 2019 update) and Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

Based on a package of 31 trade facilitation measures included in the survey, regional average trade facilitation implementation is found to be approximately 60%, an increase of 10 percentage points compared to last survey results, but also suggesting significant room for improvement. North and Central Asian countries performance is slightly above the regional average.

The assessment reveals that North and Central Asian countries have been actively engaged in implementing measures to improve formalities, paperless and cross-border paperless trade, transparency and enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation. When it comes to 'Sustainable trade facilitation', North and Central Asian countries are actively implementing measures regarding agricultural trade facilitation. The implementation of inclusive measures to promote SMEs is relatively

¹² A simple linear regression of trade costs against trade facilitation implementation – estimated using Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) - shows that trade facilitation implementation levels explain about 50% of the variations in trade costs; and that a 5% increase in the level of trade facilitation implementation is associated with a decrease in trade costs of 17%.

high as well whereas the participation of women in trade remains still relatively low compared to the levels of implementation of the other measures, showing that there is still plenty of room for improvement. SMEs are key players in the global economy and have important roles to play in digitalized trade, yet trade facilitation measures tailored to SMEs are insufficient. Therefore, building the capacity of SMEs and taking them into account in trade facilitation policies are of critical importance in achieving sustainable trade facilitation.¹³

‘Trade Finance Facilitation’ is the new group of measures that has, for the first time, been considered in the Global Survey. The role of trade finance in international trade is important, and the availability and adequate provision of finance is essential for a healthy trading system. Financing and payment are essential parts of the overall international trade transaction process. Awareness of trade finance processes appear to be limited among trade policy and facilitation specialists. Trade finance today is still a very paper-based business across the sub-region.¹⁴ Therefore, trade facilitation policymakers and enforcers need to work together with stakeholders in the financial sectors to see how trade finance can be facilitated and integrated into trade facilitation implementation strategies, including single window development plans.

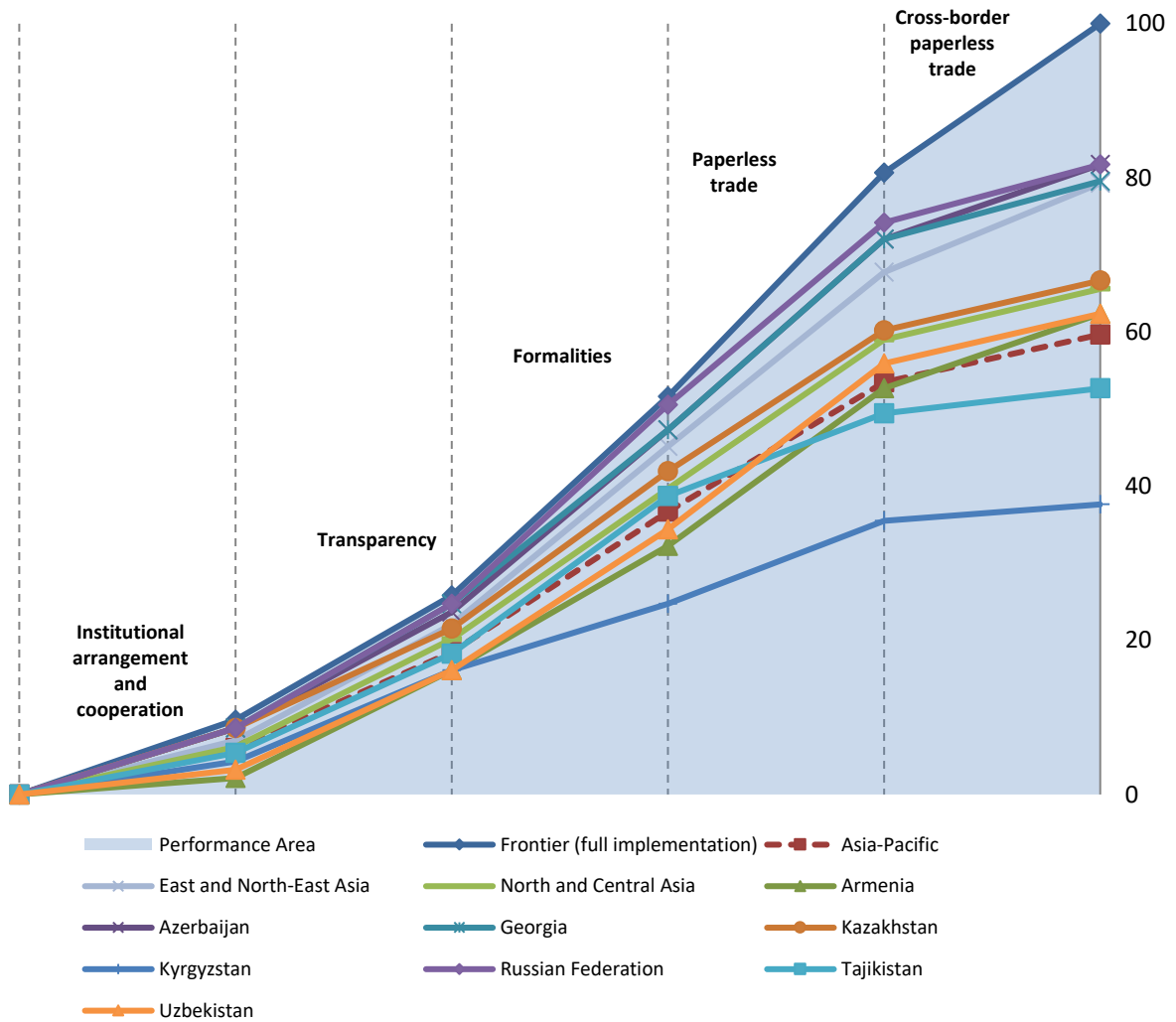
Figure 19 shows implementation of trade facilitation as a step-by step process, based on the groups of measures included in this survey. Trade facilitation begins with the setting up of the *Institutional arrangement* needed to prioritize and coordinate implementation of trade facilitation measures. The next step is to make the trade processes more *Transparent* by sharing information on existing laws, regulations and procedures as widely as possible and consulting with stakeholders when developing new ones. Designing and implementing simpler and more efficient trade *Formalities* is the third step. The re-engineered and streamlined processes may first be implemented based on paper documents but can then be further improved through ICT and the development of *Paperless trade* systems. The ultimate step is to enable the electronic trade data and documents exchange by traders, government and service providers within national (single window and other) systems to be used and re-used to provide stakeholders in partner countries with the information they need to speed up the movement of goods and reduce the overall costs of trade.¹⁵

¹³ See ESCAP and ITC (2016) on Mainstreaming Trade Facilitation in SME Development Strategies. Available at: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/MakingWTOTFAWorkforSMEs.pdf>

¹⁴ This is with reference to traditional trade finance products covered in the Survey (e.g., documentary credits). Supply chain finance and open account transactions are not covered in the Survey and involve much less paper flows.

¹⁵ This step-by-step process is inspired from and generally consistent with the UN/CEFACT step-by-step approach to trade facilitation towards a single window environment.

Figure 19: Moving up the trade facilitation ladder towards seamless international supply chains



Note: the figure shows cumulative trade facilitation implementation scores of Asia-Pacific sub-regions for 31 common trade facilitation measures included in the survey. Full implementation of all measures =100.

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2019

APPENDICES

Table 4: Grouping of trade facilitation measures included in the questionnaire

Grouping		Question	Trade facilitation measure in the questionnaire	TFA Articles
General TF Measures	Transparency (5 measures)	2	Publication of existing import-export regulations on the Internet	1.2
		3	Stakeholder consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)	2.2
		4	Advance publication/notification of new regulations before their implementation (e.g. 30 days prior)	2.1
		5	Advance ruling (on tariff classification)	3
		9	Independent appeal mechanism (for traders to appeal customs rulings and the rulings of other relevant trade control agencies)	4
	Formalities (8 measures)	6	Risk management (as a basis for deciding whether a shipment will be physically inspected or not)	7.4
		7	Pre-arrival processing	7.1
		8	Post-clearance audit	7.5
		10	Separation of Release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges	7.3
		11	Establishment and publication of average release times	7.6
		12	Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators	7.7
		13	Expedited shipments	7.8
	Institutional cooperation and arrangement (5 measures)	14	Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities	10.2.1
		1	Establishment of a national trade facilitation committee or similar body	23
		31	Cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level	8
		32	Government agencies delegating controls to customs authorities	
		33	Alignment of working days and hours with neighboring countries at border crossings	8.2(a)
	Transit facilitation (4 measures)	34	Alignment of formalities and procedures with neighboring countries at border crossings	8.2(b)
		35	Transit facilitation agreement(s) with neighboring country(ies)	
		36	Customs Authorities limit the physical inspection of transit goods and use risk assessment	10.5
37		Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation	11.9	
Digital TF Measures	Paperless trade (10 measures)	38	Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit	11.16
		15	Electronic/automated Customs System established (e.g. ASYCUDA)	
		16	Internet connection available to customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings	
		17	Electronic Single Window System	10.4
		18	Electronic submission of Customs Declarations	
		19	Electronic application and issuance of Import and Export Permit	

		20	Electronic submission of Sea Cargo Manifests	
		21	Electronic submission of Air Cargo Manifests	
		22	Electronic application and issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin	
		23	E-Payment of customs duties and fees	7.2
		24	Electronic application for customs refunds	
	Cross-border paperless trade (6 measures)	25	Laws and regulations for electronic transactions are in place (e.g. e-commerce law, e-transaction law)	
		26	Recognized certification authority issuing digital certificates to traders to conduct electronic transactions	
		27	Customs declaration electronically exchanged between your country and other countries	
		28	Certificate of Origin electronically exchanged between your country and other countries	
		29	Sanitary & Phytosanitary Certificate electronically exchanged between your country and other countries	
30		Banks and insurers in your country retrieving letters of credit electronically without lodging paper-based documents		
Sustainable TF Measures	Trade facilitation for SMEs (5 measures)	39	Trade-related information measures for SMEs	
		40	Government has developed specific measures that enable SMEs to more easily benefit from the AEO scheme	
		41	Government has taken actions to make single windows more easily accessible to SMEs (e.g. by providing technical consultation and training services to SMEs on registering and using the facility.)	
		42	Government has taken actions to ensure that SMEs are well represented and made key members of National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs)	
		43	Other special measures for SMEs	
	Agricultural trade facilitation (4 measures)	44	Testing and laboratory facilities are equipped for compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards in your main trading partners	
		45	National standards and accreditation bodies are established for the purpose of compliance with SPS standards	
		46	Application, verification and issuance of SPS certificates is automated	
		47	Special treatment given to perishable goods at border-crossings	7.9
	Women in trade facilitation (3 measures)	48	The existing trade facilitation policy/strategy incorporates special consideration of women involved in trade	
		49	Government has introduced trade facilitation measures aimed at women involved in trade	
		50	Female membership in the National Trade Facilitation Committee	
	Trade Finance Facilitation (3 measures)	51	Single window facilitates traders with access to finance	
52		Banks allow electronic exchange of data between trading partners or with banks in other countries to reduce dependence on paper documentation and advance digital trade		
53		A variety of trade finance services available		

Table 5: A three-step approach for data collection and validation

<p>Data submission by experts:</p>	<p>The survey instrument was sent by the ESCAP Secretariat to trade facilitation experts (in governments, the private sector and academia) in Asia-Pacific countries to gather preliminary information. The questionnaire was also made publicly available online and disseminated with the support of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Policy Support Unit, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariat and the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport for Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT). In some cases, the questionnaire was also sent to relevant national trade facilitation authorities or agencies and regional trade facilitation partners or organizations, such as OCO and ASEAN. This first step took place essentially between January and April 2019.</p>
<p>Data verification by the UNRCs Secretariat:</p>	<p>The ESCAP Secretariat cross-checked the data collected in Step 1. Desk research and data sharing among UNRCs and survey partners were carried out to further check the accuracy of data. Face-to-face or telephone interviews with key informants were arranged to gather additional information when needed. The outcome of Step 2 was a consistent set of responses per country. Step 2 took place between January and April 2019.</p>
<p>Data validation by national governments</p>	<p>The ESCAP Secretariat sent the completed questionnaire to each national government to ensure that the country had the opportunity to review the dataset and provide any additional information. The feedback from national governments were incorporated in order to finalize the dataset. Step 3 took place between April and May 2019.</p>

Table 6: Definition of each Stage of implementation

Stage of implementation	Coding/Scoring
<p>Full Implementation: the trade facilitation measure implemented is in full compliance with commonly-accepted international standards, recommendations and conventions such as the Revised Kyoto Convention, UN/CEFACT Recommendations, or the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); it is implemented in law and in practice; it is available to essentially all relevant stakeholders nationwide, and supported by adequate legal and institutional frameworks, as well as adequate infrastructure and financial and human resources. A TFA provision included in the commitments given under Notifications of Category A may generally be considered as a measure which is fully implemented by the country, with a caveat that the provision will be implemented by a Least-Developed Country (LDC) member within one year of the TFA agreement coming into force. If a country registers positive response for all sub-questions concerning a given trade facilitation measure, that measure should be considered fully implemented.</p>	<p>3</p>

<p>Partial Implementation: a measure is considered to be partially implemented if at least one of the following is true: (1) the trade facilitation measure is in partial - but not in full - compliance with commonly-accepted international standards, recommendations and conventions; (2) the country is still in the process of rolling out the implementation of the measure; (3) the measure is being used but on an unsustainable, short-term or ad-hoc basis; (4) the measure is implemented in some - but not all - targeted locations (such as key border crossing stations); or (5) some - but not all - targeted stakeholders are fully involved.</p>	2
<p>Pilot Stage of Implementation: a measure is considered to be at the pilot stage of implementation if, in addition to meeting the general attributes of partial implementation, it is available only to a very small portion of the intended stakeholder group (or at certain location) and/or is being implemented on a trial basis. When a new trade facilitation measure is at the pilot stage of implementation, the old measure is often continuously used in parallel to ensure that the service is still provided even when there has been a disruption with the new measure. This stage of implementation also includes relevant rehearsals and preparation for the full implementation.</p>	1
<p>Not implemented: a measure has not been implemented at this stage. However, this stage may still include initiatives or efforts towards implementation of the measure. For example, under this stage, (pre)feasibility studies or planning for the implementation can be carried out; and consultation with stakeholders on the implementation may be arranged.</p>	0