

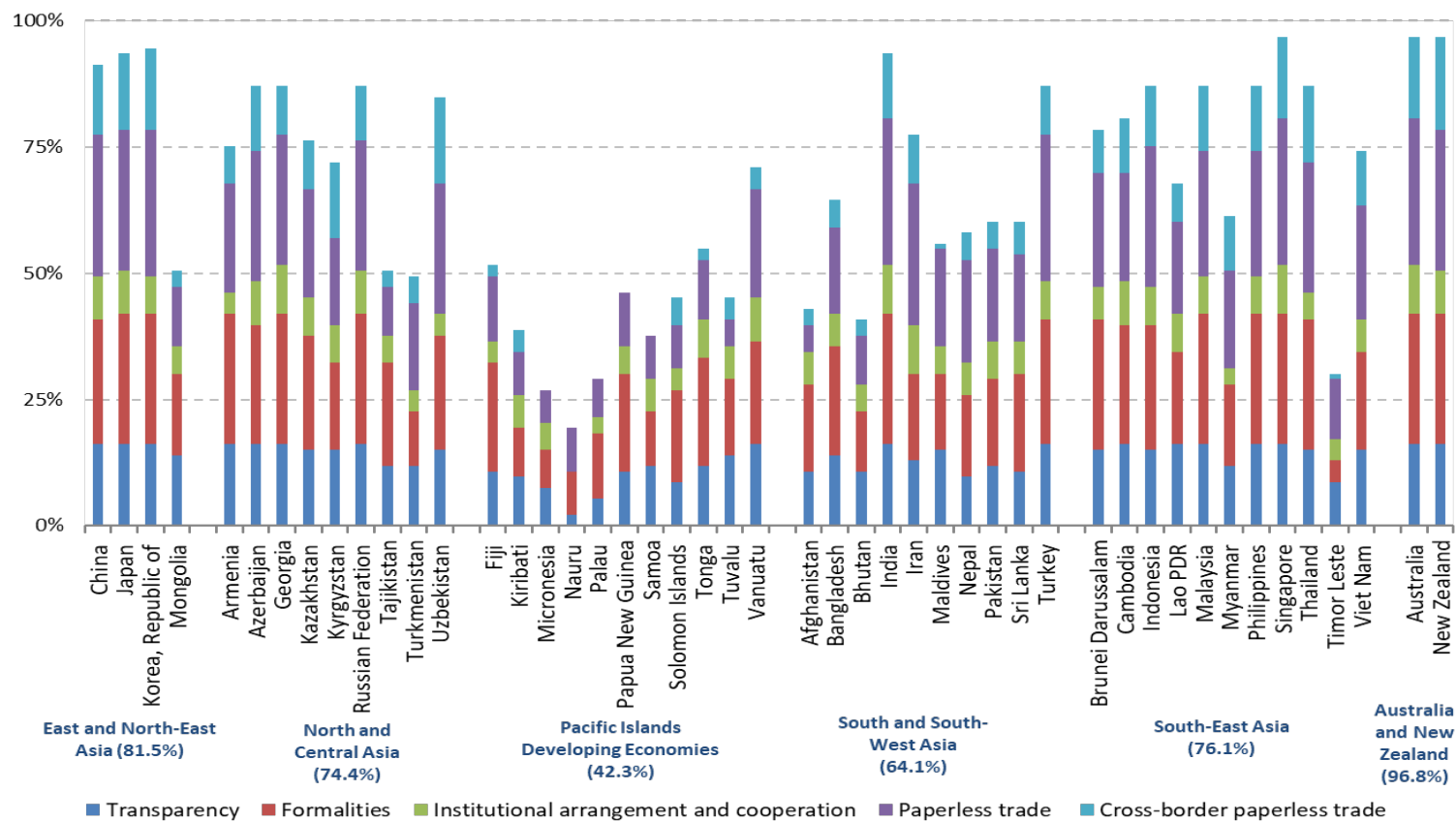
Advancing Paperless trade in the CAREC countries:

Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

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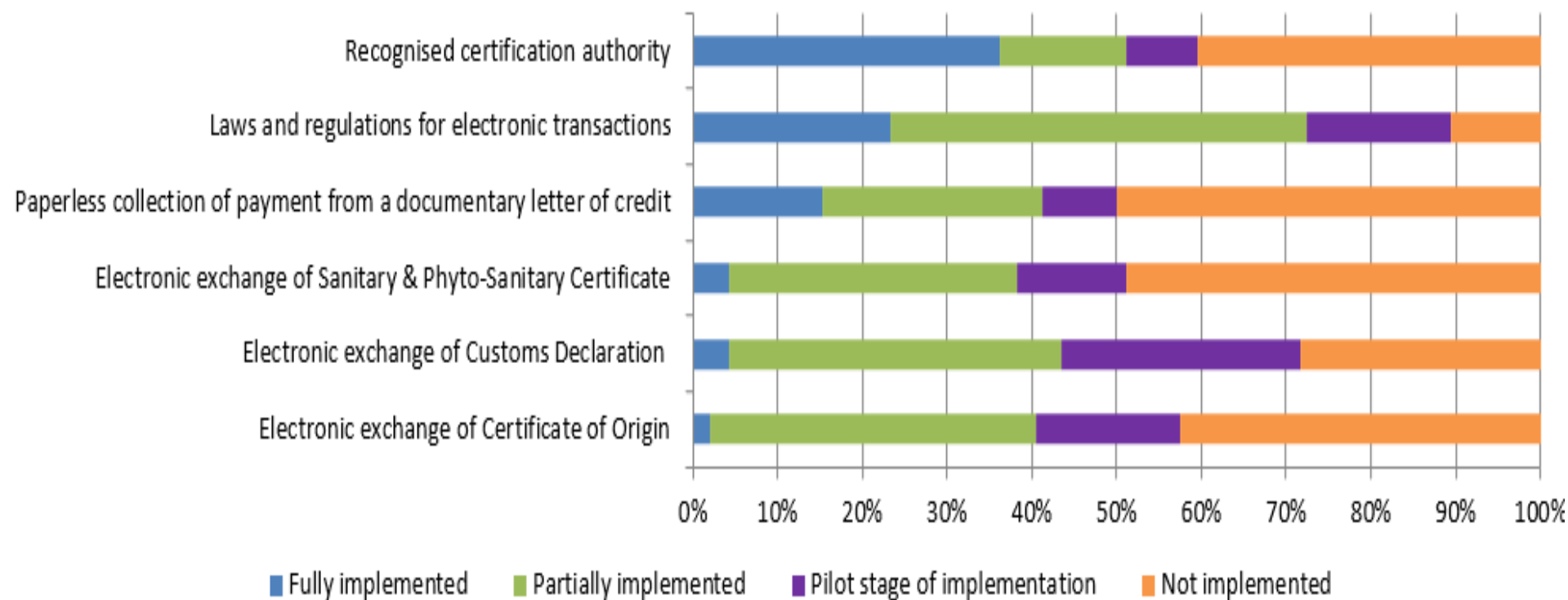
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Trade facilitation implementation by the countries in Asia and the Pacific



Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

Challenges for implementing cross-border paperless trade



Source: UN Global Survey Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023

Key Strategy. If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together

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 intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions
- ✓ Complementary to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as well as (sub)regional efforts



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



Participant	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)
Armenia	22 Sep 2017	
Azerbaijan		2 Mar 2018 a
Bangladesh	29 Aug 2017	13 Oct 2020
Cambodia	29 Aug 2017	
China	29 Aug 2017	22 Nov 2020 AA
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	29 Sep 2017	29 May 2020
Kyrgyzstan		20 Dec 2023 a
Mongolia		27 Jul 2022 a
Philippines		23 Dec 2019 a
Republic of Korea		28 Nov 2022 a
Russian Federation		18 Aug 2023 a
Tajikistan		8 Dec 2022 a
Timor-Leste		5 Apr 2022 a
Turkmenistan		4 May 2022 a
Tuvalu		8 Dec 2022 a

CAREC parties to the Framework Agreement

- Afghanistan
- Azerbaijan
- People's Republic of China
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Mongolia
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

Implementation of the Framework Agreement is gaining momentum

- When the first session of the Paperless Trade Council was held in 2022, only **five** countries acceded to the Framework Agreement
- Over a couple of years, **13** countries have acceded to the Framework Agreement by August 2024, and more countries will be on board

Most recent events



Key issues on the Framework Agreement (1)

1. A country has to undertake legal and technical reforms before it can accede to the Framework Agreement

- a) yes b) No

2. Among the current parties to the Framework Agreement, how many countries are classified as "the least developed countries"?

- a) none b) 3 c) 8

Key issues on the Framework Agreement (2)

3. As a party of the Framework Agreement, a country needs to implement all measures according to the binding arrangements under the Framework Agreement

- a) yes b) No

4. What is the annual fee to be a Party of the Framework Agreement

- a) 0 b) US\$ 20,000 c) US\$ 1 million

5. The process for acceding to the Framework Agreement is very complicated

- a) true b) false

Selected forthcoming events

- **WCO-ESCAP 7th UNNExT Masterclass: Electronic Single Windows and Data Analytics for Trade Compliance and Facilitation in Republic of Korea, 25-29 November 2024**
- **Regional Workshop on Advancing Paperless Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development, Republic of Korea, 10 and 11 (morning) December 2024**
- **Ad-hoc session of the Standing Committee, Republic of Korea, 11 December 2024 (afternoon)**

Mark your calendar

- **The fourth sessions of the Standing Committee and of the Paperless Trade Council would be held in Bangkok and online, from 9 to 11 June 2025 and on 12 and 13 June 2025, respectively.**
- **The fifth sessions of the Standing Committee and of the Paperless Trade Council would be held in Bangkok and online from 8 to 10 June 2026 and on 11 and 12 June 2026, respectively.**