

**20. FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON FACILITATION OF CROSS-BORDER
PAPERLESS TRADE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Bangkok, 19 May 2016

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 20 February 2021, in accordance with article 19(1) which reads as follows: "The present Framework Agreement shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the date on which the Governments of at least five (5) ESCAP member States have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the present Framework Agreement pursuant to article 18, paragraphs 2 and 3".

REGISTRATION: 20 February 2021, No. 56556.

STATUS: Signatories: 5. Parties: 14.

TEXT: United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3377CN.597.2016.TREATIES-X.20 of 23 August 2016 (Opening for signature) and CN.598.2016.TREATIES-X.20 of 23 August 2016 (Issuance of Certified True Copies); C.N.143.2022.TREATIES-X.20 (Amendments to the Framework Agreement).

Note: The above Agreement was adopted on 19 May 2016 by resolution [72/4](#) during the seventy-second session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In accordance with its article 18, the Agreement shall be open for signature by States that are members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>
Armenia	22 Sep 2017		Philippines		23 Dec 2019 a
Azerbaijan.....		2 Mar 2018 a	Republic of Korea.....		28 Nov 2022 a
Bangladesh.....	29 Aug 2017	13 Oct 2020	Russian Federation		18 Aug 2023 a
Cambodia.....	29 Aug 2017		Tajikistan		8 Dec 2022 a
China.....	29 Aug 2017	22 Nov 2020 AA	Timor-Leste		5 Apr 2022 a
Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	29 Sep 2017	29 May 2020	Turkmenistan.....		4 May 2022 a
Kyrgyzstan.....		20 Dec 2023 a	Tuvalu.....		8 Dec 2022 a
Mongolia.....		27 Jul 2022 a	Uzbekistan		5 Nov 2024 a

AZERBAIJAN

“In accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 17 of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, the Republic of Azerbaijan states that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of the Article 17 relating to conciliation.”

“The Republic of Azerbaijan declares that the provisions of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific shall not be applied by the Republic of Azerbaijan in respect of the Republic of Armenia.”

CHINA

In accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, the Government of the People’s Republic of China decides that the Agreement applies to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1) In respect of paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the Framework Agreement the Russian Federation declares that, in accordance with its national legislation, it considers the notion of “substantially equivalent level of reliability” as stipulating, inter alia, legal liability for a failure to comply with obligations arising in connection with the cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form;

2) The Russian Federation declares that it proceeds from the understanding of paragraph 2 of Article 12 of the Framework Agreement that “a self-assessment of their readiness” implies a self-assessment of own national legislation, and therefore the implementation schedule developed as a part of the action plan that is based on such an assessment cannot contradict national legislation.

