

*The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023 –
A “one-UN” collaborative effort of the 5 UN Regional Commissions and UNCTAD*

UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023 and Cross-border Paperless Trade

(Global and Asia-Pacific region overview)

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UN Global Digital and Sustainable TF Survey: 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



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

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Survey Scope: WTO TFA++

60 trade facilitation (TF) measures 161 countries

General: WTO TFA-related measures

+

Digital TF: paperless trade & cross-border paperless trade

+

Sustainable TF: for SMEs, Agriculture, and women

+

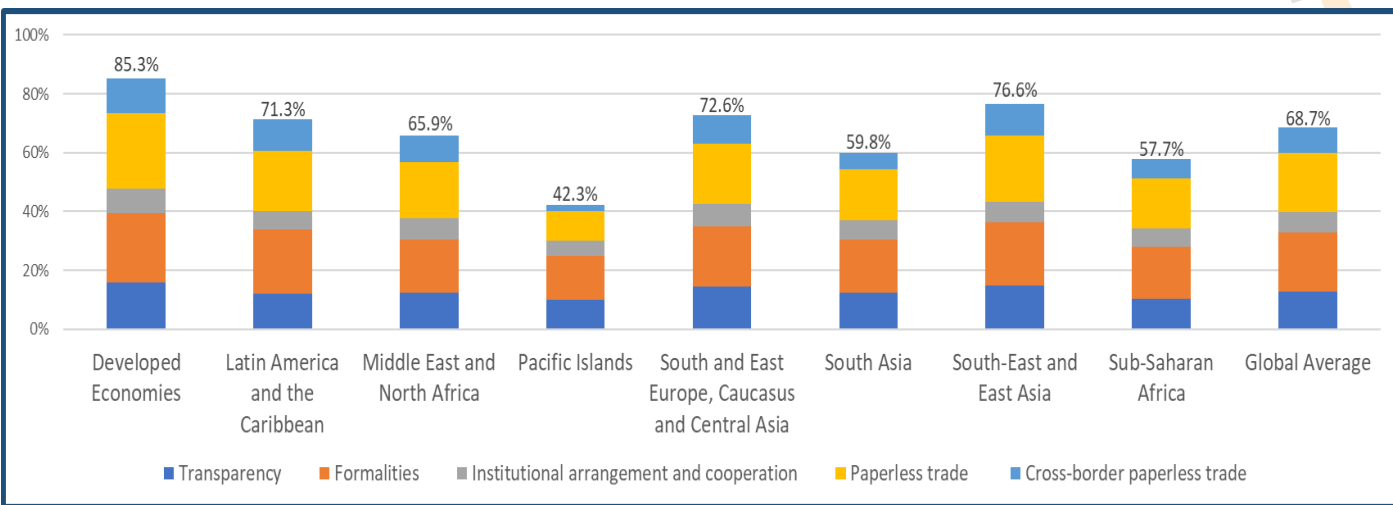
Other TF: Including trade facilitation during crisis and pandemic, transit etc.



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

Implementation of TF measures

- **2023 global average implementation rate: 69%**
- **Southeast and East Asia region leading developing regions**

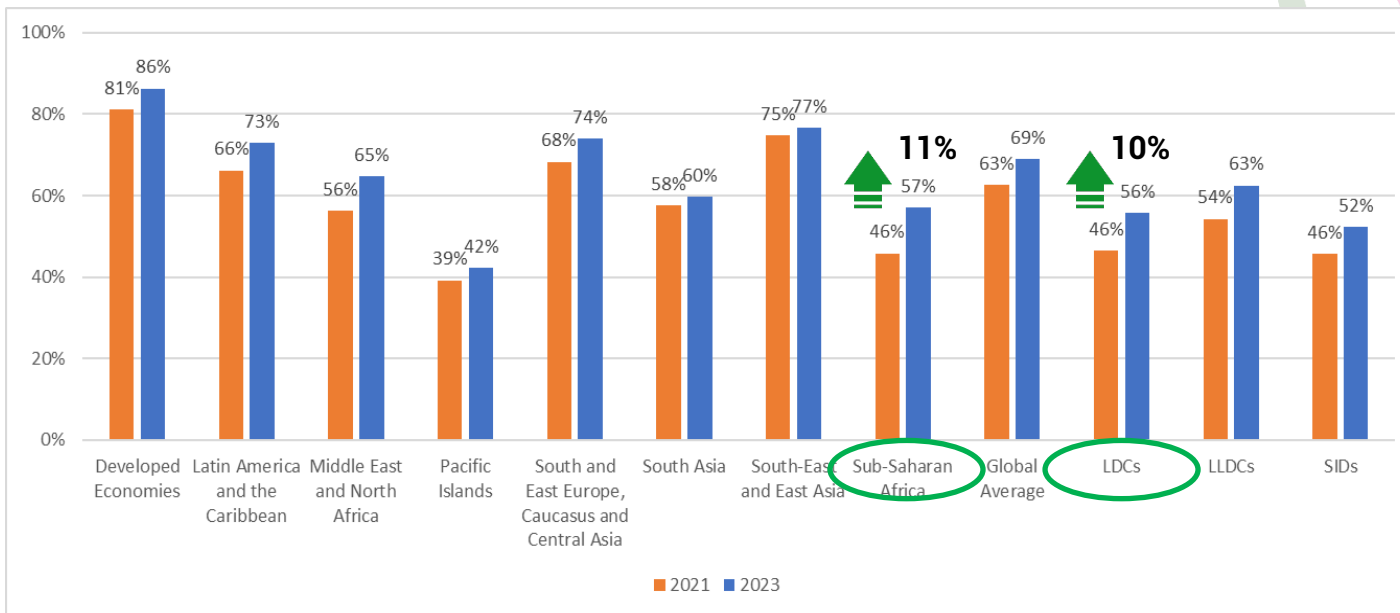


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

[UNTFSURVEY.ORG](https://untfsurvey.org)

All world regions made progress since 2021

- Sub-Saharan Africa and LDCs catching-up
- Slower progress in Pacific islands and South Asia

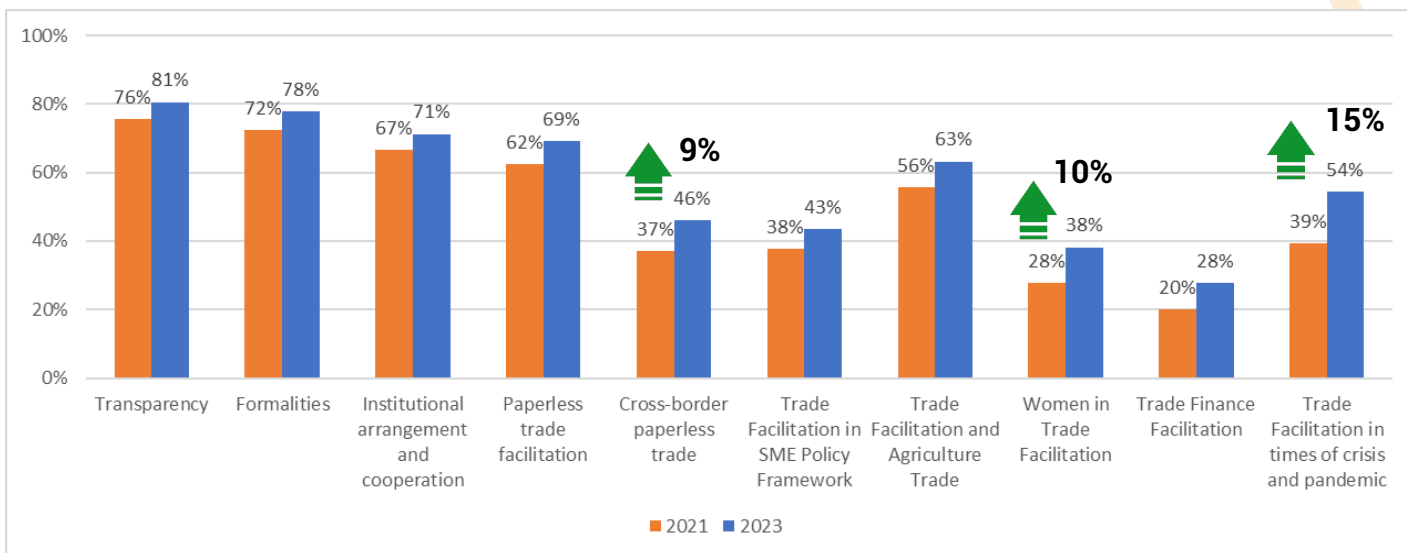


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

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Implementation across groups of TF measures

- WTO TFA related measures well implemented (>70%)



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

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Progress of Global Implementation (digital and sustainable measures)

- **Cross-border paperless trade and sustainable TF measures implementation generally low... but progress made!**

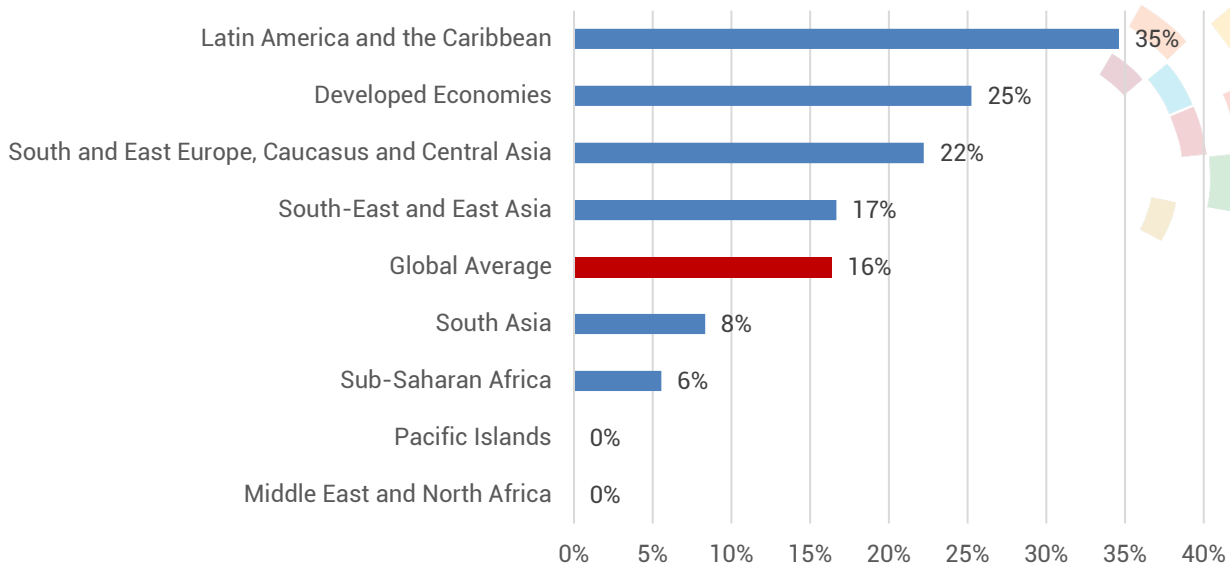


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)



Implementation of electronic application, issuance and exchange of eCITES

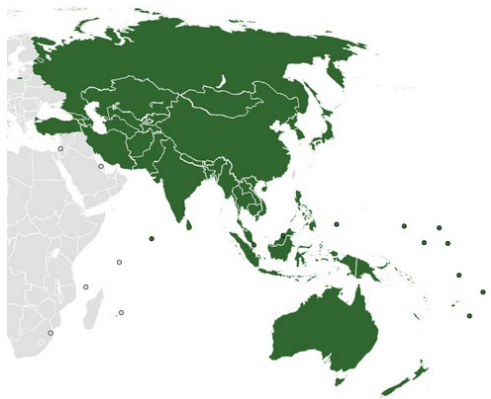
- Piloted measure on eCITES in 2023 survey:
- Overall implementation is low, need for greater awareness



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

[UNTFSURVEY.ORG](https://untfsurvey.org)

Digital and sustainable trade facilitation implementation 2023 in **Asia-Pacific**

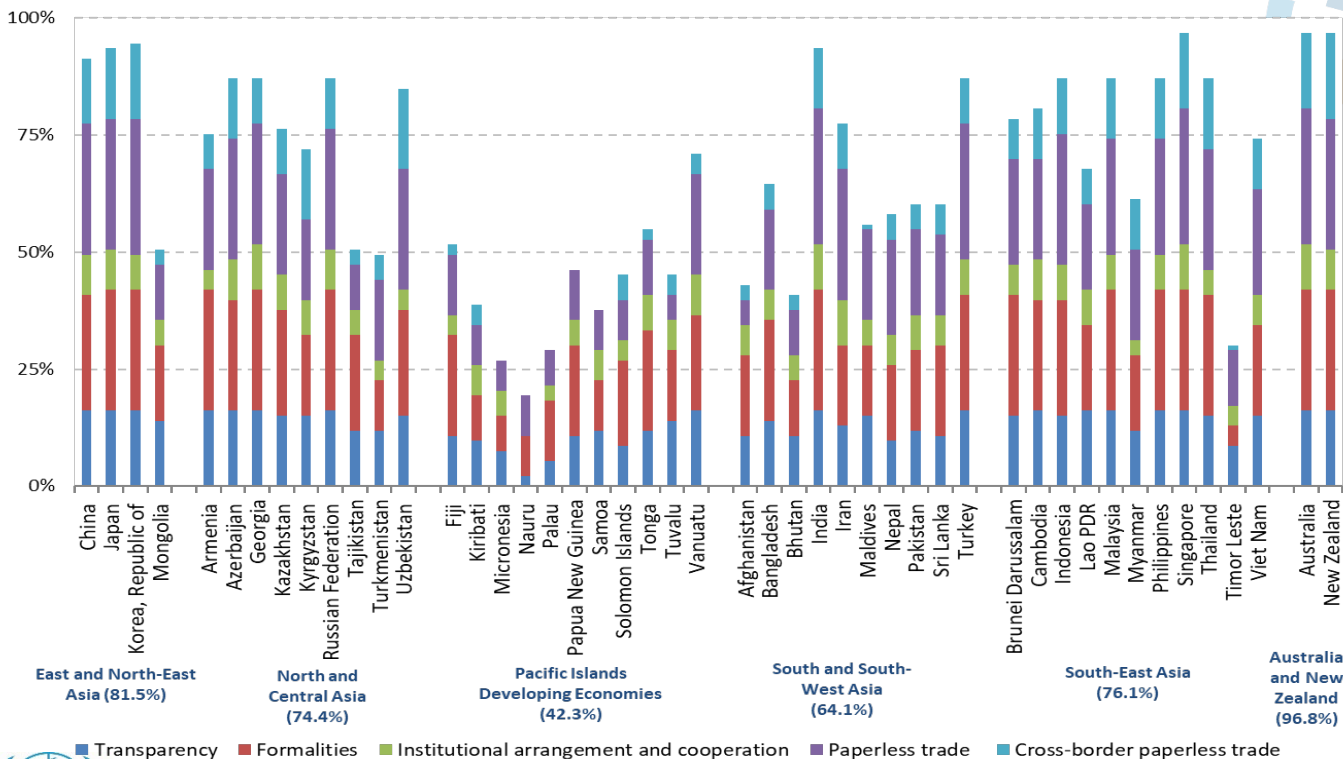


ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



Asia-Pacific (47 countries) TF implementation rate: 67%

- Wide ranging performance across countries



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

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Progress in implementation of TF measures in Asia-Pacific positive but slower compared to 2019-2021



The regional average implementation of 31 common TF measures increased by about 3% between 2021 and 2023



7 Asia-Pacific countries achieved >90% implementation rate:

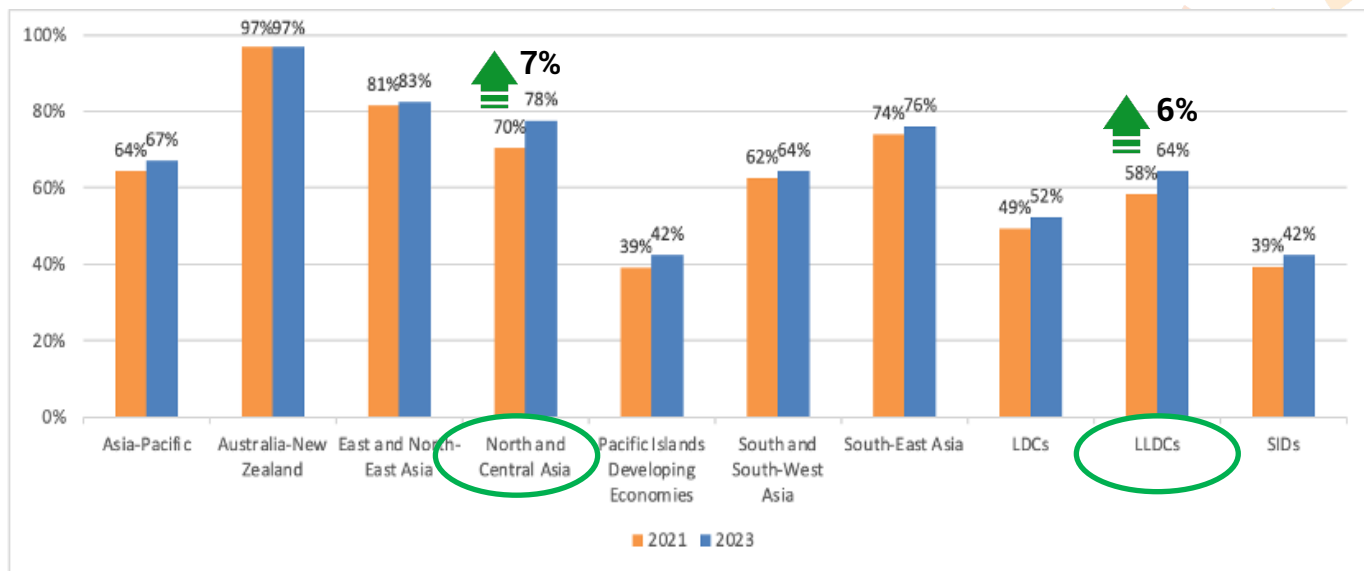


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

[UNTFSURVEY.ORG](https://untfsurvey.org)

Progress across Asia-Pacific subregions

- All developing subregions have improved since 2021
- Most progress observed in North and Central Asia
- LLDCs catching up to the regional average

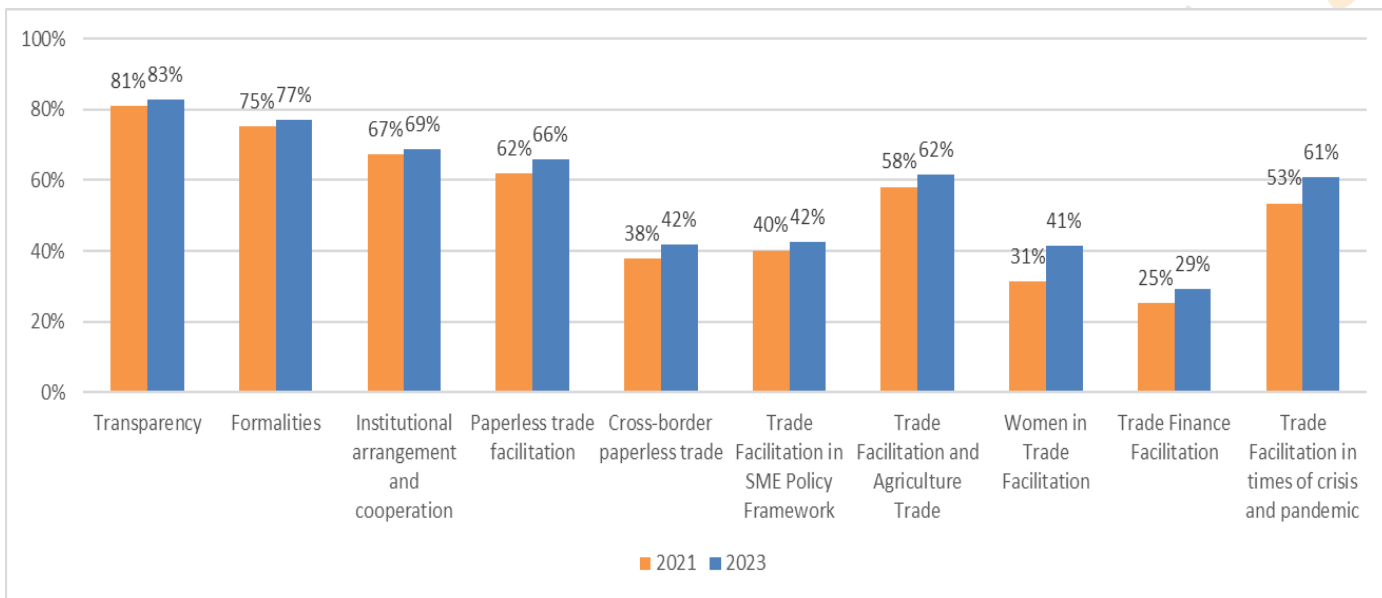


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

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Implementation of different TF Measures in Asia-Pacific Region (2021-2023)

- Small improvements across all groups
- Cross-border paperless trade and TF measures for SMEs lagging, including in terms of trade finance facilitation



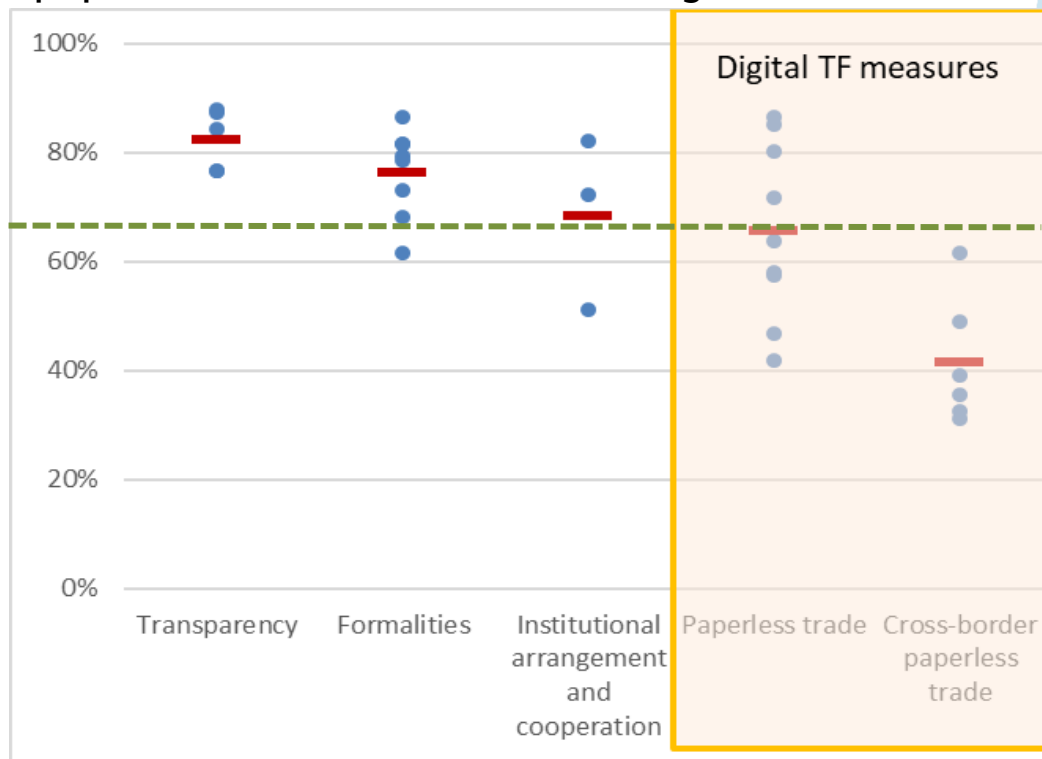
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

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Implementation of "General and Digital TF measures"

Implementation of digital trade measures fall below AP average.
Cross-border paperless trade remains a challenge

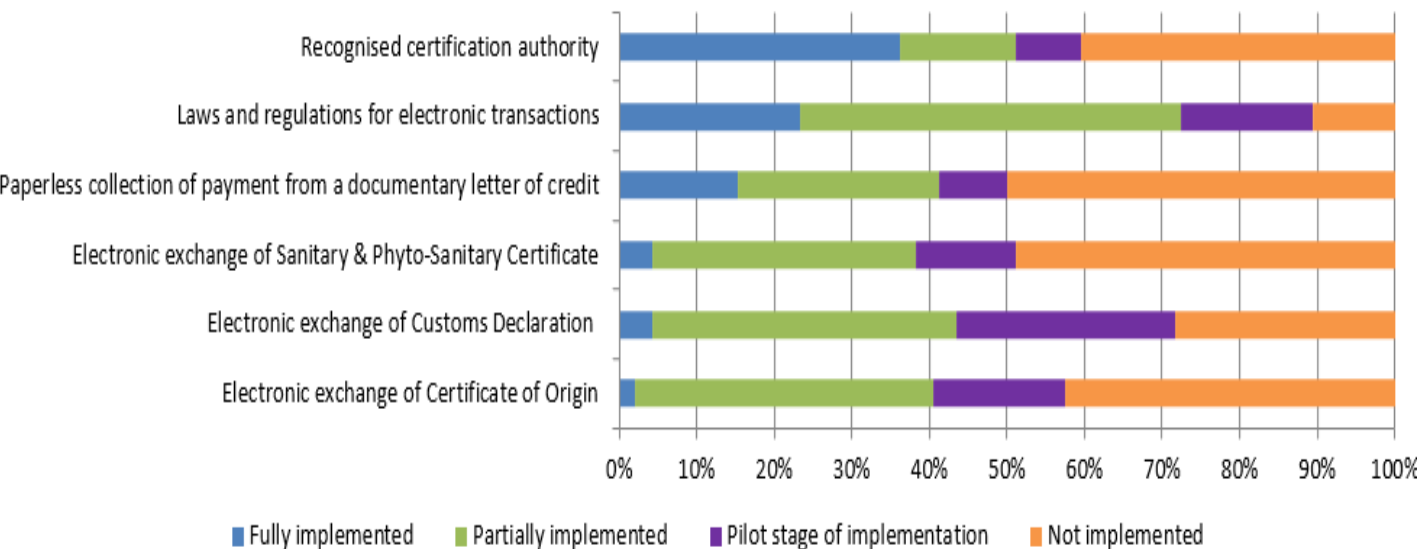
A-P average
31 measures
(67%)



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

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Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures remains relatively low

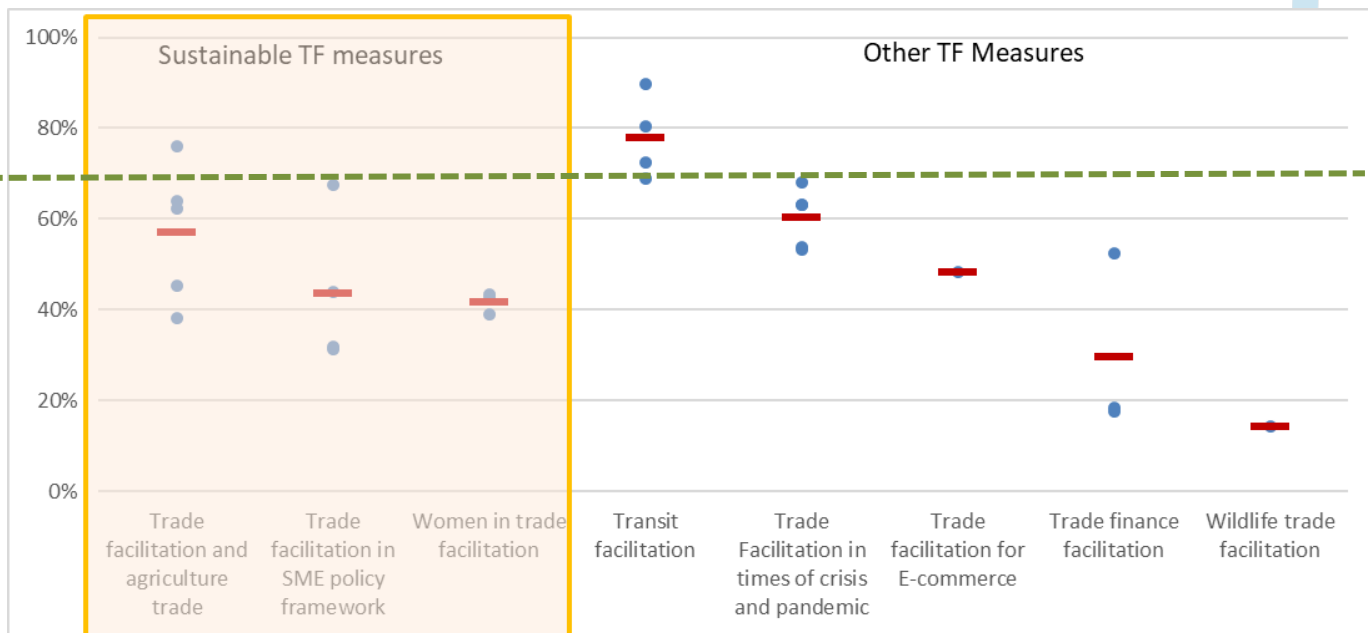


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

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Implementation of "Sustainable and Other TF Measures"

Implementation of sustainable trade measures remain relatively low. Varying levels of implementation of other TF measures.

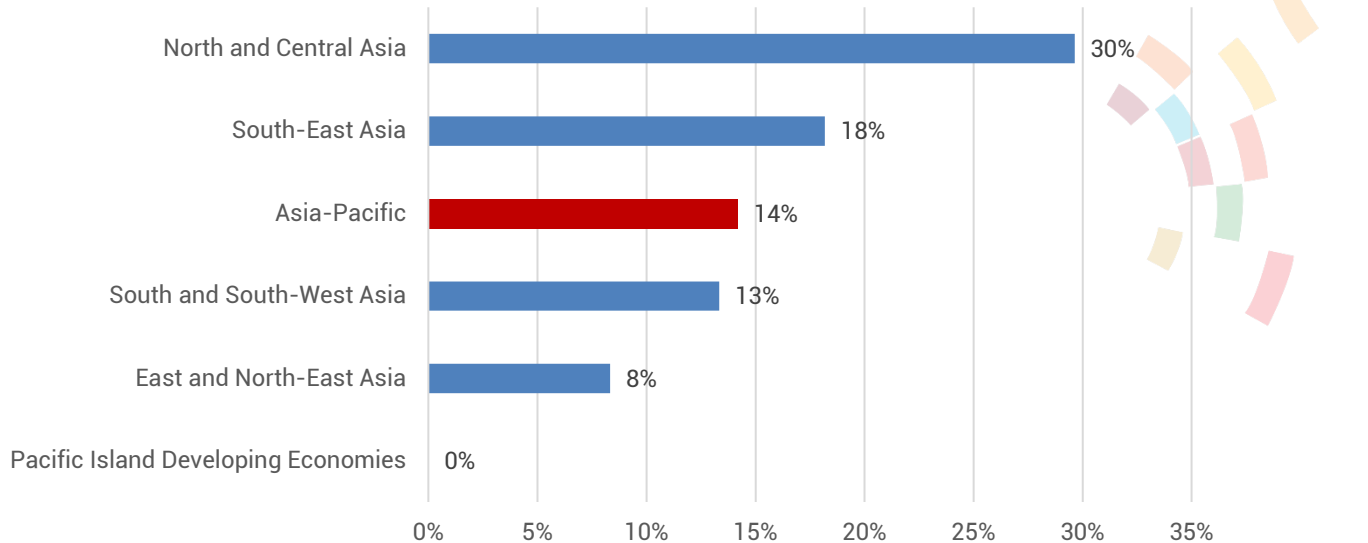


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

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Implementation of electronic application, issuance and exchange of eCITES in the Asia-Pacific

- Average implementation rate in AP region is 14% compared to 16% global average

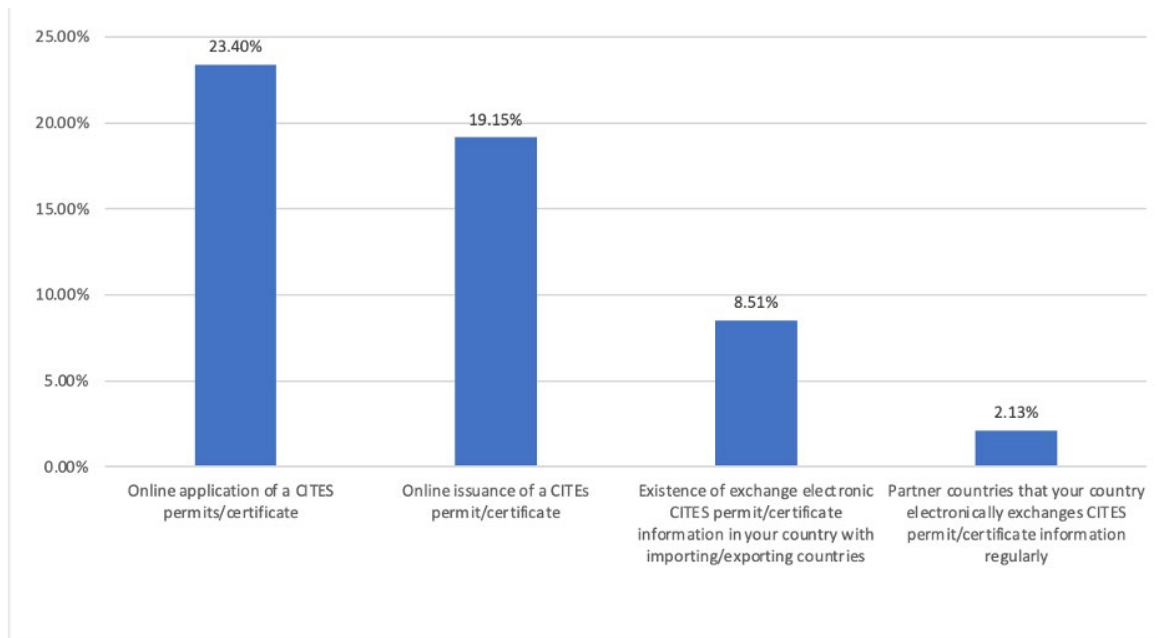


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

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Implementation eCITES sub-questions

- **Significant variation in implementation of online application, issuance, and exchange of eCITES permits/certificates**

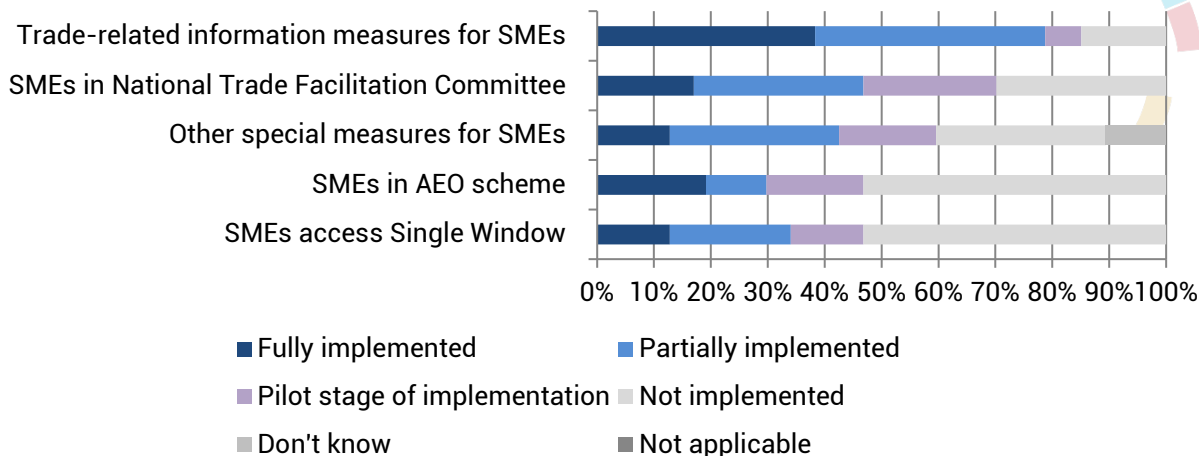


Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2023)

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Trade facilitation for SMEs

Measures that specifically target SMEs to overcome the challenges they face in trade such as facilities for SMEs access to Single Window and SMEs access to AEO scheme are implemented to a limited extent.



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

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Conclusion and Way Forward

- Globally, and in the Asia-Pacific region, 2023 survey data shows improvements in the overall implementation of trade facilitation measures.
- However, progress has slowed compared to the COVID-19 crisis period
- Improvement in cross-border paperless trade and TF measures targeted to groups with special needs essential to maximize the benefits of trade.
- Cooperation is key to further progress!

Digital TF

All can gain from accelerating trade facilitation implementation, particularly from digital TF measures

Sustainable TF

Digital TF also contributes to sustainable TF. More efforts on trade facilitation for SMEs and women will improve sustainable TF



Gains can be made in reducing trade costs and making trade more sustainable by further efforts on implementing these groups of measures



Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade

Visualize & compare implementation of measures across regions and economies

GET STARTED

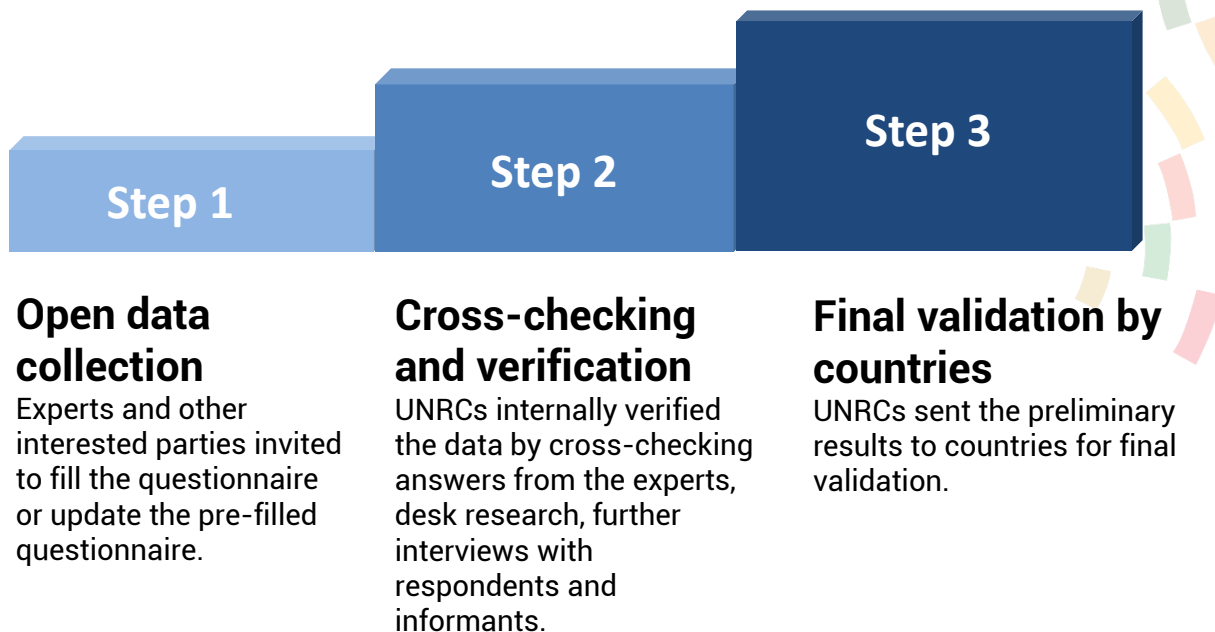
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Interactive visualization of Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade data

Thank you!



ANNEX: A Three-step Approach for Data Collection



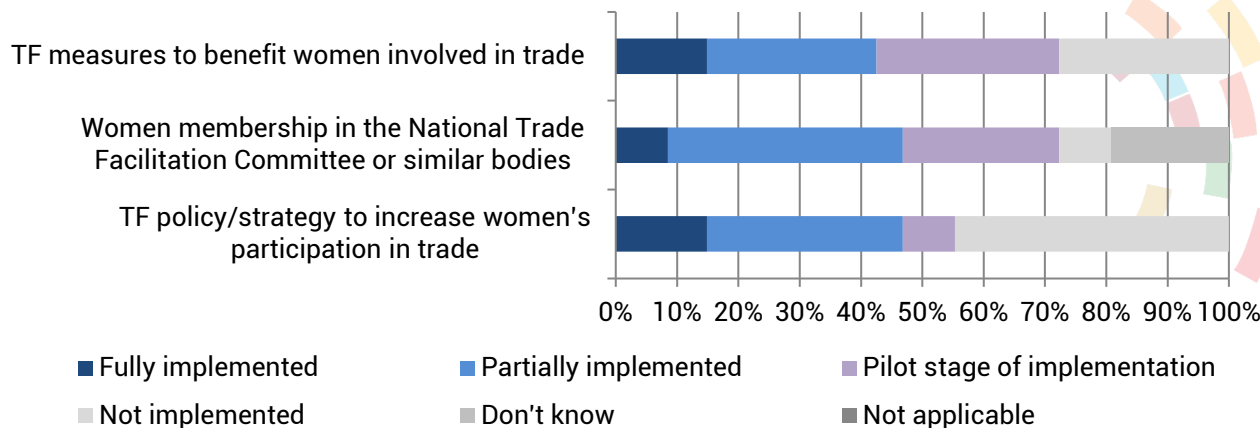
Source: UN Global Survey
on Digital and Sustainable
Trade Facilitation (2023)

Key outcome of step 2:
A national dataset for each
country surveyed

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Annex: Trade Facilitation for Women

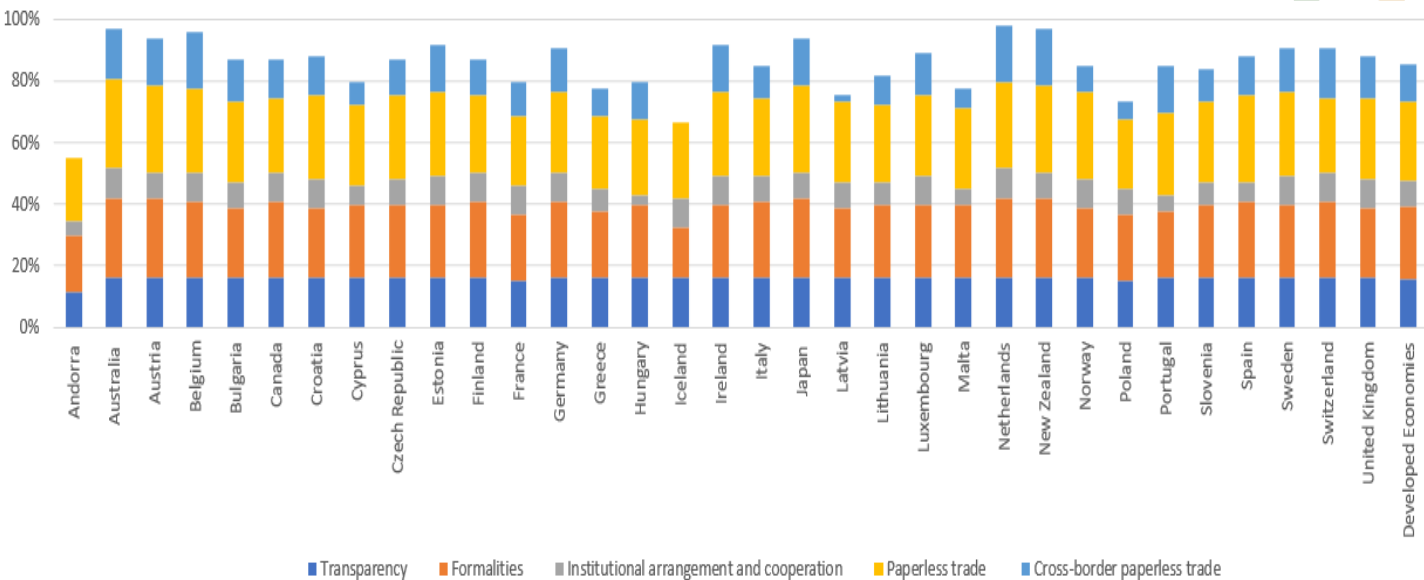
Measures that specifically support women in trade facilitation are relatively under-implemented



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

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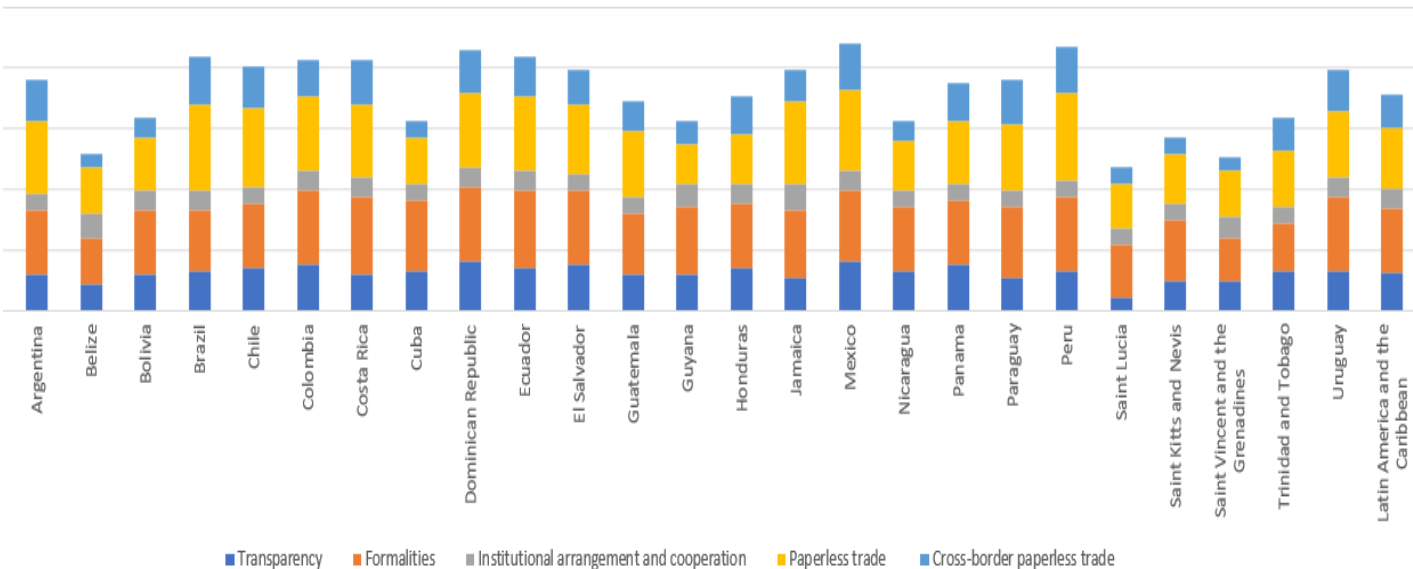
Annex: Country Implementation benchmarked with Regional Average (Developed Economies)



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

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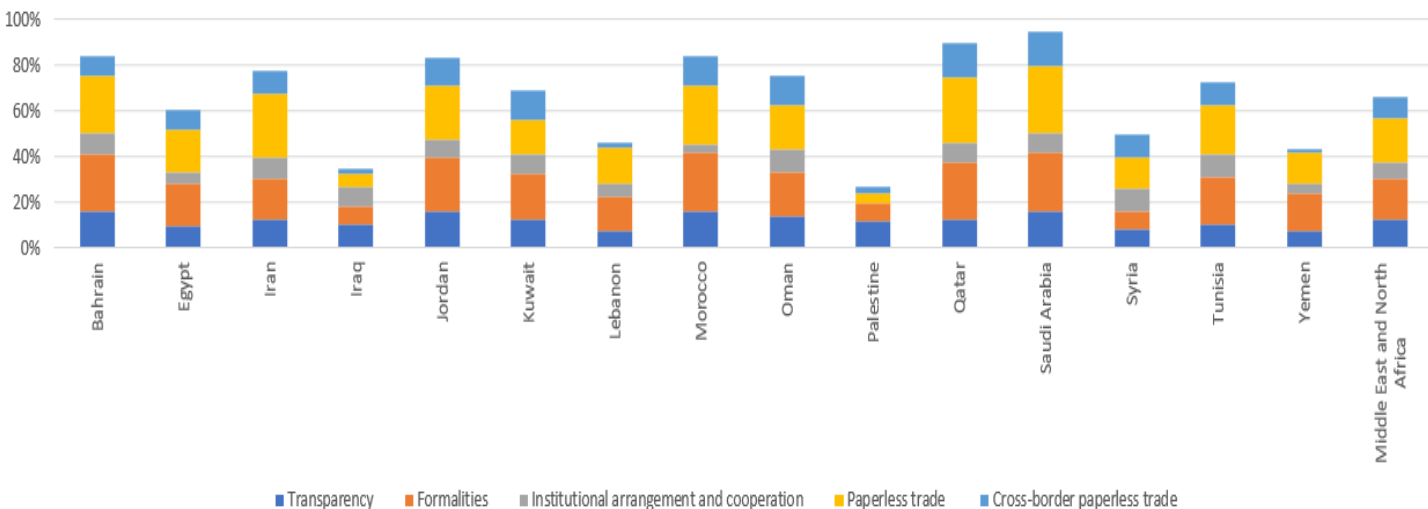
(Latin America and Caribbean)



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

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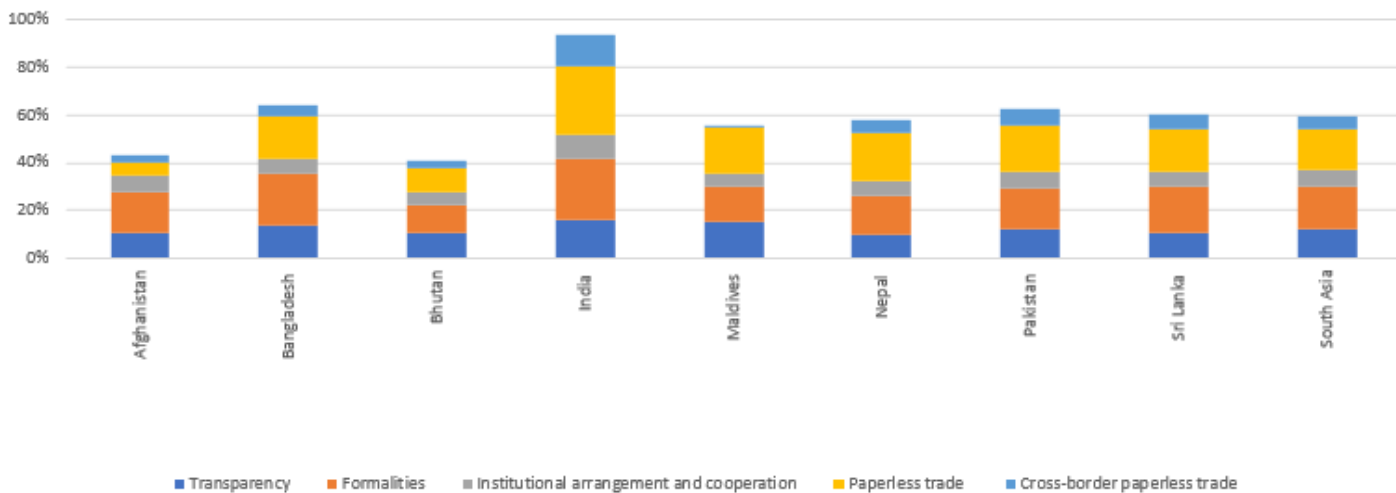
(Middle East and North Africa)



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

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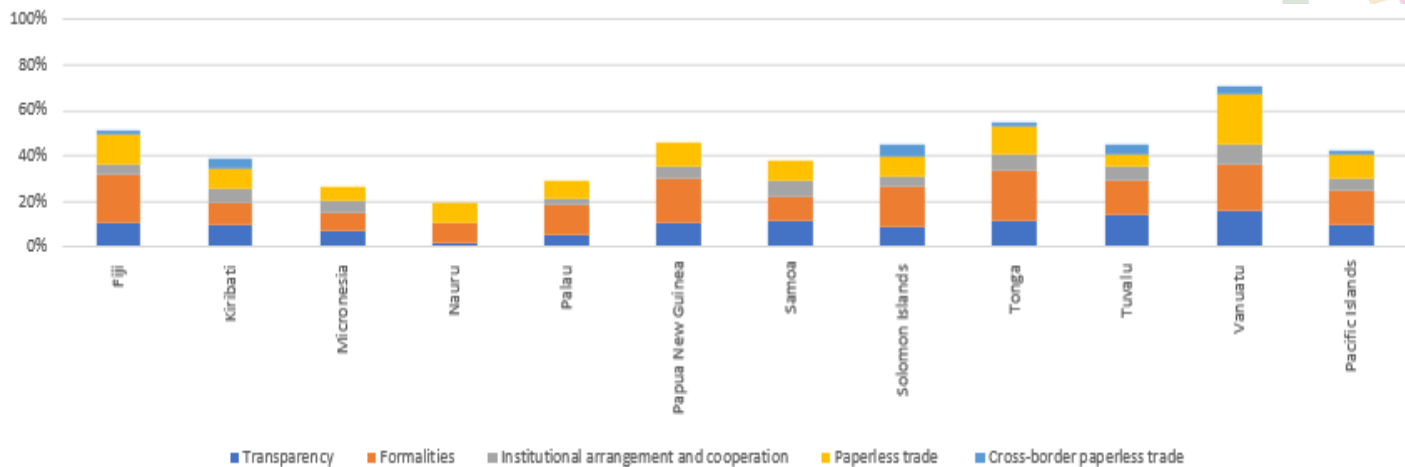
(South Asia)



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

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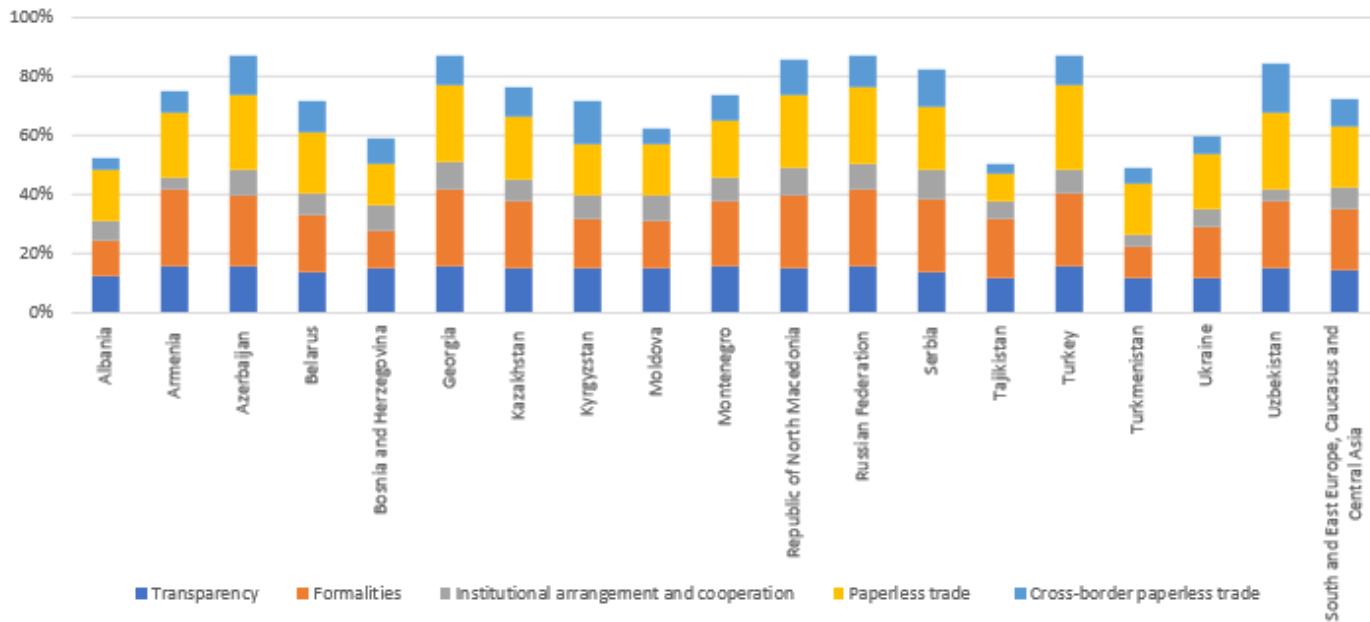
(Pacific Islands)



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

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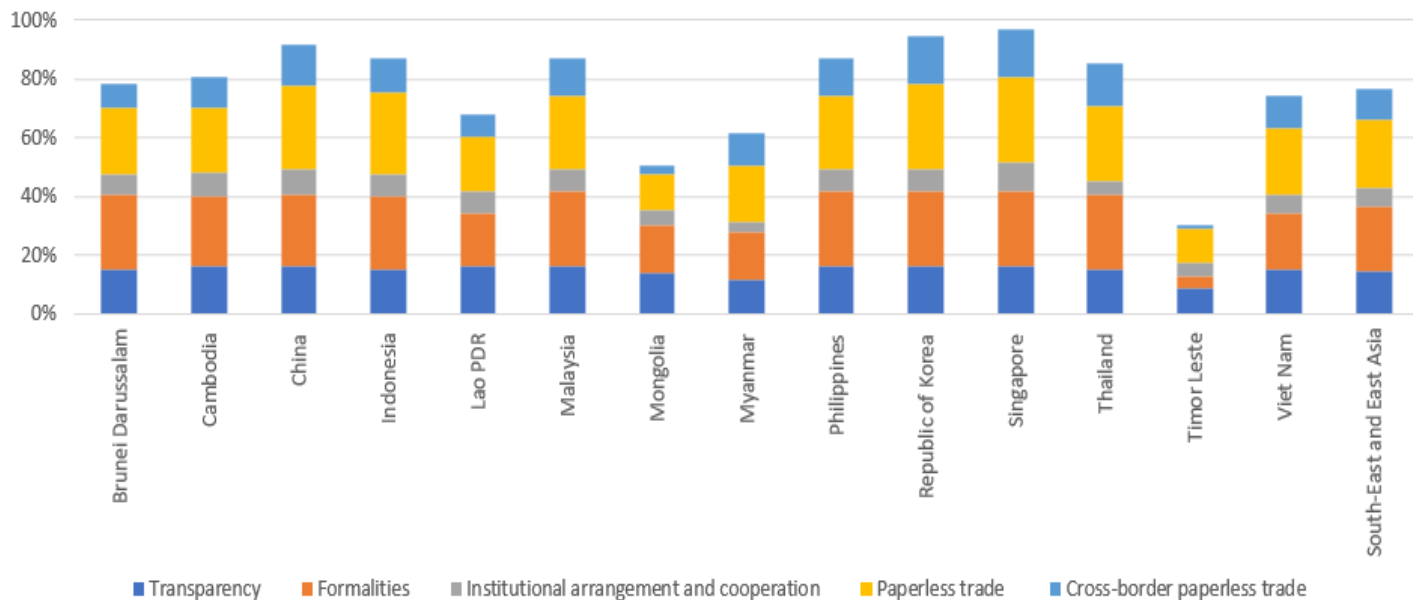
(South and Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)



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

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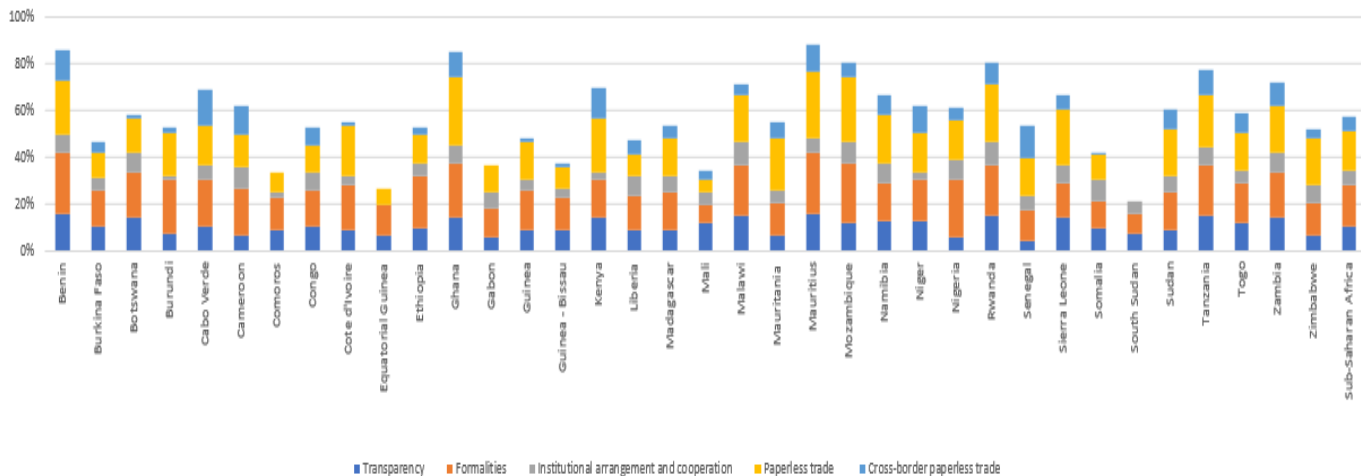
(South-East and East Asia)



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

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(Sub-Saharan Africa)



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

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