How to use this toolkit

This toolkit aims at raising awareness of the technical and legal tools to be called upon to adopt cross-border paperless trade systems and national single windows (NSWs). Key actions to develop paperless trade systems include:

- enabling a conducive legal framework;
- enabling a conducive technical framework;
- promoting efficient governance and engaging stakeholders;
- providing technical assistance.

This publication builds on the *Legal Readiness Assessment Guide*, the *Technical Readiness Assessment Guide* and the corresponding checklists for cross-border paperless trade. Developed by ESCAP as part of its support for the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific,[1] the guides contain explanatory notes, good practices, references and other relevant information to assist users to conduct self-assessments of their cross-border paperless trade systems using the checklists.

"This toolkit aims at raising awareness of the technical and legal tools to be called upon to adopt cross-border paperless trade systems and national single windows."

The toolkit does not intend to assess the status of a paperless trade system but rather to guide interested stakeholders in implementing such a system. In each chapter, the most relevant questions of the *Legal Readiness* and *Technical Readiness Checklists* for each section are listed.

The advantages of this approach are both its brevity and its focus on the selected elements. Users should, however, also refer to the full checklists and readiness assessment guides freely available online.

The *Legal Readiness Assessment Guide*, the *Technical Readiness Assessment Guide* and the corresponding checklists for cross-border paperless trade, available online:

https://readiness.digitalizetrade.org

Endnote

1   See UN document E/ESCAP/RES/72/4 and https://www.unescap.org/kp/cpta.