Regional workshop on leverging Blockchain technology for trade facilaition

Cocnept Note

With various developments around international trade rules resulting from successive trade agreement negotiations at the global, regional, and bilateral levels, tariffs for international trade have fallen to historically low levels, leaving non-tariff measures such as logistics and customs procedures as the main stumbling blocks to international trade.

Emerging technologies, are changing the rules of the game in international trade. This is so because the application of such technologies is leading to significant reduction of cost and time and is increasing reliability and trust on information and documents exchanged during a trade transaction along the whole supply chain, an issue that has for long time caused considerable delay in the process due to the need to verify and certify information and trade documents.

Blockchain enables automated, secure and efficient information and documents sharing enabling participants to digitally connect, share information and collaborate across the supply chain. Governments can play a key role to build-up the necessary ecosystem for engaging all stakeholders, addressing actual or perceived risks, and ensuring that blockchain can effectively support sustainable and inclusive development.

Within the framework of a development account project funded by the UN, a regional workshop titled "Blockchain for Trade Facilitation" will be held in Amman, Jordan, in April 2025. The workshop aims to enhance the capacities of officials from ministries of trade and customs authorities in leveraging blockchain for trade facilitation. It will gather experts to discuss key issues surrounding the use of blockchain in international trade facilitation with the aim to educate officials of the advantages and concerns, along with the procedures and risks of using blockchain in trade facilitation. The workshop will also provide a platform for reviewing relevant use cases and the lessons learnt from them.

Objectives

The workshop corresponds to output A2.2 of the project " Regional workshop on blockchain for trade facilitation" The regional workshop will present the outputs under activities EA1 " Enhanced capacity of Member States in the identification of the legal and regulatory requirements to use blockchain for trade facilitation purpose"

More particularly, the regional workshop will present to the corresponding member states:
- Discuss findings of activities under EA
- Discuss the necessary requirements for the adoption of blockchain across each region
- Discuss and set up of the next steps of the project regarding tailoring capacity building activities to pilot countries' concrete needs.

Participants

Government officials ministries of trade and customs authorities are participating in this workshop.

Organization

The workshop will be held at "The UN house-ESCWA", in Lebanon-Beirut during 29-30 April 2025. The proceedings of this meeting will be conducted in Arabic and English.

Logistics

ESCWA will cover the costs of participation and accommodation during the workshop period in accordance with the regulations in force at the United Nations.

Agenda

Day 1	
Time	**Activity**
9:00-9:15 am	Opening
9:15-9:30 am	Introduction to the project
9:30-10:00 am	Introduction to blockchain
10:00-11:00 am	Overview of the projects global outputs: - The report, - The guide & checklist, - The online training course
11:00-11:30 am	coffee break
11:30-12:30 pm	Presentation on the technical, policy and regulatory background and evolution of blockchain technology and its role in trade facilitation
12:30-13:30 pm	Presentation of potential and actual use cases of blockchain technology in trade facilitation and challenges in implementation of the technology
13:30- 15:00 pm	Lunch break
15:00-16:30 pm	Review of actual use cases from around the world

Day 2	
Time	**Activity**
9:30-11:00 am	Overview of the technical, policy and regulatory preparedness of governments for the implementation of blockchain technology
11:00-11:30 am	Coffee break
11:30-13:30 pm	Technical training on how to assess and plan a blockchain project using the project's tools
13:30-14:30 pm	Lunch break
14:30-16:00 pm	Pilot case studies Open discussion
16:00-16:40 pm	Closing