Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey in the Arab Region 2017

UNITED NATIONS

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Preface

In September 2014, the United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs) including ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA initiated a global survey to collect data and information on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation from their respective member states. Conducted in collaboration with UNCTAD, OECD, ITC, OCO and SELA, the results of the survey are expected to enable countries and their development partners to better understand and monitor progress in trade facilitation, support evidence-based policy-making, identify good practices and identify capacity building and technical assistance needs.

The global survey represents a key initiative under the framework of the Joint UNRC Approach to Trade Facilitation, which was agreed upon by the Executive Secretaries of the five UNRCs in Beirut (January 2010) to enable the UNRCs to present a joint (global) view on key trade facilitation issues. The questionnaire for the global survey was jointly prepared and finalized by UNRCs and OECD to ensure data could be shared and compared.

This survey is conducted every two years. The first one took place in 2015. The regional report is part of this global survey effort. It is prepared by Adel Alghaberi, First Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration Section, Economic Development & Globalization Division, ESCWA with support by Roula Milan, Admin assistant and interns Yasmine Mohaydali and Rabieh Elhabta, and in collaboration with Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP.

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Abbreviations

ASYCUDA……………………………………………. Automated System for Customs Data

ESCAP…………. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCWA……………….. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

GATT……………………………………………. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GCC…………………………………………………….....Gulf Cooperation Council

ICT………………………………………….. Information and communications technology

LDC……………………………………..…………… Least developed country

TF………………………………………………..……... Trade facilitation

TFA………………………………………..………… Trade Facilitation Agreement

UAE…………………………………………………...United Arab Emirates

UN/CEFACT……….…United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

UNCTAD…………………………… United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

USA……………………………………………………… United States of America

USD……………………………………………….………… United States dollar

WTO…………………………………………..………... World Trade Organization

1- Introduction

1.1- Background and objective

Trade has increasingly gained more importance as an engine for growth over time leading to more intentional negotiations of trade rules and removal of barriers to trade. Since World War II, many tariff and none tariff barriers have been removed before international trade as a result of international negotiations led by the GATT and its successor the WTO and various FTAs and RTAs.

Notably, the benefits of trade liberalization did not fully materialize due to the existence of concealed barriers that remained or raised to counter the effect of the removal of tariff and some none tariff barriers. Thus, the world attention turned to addressing the none tariff barriers that are believed to deter trade more than the more visible ones.

To this end, the Trade Facilitations Agreement was negotiated within the WTO with the aim of crafting an international tool to assist in the removal of trade barriers hindering international trade. The agreement was agreed upon in 2015 after nine years of negotiations and entered into force in 2017 after two thirds of the WTO members ratified it[1].

This report presents the results of a survey that was conducted in cooperation with the four other Regional Commissions of the United Nation. The survey was conducted with the aim of collecting field data on the actual implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement to enable assessing the status and identifying actions to be taken to reach better implementation of the agreement and achieve the results of trade facilitation. It is recurrent work that was started in 2015 for the Arab region.

Section Two provides an overview of implementation of trade facilitation measures across countries, section three provides a closer look at the implementation levels of various groups of trade facilitation measures, the report ends with a brief assessment of the evolution of trade facilitation measures between 2015 and 2017.

1.2- Survey Instruments and Methodology

The survey instrument was prepared according to the final list of commitments included in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), as well as the content of the regional UN treaty on cross-border paperless trade facilitation negotiated under the auspices of ESCAP[2]. The survey covers 38 main trade facilitation measures which are categorized into four groups, namely: General trade facilitation measures, Paperless trade, Cross-border paperless trade, and Transit facilitation.

The general trade facilitation measures – as well as the transit facilitation measures - are essentially measures featured in the TFA. In contrast, most paperless trade measures and, in particular, cross-border paperless trade measures are not specifically included in the TFA although their

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[1] To date, four Arab countries ratified the agreement.
[2] http://www.unescap.org/resources/framework-agreement-facilitation-cross-border-paperless-trade-asia-and-pacific

implementation in many cases would support the implementation of many of the general trade facilitation measures.

The general trade facilitation measures categorize "Transparency", "formalities" and "institutional arrangement and cooperation measures".

Table 1:Grouping of trade facilitation measures included in the questionnaire

		Trade facilitation measure (and question No.) in the questionnaire
General TF measures	Transparency	2. Publication of existing import-export regulations on the Internet 3. Stakeholder consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization) 4. Advance publication/notification of new regulation before their implementation (e.g., 30 days prior) 5. Advance ruling (on tariff classification) 9. Independent appeal mechanism (for traders to appeal Customs and other relevant trade control agencies' rulings)
	Formalities	6. Risk management (as a basis for deciding whether a shipment will or will not be physically inspected) 7. Pre-arrival processing 8. Post-clearance audit 10. Separation of Release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges 11. Establishment and publication of average release times 12. Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators 13. Expedited shipments 14. Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities.
	Institutional arrangement and cooperation	1. Establishment of a national trade facilitation committee or similar body 31. Cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level 32. Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities 33. Alignment of working days and hours with neighbouring countries at border crossings 34. Alignment of formalities and procedures with neighbouring countries at border crossings
Paperless trade		15. Electronic/Automated Customs System established (e.g., ASYCUDA) 16. Internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings 17. Electronic Single Window System 18. Electronic submission of Customs declarations 19. Electronic Application and Issuance of Trade Licenses 20. Electronic Submission of Sea Cargo Manifests 21. Electronic Submission of Air Cargo Manifests 22. Electronic Application and Issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin 23. E-Payment of Customs Duties and Fees 24. Electronic Application for Customs Refunds
Cross-border paperless trade		25. Laws and regulations for electronic transactions are in place (e.g. e-commerce law, e-transaction law) 26. Recognized certification authority issuing digital certificates to traders to conduct electronic transactions 27. Engagement of the country in trade-related cross-border electronic data exchange with other countries 28. Certificate of Origin electronically exchanged between your country and other countries 29. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificate electronically exchanged between your country and other countries 30. Banks and insurers in your country retrieving letters of credit electronically

		Trade facilitation measure (and question No.) in the questionnaire
		without lodging paper-based documents
Transit facilitation		35. Transit facilitation agreement(s) with neighbouring country(ies)
		36. Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk assessment
		37. Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation
		38. Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit

Each of the trade facilitation measures included in the Survey was rated as "fully implemented", "partially implemented", "on a pilot basis", or "not implemented". A score (weight) of 3, 2, 1 and 0, respectively, was assigned to each of the 4 implementation stages to calculate implementation scores for individual measures across countries, regions or categories (as shown in Annex 1).

The dataset was developed following a three-step approach:

Step 1. Data submission by experts: The survey instrument was sent by the ESCWA Secretariat to selected trade facilitation experts (from governments, private sector and/or academia) in Middle East and North Africa countries to gather preliminary information. The questionnaire was also made publicly available online and disseminated. In some cases, the questionnaire was also sent to relevant national trade facilitation authorities or agencies and regional trade facilitation partners or organizations.

Step 2. Data verification by the ESCWA secretariat: The ESCWA Secretariat cross-checked the data collected in Step 1. Desk research and data sharing among UNRCs and survey partners were carried out to further check the accuracy of data. Face-to-face or telephone interviews with key informants were arranged to gather additional information when needed. The outcome of Step 2 was a consistent set of responses per country.

Step 3. Data validation by national governments: The ESCWA Secretariat sent the completed questionnaire to each national government to ensure that the country had the opportunity to review the dataset and provide any additional information. The feedback from national governments was incorporated to finalize the dataset.

2- Trade facilitation implementation in the Arab region, *an Overview*

The implementation of trade facilitation measures survey includes 38 measure divided into four groups, namely, *general trade facilitation measures, paperless trade cross-border paperless trade and transit facilitation*.

To better get a reliable information general trade facilitation measures groups was also divided into three sub categories, namely, *Transparency, formalities and institutional arrangement and cooperation.*

To ensure comparability of implementation levels across countries, 4 measures were excluded, among them two were classified under *institutional arrangement and cooperation* (No. 33, 34), one under *paperless trade* (No 20), and one measure under *Transit facilitation (No. 35).*

Figure 1 shows the overall implementation level of 10 Arab countries, based on a common set of 31 trade facilitation measures of 38 included in the survey.

The regional average implementation of this comprehensive set accounts for 56% which is remarkably higher than in the last survey 2015. The implementation of trade facilitation measures in the region shows many disparities where there are high implementation rates[3] and relatively moderate ones.

Figure 1: Overall implementation of trade facilitation measures in the Arab region 2017
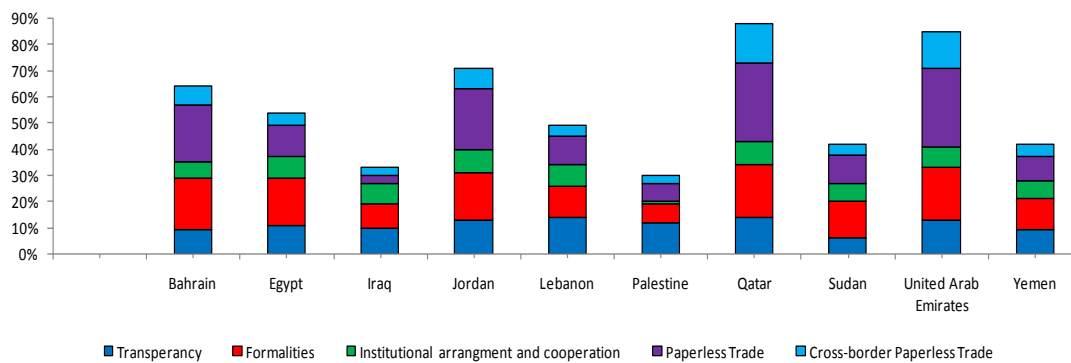
In general, the (GCC) namely, *Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Qatar*, display the highest rate level, followed by Jordan, Egypt present a slight improvement, Lebanon and Palestine as well, However, Iraq, Sudan and Yemen displays almost the same rates of 2015.

Remarkably, there is an outstanding performance among the sample, where UAE and Qatar scores a new record, with UAE standing at 85% and Qatar standing with 88%, Two Least Developed Countries (LDC'S), namely Yemen and Sudan, scores relatively high rates above 40%, whilst Palestine remains well lagged behind, despite the slight improvement.

Furthermore, by taking a look on the relative income of each country, we notice that countries endow a high-income level have systemically achieved a high level of trade facilitation implementation, however, implementation level in the other Arab economies are very different from one to another ranging from 30% to 71% (see figure 2).

Figure 3 shows the score realized by each country for every single measure, we can notice that Qatar and United Arab Emirate display the highest score in almost all measures, especially in the paperless trade measures.

Another feature that can be drawn is the fact that there is a wide dispersion, where the extent of the variation differs from country to country in the dataset sample; however, as we have seen from figure 2, we can associate this wide dispersion with the disparities in the income level.

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[3] The overall score of each country is the summation of the score of implementation (3, 2, 1 or 0) it receives for each measure, the maximum possible score of a country is 93.

Figure 2: Trade facilitation implementation and GDP per capita of 10 Arab countries
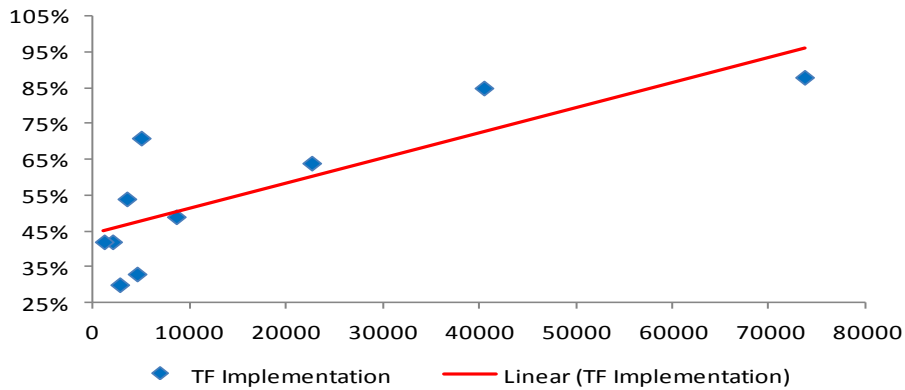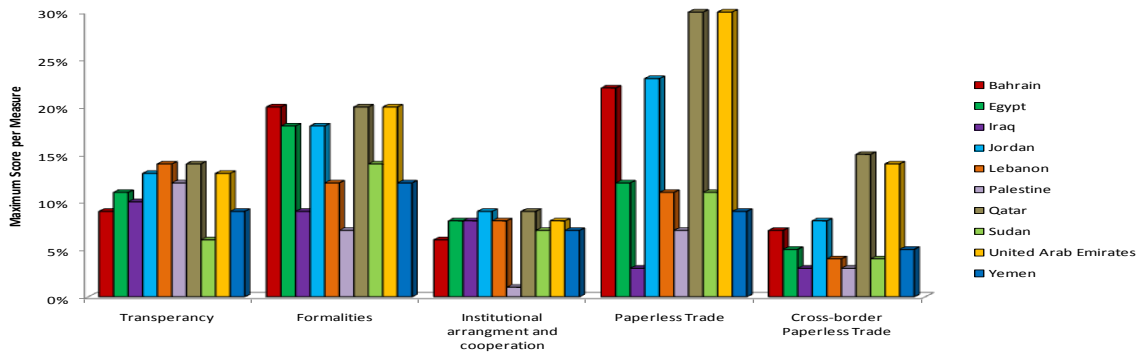

Figure 3: Overall implementation maximum score per measure in 10 countries in the Arab region

2.1 Most and least implemented trade facilitation measures

The countries of the Arab region are involved in the implementation of all different trade facilitation measures in order to enhance the transparency procedures, as well as reduce the formalities measures associated with them, seemingly, the Arab region has made a lots of improvements almost for all categories of trade facilitation measures, despite the improvements, the Arab region demonstrate some levels of disparities, in particular cross-border paperless trade.

Figure 4: implementation of different groups of trade facilitation measures: Arab region average
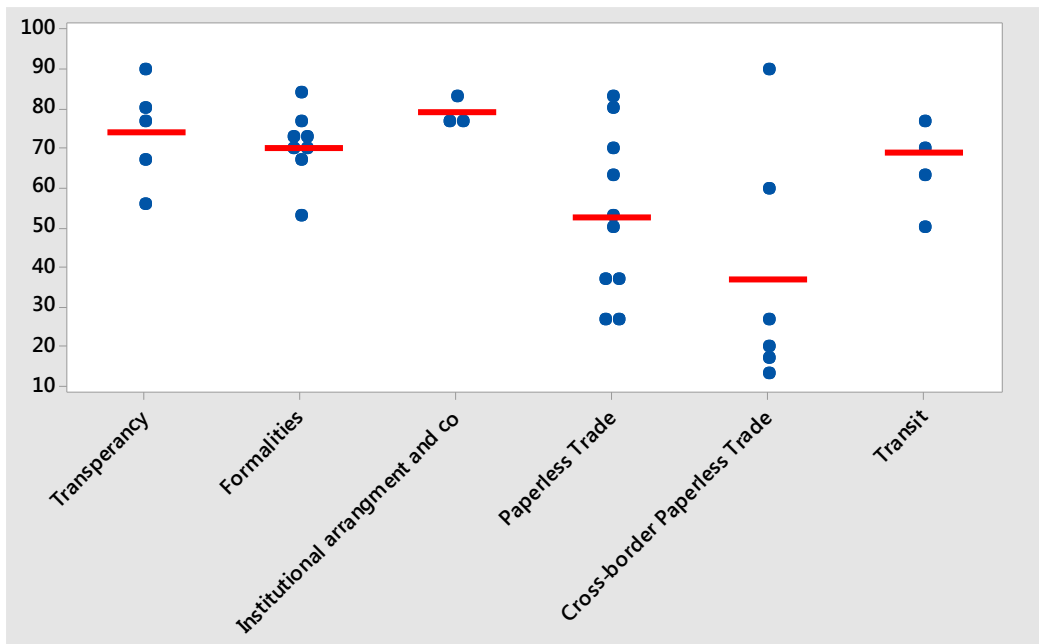
Note: _Blue dots show regional average implementation level of individual measures within each group._

—— *Average regional implementation level by groups of measures*

Figure 4 shows the overall score for every measure, some measures demonstrate a high average score while others display low scores, by examining of the chart above we remark that the measures *"Publication of existing import-export regulations on the Internet", "Advance publication/notification of new regulation before their implementation (e.g., 30 days prior)"* and *"Independent appeal mechanism (for traders to appeal Customs and other relevant trade control agencies' rulings)"* under "Transparency" measure, demonstrates the highest score indicating that those measures are the most implemented within each country in the dataset.

As to "formalities", only *"Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators"* measure seems to be the less implemented within the dataset with an overall score accounts for 53%, whilst, the other measures, namely, *"Risk management (as a basis for deciding whether a shipment will be or not physically inspected)", "Pre-arrival processing", "Post-clearance audit", "Separation of Release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges", "Establishment and publication of average release times", "Expedited shipments "* and *"Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities"*, demonstrate a high score indicating a high degree of implementation.

Under the measure *"institutional arrangement and cooperation"*, the overall scores were spectacular, where all measures exceeds 75% indicating a full implementation of trade facilitation measures within each country in the dataset.

By comparing the "transit" measure we notice an improvement in the implementation level in the dataset with respect to the previous survey in 2015, where the regional average attains 65%. Two measures surpass the average, namely, *"Transit facilitation agreement(s) with neighboring country(ies)"* and "Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk

assessment", and two are below the average, namely, *"Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation"* and *"Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit"*.

So far we have seen a striking improvement in the TF implementation measures, however, the "paperless trade" measure and "cross-border paperless trade" measure present partial and even a Pilot Stage of implementation, where their respective regional average accounts for 53% and 38% respectively.

As to "cross-border paperless trade" only the measures *"Laws and regulations for electronic transactions are in place (e.g. e-commerce law, e-transaction law)"* and *"Banks and insurers in your country retrieving letters of credit electronically without lodging paper-based documents"* are full and partially implemented, present respectively a score of 90% and 60%, while all the other measures are below the regional average, which indicates a Pilot Stage of implementation.

Concerning the" paperless trade", the *"Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities", "internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings", "Electronic/automated Customs System (e.g., ASYCUDA)"*, and *"Electronic Submission of Air Cargo Manifests"* exceeds the average indicating a full or partial implementation level, while the remaining measures are below the average indicating a partial even a Pilot Stage of implementation.

Table 2: Most and least implemented measures in Middle East and North Africa (within each group of Trade facilitation measures)

	Most Implemented	Least Implemented
Transparency	- Advance publication/notification of new regulation before their implementation (e.g., 30 days prior). - Publication of existing import-export regulations on the Internet. - Independent appeal mechanism (for traders to appeal Customs and other relevant trade control agencies' rulings).	- Stakeholder consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization). - Advance ruling (on tariff classification).
Formalities	- Pre-arrival processing - Post-clearance audit - Separation of Release from final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges. - Establishment and publication of average release times. - Expedited shipments. - Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities.	- Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators - Risk management (as a basis for deciding whether a shipment will be or not physically inspected)
Institutional arrangement and cooperation	- Establishment of a national trade facilitation committee or similar body. - Cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level. - Government agencies delegating controls to Customs authorities.	

Paperless trade	- Electronic Submission of Air Cargo Manifests. - Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities. - Electronic/automated Customs System (e.g., ASYCUDA). - Internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings. - E-Payment of Customs Duties and Fees.	-Electronic Single Window System. -Electronic Application and Issuance of Trade Licenses. -Electronic submission of Customs declarations. -Electronic Application and Issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin. -Electronic Application for Customs Refunds.
Cross-border paperless trade	- Laws and regulations for electronic transactions are in place (e.g. e-commerce law, e-transaction law). - Banks and insurers in your country retrieving letters of credit electronically without lodging paper-based documents.	-Recognized certification authority issuing digital certificates to traders to conduct electronic transactions. - Engagement of your country in trade-related cross-border electronic data exchange with other countries. - Certificate of Origin electronically exchanged between your country and other countries. - Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary Certificate electronically exchanged between your country and other countries.
Transit	- Transit facilitation agreement(s) with neighbouring country (ies). - Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods and use risk assessment.	-Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation. - Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit.

3. Implementation of trade facilitation measures: A Closer Look

3.1- "Transparency" measures

Under the general trade facilitation measures, the transparency measure in the survey includes five trade facilitation measures, as shown in figure 3 the overall score in each facilitation measure exceeds the overall average which accounts for 74%, which exceeds 50% indicating a significantly higher level of implementation as compared to other types of measures.

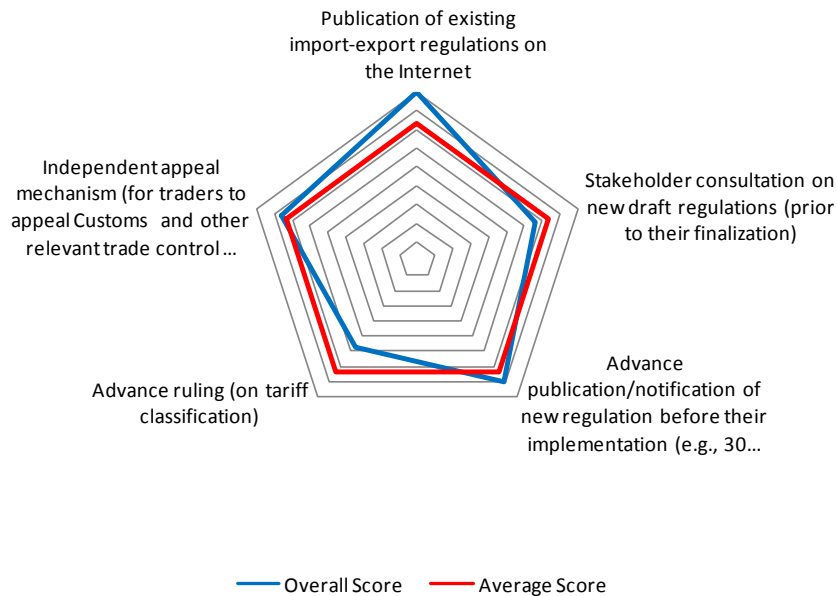**Figure 5: State of implementation of "Transparency" measures: Arab region average**

Figure 6 is a list of the number of countries that have fully or partially implemented "transparency" measures in decreasing order; the most implemented transparency measures are *publication of existing import-export regulation on the internet"* and *"Independent appeal mechanism (for traders to appeal Customs and other relevant trade control agencies' rulings)"*, while the other remaining measures are mostly partially implemented as shown in the figure below.

Figure 6: State of implementation of "transparency" measures for trade facilitation in the Arab region (in %)
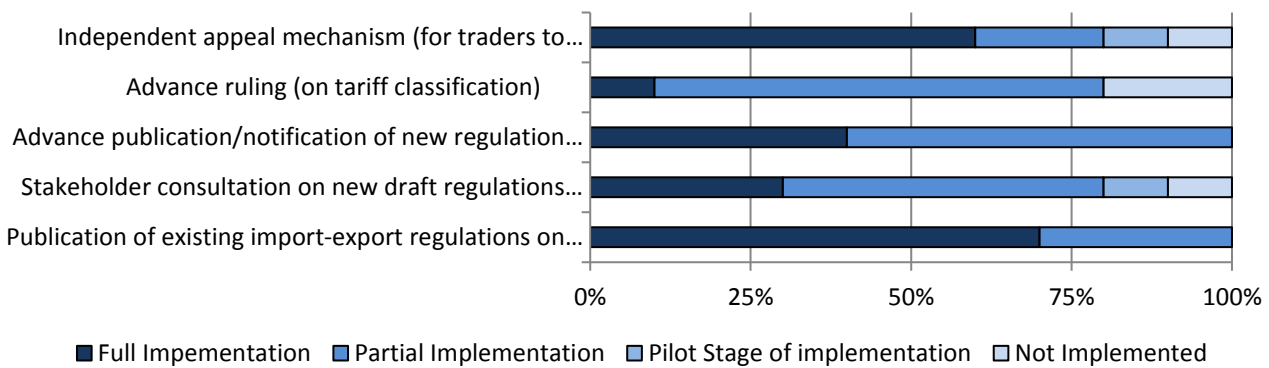
The least implemented "transparency" measures are *"Advanced ruling (on tariff classification)"* and *"Stakeholder consultation on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)"*, however both remains partially implemented, as well as *"Advance publication/notification of new regulation before their implementation (e.g., 30 days prior)"*.

3.2- "Formalities" measures

Under the general trade facilitation measures, the "formalities" measure includes in the survey eight measures aiming at streamlining and/or expediting regulatory trade procedures. In figure 7 the overall score exceeds the average score which accounts for 71%, which exceeds 50%, % indicating a significantly higher level of implementation as compared to other types of measures.

Figure 7: Implementation of trade "formalities" facilitation measures: Arab region average
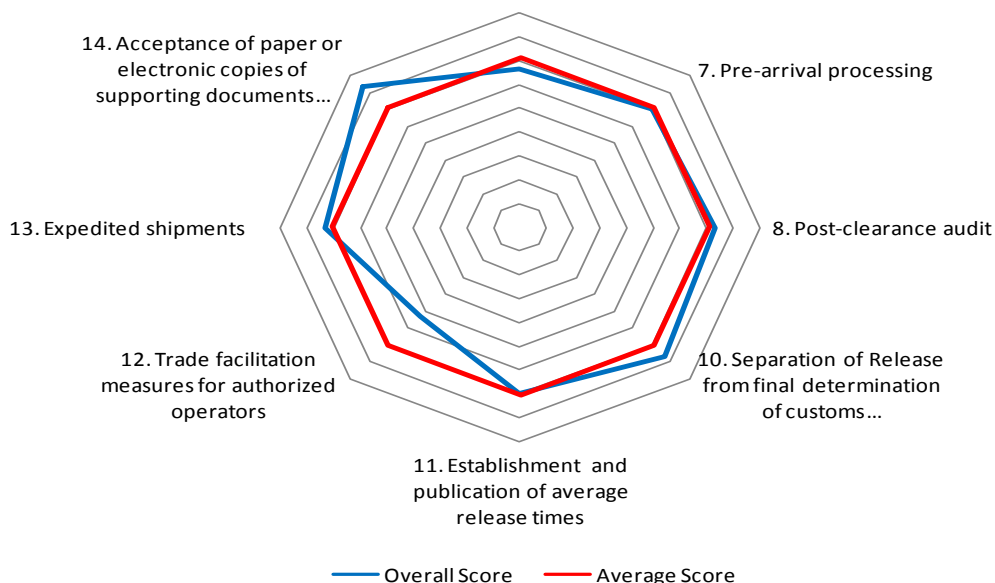

Figure 8 is a list of the number of countries that have fully or partially implemented "formalities" measures, it shows that "*Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities", "Expedited shipments*," and *"Establishment and publication of average release times"* are the most implemented measures of "formalities", whilst, *"Pre-arrival processing*", *"Trade facilitation measures for authorized operators*", *"Post-clearance audit",* and *"Risk management (as a basis for deciding whether a shipment will be or not physically inspected)"* are mostly classed under "partially implemented" measures.

Figure 8: State of implementation of trade "Formalities" facilitation measures in Arab economies (in %)
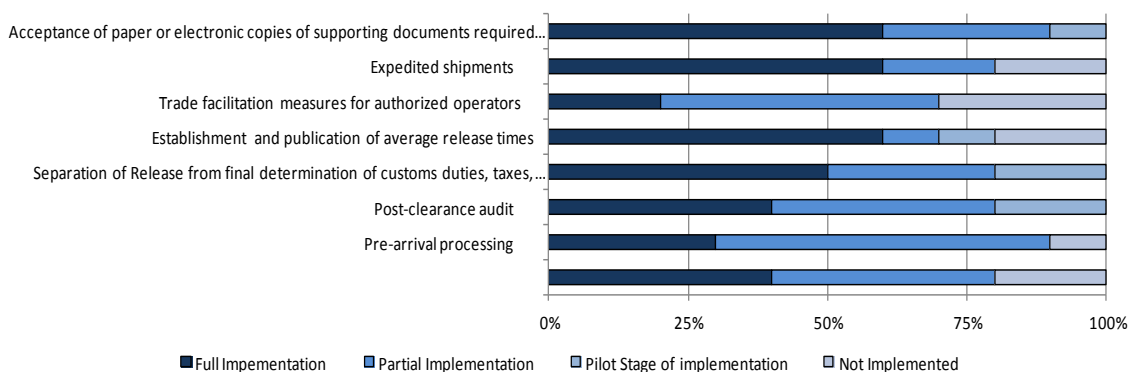
3.3- "Institutional arrangement and cooperation" measures

As to "regional arrangement and cooperation measures" which includes *"Establishing of National trade facilitation committee or similar body", "cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level"* and *"Government agencies delegating controls to customs authorities"* as shown in the figure 9 the overall average accounts for 79% surpassing 50% which means that this measure is fully implemented.

Figure 9: Implementation of " institutional and cooperation" measures: Arab region average
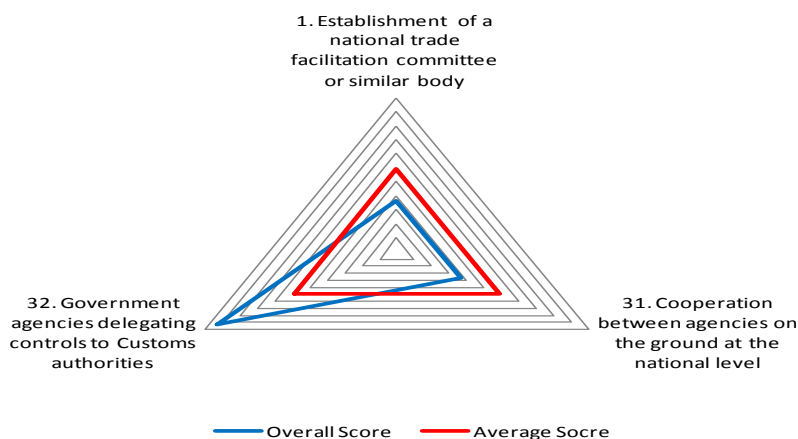

Figure 10, exhibit that both measure 1 and 32 namely, *"Establishing of National trade facilitation committee or similar body"* and *"Government agencies delegating controls to customs authorities"* are the most fully implemented measures within the dataset, while the measure "*cooperation between agencies on the ground at the national level"* exhibits a partial implementation score.

Figure 10: State of the implementation of "institutional arrangement and cooperation" measures for trade facilitation in Arab economics (in %)
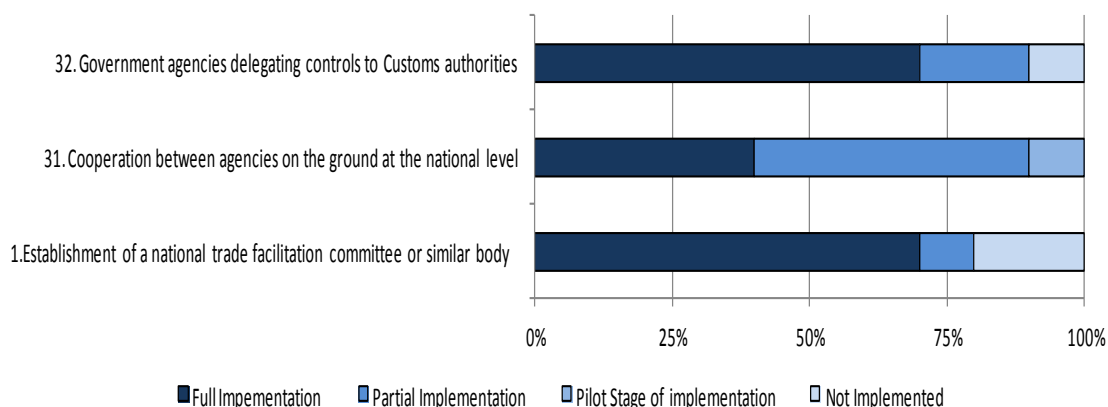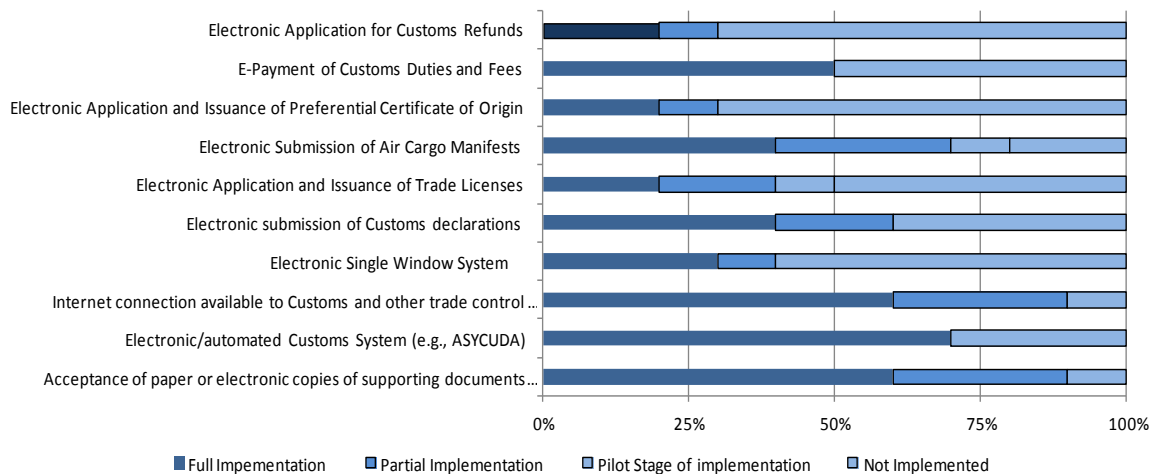
3.4 – "Paperless trade" measure

Figure 11: State of the implementation of "Paperless Trade" measures for trade facilitation in Arab economics (in %)
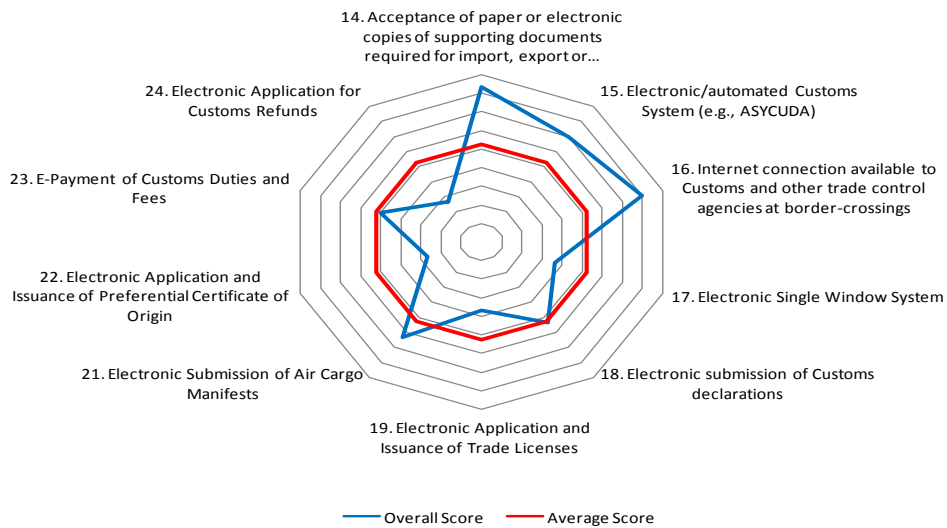
Nine measures in the survey are included under "paperless trade" measure; the score of the implementation level vary widely as shown in the figure 11, the regional average accounts for 53%, the most implemented measures are *"Acceptance of paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities.", "Internet connection available to Customs and other trade control agencies at border-crossings", "Electronic/automated Customs System (e.g., ASYCUDA)",* and *"Electronic Submission of Air Cargo Manifests",* while most of the other measures are partially implemented or Pilot Stage of implementation as shown in figure 12.

Figure 12: State of implementation of "paperless trade" measures in the Arab region (in %)

3.5- "Cross-border paperless" measures

Figure 13, show the six measures categorized under the "cross-border paperless trade", the regional average of the measure accounts for 38% which is below 50% indicating a weak implementation, the measures *'Laws and regulations for electronic transactions are in place (e.g. e-commerce law, e-transaction law)"* and *"Banks and insurers in your country retrieving letters of credit electronically without lodging paper-based documents"* are the most implemented, contrariwise the other measures are located below the average indicating a weak form of implementation.

Figure 13: Implementation of "cross-border paperless trade" measures: Arab countries average
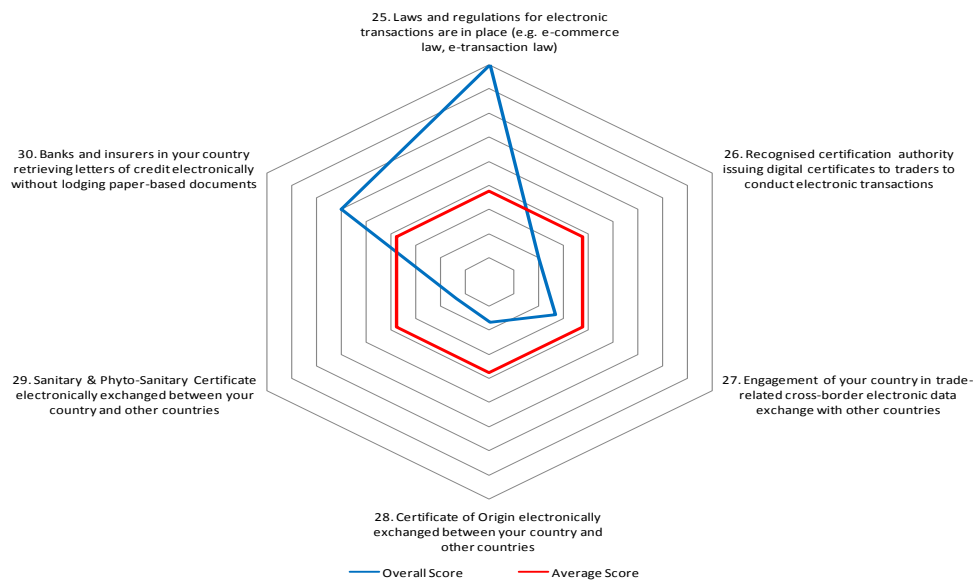

Figure 14, shows that the following measures *"Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary Certificate electronically exchanged between your country and other countries", "Certificate of Origin electronically exchanged between your country and other countries", "Engagement of your country in trade-related cross-border electronic data exchange with other countries",* and *"Recognized certification authority issuing digital certificates to traders to conduct electronic transactions "* are not implemented within each country of the dataset sample.

Figure 14: State of implementation of " Cross-border paperless trade" measures Arab economies (in %)
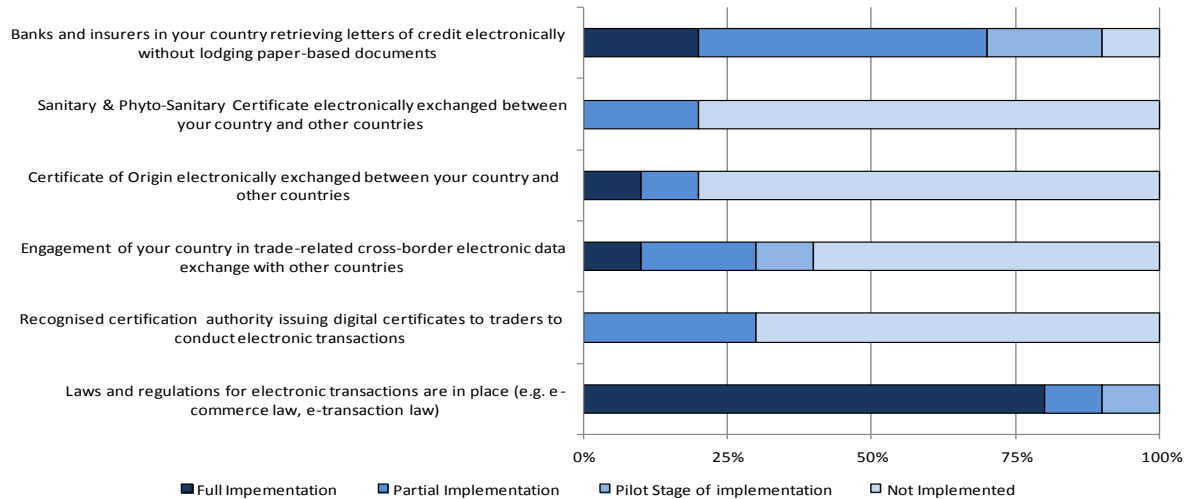
3.6- "transit" measures

Three trade facilitation measures included in the survey relate specifically to transit facilitation and WTO TFA Article 11 on Freedom of Transit. The intent of these measures is to reduce as much as possible all the formalities associated with traffic in transit, allowing goods from one country destined for another country to be seamlessly transported through one or more other transit countries.

Figure 15: Implementation of "transit facilitation" measures Arab region average
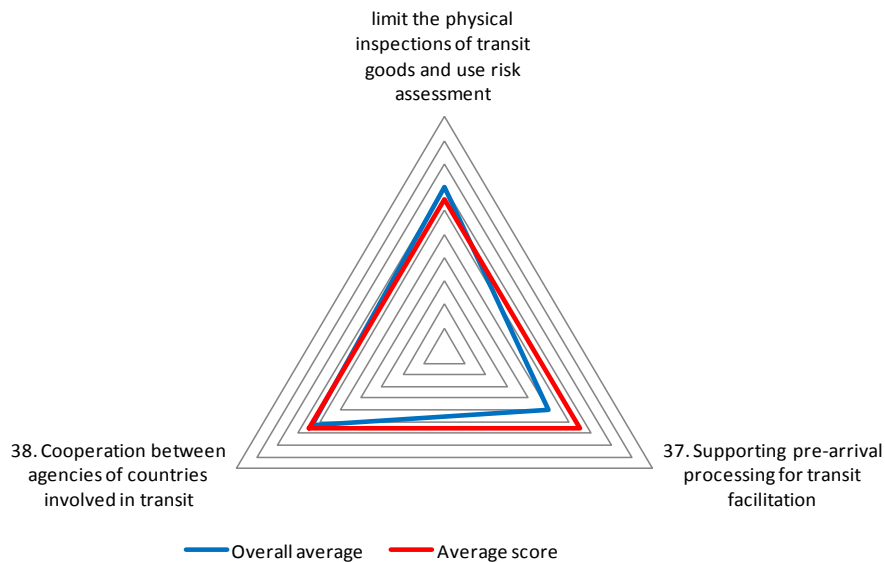
As shown in Figure 15, the implementation level of "transit" measures in the region account for 65% which exceeds 50% for customs for all three measures whilst in the survey of 2015 only 2 out of 3 measures exceeds 50% it stands at 45.5% for supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation.

Figure 16: State of implementation of "transit facilitation" measures Arab economies (in %)
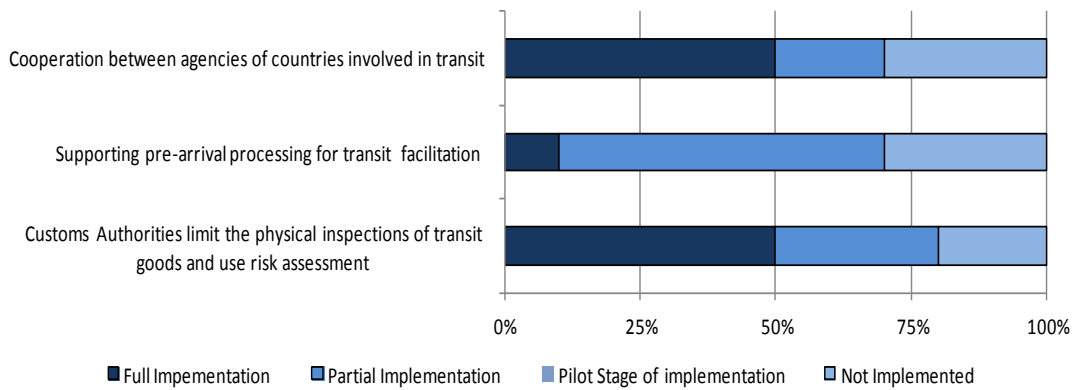

Figure 16 shows the state of implementation of "transit" facilitation measures in Arab countries economies. Where the half number of countries in the sample are full implementation only in "*Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit*" and *"Customs Authorities limit the physical inspection of transit goods and risk assessment"*, when it comes to supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation the implementation level tends to be partial implementation in about the half number of countries in the selected sample.

4 – Conclusion and Way Forward

This report presented data on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation in 10 countries. The Survey covered implementation of general trade facilitation measures, including many of those featured in the TFA. Survey results show a strong relationship between international trade costs and country levels of implementation of these measures.

Figure 17: Trade facilitation implementation and Trade Costs in Arab countries
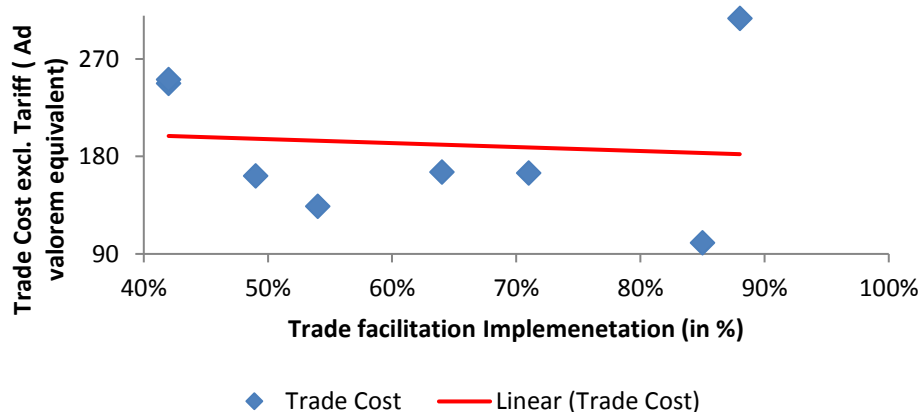
Notes: Countries' trade costs are based on average comprehensive bilateral trade cost with Germany, China and USA (2014-2015) and expressed as ad valorem equivalents.
Source: ESCAP-World Bank International Trade Cost Database last updated 12/07/2017[4]

Based on an ambitious package of more than 30 trade facilitation measures included in the survey, regional average trade facilitation implementation is found to be 56%, indicating a partial implementation level and suggests that a significant room remains for progress in many Arab economies.

The assessment confirms that a large majority of countries in the region have been actively engaged in implementing measures to improve transparency and streamline fees and formalities associated with trade.

However, while customs have been actively developing paperless systems to speed up practices as submissions of custom declarations and air cargo manifests, electronic single windows systems are not fully developed yet. Moreover, implementation of cross-border (bilateral, sub-regional or regional) paperless trade systems remains extremely limited. Given the large potential benefits associated with the implementation of these "next generation" trade facilitation measures, it is in the interest of countries from all groups to work together and develop the legal and technical protocols needed for the seamless exchange of regulatory and commercial data and documents along the international supply chain.

To sum up, Figure 18 shows implementation of trade facilitation as a step-by step process, based on the groups of measures included in this survey. Trade facilitation begins with the setting up of the
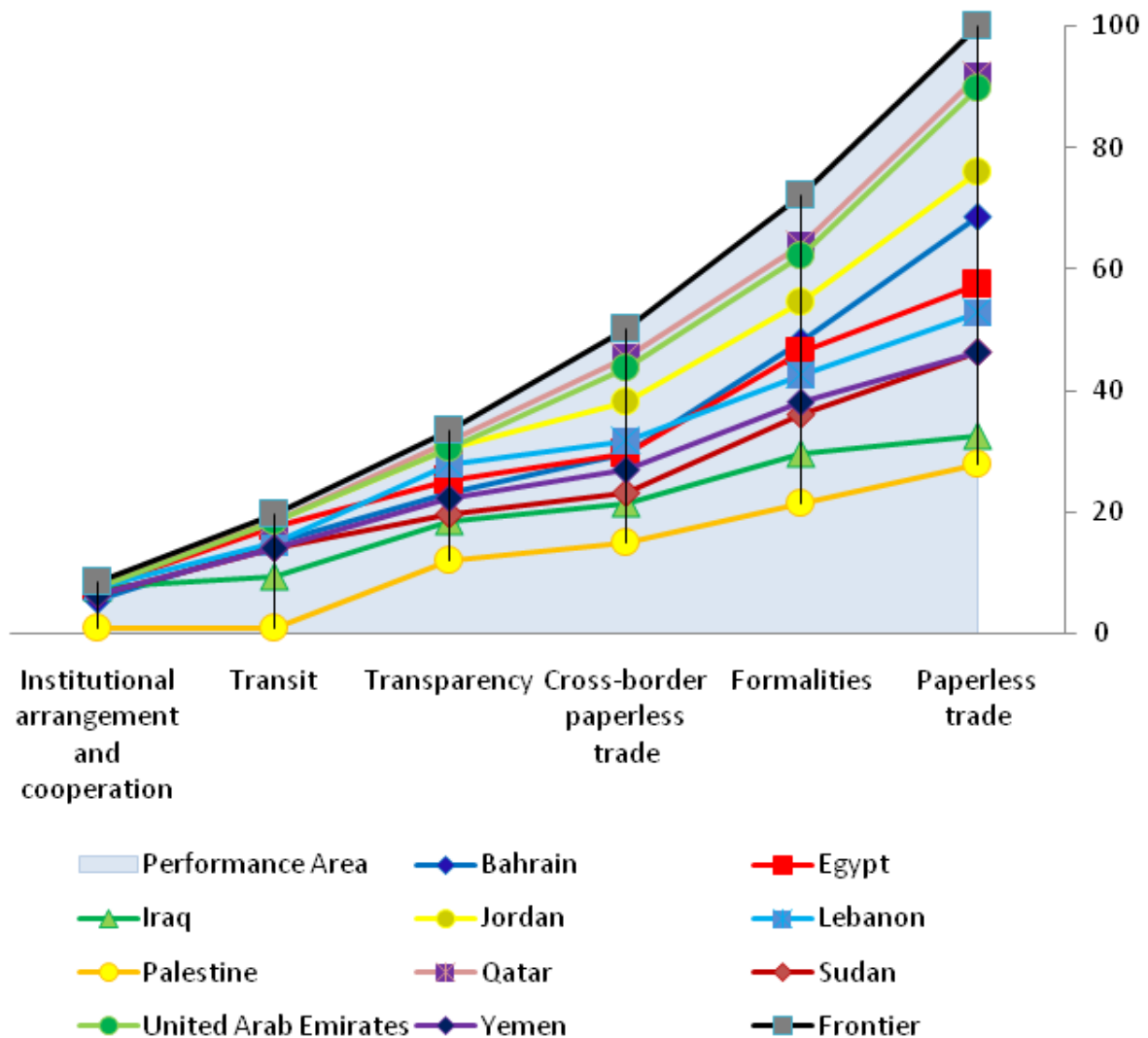
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[4] For more information check :http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=escap-world-bank-international-trade-costs

Institutional arrangement needed to prioritize and coordinate implementation of trade facilitation measures.

The next step is to make the trade processes more Transparent by sharing information on existing laws, regulations and procedures as widely as possible and consulting with stakeholders when developing new ones. Designing and implementing simpler and more efficient trade Formalities is next.

The re-engineered and streamlined processes may first be implemented based on paper documents, but can then be further improved through ICT and the development of Paperless trade systems. The ultimate step is to enable the electronic trade data and documents exchange by traders, government and service providers within national (single window and other) systems to be used and re-used to provide stakeholders in partner countries with the information they need to speed up the movement of goods and reduce the overall costs of trade.

Figure 18:Moving up the trade facilitation ladder towards seamless international supply chains

Annex 1: Definitions of the various stages of implementation

Stages of implementation	Coding/ Scoring
Full implementation: the trade facilitation measure implemented is in full compliance with commonly accepted international standards, recommendations and conventions (such as the Revised Kyoto Convention, UN/CEFACT Recommendations, or the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement); it is implemented in law and in practice; it is available to essentially all relevant stakeholders nationwide, supported by adequate legal and institutional framework, as well as adequate infrastructure and financial and human resources.	3
Partial implementation: a measure is considered to be partially implemented if at least one of the following is true: (1) the trade facilitation measure is not in full compliance with commonly accepted international standards, recommendations and conventions; (2) the country is still in the process of rolling out the implementation of measure; (3) the measure is practiced on an unsustainable, short-term or ad-hoc basis; (4) the measure is not implemented in all targeted locations (such as key border crossing stations); or (5) not all targeted stakeholders are fully involved.	2
Pilot stage of implementation: a measure is considered to be at the pilot stage of implementation if, in addition to meeting the general attributes of partial implementation, it is available only to (or at) a very small portion of the intended stakeholder group (location) and/or is being implemented on a trial basis. When a new trade facilitation measure is under pilot stage of implementation, the old measure is often continuously used in parallel to ensure the service is provided in case of disruption of new measure. This stage of implementation also includes relevant rehearsals and preparation for the full-fledged implementation.	1
Not implemented: simply means a trade facilitation measure has not been implemented. However, this stage does not rule out initiatives or efforts towards implementation of the measure. For example, under this stage, (pre)feasibility or planning of implementation can be carried out; and consultation with stakeholders on the implementation may be arranged.	0

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