The Realities of Trade for many businesses

In over 90% of the trading world, trade and supply chain data is embedded in paper forms (physical or pdf), multiplied each time that goods and services cross borders before reaching the end consumer. This data must be manually extracted, validated and entered into IT systems, most of which are not connected to each other.

The process is:
• prone to errors, discrepancies and fraud
• time consuming and costly
• environmentally inefficient

Key obstacles to digitising trade in businesses and supply chains*

Countries are at different stages of regulatory reforms that would legalise Electronic Transferable Records (ETRs), providing legal certainty and recognition.

Taxonomies, standards, and technologies vary widely across the trading system even where there is alignment on digitalisation. Interconnection must be individually negotiated and accomplished.

While Digital networks have been created and enabled economic efficiencies, there are no established means to connect “digital islands” to one another.

*result of DSI’s industry consultation in 2021
Digital Standards Initiative - mission and principles

Mission

The ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI) aims to accelerate the development of a globally harmonised, digitised trade environment, as a key enabler of dynamic, sustainable, inclusive growth.

We engage the public sector to progress regulatory and institutional reform, and mobilise the private sector on adoption, implementation and capacity building.

Principles & Practices

- Adapt & Apply
- Convene & Collaborate
- Transparency & Accessibility
Roadmap to Digital Trade

**STANDARDS**

Enable the development of a **global baseline of standards for digital trade documents and data** to facilitate interoperability across networks and platforms.

**TRUST**

Develop frameworks for technology principles and practices to enable **scalable digital trust** across the entire trade ecosystem.

**LEGAL**

Advocate and enable the adoption of legal reforms and enabling policy frameworks worldwide.

**CAPACITY**

Engage and educate across the public and private sector to **build capacity** for digital trade; and **collaborate to seed digitalisation** at key leverage points.
We engage the public sector to progress legislative reform and build capacity to implement digital trade

• The DSI Legal Reform Advisory Board (LRAB) helps DSI to spread the message about regulatory reform across government, industry associations, multilateral organizations and regional economic communities.

• DSI works with governments to build capacity to implement and benefit from digital trade.

• Our Monitoring Framework tracks the progress of jurisdictions in adopting the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR).

DSI LRAB Participating Organisations (as of Nov 2023)
Help countries move towards enabling legal environment

The UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR) creates an enabling legal environment for paperless trade. It provides an international framework to align national laws and enable the legal use of electronic documents of title (electronic transferable records or “ETRs”) both domestically and across borders.

MLETR Progress Tracker

MLETR Capacity Building events and workshops

The Global Trade Modernization Index (GTMI)
We mobilise the private sector to align on standards, data and interoperability across the entire supply chain and trade ecosystem.

• The DSI Industry Advisory Board (IAB), formed in 2021, brings together key public and private sector players dedicated to advancing digital trade.
• The IAB is addressing two critical operational challenges facing digital trade:
  1. Common data standards and taxonomies and
  2. The technology that manages trade data for trust, transparency, and interoperability.
Standards and trusted tech for end-to-end supply chain

- WTO-ICC Standards Toolkit for Cross-border Paperless Trade
- Trust in Trade: A vision for the trade ecosystem based on verifiable, transitive trust (Mar 23)
- Digital standards and data elements analysis for key trade documents (Mar 23)
- Key Trade Documents & Data Elements (Nov 23)
You’ll gain an understanding of all the major standard-setting bodies, digital identifiers (you’ll even learn to recognize different barcodes and their history…), digital signatures and relevant legislation, and how this data is exchanged in a trusted matter. **This is important knowledge for anyone working on digitalizing trade.**

“Content creators are top notch, highly regarded practitioners who are experts in the respective chapter”

“The only course I could find dedicated to digitalization of trade processes.”
Vision of 70-80% of global trade digitalised within 5 years

All key supply chain and trade documents digitalised to consensus data sets, with clearance on trade platforms that facilitate data exchange and sharing of aggregate data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Supply Chains</th>
<th>For Governments</th>
<th>For SMEs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Speed, traceability &amp; flexibility</strong> with real time data flows and decisions</td>
<td>• Traceability &amp; security of customs and trade <em>without</em> the additional manpower demands</td>
<td>• Growth through global markets with easier, more transparent trade standards and border procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Sustainability</strong> data tracked digitally for consumer choice and preferential financing</td>
<td>• <strong>Decreased fraud</strong> and tax non-compliance</td>
<td>• Access to more finance with data-driven credit scoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Lower overall transport and logistics costs</strong> due to automated clearing, reduced errors and lower admin on shipments</td>
<td>• <strong>Real time actions</strong> on supply of key goods and services</td>
<td>• Compete on level playing field with more established corporates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Trade as a growth driver : sustainable, secure, open and inclusive*
Digital trade is a global movement, a new way of doing business. Every company will be affected. Get ready!

“We believe that the widespread adoption of paperless trade will drive productivity gains and economic growth by reducing trade costs and lowering barriers to entry for MSMEs, including women-owned or women-led MSMEs.

Recognition of electronic trade documents as equivalent to their paper counterparts will support such a transition. We thus endorse non-binding, “High-Level Principles on Digitalization of Trade Documents” (Annex C). We, as G20 members, will make efforts to implement them and encourage other countries to consider these principles.”
Connect with us!

Subscribe to our news

Visit our website: dsi.iccwbo.org