



# Digital Standards Initiative

## A Brief Introduction

Nov 2022



# About the ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI)

## Mission

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

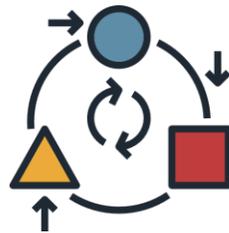
We engage the **public sector** to progress regulatory and institutional reform, and mobilize the **private sector** to align on standards and to adopt and scale digital trade and supply chain processes.

## Governance

Our Governance Board sets the strategic direction, objectives, and engagement structure of the initiative annually and comprises the following organizations:



## Principles & Practices



**Adapt & Apply**



**Convene & Collaborate**



**Transparency & Accessibility**

# The Realities of Trade Today

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 even fraud
- time consuming and costly
- environmentally inefficient

## Key obstacles to digitizing trade in businesses and supply chains\*



**Countries are at different stages of regulatory reforms** that would legalize 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 digitalization. Interconnection must be individually negotiated and accomplished.



**Digital networks** have been created to drive common approaches and standards, and while these enable economic efficiencies, there are no established means to connect “digital islands” to one another.

*\*result of DSI's industry consultation in 2021*

# Our Broad Aims:



**Make trade faster, cheaper and more secure** through digitization and automation



**Mitigate the potential for fraud, regulatory non-compliance and illicit trade**



**Enable transparency, agility and resilience in supply chains**, by improving the quality, timeliness and pooling of data across the entire trade environment



**Improve sustainability in trade and trade finance** by opening new ways to measure, manage and drive environmental efficiency and social inclusion



**Lower costs to serve, and bridge a persistent trade finance gap**, particularly in the emerging markets\*



Provide access to new forms of metadata throughout supply chains, further **enabling industries to measure and course-correct** their progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals

*\*Global Trade Finance Gap Widened to \$1.7 Trillion in 2020, based on ADB 2021 Trade Finance Gaps, Growth, and Jobs Survey*

# 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 Organizations (as of Oct 2022)

# We mobilize 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 inter-operability.*

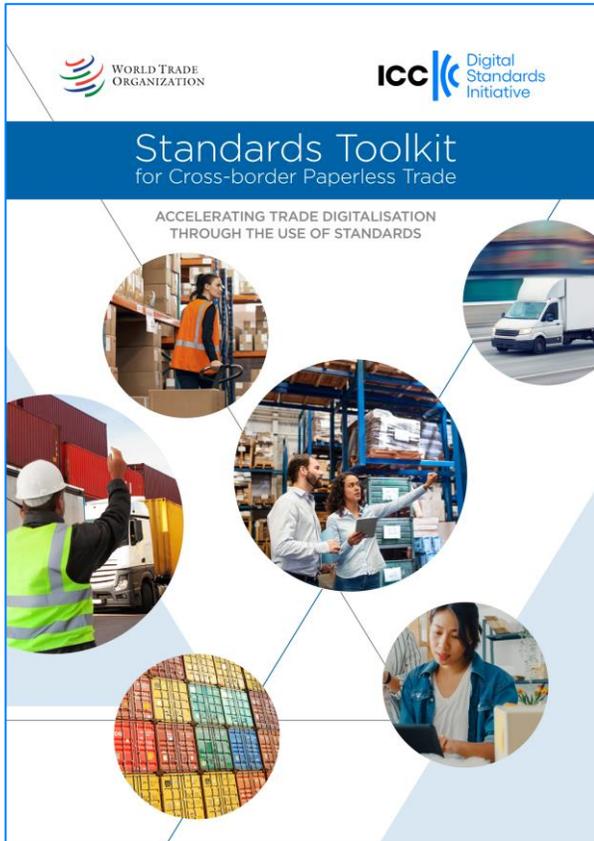
- The IAB's **Key Trade Documents and Data Elements Working Group** aims to harmonize the digital representations of trade documents and the definitions of key data elements, thus creating the basis for digital trade standards.
- The IAB's **Trusted Technology Environment Working Group** will provide a starting point for consensus on standards, protocols, and technologies for the management of trade data globally.



DSI IAB Participating Organizations (as of Oct 2022)

Both Working Groups will share their findings in 1Q 2023.

# We create tools for navigating the digital trade landscape



**SECTION 1** Foundational Standards

**SECTION 2** Identifier Standards

**SECTION 3** Corporations and Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises

**SECTION 4** Carriers, Freight Forwarders and Logistics Operators

**SECTION 5** Customs Authorities and other Cross-border Regulatory Agencies

**SECTION 6** Interoperable Digitalisation Frameworks

- Equip every supply chain participant with some of the most notable and widely used standards
- Drive convergence across international supply chains
- Promote genuine interoperability for paperless trade processes

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[Spanish](#) [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [French](#)  
[German](#) [Portuguese](#) [Russian](#)  
*Japanese (Coming Soon!)*



# Our Certificate in Digital Trade Strategy is a professional qualification for operating in the digital trade environment



## An Online, Self-Study Course

- 5 modules, 20 videos, 5+ hours of learning
- Taught by 20+ industry champions, legal experts, innovators & public policy officials

## Why take the CDTS?

- Identify the right strategy to accelerate digitization roadmap through a holistic understanding of supply chains
- Adopt a common, standards-based approach to digital transformation and avoid 'digital islands'
- Remove manual inefficiencies and boost profitability with rich, real-time data that makes trade faster, cheaper and more secure, while reducing environmental impact

A futuristic digital data visualization with glowing blue and orange lines, binary code, and a bright light source in the distance, creating a sense of speed and data flow.

**Identify the right strategy to accelerate your digitisation roadmap**

Digitising your trade and supply chains is an ecosystem activity. This course will teach you the building blocks you need to know to identify the right strategy.

# The Future Trade Forum in March 2023 will leverage our expertise and network to galvanize parties across the ecosystem to accelerate action and innovate for digital trade

The FTF aims to be the leading platform to align, inspire and catalyze actions to accelerate global progress on digital trade.

The inaugural 4-day event comprises :

- CEO, policymaker and leadership dialogues
- Industry and policy deep dives
- Startup, fintech and innovation showcase
- Capacity building, certifications and training





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