

## MINUTES OF THE DSI INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #8

**Date** 24 July 2023  
**Time** 14:30-16:00 CET/20:30-22:00 SGT  
**Place** Virtual

<b>Present</b>	<b>DSI Industry Advisory Board Members</b>	<b>ICC HQ</b>
	Gerard Hartsink (Chair) Lynn Ng (ING, Chair of ICC Global Banking Commission) Merlin Dowse (JP Morgan) Stephan Wolf (GLEIF) Robert Beideman (GS1) Shirish Wadivkar (SWIFT) Patrizia Kern (IUMI) Chan Hui Ling (BHP) Albert Marti Molina (Inditex) Aliyu Suleiman (Dangote) Endo Akihiro (Toyota Tsusho) Henk Jan Gerzee (DCSA) Nico De Cauwer (IPCSA) Bertrand Chen (GSBN)	Andrew Wilson (Global Policy Director)  <b>ICC DSI</b> Pamela Mar (Managing Director) Hannah Nguyen (Director, Digital Ecosystem) Tianmi Stilphen (Lead, Regulatory Affairs) Wai Yee Wong, Programme Coordinator  <b>IAB Observers</b> Maria Teresa Pisani (UNECE) Ian Watt (UN/CEFACT) Hanane Becha (UN/CEFACT) Bénédicte Nolens (BIS) Henri Barthel (GS1 Global Office) Tze Tze Lee (HSBC) Ruth Rodriguez Gonzalez (Inditex) Yoshida Kazuhiro (Toyota Tsusho) Deepak Sharma (Tata Steel) Chris Southworth (LRAB)
<b>Absent</b>	Grant Hunter (BIMCO) Stéphane Graber (FIATA) Vincent Lu (China Merchants Port Holdings) Sarajit Jha (Tata Steel) Richard Wulff (ICISA) Venkatraman Panchapakesan (HSBC)	Daniel Lit (DBS) Mencia Bobo (Santander) Derrick Loi (Ant Group) Wang Si (Vale) <b>IAB Observers</b> Laura Mathew (ISO) Sue Probert (UNCEFACT)

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction of new members by Gerard Hartsink and Pamela Mar

IAB Chair officially welcomed 6 new members to the IAB – Akihiro Endo/Toyota Tsusho, Merlin Dowse/JP Morgan, Shirish Wadivkar/SWIFT, Albert Marti Molina/Inditex, Nico de Cauwer/IPCSA and Henk Jan Gerzee/DCSA, some of whom have already been involved in DSI.

## **2. Approval of Meeting #7 Notes and Clarification of IAB Role and Process**

For the benefit of new members, the Chair reiterated the key mission and principles of the DSI. Meeting #7 Notes were approved without any comments or questions from Members.

## **3. Briefing on ISO/TR 6039:2023 by Gerard Hartsink**

The Chair briefly introduced the significance of recently published ISO Technical Report 6039: “Identifiers of subjects and objects for the design of blockchain systems” in which he acted as Project Leader. Members were encouraged to access the full report from ISO website to gain broader awareness all the available identifiers for subjects (entities with rights and obligations) and objects (entities without rights and obligations) for many blockchain and non-blockchain applications, including for the international supply chain. Identifiers are the data connectors of business processes between multiple organisations and their systems.

## **4. Update on ICC Priorities by Andrew Wilson**

- a. On behalf of ICC Secretary General John Denton, Andrew Wilson again welcomed new Members to join the IAB and thanked the Chair for his continuous leadership.
- b. In the past 2 years, ICC has been looking into how it can help deliver on some of the key learnings from the pandemic, which includes making trade more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. As part of that effort, ICC has significantly upgraded engagements with the WTO and other key rules-making bodies, including the Business Advisory Group to work directly with the WTO Director-General. ICC remains active on a range of policy issues, including sustainability ahead of COP 28 and an effort under the ICC Banking Commission on a sustainable trade finance framework.
- c. Digitalization is of pivotal importance underlying all these efforts, and the DSI is a critical part of ICC’s global policy work. Andrew Wilson thanked all Members for the contributions in the last 2 years through the initial phase of the DSI, in particular the Chair and representatives of GS1 and GLEIF who have led the Working Groups to current progress. The IAB will continue to evolve, and its leadership reinforced with potential appointment of one or several Vice-Chairs to support the Chair.
- d. At the same time, the DSI is reaching an inflection point where the last mile challenge needs to be addressed. The IAB will be instrumental in providing strategic advice and guidance to DSI to adapt and carry out its role in order to respond to market needs and deliver on the potential of digital trade.

## **5. Key Trade Documents & Data Elements (KTDDE) WG: Batch 2 Update and Batch 1 Pilots Update by Robert Beideman, Henri Barthel and Hannah Nguyen**

- a. For benefit of new Members, the WG Chair/Robert Beideman recapped the KTDDE’s plans to process 3 batches of documents that are essential to trade, find those data elements that cut across and bring guidance to their use in a way that is as harmonised as possible. Henri Barthel added that despite only recent kick-off in May, the WG has made good progress for Batch 2 and on track to start the horizontal analysis by mid-August.
- b. Hannah Nguyen updated on the progress of piloting batch 1 KTDDE recommendations across various industry groups and supply chain platforms. Findings from these tests are expected around September, and results will help ascertain the fit between batch 1 recommendations and commercial reality, as well as identify potential gaps or enhancements to be made.

## 6. Discussion on promoting Standards Harmonisation by Pamela Mar

- a. Before kickstarting the discussion on promoting Standards Harmonization, Pamela Mar highlighted that batch 1 work revealed the inherent difficulties in trying to harmonize multiple e-doc versions. Therefore, DSI has focused on data interoperability, based on highlighting relevant standards and definitions for data elements needing to be shared across the supply chain processes. The next step would be to drive adoption and integrate this into the DSI certification.
- b. Even with this targeted approach, there could be multiple standards for a single data element. A discussion followed in which Members contributed views on the extent to which DSI could move the needle towards convergence and eventual harmonization.
- c. Many Members voiced general support for the focus on machine-readable data elements rather than on documents or PDFs. Other points raised:
  - i. DSI could help to create awareness of the costs and problems created by multiple standards and encourage different markets to voluntarily move towards harmonization.
  - ii. DSI could highlight or encourage, where relevant, the possibility for different mechanisms for equivalency or mutual recognition of standards where multiple standards exist.
  - iii. DSI could also elect to recommend or state a preference for a standard above others in certain critical areas such as digital identity required for any trade document process.
- d. Members are invited to further send their views to DSI to help shape a practical approach to this critical topic.

## 7. DSI certification Update by Pamela Mar

- a. Pamela Mar shared that a WG Certification has started since June to narrow down the scope of certification and investigate the possibility of certification scheme being linked to the ISO certification process options.
- b. The idea is to turn the DSI Trusted Technologies (TTE) principles into a certifiable standard for so-called “reliable systems” to enable effective MLETR implementation. A scope and preliminary draft will be ready for review in late August.
- c. Members drew attention to parallel efforts to come up with similar schemes at national level, which should be aligned with this global initiative and other relevant resources such as ICC Fintech Collaboration Guidelines.

## 8. Update on Legal Reform and Regulatory Affairs by Tianmi Stilphen

- a. Tianmi Stilphen showcased the upgraded features of the MLETR Progress Tracker - hosted on DSI website and periodically updated - to provide one-stop overview of global progress towards MLETR compatibility. Graphics such the G20 pie chart are being created to zoom in progress in particular economic regions, help engage stakeholders and facilitate advocacy process. The Tracker is being used by LRAB members and referenced by online articles as the most updated source of MLETR progress.
- b. She shared latest plans for public sector capacity building in partnership with ADB and UNCITRAL, highlighting recent virtual events in China and Armenia, and upcoming in-person event in Beijing. A common lesson learnt from these engagements is the importance of identifying key stakeholders, key government agencies and also industry associations who could help smoothen the adoption process.

**9. Roadmap for Digital Trade by Pamela Mar**

- a. Pamela Mar shared the most updated version of the Roadmap with clear KPIs and progress tracker for three main priorities of the DSI program, and invited Members to give feedback on any perceived gaps or where the target could be further refined to match execution capability.
- b. Among other efforts to drive adoption, Pamela highlighted the soon-to-be-launched eBL Declaration under the FIT Alliance umbrella to galvanise all stakeholders to support the adoption of universal eBL.

**10. Planning Ahead and Opportunities for Collaboration by Pamela Mar**

- a. Pamela Mar shared a calendar overview of upcoming events between Aug-Dec in which DSI and the IAB would be represented. The next IAB meeting is tentatively slated for Oct.
- b. The calendar also includes key 'legal reform watch' dates and upcoming MLETR engagement events to capitalize on the great momentum with the UK recently signing the Electronic Trade Documents Bill.

**11. AOB**

Members were asked to share inputs on following topics by Aug 5, 2023:

- a. Comments or recommended approaches for promoting harmonization among multiple standards for shared data elements
- b. Expressions of interest to participate in the DSI Certification working group
- c. Feedback on the DSI Roadmap
- d. Suggestions for IAB Vice Chairs