

NOTES OF THE LEGAL REFORM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #4

For reference only; not for publication.

Date 27 April 2023, Thursday
Time 13:30-15:00 GMT / 20:30-22:00 SGT
Place Video Conference Call

Present	DSI Legal Reform Advisory Board Members	ICC DSI Management
	Chris Southworth (Co-chair)*	Pamela MAR (Managing Director, DSI)
	Carmen Ortiz (ADB)	Hannah Nguyen (Director of Digital Ecosystems, DSI)
	Thomas Abell (ADB)	Tianmi Stilphen (Lead, Regulatory Affairs, DSI)
	Emmanuelle Butaud-Stubbs (ICC France)	
	Vashti Maharaj (The Commonwealth)	
	Yann Duval (UN ESCAP)	
	Oliver Wieck (ICC Germany)	
	Joy Albright (AEIB)	Observers
	Scott Stevenson (BAFT for Tod Burwell)	Gerard Hartsink
	Trudi Hartzenberg (TRALAC)	
	Qi Chen (ICC China for YU Jianlong)	
	Ahma Milot (EBRD)	*Chair of the meeting.
	Sean Edwards (ITFA)	
	Ahmadou Kane (ITFC)	

Absent	
	Valentina Mintah (Co-chair)*
	Sivaram Superamanian (ASEAN Secretariat)
	Wamkele Mene (AfCFTA)
	Luca Castellani (UNCITRAL)
	Igna Mortana (IPCSA)
	Sue Probert (UN/CEFACT)
	Trudi Hartzenberg (TRALAC)
	Yesica González (ICC México)
	Satvinder Singh (ASEAN Secretariat)

NO TOPICS

1	Welcome Address Co-Chair Chris Southworth welcomed the attendees and moved to approve the minutes for meeting 4. No objections were made. The Minutes were approved.
2	The outcome of ICC Future Trade Forum (FTF) 2023 ICC DSI Managing Director Pamela Mar shared key outcomes of the FTF including the launch of the KTDDE and TTE papers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The “Digital Trade Standards” paper was launched at the ICC Future Trade Forum on 29 March 2023 and covers the first 7 key trade documents. The 8th document,

Customs Bond is being tackled by a WG convened under ICISA.

- b. The next step is to encourage the adoption of the core dataset among industry groups and supply chain platforms.

Future Trade Forum Key Outcomes



3 2026 KPI Progress Review

DSI Regulatory Affairs Lead **Tianmi Stilphen** recapped four KPIs (countries committed, countries aligned, capacity-building projects, and monitoring framework) and gave an update on the respective progress. (pg 1 of Master Doc)

4 DSI Recent MLETR Advocacy and Capacity-building Effort

Tianmi highlighted three main outcomes from the Georgia Capacity-building program: (1) relieved Georgian government's doubt towards MLETR alignment; (2) built a trusting foundation with various government stakeholders for upcoming collaboration; (3) learned Georgian policy agenda for 2023-2024.

Thomas Abell (ADB) -ADB will be kicking off a policy reform program with Georgian Revenue Services to support MLETR alignment. Meanwhile, this program will act as a gateway to get MLETR on the overall CAREC-integrated trade agenda for 2030.

ADB will continue its second round of capacity-building programs in PRC in September.

ADB is communicating with the Indian trade president to get MLETR on the G20 agenda.

Other advocacy efforts: Latin America regional collaboration- DSI Kick-off event in Argentina, next step → regional business case (seeking partners)

Euro Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD)-Ahma Milot together with his legal reform team successfully launched the Blueprint of legal reform for MLETR, which is also a promotional piece hoping to convince the governments to get involved in this concerted effort. This can also be used as an assessment for countries to better evaluate their adoption progress. This will be published on the DSI website as well.

EBRD is working with the Turkey government on establishing an end-to-end blockchain export system, seeking partners for Turkey to deliver policy advice after the election.

Oliver Wieck (ICC Germany) reported that Germany is now 99% MLETR compliant except for Bills of Exchange, which recently has gained interest and began to explore the possibility of digitalization.

On the business side: in the process of relaunching PTI, in collaboration with two commercial banks (export + import), logistics and tech providers aiming to execute at least 1 fully digitalized transaction with another MLETR country this year.

	<p>Emmanuelle Butaud-Stubbs (ICC France) shared that the official report by Pairs Europlace (not yet public) has been submitted for government scrutiny to the Dept of Treasury, including 9 articles on MLETR. (1) MLETR implementation and foci points at the EU level and inside of the French government; (2) identified loopholes in the trade finance field training (market adoption).</p> <p><u>Upcoming Agenda</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade finance mission at WCC in June to discuss MLETR implementation. <p>Scott Stevenson (BAFT)- while UCC is generally MLETR compliant, the Central Bank Digital Currency is a major barrier when it comes to state adoption. Adoption is moving at different paces in various states, 2 already adopted, whereas NY is still missing sponsors.</p> <p>Vashti Maharaj (Commonwealth)- Custom week is the first week of May, where MLETR adoption is on the agenda (June). There will be E-Commerce and digitalized trade workshops with African member states.</p> <p>Ongoing regional collaboration with ABD on the digital economy workshop.</p> <p>Ahmadou Kane (Int'l Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC))- shared that the preliminary survey results from West African law firms on the current progress of digitalization of the 16 African countries operating in the OHADA zone, were too broad. He has instructed a more MLETR-focused approach, stay tuned for the second round.</p> <p>Chris (ICC United Kingdom)- confirmed that Electronic Trade Document Bill is on track to receive Royal Assent (become Act) in June, and come into force in September, removing all legal barriers to digitalizing commercial docs and aligning English Law to MLETR.</p>
5	<p>Feedback requested for the Countries Hitlist (sent via email)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigning each country/region with a liaison to maximum efficiency and effectiveness.
6	<p>Roadmap for Digital Trade (seeking feedback)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pamela shared the refreshed Roadmap with clear KPIs and a progress tracker for three main priorities of DSI: (1) to align digital standards for all trade docs and principles for trusted data sharing; (2) modernize the rules for trade and seed adoption of global standards and (3) best practices across supply chain.
7	<p>Vice Chair & New Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking to add 1-2 vice chairs to share the workload of the Co-Chairs, candidate recommendations welcome. No automatic right of replacement, there is a formal process for all additions.
8	<p>Conclusion & Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Reform Guide renewal is in process, please stay tuned for an editable version for comments and suggestions.

April 2023

LRAB Meeting #6 proposal- Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 13:30-15:00 GMT / 20:30-22:00 SGT

Chris Southworth
Co-Chair, LRAB

Pamela Mar
Managing Director, DSI