

## NOTES OF THE LEGAL REFORM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #7

For reference only; not for publication.

**Date** 28 September 2023, Thursday  
**Time** 14:30-16:00 GMT / 20:30-22:00 SGT  
**Place** Video Conference Call

Present	DSI Legal Reform Advisory Board Members	ICC DSI Management
	Oliver Wieck (Co-chair)* Carmen Ortiz (ADB) Thomas Abell (ADB) Murat Sultanov (IFC) Sivaram Superamanian (ASEAN Secretariat) Emmanuelle Butaud-Stubbs (ICC France) Vashti Maharaj (The Commonwealth) Sue Probert (UN/CEFACT) Trudi Hartzenberg (TRALAC) Qi Chen (ICC China for YU Jianlong) Satya Sahu (World Bank) Igna Mortana (IPCSA)	Pamela MAR (Managing Director, DSI) Hannah Nguyen (Director of Digital Ecosystems, DSI) Tianmi Stilphen (Lead, Regulatory Affairs, DSI)
		<b>Observer</b> Sue Probert (UNESCAP) Gerard Hartsink (IAB)

Absent	
	Valentina Mintah (Co-chair)* Chantal Ononaiwu (CARICOM) Wamkele Mene (AfCFTA) Tod Burwell (BAFT) Chris Southworth (ICC UK) Luca Castellani (UNCITRAL) Ahmadou Kane (ITFC) Ahma Milot (EBRD) Sean Edwards (ITFA) Joy Albright (AEIB) Trudi Hartzenberg (TRALAC) Satya Sahu (World Bank) Yann Duval (UN ESCAP) Yesica González (ICC México)

### NO. TOPICS

1	<b>Welcome Address</b> <p>Co-Chair <b>Oliver Wieck</b> welcomed the participants to the meeting and outlined his vision for his new role. He emphasised the importance of closer cooperation between the various DSI bodies; the aim must be to use the momentum created by the G7 and G20 to accelerate alignment with the UNCITRAL MLETR worldwide.. <b>Oliver</b> introduced <b>Ms. Gabriella Dorlhac</b> to the Board, the Sec Gen of <b>ICC Brazil</b>; <b>Oliver</b> moved to approve the minutes for meeting 5. No objections were made. The Minutes were approved.</p>
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- 2**      **2026 Progress Dashboard Update**  
 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, highlighting an overall positive trend around the globe, i.e UK, France, Thailand, Germany and Japan.
- To enhance global implementation efforts, DSI produced a **Capacity-building Template** that can be tweaked to fit the timing and budgetary needs of interested countries. DSI will focus on engaging the MDBs to plant the seeds for capacity-building programs in corresponding countries between now and the end of the year.
- Deliverables before the end of Q4: **1-hour e-learning MLETR** module as a part of the Certificate in Digital Trade Strategy in collaboration with ICC Academy. **Emmanuelle** informed ICC France will produce a similar product for French-speaking countries.
- A Toolkit** will be launched, a comprehensive depository of MLETR-related docs.
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- 3**      **DSI Recent MLETR Advocacy and Capacity-building Effort**
- Tianmi** provided an overview of the recent/upcoming **capacity-building programs**: 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity building program in PRC (in person) at the end of August organized by **ADB** (China-focused); Business and Law form hosted by **UNCITRAL** in Incheon (Asia-focused) for various model laws; 5<sup>th</sup> Regional **CARICOM** meeting (10 Caribbean member states) for MLETR +digital gov't; **Fiji** Legal Framework Workshop hosted by **ADB** (pacific island countries focused) on MLETR and e-payment; MLETR Session focused on **Europe Countries** will be hosted online on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Sivaram Supermanian** (ASEAN Sect) announced that the first round of DEFA (Digital Economy Framework Agreement) negotiations will commence in Nov 2023 and identified five key countries to ensure MLETR inclusion in the framework: Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia.
- Emmanuelle Butaud-Stubbs** (ICC France) shared that the official report by Pairs Europlace has been translated into English, which includes a transposition bill and 9 recommendations already approved by the Ministry of Justice calling for a decree. The decree will detail what constitutes a reliable document and the definition of "integrity". 2024 Goal: trade corridor with Germany and other countries; strengthening institutional representation in trade finance.
- Vashti Maharaj** (Commonwealth)- CW will also be hosting a Workshop on Effective Legal Frameworks for Building Digital Economy on October 18-20, in collaboration with the Pacific Island Forum addressing MLETR, e-payments, and gov't single window. The WG on Legal Reform and Digitalization will be formally launched, in alignment w/ MLETR.
- Qi Chen** (ICC China)- Official release of four thematic reports on trade digitalization as well as a survey on the current application status and development suggestions for eBLs.
- Chris Southworth** (Tianmi on behalf of ICC United Kingdom)- The Electronic Trade Document Bill became law on 20 September. The priorities have now shifted to focus on the implementation of interoperable laws, rules, and standards across public and private sector systems including the building of the UK single trade window, borders, and trade corridors. ICC UK is also working with 200+ global experts to design a reliable systems framework to meet the provisions of the law based on the DSI certification.

	<p><b>Gerard Hartsink</b> (ICC Netherlands)- The conversation will restart with the relevant ministries along with the new banking communities for trade finance purposes. Status update at the end of October.</p> <p><b>Thomas Abell</b> (ADB) -ADB continues to work with Georgia's Internal Revenue Service team on legal reform. ADB will recommend the MLETR as a part of the Integrated Trade Agenda of 2023, once Georgia takes residency of CAREC.</p> <p>MOFCOM discussing policy reform internally after the PRC event on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>. ADB was invited to speak on MLETR at the recent APEC Summit and plans to keep pushing for MLETR once Singapore takes the presidency of APEC in 2024.</p> <p><b>Oliver Wieck</b> (ICC Germany) – In September, ICC Germany and the Federal Ministry of Justice exchanged views on the details of an implementing regulation on functional equivalence between paper-based documents and electronic transferable records. The introduction of a private sector verification body was an important topic. The first PoC was completed in September and showed cost savings and efficiency gains for exporters using eBLS across the supp</p>
5	<p><b>General Update from DSI (Industry Advisory Board)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pamela</b> shared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of Digitalization Standardization has been published (DSI Website), focusing on 14 docs (title, finance, payment, and logistics) is WIP, aiming to finish in September and begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch (regulatory and compliance related).</li> <li>• A data map will be published on the DSI website, providing a global baseline.</li> <li>• DSI Certification based on technology principles (published in March) is WIP with dedicated WG.</li> </ul>

October 2023

**LRAB Meeting #8 proposal- Thursday, December 14, 2023, 14:30-16:00 GMT / 21:30-22:30 SGT**

**Oliver Wieck**  
Co-Chair, LRAB

**Pamela Mar**  
Managing Director, DSI