

IGE on E-commerce and the Digital Economy
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Making Implementation work: UNCTAD's Implementation Support Mechanism

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Why an Implementation Support Mechanism (ISM)?

- A Stock-taking meeting during the eWeek 2019 gathered **Focal Points** and eTrade for all partners to discuss ways forward to fast-track the implementation of eT Ready recommendations
- **Lessons learned** highlighted the importance of good practices among key stakeholders on the lead of the country implementation process
- A consensus emerged on the need to continue this kind of **stakeholder engagement and experience sharing**, building on the respective countries' challenges and achievements



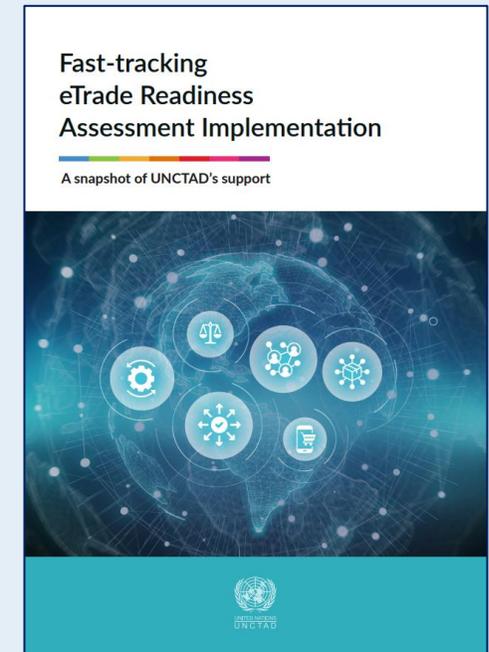
Who are the Focal Points?

Typically senior officials in trade ministries, with a lead role in shaping the e-commerce development agenda

UNCTAD's ISM at a glance

Since 2020 the ISM helps building capacities to :

- Foster **in-country dialogue and a whole of government approach** in the implementation process
- **Share knowledge and foster learning** on countries' experiences in the implementation of e-commerce enabling initiatives
- Nurture a **community of practice** & empower the Focal Points
- **Enable partnerships**, mobilize technical and financial support



The ISM is not the eT Ready implementer, it doesn't establish an M&E framework and is not a funding facility

Implementations Reviews: a cornerstone of the ISM

IRs are based on:

- A regular update of the methodology and survey-based data collection
- Voluntary participation of partner countries
- The proactive role of a lead ministry and Focal Point
- The involvement of various ministries and agencies

- Since 2020, **25** countries have been reviewed at least once
- **Bhutan, Cambodia, Senegal** and **Togo** have shown significant implementation achievements
- In addition, countries like **Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Nepal, Uganda, Zambia** have participated in all 3 reviews



eTrade Workshops as a community-building tool

- Since 2020, a series of stakeholder engagement and capacity-building workshops organized by UNCTAD
- Building on the findings and recommendations of the IRs, they have contributed to:
 - ✓ Build connections among Focal Points
 - ✓ Share experiences and take stock of progress
 - ✓ Empower Focal Points
 - ✓ Sensitize on good practices
 - ✓ Advise on governance frameworks for implementation



Engagement in the ISM context: main take-aways

- Integrate the implementation dimension from the start
- Focal Points play a critical role but are not sufficient
- Dedicated team and inter-ministerial body needed to ensure coordination
- Development partner interventions remain fragmented
- Countries express interest in **leveraging digital solutions in their follow-up**



The eTrade Reform Tracker at a glance

A project management and monitoring tool, providing added value to a wide range of stakeholders involved in the implementation of national and regional e-commerce strategies, policies and action plans



Accountability

Collaboration

Transparency

Efficiency

Sustainability

Main collaborative and interactive functions of the Tracker

COMMUNICATION

Different profiles of users/team members can communicate and collaborate with each other via an embedded private message/chat function, in relation to the execution of specific tasks

PLANNING MEETINGS

These can be scheduled directly from the Tracker, members from various implementation teams can be invited

QUALITY CONTROL

Lead agencies can inform the relevant coordination body (i.e. e-commerce committee secretariat or implementation unit) of the completion of tasks and finalization of deliverables, to request a final endorsement, to ensure quality control.

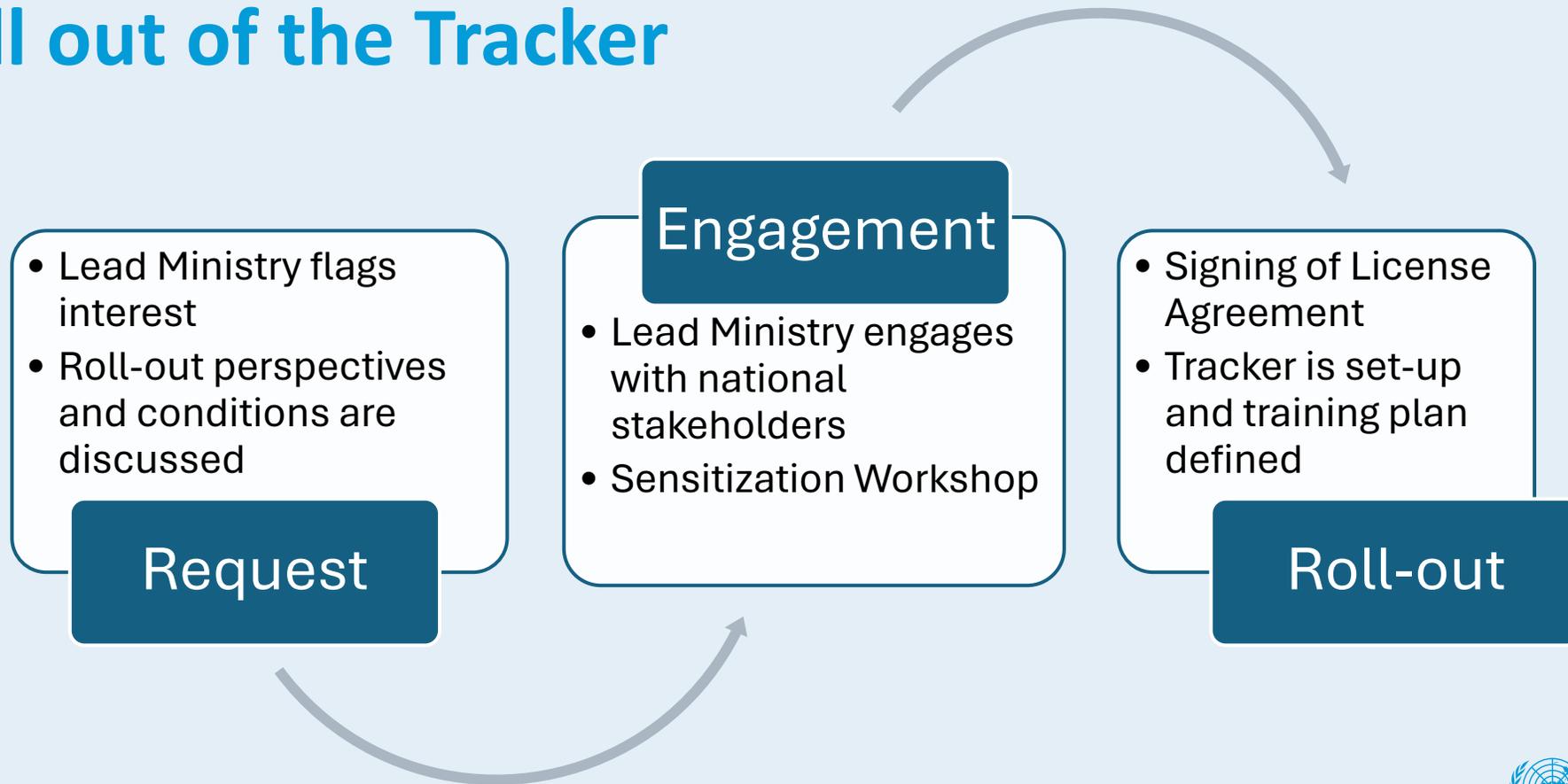
Expected outcomes of the Tracker

If the eTrade Reform Tracker is regularly used and information recorded, it can:

- **Provide a real-time view of the results** of the overall implementation process (with a focus on **gender-responsive** measures), track the status of deliverables, assess the progress made and challenges encountered
- **Generate statistics** and charts related to the implementation, as well as to the actual usage of the Tracker
- **Facilitate monitoring and evaluation**, as it can generate valuable data and implementation performance metrics



Roll out of the Tracker



 Live demonstration and interactive group work scheduled at the upcoming **eTrade Capacity Building Workshop** (Session 2, Thu 9 May 3pm-6pm)

Thank you for your attention

