



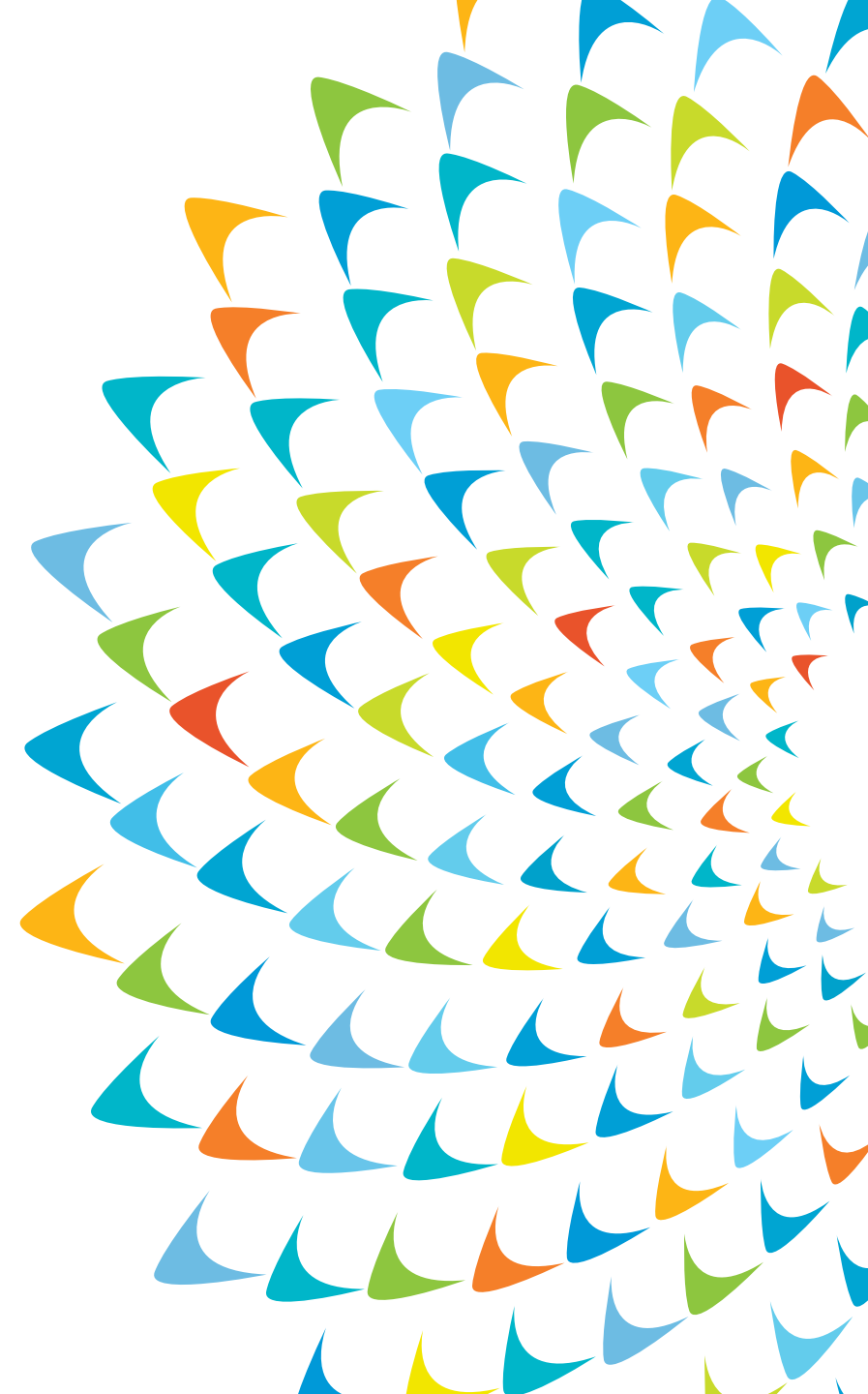
Setting the scene

Implementing WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Asia and the Pacific: Can we go beyond ticking the boxes?

Trade Forum Session 2: Enhancing Sustainable and Resilient Trade Facilitation
ADB Head Quarter, Manila, 20 March 2024

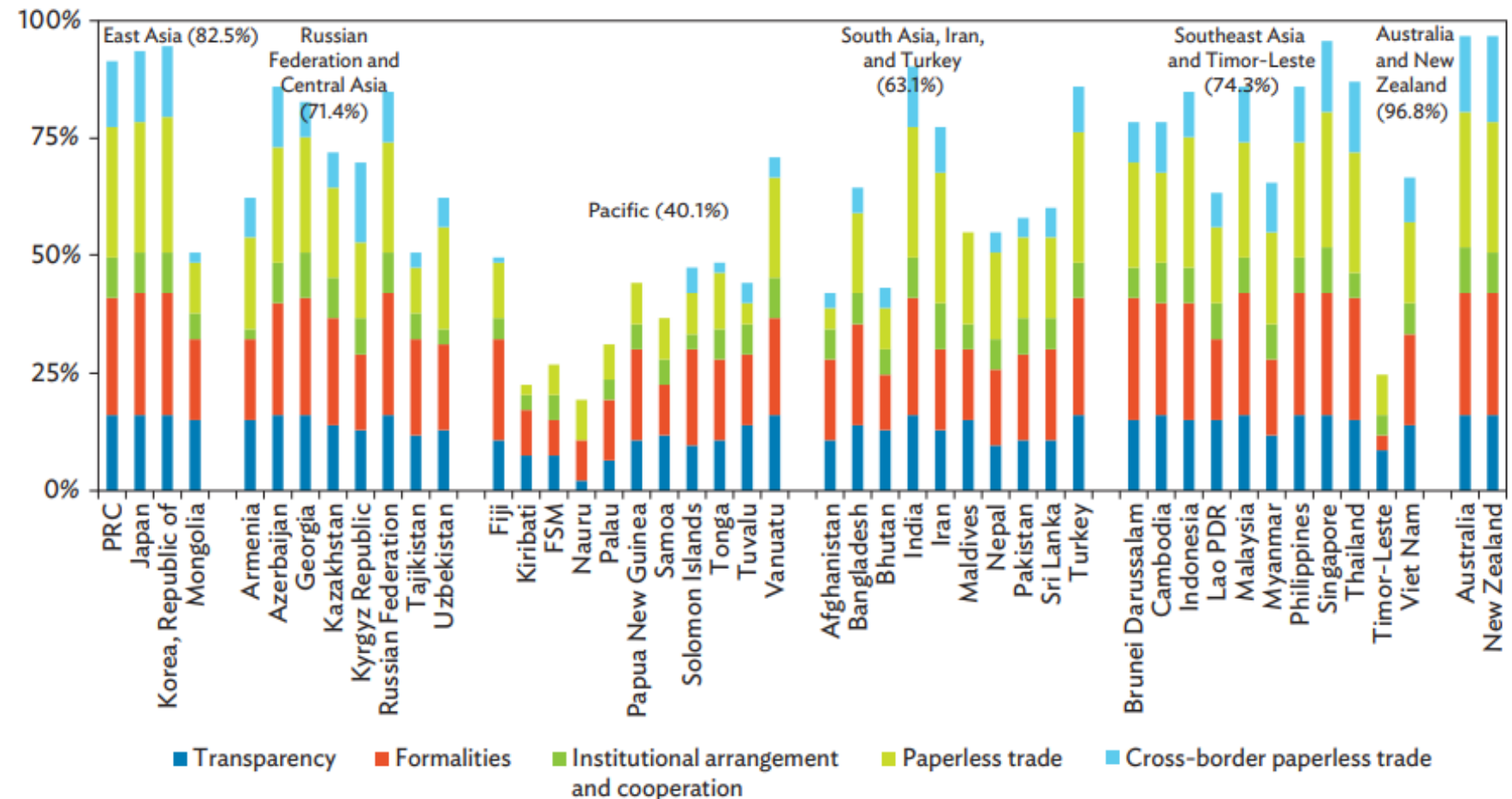
Mohammad Ehteshamul Hoque

Trade Specialist, RCI and Trade Division
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department



Implementation of WTO TFA by the Asia-Pacific economies

Overall Implementation of Trade Facilitation Measures in 46 Asia and Pacific Countries

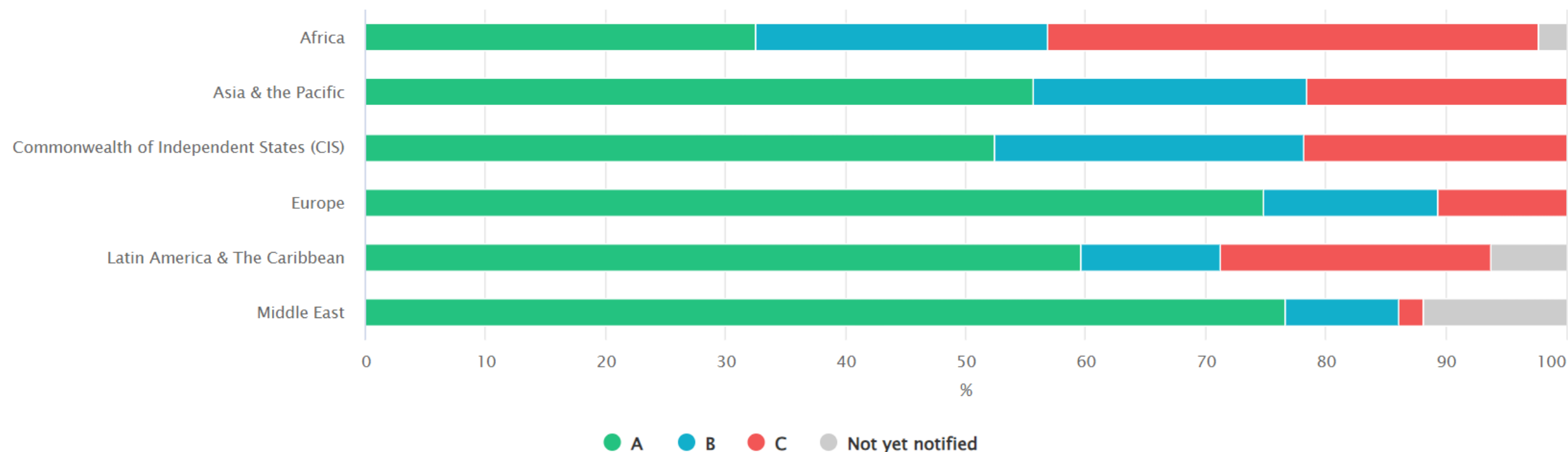


Source: UN ESCAP/ADB: Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2021

Implementation of WTO TFA: by region

Share of Categories A, B, C by region

Based on % of all notifiable article items



Source: World Trade Organization

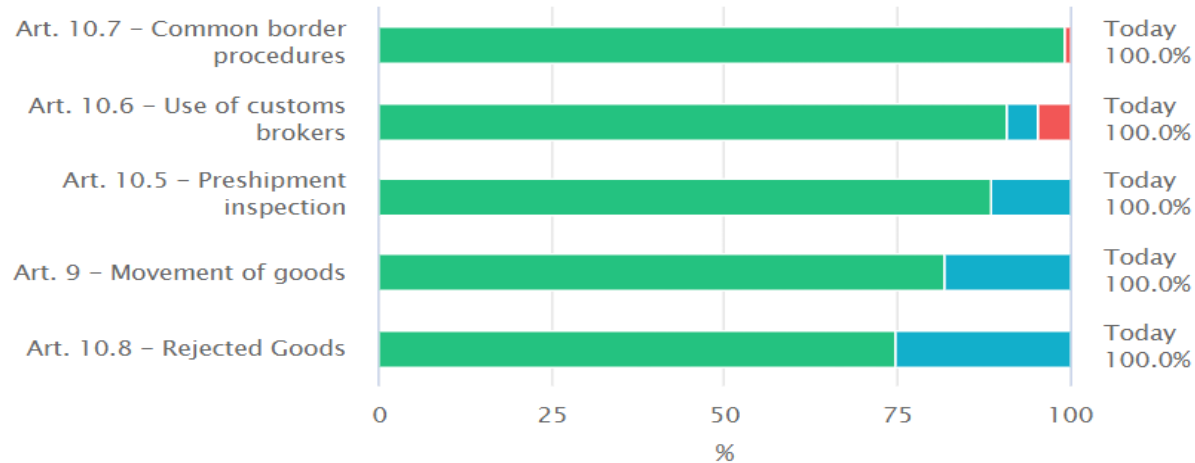
<https://www.tfadatabase.org/en/notifications/global-analysis>

Highest and lowest implemented measures in the AP

Top 5 measures with highest implementation rate



Implementation commitments according to notification data
Region: Asia & the Pacific
Grouping: Developing Members



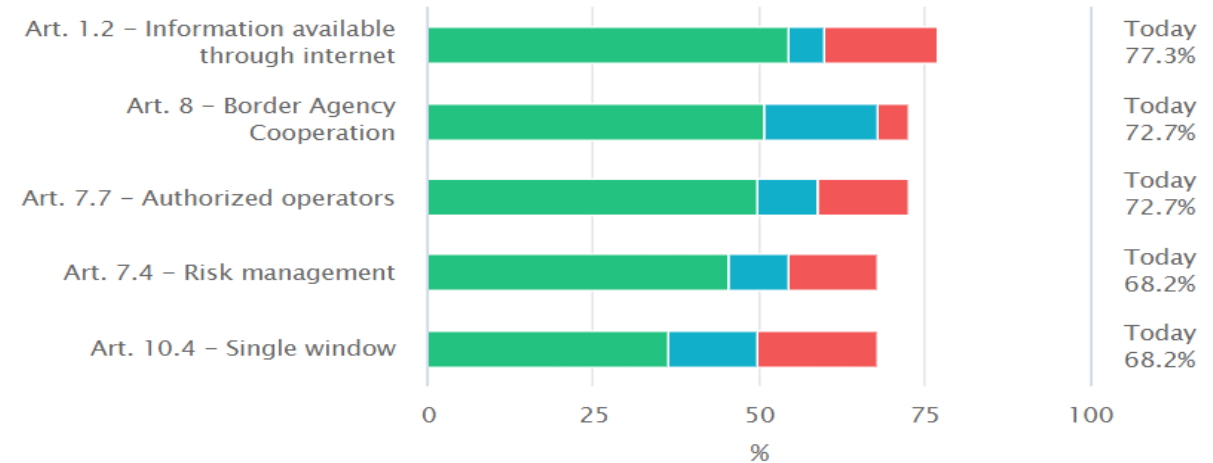
● Category A current commitments

● Category B current commitments

Bottom 5 measures with lowest implementation rate



Implementation commitments according to notification data
Region: Asia & the Pacific
Grouping: Developing Members



● Category C current commitments

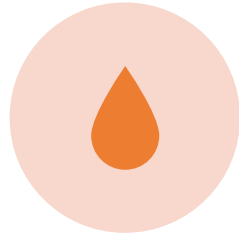
Source: World Trade organization: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

<https://tfadatabase.org/en/implementation/progress-by-measure>

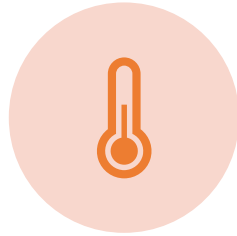
Negative Consequences of Trade on Environment



DEFORESTATION AND
HABITAT DESTRUCTION



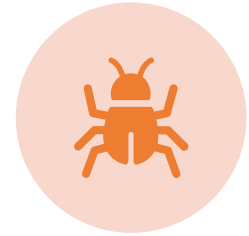
AIR AND WATER
POLLUTION



CLIMATE CHANGE



RESOURCE DEPLETION



INTRODUCTION OF
INVASIVE SPECIES

Should we continue to facilitate trade?

TF enables countries to access **larger markets, increase export opportunities, and attract foreign investment.**

Streamlining trade procedures and reducing costs through TF measures improve **efficiency and productivity of businesses.**

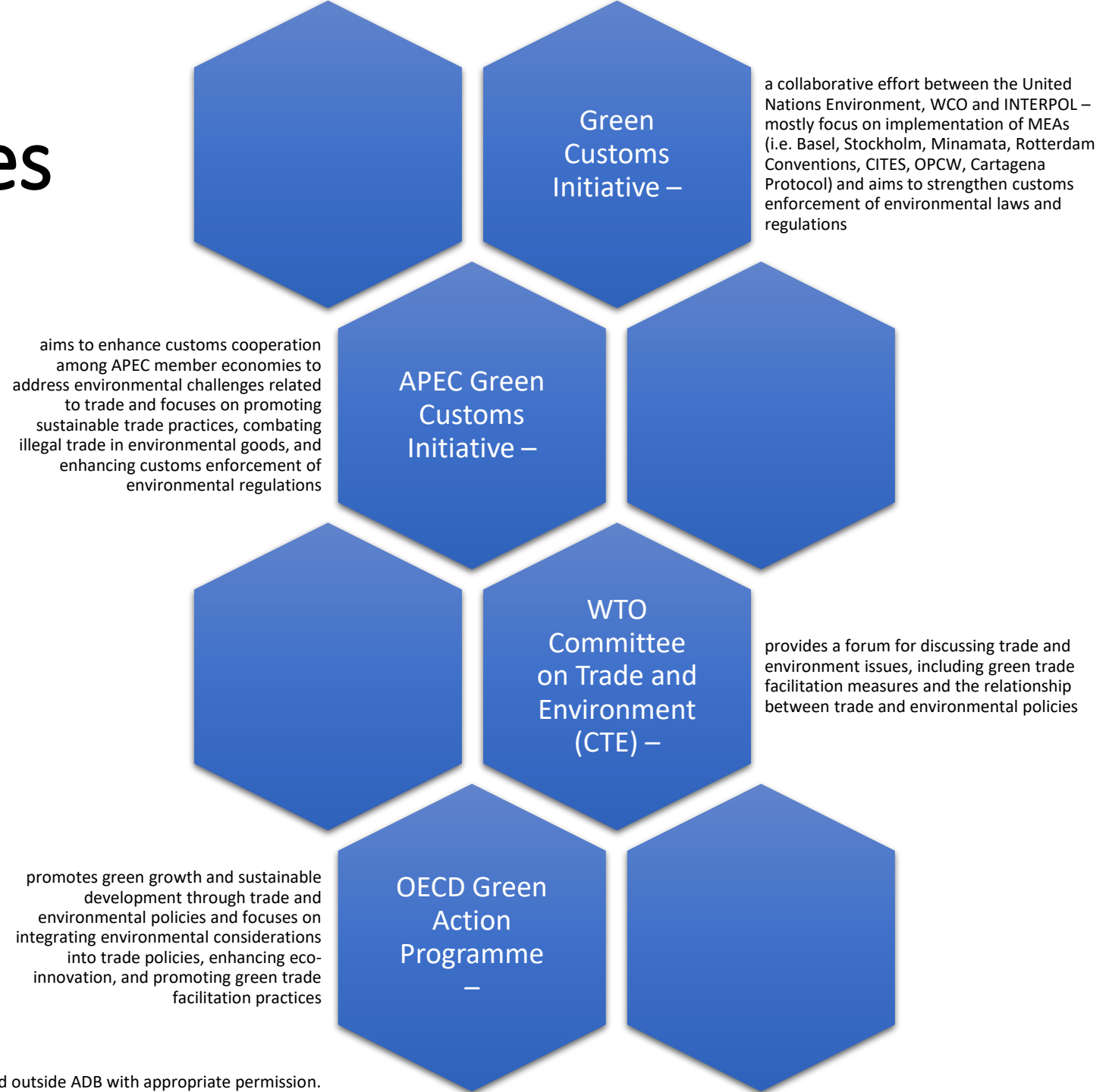
TF contributes to poverty reduction by **fostering inclusive growth and expanding economic opportunities** for individuals and communities.

TF promotes **innovation and technology transfer** by facilitating the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and technology across borders.

TF fosters RCI by promoting **closer economic ties** between countries.

Integrating environmental considerations into TF measures can help minimize adverse environmental effects and support the **transition to a greener and more sustainable economy.**

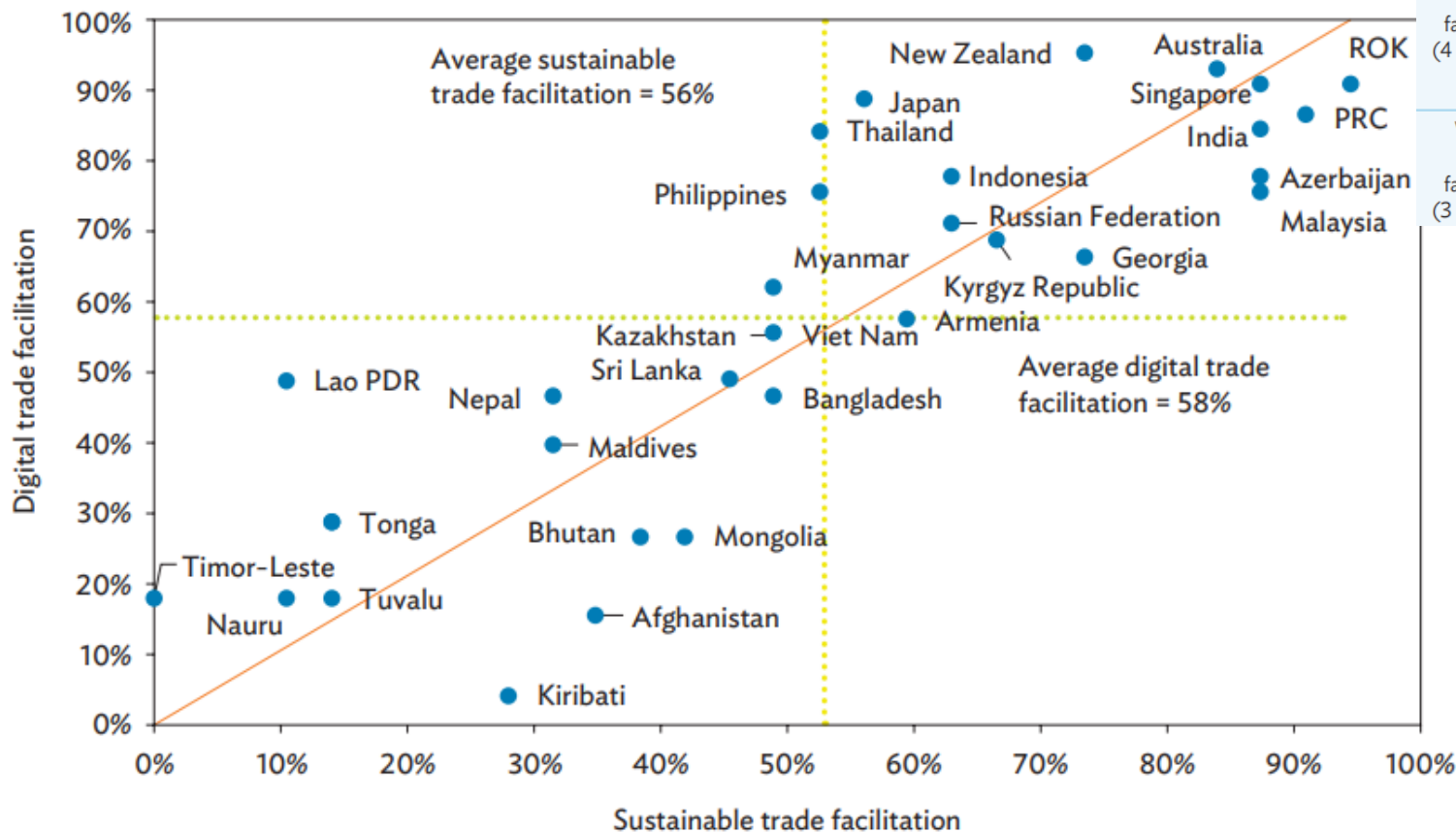
Some Initiatives



•Source:

https://www.apec.org/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/~media/Files/Groups/CTI/Green_Customs/2020/CTI-Green-Customs-Initiative-2020.pdf
<https://www.oecd.org/environment/green-growth/green-action-programme/>
<https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-governance/what-we-do/combating-environmental-crime/green-customs-initiative>
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_e.htm

Implementation of Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation



Source: UN ESCAP/ADB: Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2021

Trade facilitation for SMEs (5 measures)	Trade-related information measures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	
	SMEs in Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) scheme (i.e., government has developed specific measures that enable SMEs to more easily benefit from the AEO scheme)	
	SMEs access single window (i.e., government has taken actions to make single windows more easily accessible to SMEs, e.g., by providing technical consultation and training services to SMEs on registering and using the facility.)	
	SMEs in a national trade facilitation committee (i.e., government has taken actions to ensure that SMEs are well-represented and made key members of national trade facilitation committees)	
	Other special measures for SMEs	
Agricultural trade facilitation (4 measures)	Testing and laboratory facilities available to meet SPS standards of main trading partners	
	National standards and accreditation bodies are established to facilitate compliance with SPS standards	
	Electronic application and issuance of SPS certificates	
	Special treatment for perishable goods at border crossings	7.9
Women in trade facilitation (3 measures)	Trade facilitation policy/strategy to increase women's participation in trade	
	Trade facilitation measures to benefit women involved in trade	
	Women membership in the national trade facilitation committee or similar bodies	

Green Trade Facilitation (Going beyond ticking boxes)

- **TFA Measure 7.7 – Authorized Operators**

- Further to compliance to customs law and other related regulations, management of records, financial solvency and supply chain security, maintaining environmental standards may be added as a criterion for AO benefits

- **TFA Measure 10.3 - Use of International Standards**

- OECD suggests, the inclusion of environmental provisions in bilateral and regional trade agreements help harmonise environmental regulations between developed and developing countries.
- The following measures are already environmentally friendly since they are aimed to efficient and optimum use of resources, reduced documentation, paperwork and red-tape, avoidance of port congestion, lowering carbon emissions.

1.2 (Information available through internet)	1.3 (Enquiry points)
7.2 (Electronic payment)	7.5 (Post Clearance Audit)
7.8 (Expedited shipments)	8 (Border agency cooperation)
9 (Movement of goods to an inland customs depot)	10.1 (Formalities and documentation)