DIGITAL TRADE INTEGRATION: ROLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION
Case of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

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Research Objectives

- Expedite digital trade among SMEs through SSTC
- Inclusive regional and free trade agreements to enable digital trade integration
- Optimize inter-operability among public and private sector for digital uptake
- Challenges and opportunities for developing economies to learn and boost SSTC
Research Methodology

Use of mixed methods approach

a. Evaluate the existing gaps (definitional and classification)

b. Application of SSTC in other countries

c. Examine treatment of digital trade integration in trade agreements

d. Survey of digital sector firms from all three countries
Review of Trade Agreements

- Harmonization of standards
- Simplification of banking procedures
- Digital trade platforms
- Data protection, localization, transfer and sharing
- Online consumer protection
- E-commerce and digital payment
- Digital trade in domestic policies
Pandemic Induced Risks to Digital Trade

- Infrastructure and connectivity gap
- Restrictions of electronic transactions
- Cyber security
- Lack of awareness of digital trade
- Discriminatory regulatory framework
- Lack of innovative financing
- Travel constraints for service providers
Recommendations for Reforms in Domestic Policies

- Initiate tripartite working group
- Improving digital eco-system
- Ensure digital inclusion
- Women-in-trade are neglected
- Country specific research to unfold the potential of SSTC
- Financing of digital trade trade start-ups
- Adoption of digital technologies at borders
Challenges in Bilateral and Regional Trade

- Securing electronic payment services
- Adopting electronic authentication
- Digital logistic mechanism
- Electronic measures for trade-related data and documents
Recommendations for SSC and SSTC

- Collaboration in data infrastructure
- Capacity-building programmes in IT and ICT
- Local and trade taxes levied on digital sector
- Special financial mechanism
- Cross-border investment cooperation
- Development of digital/trade occupation taxonomy
THANK YOU