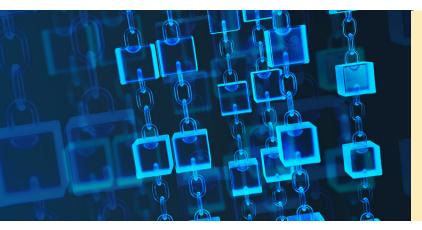# Executive summary

The implementation of blockchain technology for the purpose of facilitating international trade is a major initiative that involves multiple stakeholders and encompasses several steps. Coordination among stakeholders within the trade ecosystems of countries is thus key. Blockchain could simplify the administrative and procedural functions of public trade agencies, improve traders' experiences and bring noticeable efficiency gains in Governments' trade processes. However, implementation requires careful planning, design and deployment to meet multiple stakeholder needs, specific use-case requirements, international best practices and compliance standards; to ensure interoperability with existing legacy systems; and to allow for future technical reforms of the trade infrastructure.

The present guide is a multi-stakeholder document for Governments who have an interest in developing blockchain-based systems of their own for trade facilitation purposes. Comprising seven sections, the guide sets out key technical, policy and regulatory steps for implementing the technology. Part one presents the objectives of the guide and a technical overview of blockchain

implementation processes. Part two details how a blockchain needs and readiness assessment can be undertaken to identify trade measures that could lead to efficiency gains and to establish a country's readiness to implement blockchain. Part three focuses on technical implementation guidelines. It outlines the practical steps of the implementation process; discusses planning and design, testing, and forward and backward integration frameworks; and presents a technical work breakdown structure that meets international standards. Part four addresses the policy dimension, primarily focusing on stakeholder dynamics. It touches on both inter-agency and intra-agency coordination mechanisms, as well as the process of building appropriate implementation teams for a successful and sustainable blockchain infrastructure. Part five sets out the regulatory steps of the implementation process that should guide any Government's regulatory framework design. Part six presents sample use-cases, key implementation considerations and common challenges faced by blockchain implementing bodies. Finally, part seven concludes the guide and outlines technical, policy and regulatory recommendations.

Coordination among stakeholders within the trade ecosystems of countries is thus key.