



INFORMATION ECONOMY REPORT 2013

The Cloud Economy and Developing Countries



The Information Economy Report 2013: The Cloud Economy and Developing Countries is the eighth edition in the flagship series published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). As one of the few annual reports that monitor global trends related to information and communication technologies (ICTs) from a development perspective, the report is a valuable reference for policymakers. In the 2013 edition, which will be launched worldwide on 3 December 2013, special attention is given to the implications of cloud computing for developing countries.

Issues addressed

- Main opportunities and challenges facing developing countries in the area of cloud computing.
- Global and regional trends in adoption and supply of cloud services.
- Analysis of cloud-related infrastructure, such as broadband, Internet exchange points and data centres.
- Recommendations to Governments and their development partners to better leverage the cloud for development.

While cloud adoption is still at a nascent stage in developing countries, the *Information Economy Report 2013* stresses that policymakers should waste no time in enhancing their understanding of how it may affect their economies and societies. Cloud computing enables users, through the Internet or other digital networks, to access a scalable and elastic pool of data storage and computing resources, as and when required. While it offers significant potential benefits, cloud computing also raises concerns, not least with regard to data protection and privacy.

The *Information Economy Report 2013* offers a first examination of the implications of cloud computing for developing countries. Based on an analysis of the available evidence, it identifies specific areas that policymakers in developing countries and their partners should consider when designing strategies to translate the cloud economy into development gains.

The report includes analysis of:

- The cloud economy ecosystem
- Trends in cloud adoption, supply and related infrastructure
- Supply-side cloud opportunities in developing countries
- Cloud use by different stakeholders in developing countries
- Government cloud strategies in developing countries
- Drivers and barriers related to cloud computing in developing countries
- Governance, law and regulation of cloud services
- Policy implications for developing countries

A PDF version of the *Information Economy Report 2013* will be available on the UNCTAD website (www.unctad.org/ier2013) from 3 December 2013.

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