



DTL/STITC/MISC/2017/1
(17/17ams)

NOTIFICATION

UNCTAD E-Commerce Week 2017

Geneva, 24–28 April 2017

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD presents his compliments to the member States of UNCTAD and has the honour to inform them that the third edition of the UNCTAD E-Commerce Week will be held from 24 to 28 April 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Background and purpose

The 2017 edition of the UNCTAD E-Commerce Week, with the theme “Towards inclusive e-commerce”, comes at a crucial moment, when many Governments are still grappling with the impact of the digital economy and the opportunities it presents for global growth and inclusive development. E-commerce is widely recognized as an important driver of innovation, competitiveness, job creation and growth.

At a time when there is growing interest in the digital economy, UNCTAD finds it opportune to provide a platform for concerted thinking and discussion. Throughout the week, high-level government representatives, outstanding business leaders, academia, civil society and youth will come together to gain better insight on how developing countries can further engage in e-commerce, and identify concrete actions going forward.

On 25 April, the High-level event “Digital Transformation for All: Empowering Entrepreneurs and Small Business” will be the highlight of the week. An interactive dialogue with Ministers and other stakeholders will take place with Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Jack Ma, founder and chairman of Alibaba Group and Special Adviser of UNCTAD for young entrepreneurs and small business, Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of World Trade Organization and Amanda Long, Director-General of Consumers International. This High-level event will set the scene for the rest of the week and provide different perspectives on how societies could adapt to the changing economic landscape brought about by the digital revolution.

The week will also launch the eTrade for All online platform and host the first gathering of stakeholders of the “eTrade For All” initiative that was launched at the UNCTAD 14 Ministerial Conference in July 2016.

The rest of the week will feature a series of sessions co-organized with partner international organizations and the private sector. More information on the event can be found at [UNCTAD E-Commerce Week 2017](#).

Registration

Registration should be completed online. Please use the following link: [UNCTAD E-Commerce Week](#).

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds, the financing of officially nominated participants from developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, will be considered. Governments requiring funding are invited to explicitly request this in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that funds currently available in the dedicated trust fund are limited and that nominations will be considered based on availability.

Requests for financial assistance should be sent no later than 14 March 2017 to the UNCTAD secretariat, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0050; e-mail: minjae.kim@unctad.org. They should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee:

- (a) Curriculum vitae
- (b) Mailing address
- (c) Telephone and fax numbers
- (d) E-mail address
- (e) Name of contact person at respective permanent mission in Geneva

Once the list of participants that will receive financial assistance has been finalized, all travel arrangements will be made in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, that is, the use of the least costly fare will be applied.

Logistics

The meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations from 24 to 28 April 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3–6 p.m. each day. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish for some events organized during the week.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges from the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations; visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Min Jae Kim, tel: 41 22 917 5369; e-mail: minjae.kim@unctad.org .

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

10 February 2017