

**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on  
E-Commerce and the Digital Economy**  
*First session*

**4-6 October 2017**  
**Geneva**

**Statement by**

**THE PHILIPPINES**

**4 October, Session 2**

**The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.**

**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT**  
**SESSION 2: What do developing countries need in order to build competitive advantages through e-commerce and the digital connectivity?**

**First Session of the First Intergovernmental Group of Experts Meeting  
on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

Delivered by Ms. Maria Crispina S. Reodica  
Officer-In-Charge, E-commerce Office  
Department of Trade and Industry  
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The Philippines wishes to express its appreciation to UNCTAD for the organization of this IGE and we would like to offer our congratulations to the Ambassador for his election as President to guide the group.

We share the views, insights, as well as sentiments, of speakers and colleagues on the opportunities and challenges brought about by e-commerce and the digital economy.

To better equip our MSMEs and businesses and develop supportive and responsive policies, we need indicators that would sufficiently and, to the extent possible, accurately capture or measure the impact of e-commerce and digital trade.

It would be greatly helpful for economies to align and harmonize their domestic laws with model laws and international standards and engage in capacity building activities.

We are grateful to UNCTAD for their support for the UNCTAD/ASEAN Workshop on E-Commerce, which will be held in November, in the Philippines. ASEAN recently established the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on E-Commerce (ACCEC), which has drawn up the ASEAN Work Programme on E-Commerce and is working towards the development of an ASEAN Agreement on E-Commerce. The objective of the November workshop is to discuss and come up with specific policy recommendations and steps to be taken by ASEAN to utilize and harness e-commerce for economic growth and development, and help achieve goals globally, regionally and domestically. **END**