

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON

eCommerce and the Digital Economy



Wednesday 18 April to Friday 20 April

Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy

20 April 2018

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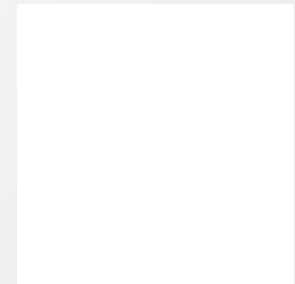
The context

Policy recommendations from 1st session of IGE on E-commerce and the Digital Economy:

- 12. *Recommends* the establishment of a Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy in a format that aligns with available resources; and *invites* the secretariat to prepare a concept note on the working group and explore interest among development partners to financially support its operations;

At the 66th Executive Session of the TDB:

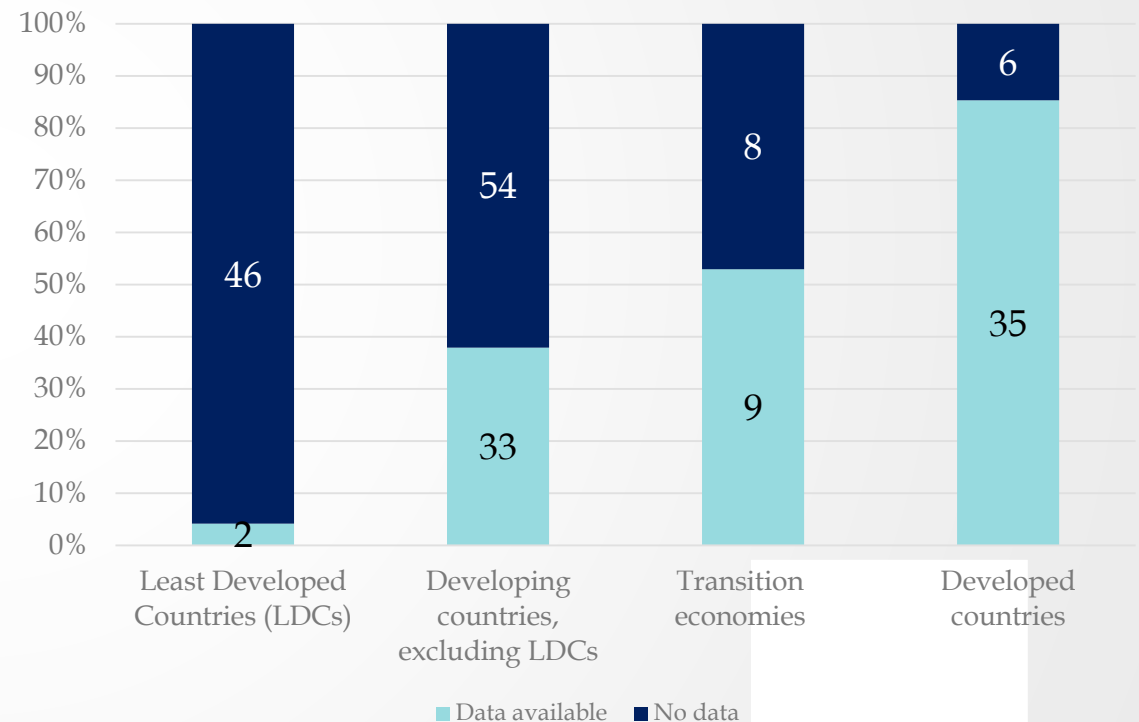
- Decision to take into consideration the policy recommendations of the 1st session of the IGE.



The need for better statistics

- Credible and internationally comparable statistics needed for policy making
- Agenda 2030 – avoid widening inequalities
- G-20 priority under German and Argentinean Presidency
- Two types of challenges
 1. Methodology exists but data lacking
 - Applies especially to developing countries
 2. No methodology exists
 - Cross-border e-commerce
 - New features of digital economy

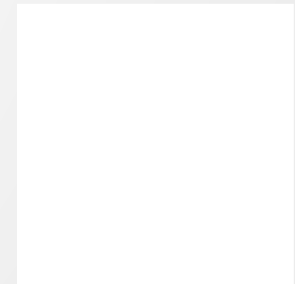
Number of countries having reported data to UNCTAD on ICT use by businesses, by development group, 2003-2016.





Role of the Working Group

- Support discussions in and report to the IGE on E-commerce and the Digital Economy
- WG focus: e-commerce and the digital economy
- Complement work of other international organizations
 - ITU: ICT infrastructure, ICT access and use by households and individuals
 - ILO: ICT employment
 - UNESCO: ICT education and skills
 - OECD – Working Party on Measuring and Analysing the Digital Economy
- Inter-agency activities
 - Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development (14 agencies)
 - Task Force on International Trade Statistics
 - Informal group on cross-border e-commerce
- Strengthen UNCTAD's work in all three pillars that require better statistics



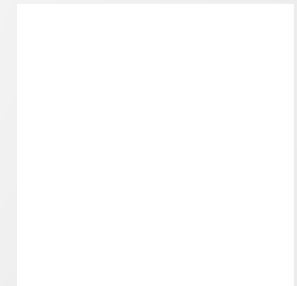


Possible outputs and activities

- Mapping of data availability among member states – identify gaps
- Discussion of definition of relevant indicators and priorities for data collection
 - ICT use by enterprises
 - E-commerce (domestic and cross-border; B2C, B2B, C2C)
 - Trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services
 - New features of the digital economy (IoT, 3D printing, cloud computing, etc.)
- Consider need to adapt OECD definitions to fit developing countries
- Discuss the role of commercially held sources of data
- Peer review of UNCTAD Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy
- Identify needs for capacity building
- Explore new avenues for South-South Cooperation

Practical arrangements

- Meet in Geneva once a year – *ideally back to back with ITU or OECD meetings on measuring ICT and the digital economy*
- Participants:
 - National statistical offices and other authorities involved in data collection
 - Relevant international organizations and think tanks
- Serviced jointly by DTL (ICT Policy Section) and GDS (Development Statistics and Information Branch)
- One chair and one vice-chair
- IGE to decide focus of each meeting of WG



Resource implications

- Implementing the work would require extra-budgetary resources
- One full-time staff member (P3)
- Travel and DSA for participants of developing countries, and especially LDCs
- Consultancy funding for preparation of background papers as needed
- Total estimated annual cost (including overheads): \$318,000

Thank You!

“Digital economy data gap risks widening inequalities, UNCTAD says”

See: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1701>