Distance Learning of the UNCTAD course on the Legal Aspects of Ecommerce

This training course is based on the TrainForTrade methodology (http://hrd.unctad.org/). The standardised training package includes:
- o Participant's manual
- o Instructor's guide
- o Audiovisual aids
- o Tests & exercises
- o Forum and weekly chat sessions

Objectives
To prepare lawmakers and government officials in all aspects to be considered for the drafting of electronic commerce Laws

Target Population

- Policy makers (government officials) in charge of defining general policy guidelines and elaborating national legal frameworks for e-commerce
- Lawyers involved in electronic commerce issues
- Service providers offering on-line products and services

Programme outline:
Each module (between 1-1.5 hours) includes interactive assessments and links to communication tools for online interaction. Each module will consist of PowerPoint presentations with video and where necessary pop-up boxes (or equivalent) and links to the legal texts being discussed. Each module has a final test which would consist of 5-7 questions.

The 8 distance learning modules are:

- Regulating e-commerce
- The legal validity of electronic communications
- Consumer protection
- Protecting intellectual property assets
- Content regulation
- Taxing e-commerce
- Privacy online
- Securing e-commerce

Module 1: Regulating e-commerce
Objectives:

- Describe the key technological elements comprising electronic commerce systems
- Explain the different policy, law and regulatory aspects
- Describe the issues to be examined in the other modules in the course

Module 2: The legal validity of electronic communications
Objectives:

- Examine the legal nature of communications

- Understand the process by which contracts are entered into using electronic commerce systems
- Be aware of how legal requirements of form may constitute obstacles to reliance on the use of electronic commerce systems
- Highlight different approaches to law reform designed to facilitate electronic commerce
- Explain the evidential problems of computer-derived evidence

Module 3: Consumer protection
Objectives:

- Be able to briefly outline issues in consumer protection law and how they apply to e-commerce.
- Identify e-commerce specific consumer protection concerns and describe how these have been addressed.
- Be able to list the information requirements and describe the cancellation right.
- State the reasons why enforcement of consumer legislation is a problem and identify some solutions.
- Explain how self-regulation mechanisms can operate.
- Identify different forms of consumer ADR
- Be able to define the term "spam", discuss the problems is causes and identify some technical and legal measures to prevent spam

Module 4: Protecting intellectual property assets
Objectives:

- Describe the different forms of intellectual property rights.
- Be able to identify some of the specific areas of e-commerce that raise issues concerning such rights.
- Understand the different issues of concern to rights-holders and users
- Recognise the impact of Internet technology on the protection of intellectual property rights

Module 5: Content regulation
Objectives:

- Be able to explain problems of applying traditional legal concepts online
- Have an awareness of liability issues in relation to communication intermediaries
- Be able to explain how jurisdictional issues can be problematic
- Be able to explain the benefits and drawbacks of some of the alternative methods of internet content control
- Be able to analyse the need for, and scope of, content-related regulations in a national context

Module 6: Taxing e-commerce
Objectives:

- Be able to recognise the difference between residence and source based taxation
- Detail the problems which e-commerce poses to international tax rules
- Be able to identify the key elements the OECD and EC instruments on e-commerce and taxation
- Comment on the benefits and problems which may arise from the instruments

Module 7: Privacy online
Objectives:

- Be able to identify different categories of personal data in a commercial transaction.
- Identify different acts of "data processing".
- Explain each fair information processing principle.
- Contrast different regulatory approaches to the protection of personal data.
- Apply the fair information processing principles to a case study.

Module 8: Securing e-commerce
Objectives:

- Be able to understand the importance of Information Security to eCommerce
- Obtain basic knowledge of information security aspects
- Comprehend the essential law and policy aspects of information security
- Be aware of the need for international cooperation and practical measures towards information security

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