



GDS/MISC/2018/3
(18/159ams)

NOTIFICATION

High-level panel discussion: South–South digital cooperation for industrialization Pre-event in celebration of 40 years of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action

Geneva, 1 October 2018

A high-level panel discussion on South–South digital cooperation for industrialization, a pre-event to celebrate 40 years of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA+40), will take place on 1 October 2018 from 1 to 3 p.m. in room VII of the A Building of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Background

The establishment of the Group of 77 at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964 and the launch of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 1978 were two major steps towards institutionalization of economic cooperation among developing countries. In 2009, UNCTAD set up the Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries to reinforce work on South–South cooperation, which is increasingly reshaping the global economic development architecture. To celebrate BAPA+40 and strengthen the UNCTAD commitment to South–South development cooperation, the high-level panel discussion is being organized by the Unit, under the UNCTAD Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, in partnership with the South Centre, to discuss the ways in which South–South digital cooperation can help developing countries avail themselves of opportunities and face the challenges posed by Industry 4.0.

Overall objective

The main purpose of the high-level panel event is to provide a platform to raise awareness of the implications of Industry 4.0 for the industrialization and trade competitiveness of developing countries and discuss how South–South digital cooperation can provide a way forward for developing countries, which have low digital capacities and lack digital infrastructure. These countries, especially small developing countries and the least developed countries, are in danger of being left behind in the digital revolution, thereby making it difficult for them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The panel will discuss how South–South digital cooperation at the regional level can help countries to advance digitally and what the main components of such a regional digital cooperation agenda could be.

Format

The event will bring together high-level officials from diverse areas and organizations, including representatives of member States, industry, civil society organizations, the United Nations system, international partners and academia, as well as members of the media. It will be held in English.

Nominations and participation

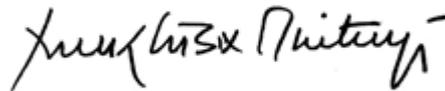
Registration should be completed online by **25 September 2018**. To do so, please use the following link: [High-level panel discussion on South–South digital cooperation for industrialization](#). Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0050; email: florence.hudry@un.org.

Background documents

In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat will make the following publications available: South–South Digital Cooperation for Industrialization: A Regional Integration Agenda and Trade and Development Report, 2018: Power, Platforms and the Free-Trade Delusion. Studies will be available in English only.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, rashmi.banga@un.org, tel.: 41 22 917 3863.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

10 September 2018