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NOTIFICATION

Regional electronic-commerce strategy development project for the Economic Community of West African States

Briefing

Geneva, 25 November 2021

A briefing on the UNCTAD regional electronic-commerce (e-commerce) strategy development project for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will be held on Thursday, 25 November 2021, for representatives of the permanent missions of member States of ECOWAS in Geneva. The briefing will be held in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 3 to 4.30 p.m.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Following a request by the ECOWAS Commission, UNCTAD will provide support for the development of a regional e-commerce strategy. The project will assist the ECOWAS Commission and member States in their efforts to use technology to accelerate structural change and development and will help foster regional integration, including through economic diversification, job creation and more inclusive trade activities. The project will be delivered through the UNCTAD e-commerce and digital economy programme, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Trade Directorate, and is supported by funding from the Government of the Netherlands. Implementation activities began in October 2021.

This briefing will provide an opportunity for UNCTAD to present the objectives, activities, outputs and timeline of the project to representatives of member States of ECOWAS and to respond to any questions.

Participation

This briefing is open to all permanent missions of member States of ECOWAS. Online registration at <https://indico.un.org/event/37125/> is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the briefing and should be completed by 23 November 2021. For assistance with this process, please contact elarningtrade@un.org.

The project will be presented in English and French; interpretation into the other languages of the United Nations will not be available. The question-and-answer session will take place in English and French and background materials will be provided in both languages.

Logistics

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges at 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. in order 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 entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

The preliminary agenda for the briefing is as follows:

3–3.20 p.m.	Welcoming remarks Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD ECOWAS Commission (video message; to be confirmed) Government of the Netherlands (to be confirmed)
3.20–3.35 p.m.	Presentation of regional e-commerce strategy development project for ECOWAS (English)
3.35–3.50 p.m.	Presentation of regional e-commerce strategy development project for ECOWAS (French) Ina Hodge, Programme Management Officer, Capacity-Building Section, eCommerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics
3.50–4.30 p.m.	Question-and-answer session Moderator: Cécile Barayre El-Shami, Officer-in-Charge, Capacity-Building Section, eCommerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics

Substantive inquiries concerning the briefing should be addressed to Ms. Luisa Sande Lemos, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Capacity-Building Section, eCommerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics; email: luisa.sandelemos@unctad.org.

(signed)

Shamika N. Sirimanne
Director
Division on Technology and Logistics

17 November 2021