



Presentation of the Digital Economy Report: Pacific Edition 2022

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations
16 February 2023, 10:00–11:00am

Digital transformation is under way in the Pacific and presents both opportunities and challenges for the region. Improvements in digital connectivity across the region are converging with growing opportunities for e-commerce, digital payments and digital trade. For isolated archipelago nations, digital platforms can provide opportunities to open or expand access to local, regional and international markets and knowledge networks. Digital businesses also benefit from lower start-up and operating costs. From a broader perspective, digital transformation offers opportunities for the region to accelerate progress towards virtually all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Although digital technologies can help to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, they can also lead to new divides and greater inequality. The dominance of major digital platforms and data providers can distort the distribution of wealth created by the digital economy and hinder local value creation and capture. The net impact of the digital economy in the Pacific is hard to predict but the impacts in other regions suggest that the digitalization of economies will be broadly disruptive. For particular groups, sectors and industries, progress is likely to be uneven.

The first *Digital Economy Report: Pacific Edition 2022* examines the current status of the emerging digital economy in the Pacific, focusing on connectivity and access to digital technologies for people and businesses. It highlights that a relative lack of data and information on important issues hamper the ability of policymakers to make informed decisions as they deal with the development implications of the digital economy. By providing a holistic view of the digital economy in Pacific Island States, the report seeks to contribute to an enhanced understanding of these complex and interrelated factors.

