



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA G E N E V A**

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**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Febrian A. Ruddyard  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the  
Group of 77 and China at the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts  
on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

*10 May 2023*

Chair and Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the IGE on E-commerce and the Digital Economy,

Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan,

Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. At the outset, allow me to convey this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China since Ambassador Maimuna Tarishi of Tanzania is unable to attend the meeting, this morning.
2. The G77 and China wishes to congratulate you Mr. Chair, Ambassador Sabri Bachtobji of Tunisia and the Vice Chair, Amb. Kemvichet Long of Cambodia, on your assumption of the chairmanship. We commend the Mme. Rebeca Grynspan, the Secretary General of UNCTAD, for the insightful remark and her vision in enhancing the role of the IGE in multilateral process pertinent to the e-Commerce and Digital Economy.
3. The Group highlights the importance to UNCTAD IGE and is committed to ensuring a strong outcome from this meeting and to UNCTAD's continued work with developing countries in the area of e-commerce and the digital economy.
4. The Group welcomes the organization of this meeting. The topic, "**How to Make Data Work for the 2030 Agenda**" is indeed very timely.
5. We observe a fast-evolving digital economy where data flows keep growing, enabling potential value creation. However, value creation is unequally distributed, with many developing countries failing to reap the full potential of data.

6. **Data and data flows** should be able to help generate greater insights into progress towards the SDGs, and also support the development of various solutions to global development challenges. With the availability of data of higher quality and in real-time, data intelligence can increasingly be incorporated in effective and more resource-efficient policy making that serves people and the planet. This is an area which deserves significantly more attention.
7. **National legal and regulatory frameworks** need to be strengthened in many countries to realize the full potential of data and to build trust in data-driven economies and societies. Many developing countries may see a need to formulate national strategies on harnessing data for reaping economic development gains.
8. At the same time, **the global landscape of the governance of data is fragmented**, with countries adopting different approaches to regulating and safeguarding data and data flows. Finding the appropriate responses to make sure that data can support the 2030 Agenda is a very complex and challenging task. It will require intense discussions among member States as well as with other relevant stakeholders.
9. We need to tackle **the growing digital divide**, including the data divide; relevant skills and capacities in various sectors; legal and regulatory frameworks; competition and tax policies with regard to the current concentration of gains and market power in the digital economy and also infrastructure that enables digitalization.
10. As our Group have stressed before, we would like to emphasize

First, his IGE on E-commerce and the Digital Economy represents a rare platform on which all member States are able to come together and look for constructive responses to common challenges. Our ability to seek collaborative solutions with a view to reaching the full social and economic potential of digital technologies, bridge digital and data divides, while avoiding unintended consequences, is critical to this forum. What we do here at UNCTAD can also provide valuable inputs to other parts of the United Nations dealing with digitalization for development, including the Global Digital Compact.

11. Second, We see a need for looking new paths for digitalization that can be harnessed to achieve sustainable progress and build a more resilient, inclusive, environmentally sound and sustainable world. To achieve this aim, we will require increased global dialogue and international cooperation which broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in relevant processes.
12. Benefits of digital data must be openly and equitably distributed to all people. The rules cannot be unilaterally defined. Global digital cooperation needs to be based on inclusivity, equity, international law, multilateralism, complemented by a multi-stakeholder approach and putting people at the center with an aim of leaving no one behind. The UN system, as the most inclusive forum for these deliberations, must play a key role in advancing more balanced global data governance to help avoid further fragmentation of the Internet to mitigate widening inequalities; to enhance trust in the digital economy; to deal with the dominant role of some

digital platforms; and to account for the impact of some national regulations spilling over into other countries.

13. Third, we underline the importance of strengthening international support to developing countries most in need, especially given the additional strains that interdependent crises have placed on public finances, including increasing the resources available to them to build capacities to participate in and benefit from the data-driven digital economy.
14. Last but not least, our Group would like to congratulate UNCTAD on its work on fostering the direction of a multilateral dialogue on Digital Economy issues, through this IGE and others relevant meetings, and by providing valuable insights through evidence-based research. Its assistance to developing countries, especially LDCs and SIDs in terms of strengthening their readiness to engage in and benefit from e-commerce and the digital economy is also much appreciated. We very much look forward to the discussions over the next three days.
15. In closing Mr Chair, the Group of 77 wishes you a productive sixth session of the IGE on Ecommerce and the Digital Economy. You can count on our full support during this session.

Thank you