

IGE E-commerce and Digital Economy

06/05/2024

Video contribution Milambo

Transcript

Secretary-General Rebecca Greenspan, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It's just such a pleasure to be here to share with you our views and just an update on the GDC in this seven session of UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E commerce and Digital the Economy. The topic is extremely timely, how to better build digital readiness.

We regret that we could not be there. We have several engagements as you may know various stakeholders on just the GDC process. But let me take a moment to just give you a sense of exactly where we are so far.

On May 2 and May 3, Member States engaged with us the co-facilitators to give their views on the zero document that we shared on April 1. At that meeting, Member States were able to explain and give their comments on the overall process. On the compilation document that we have provided. Member States expressed what they liked and what they felt that needed to be changed. And we are most grateful for that input.

Following the submission that ended on 3 of May, we shall have an engaged engagement on the 16th and 17th of May. Now at that point, we would have already issued what is the first revision document of the GDC, "rev. [ision] one". And at that meeting of May 16 and May 17, Member States will have the opportunity to provide general statements on "rev. one".

We shall enter then the next process in early June, where we shall have formal negotiations on the text of the zero document, that is going to be on the 6th and 7th of June. We are very mindful of the importance of stakeholders, multi-stakeholders, and we have a session scheduled for May 27, where we shall have multi-stakeholders reflect on the views that have been presented in "rev. one".

And also, we are very mindful that a lot of the context and the text, the value of the material, actually comes from the views out there from the tech community, the private sector, civil society, very, very important. And therefore, this engagement with UNCTAD is a key opportunity.

I was pleased to note that this meeting will provide for agreed recommendations that could be placed within the GDC. UNCTAD will have an opportunity to present its case on May 27, during the multi-stakeholder process engagement and we'll be happy to hear the views that will come out of this very important session.

Building a digital economy is a very complex issue. It involves the whole of the government and it's important that we have input from various parts of government and including market stakeholders.

Against this background, we are very grateful that UNCTAD hnas come together for this session. We recognize UNCTAD's work in providing knowledge through its various reports and analytical works. We recognize UNCTAD for the technical assistance it provides to various countries. We also recognize UNCTAD for making, putting together meetings such as this very one, using its

convening power to bring various groups together, to share ideas to exchange views, so that we can have much better digital future. I encourage you all to engage in open dialogue and exchange over this next three days and wish you all the very best during this process.

Thank you very much.