

**CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR
LE COMMERCE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT**



**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Contribution to the UNCTAD Draft Call for Action on the
Aid for eTrade Initiative**

Submitted by

**the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
(UNESCWA)**

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Dear Mr. Fredriksson

On behalf of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), we would like to thank you for the below email. We take very positive note of this new initiative and we are glad to express our interest to provide any support possible on the regional level. Our main comment as a contribution to the initiative is to add the regional dimension in the framework of implementation and partnership. The UN Regional Commissions, in developing countries, are the best potential partner at this level.

Within UN-ESCWA, the ICT Policies Section of the Technology for Development Division sees a great potential in integrating and complementing efforts under this initiative within its own efforts to develop the Digital Economy in the ESCWA region. During the previous biennia, we have made extensive research on finance, competitiveness, innovation and investment in the ICT Sector to promote the transition to knowledge based economies. However, without trade, and essentially e-Trade, efforts to develop competitive ICT Sectors remain incomplete. Within UN-ESCWA, we are also in close contact with the Economic Development and Integration Division, and its team on Trade, and on economic modelling. This brings strength to our focus and adds more economic insights to our endeavors and to our efforts to tie ICT4D with SDGs.

We are intending to convene a Digital Economy and a regional WSIS Forum in the Arab region early next year, and you are most welcomed to participate. We are also ready to play any appropriate role in the board of the initiative, and in its activities.

Best Regards

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