UNITED NATIONS
U N C T A D

OPEN CONSULTATION ON THE AID FOR eTRADE INITIATIVE

Thursday, 21 April 2016, 10.00-18.00
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

An event of the UNCTAD E-COMMERCE WEEK 2016

E-commerce can be a powerful driver of economic growth, inclusive trade and job-creation across the developing world, yet many developing countries are still to realize its full potential. Current efforts by development partners are numerous and multi-faceted but they are also seldom holistic and rarely fully focused on building e-commerce economies. A more coordinated, systematic and coherent effort is needed to unlock the power of the Internet for economic development. Therefore UNCTAD took the lead in exploring possibilities for launching a new global initiative on *Aid for eTrade* aimed at unlocking the potential of e-commerce in developing countries. An initial Draft *Call for Action* has been prepared by representatives of governments, international organizations and private sector enterprises involved in e-commerce. These open consultations are organized to collect feedback from all stakeholders on the Draft *Call for Action* and identify priorities for the *Aid for eTrade Initiative*.
There will be simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish.

Tentative Programme

10.00 - 10.45	**Opening remarks**
	• Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Päivi Kairamo, Permanent Representative, Republic of Finland • Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD • Mr. Hubert Schillinger, Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Geneva Office • Ms. Christiane Kraus, Chief Coordinator, Enhanced Integrated Framework (tbc)
10.45 - 11.15	**Introduction to the Aid for eTrade Initiative**
	• Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Chief, ICT Analysis Section, UNCTAD
11.15 - 13.00	**Comments by Member States**
	• speakers to be announced
13.00 - 15.00	**Lunch break**
15.00 - 16.30	**Comments by the private sector and the civil society**
	• speakers to be announced
16.30 - 17.45	**Comments by international organizations**
	• speakers to be announced
17.45 - 18.00	**Closing remarks**

Register online at: http://unctad.org/e-week2016