



Promoting the participation of developing regions in global information and communications technology-enabled services trade

23 September 2021, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. AST, 4-6 p.m. CEST

Background

Information technologies' enabled services (ITES) trade has proved to be more resilient to the pandemic than traditional services (tourism and transport) foreign transactions. Several categories of ITES trade have even seen their growth accelerating since the outbreak of COVID-19. However, developing regions account for less than one-quarter of global ITES exports.

In this context, this event aims to discuss the main challenges holding back the developing countries' participation in global ITES trade. Also, it looks into both domestic and international drivers explaining the success of some emerging economies in this part of global trade. On the domestic front, the panel addresses the roles of foreign direct investment (FDI), skills development, services regulations, small and medium size enterprises support policies, access to credit for services production and other intangibles investment, and policy coordination.

The event also discusses the relevance of ITES and FDI chapters in free trade agreements (such as ASEAN, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), treaties to avoid double taxation, and the ongoing plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce and domestic regulation on services in the international arena. The meeting also addresses differences between Africa, Asia and Latin America regarding progress and remaining challenges in these themes. The event also addresses the importance of ITES imports for developing countries as a driver of competitiveness of the export sector. The acceleration of the digital transformation of small and medium tourism businesses could increase the resilience of this sector.

Objective

This event is expected to increase the understanding of crucial factors and policy interventions that drive developing countries' successful participation in global information technologies' enabled services (ITES) exports, separating domestic policies from trade and FDI policies. It will also discuss how the pandemic may be changing some of these crucial factors.

CONCEPT NOTE
Unedited



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Logistics

Venue: The event will be held online. The link to join will be provided upon registration.

Date and time: 23 September 2021, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. AST, 4-6 p.m. CEST.

More information and registration: The event requires prior registration [here](#)

Languages: English, Spanish and International Sign.

Programme

Opening

- Mr. Mario Castillo, Director, International Trade and Integration Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mr. Winfried Weck, Director, Regional Program Alliances for Democracy and Development with Latin America, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Panama
- Ms. Jan Yves Remy, Director, Shridath Ramphal Center for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, The University of the West Indies

Introduction to panel discussion by the moderator

- Mr. Tom Azzopardi, Bloomberg correspondent, Santiago, Chile

Topics for panel discussion

- What are the main challenges for the developing countries' participation in ICT-enabled services trade in the post-pandemic recovery?
- What is the role of foreign direct investment, skills development and policy coherence to boost developing countries' ICT-enabled services exports?
- How important are regional and multilateral trade agreements and negotiations for increasing developing countries' participation in ICT-enabled services trade?

Moderated panel discussion

- Ms. Vanessa Gibson, Head of Investment Climate, Costa Rican investment Promotion Agency, Costa Rica
- Ms. Ilena Rosario, Director for Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry, Trade and SMEs, Dominican Republic
- Ms. Deepali Fernandes, Researcher, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Ms. Rupa Chanda, Director, Division of Trade, Investment and Innovation, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Closing remarks

- Mr. Nanno Mulder, Chief, International Trade Unit, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



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Co-organizers

United Nations co-organizers



Other co-organizers

