

E-commerce and the Digital Economy

8th session

Programme as of 22 April 2025

12–14 May 2025, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CET)

Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Monday, 12 May

10 a.m.–1 p.m. **Opening plenary**
Item 1 Election of officers

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
(TD/B/EDE/8/1)

Opening remarks **Ms. Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Item 3 Making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development

Presentation of background document by **Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson**, Head, E-Commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division of Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD (TD/B/EDE/8/2)

Followed by Statements and Q&A by regional groups and individual delegations

Keynotes by **Mr. Marcel J. Dorsch**, Senior Expert Digital Change and Sustainability Transformation, German Environment Agency

Ms. Paz Peña, independent researcher focused on technology, and social justice, author of “Technology for a burning planet”

Monday, 12 May (cont.)

3–6 p.m.

Item 3 Making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development

Session 1 Production phase of the digitalization lifecycle: transition minerals, trade and development

Starting with production as the first phase of the lifecycle of digitalization, this session will discuss its materiality, focusing on environmental and social impacts of increasing demand for transition minerals, including for digital devices and ICT infrastructure, together with their trade and development implications and related policies.

Panellists:

- **Mr. Alejandro González**, Senior Researcher, Climate Justice team, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
- **Mr. Papa Daouda Diene**, Senior Economic Analyst for Francophone Africa, Natural Resource Governance Institute
- **Ms. Vovia Witni**, Community Development, CSR and Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining Specialist, Levin Sources

Interactive discussion

Tuesday, 13 May

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Item 3 Making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development

Session 2 Use phase: data centres and artificial intelligence

This session will address the inclusive and sustainable development implications of the use phase of digitalization, focusing on data centres and artificial intelligence.

Panellists:

- **Mr. Shaolei Ren**, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Riverside
- **Mr. Sebastian Lehuedé**, Assistant Professor in Ethics, AI & Society, King's College London
- **Mr. Marco Zennaro**, Coordinator, Science, Technology and Innovation Unit, Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and TinyML4D Chair and Academic Network Co-Chair
- **Ms. Angela Müller**, Executive Director of AlgorithmWatch CH in Zurich and Executive Board Member of AlgorithmWatch in Berlin

Interactive discussion



Tuesday, 13 May (cont.)

3–6 p.m.

Session 3

End of life? Digitalization-related waste and circular digital economy

This session will look at the end of the digitalization lifecycle, focusing on the impacts of digitalization-related waste as well as the trade and development implications of the management of such waste and the potential for a circular digital economy to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

Panellists:

- **Ms. Vanessa Forti**, Associate Programme Officer, UNITAR – Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme
- **Mr. Syed Iftikhar H. Shah**, Director of Digital Research, Digital Cooperation Organization
- **Mr. Xavier Vence**, Professor, University of Santiago de Compostela
- **Business sector** (tbc)

Interactive discussion

Wednesday, 14 May

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Session 4

Towards a holistic, international policy approach for making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development

This session will address the role of a holistic, international policy approach for the alignment of digitalization and environmental policies in progressing towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Panellists:

- **Ms. Pilar Fajarnés-Garcés**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD
- **Mr. David Jensen**, Regional Coordinator for Europe and North America, Digital Transformation subprogramme, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Academia** (tbc)

Interactive discussion

Item 4

Working Group on Measuring E-Commerce and the Digital Economy

The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will consider the report of the fifth meeting of the Working Group, held on 11 and 12 November 2024, and decide on the topics for the sixth meeting.

- **Mr. Si Yuan Tan**, Chair, fifth meeting, Working Group; Deputy Director of the Business Statistics Division of the Singapore Department of Statistics (video)

3–6 p.m.

Closing plenary

Item 5

Provisional agenda of the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

Item 6

Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy on its eighth session

