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NOTIFICATION

Expert Meeting on Cyberlaws and Regulations for Enhancing E-commerce, Including Case Studies and Lessons Learned

Geneva, 25–27 March 2015

The Expert Meeting on Cyberlaws and Regulations for Enhancing E-commerce, Including Case Studies and Lessons Learned will be held on 25–27 March 2015, in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 March.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Given the transformational developments in the area of information and communications technology (ICT), in particular the emergence of the Internet in the second half of the 1990s, there has been growing recognition of the implications of ICTs and the Internet for trade and development. The application and use of ICTs and the Internet has facilitated the development of electronic commerce (e-commerce), but it is still at a nascent stage in most developing countries. This is partly due to the limited use of the Internet among businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises. Obstacles to Internet use include constraints in terms of basic infrastructure, education and training, and due to inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks.

The emergence of new ICTs, such as mobile applications and cloud computing, expands the scope for inclusive growth and entrepreneurship in developing countries. It is important that Governments create enabling frameworks for enterprises and Governments to take full advantage of new opportunities for electronic transactions carried out over the Internet or mobile platforms. While progress has been made, adopting an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for e-commerce is challenging due to the variety and complexity of cyberlaws and regulations as well as the rapid evolution of technologies and markets.

This expert meeting aims to provide a platform for countries to review legal frameworks, share experiences and learn from each other with a view to creating cyberlaws and regulations that enhance e-commerce. The focus would encompass areas of consumer protection such as credit card and payment data protection and payment regulations. Special attention will also be given to regional efforts to create legal frameworks that are internationally compatible.

The expected outcome of the expert meeting is the identification of best practices concerning cyberlaws and regulations on e-commerce as well as recommendations on ways of enabling the regulatory framework, including cyberlaws, for enhancing domestic and cross-border e-commerce.



Participation

UNCTAD member States are requested to nominate experts no later than 11 March 2015. The nominees, who will be participating in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject and may be selected from governmental and non-governmental organizations, private entities or academia. International and regional organizations are also invited to nominate participants.

Specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and regional organizations wishing to participate in the meeting, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category, as well as academia, wishing to participate as observers, are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by 11 March 2015.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds at the time of nomination, funds may be allocated to finance the participation of a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Nominated experts should have in-depth knowledge of e-commerce legal issues in the areas of electronic transactions, consumer protection, privacy and data protection and cybercrime. Governments requiring funding are invited to clearly request financing in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that funds currently available are very limited, and nominations will be considered based on that availability. The decision as to which experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the nominated experts, on the principle of equitable geographical representation and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular least developed countries. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered as new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received no later than 30 January 2015 and should be accompanied by the following information about the nominee:

- (a) Curriculum vitae;
- (b) Mailing address;
- (c) Telephone and fax number;
- (d) E-mail address;
- (e) Name of a contact person in the permanent mission in Geneva.

Once the list of experts to be financed has been finalized, all travel arrangements will be made in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations – that is, the least costly fare will be applied.

Background documents and contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.II/EM.5/1. In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note, which will be circulated as TD/B/C.II/EM.5/2.

The documents and information will be available on the UNCTAD website www.unctad.org under the heading "Meetings".

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (approximately five pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional meeting agenda, as well as those relating to their country's experience. These papers will be made available online to the meeting in the language in which they are received.

Logistics

The meeting will take place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E (Bâtiment E) of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations, and visitors will therefore be dropped off at the gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: [Expert Meeting on Cyberlaws and Regulations for Enhancing E-commerce, Including Case Studies and Lessons Learned](#). Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0214; e-mail: meetings@unctad.org.

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Ngozi Onodugo; tel.: 41 22 917 57 61; e-mail: ngozi.onodugo@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

12 January 2015