



DTL/STICT/MISC/2017/22
(17/241ams)

NOTIFICATION

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy Second session

Geneva, Switzerland, 18–20 April 2018

The second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be held from 18 to 20 April 2018 in room XVII of the Palais des Nations. The meeting will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 April.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Based on the provisional agenda that was approved at the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy in October 2017, the substantive agenda items for the second session are as follows:

- (a) Fostering development gains from domestic and cross-border e-commerce in developing countries;
- (b) Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

Further information and documentation for this session can be found at: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1666>.

The session will take place during UNCTAD E-Commerce Week 2018, which will have the overall theme of “Development dimensions of digital platforms”. Further information may be found at: <http://unctad.org/en/conferences/e-week2018/Pages/default.aspx>.

Written contributions

In order to facilitate deliberations and the informal exchange of experiences and best practices on the topics to be discussed, member States and observers are requested to submit written contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat by Friday, 2 March 2018.

Written contributions that share good practices with regard to digital platforms are especially welcome, to inform the discussion on question (d) of the questions that the first session decided should be considered by the second session (see the report of the meeting, document TD/B/EDE/1/3, available at <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1437>), namely: What are the good practices that developed and developing countries, including the least developed countries, can learn from each other?

Participation

This session is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. All participants whose registration is approved will be granted entry to the Palais des Nations for the week of 16 to 20 April 2018, to allow participation in other sessions of E-Commerce Week.

Please register on the following website for E-Commerce Week, and indicate on the registration form your interest in participating in the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/23057>. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission in Geneva will suffice.

Further inquiries regarding registration should be addressed to meetings@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated government experts from developing countries, to cover the cost of travel to Geneva, as well as a daily subsistence allowance. The decision as to which of the nominated experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the experts, on the principle of equitable geographical and gender-based representation and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular the least developed countries.

Requests for such funding should be made by 2 March 2018 by the permanent mission as part of the official nomination of the expert representative(s) to attend the session, and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: (a) curriculum vitae; (b) postal and email addresses; (c) telephone and fax numbers; (d) name of contact person at respective permanent mission in Geneva.

Once the list of experts to receive financial assistance has been finalized, all travel arrangements will be made in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.

Logistics

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges from 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. to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building 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; visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

Substantive inquiries should be addressed to the Information and Communications Technology Policy Section, tel: 41 22 917 2413; email: ict4d@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

10 January 2018