



DTL
(22/57gd)

NOTIFICATION

High-level seminar
Making electronic commerce work for development by connecting the dots
Monday, 21 March 2022
9.30–11 a.m. (CET)

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that a high-level seminar on the theme “Making electronic commerce work for development by connecting the dots”, jointly organized by UNCTAD and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland, will take place on 21 March from 9.30–11 a.m. The event will be held online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000746/>.

The accelerated shift to digital activities during the pandemic is having a transformational impact on production, consumption and trade patterns. This can create opportunities and be a powerful driver of economic growth, trade and job creation, yet can also lead to widening divides and income inequalities between and within countries. Development gains from new technologies do not accrue automatically, nor can they be taken for granted. The net outcome depends on the policies and regulations adopted by Governments to foster the productive and more inclusive use of digital technologies.

Electronic commerce is booming. However, in many developing countries, various barriers hinder the ability of businesses to harness digital opportunities. UNCTAD eTrade Readiness Assessments, implemented with eTrade for all partners, propose concrete policy recommendations on how to overcome such barriers, and developing countries are now acting upon them.

More work is needed, however, to avoid widening divides. Scaled up, coordinated international support is urgently required to boost the ability of countries with relatively low levels of digital readiness to create the policy frameworks and capabilities needed to harness electronic commerce and the digital economy for sustainable development, leaving no one behind.

Discussions at this seminar will address how best to leverage country assessments and smart partnerships to accelerate the implementation of needed policy actions. Participants will benefit from the perspectives of national Governments, entrepreneurs, Geneva-based eTrade for all partners and donors.

Tentative programme

Opening remarks

Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Didier Chambovey, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the World Trade Organization

Moderator

Shamika N Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Panel discussion

Mere Falemaka, Ambassador, Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum

Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Centre

Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk, Deputy Director General, Private Sector, Trade, Employment and Digital Technologies,

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Patricia Zoundi Yao, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Quickcash; eTrade for Women Advocate, Côte d'Ivoire

Kolawole Sofola, Acting Director, Trade, Economic Community of West African States Commission

Closing remarks

Monica Rubiolo, Head, Trade Promotion, Economic Cooperation and Development, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland



Shamika N Sirimanne

Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

10 March 2022