



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON E-COMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY  
SECOND SESSION**

**18-20 April 2018**

*Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva*

*Programme*

| <b>WEDNESDAY, 18 APRIL</b> |  |
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| <b>10.00–11.00</b>         | <p><b>Opening plenary session of the IGE</b></p> <p><b>Item 1</b> - Election of officers<br/> <b>Item 2</b> - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work<br/> <b>Item 3</b> - Discussion regarding fostering development gains from domestic and cross-border e-commerce in developing countries</p> <p>Introductory remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Presentation of the Note by the Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li> </ul>  |
| <b>11.00–13.00</b>         | <p><b>Session 1: The role of digital platforms in e-commerce</b><br/> <i>The session will set the stage and highlight some broad observations on the role of digital platforms for e-commerce, and implications for trade and development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Nick Srnicek, Lecturer in Digital Economy, Department of Digital Humanities King's College London</li> <li>▪ Mr. Mark Graham, Professor, Oxford Internet Institute</li> </ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>   |
| 15.00–18.00                | <p><b>Session 2: How to foster local platforms in developing countries for domestic and cross-border e-commerce.</b><br/> <i>This session will look at ways in which local or regional platforms can be set in developing countries so that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) can gain an online presence to market their goods and services to potential buyers in their own country as well as in foreign markets.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Leonard Stiegeler, General Manager, Ringier Africa</li> <li>▪ Mr. François Martins, Manager for Government Relations and Public Policy, Mercado Libre</li> <li>▪ Mr. Brijesh Agrawal, Co-Founder and Director, IndiaMART</li> </ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p> |
| <b>18:30-20.00</b>         | <b>Cocktail reception</b>  |



**THURSDAY, 19 APRIL**

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| <b>10.00-13.00</b> | <p><b>Session 3: How to overcome existing barriers related to international e-commerce platforms that developing countries, including the LDCs, face.</b></p> <p><i>This session will discuss various barriers to accessing global platforms that hamper the capacity of many developing-country firms to export through these platforms, and possible ways in which these can be overcome.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Hanne Melin, Director Global Public Policy, eBay</li> <li>▪ Mr. Brian Wong, Vice President Global Initiatives, Alibaba</li> <li>▪ Mr. Nick Bramble, Public Policy Counsel for Trade and International Relations, Google</li> <li>▪ Ms. Victoria Saue, Head of Risk and Compliance, E-residency, Estonia</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Interactive debate</i></p>          |
| <b>15.00–18.00</b> | <p><b>Session 4: How to overcome operational constraints that small and medium-sized businesses in developing countries face when setting up trade online.</b></p> <p><i>This session will discuss factors that can act as potential operational constraints on e-commerce, preventing MSMEs to engage effectively in online trade. Such factors may include Internet access, payment solutions, logistics and delivery and compliance with quality standards.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. James Howe, Senior Adviser, International Marketing and Branding, International Trade Centre</li> <li>▪ Ms. Kati Suominen, Founder and CEO, Nextrade Group</li> <li>▪ Ms. Monica Kerretts-Makau, Professor, Strathmore Business School, Kenya</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Interactive debate</i></p> |

**FRIDAY, 20 APRIL**

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| <b>10.00–13.00</b> | <p><b>Item 4 - Working group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy</b></p> <p><b>Session 5: Working group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy</b></p> <p><i>This session will consider the possible establishment of a Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy. In this context, it will discuss how it may complement the work in other forums, what it would address, its potential outputs and activities, and its practical arrangements and resource requirements.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Chief, ICT Policy Section, DTL-UNCTAD</li> <li>▪ Ms. Paula Szenkman, Undersecretary for Productive Planning and Development, Ministry of Production, Argentina</li> <li>▪ Ms. Helani Galpaya, CEO of LIRNEasia</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Interactive debate</i></p> |
| <b>15.00–17.00</b> | <p><b>Session 6: Closing session</b></p> <p><b>Item 5 - Provisional agenda for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy (IGE)</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 - Adoption of the report of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy</b></p>  |
| <b>17.00-18.00</b> | <p><b><i>Closing session of the E-commerce Week 2018</i></b></p>  |

