



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

**Fifth session  
27-29 April 2022  
Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Programme  
(as of 19 April 2022)**

Wednesday, 27 April (time zone: UTC+2)	
<b>11 a.m.– 12 p.m</b>	<p><b>Opening plenary*</b></p> <p><b>Item 1:</b> Election of officers</p> <p><b>Item 2:</b> Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p><b>Item 3:</b> Recovering from COVID-19 in an increasingly digital economy: implications for sustainable development</p> <p>Introductory remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms. Rebeca Grynspan</b>, Secretary-General, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Presentation of background document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne</b>, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p><i>Followed by statements by regional groups and member States</i></p>
<b>12–1 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session 1: The role of digitalization during the pandemic</b></p> <p><i>The discussion will set the stage for the rest of the meeting by discussing the role that digitalization has played in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and its health, economic and social impacts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mr. Derrick Muneene</b>, Director, Digital Health &amp; Innovation, World Health Organization</li> </ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
<b>3–5 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Challenges in harnessing digital solutions to cope with the pandemic</b></p> <p><i>The discussion will focus on the challenges arising for countries at different levels of development, including digital inequalities and power imbalances as well as issues related to disinformation, privacy and other human rights, cybersecurity and the increasing urgency for regulation in the digital economy.</i></p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms. Sulyna Abdullah</b>, Chief, Digital Knowledge Hub Department, International Telecommunication Union</li> <li>▪ <b>Mr. Nick Srnicek</b>, Lecturer in Digital Economy, King’s College London</li> <li>▪ <b>Mr. Joe Cannataci</b>, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy</li> </ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>

\*Delegates are informed that for the opening and closing plenaries, the adoption of the agenda and of the outcomes of the session (agreed policy recommendations, provisional agenda, report) will be **in-person only** and that any interventions would need to be made from the conference room. Please note that during that time participants connected online will still be able to follow the discussions, but **virtual participation will not be part of a formal opening and closing plenaries.**



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<b>Thursday, 28 April (time zone: UTC+2)</b>	
<b>11 a.m. –1 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Lessons learned from policy responses to the pandemic</b> <i>The discussion will look at lessons that can be learned from the policy responses to the pandemic, including on the importance of digitalization and the potential role of data to cope with global crises, the increasing development lags resulting from digital divides, the role of public policies, including at the international level, to maximize opportunities and minimize risks in the data-driven economy, as well as the interconnected nature of critical global challenges related to health, inequality, climate change and digitalization.</i></p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Mr. Adedeji Adeniran</b>, Director of Research, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa</li><li>▪ <b>Mr. Henri Monceau</b>, Director, Direction de la Francophonie économique et numérique, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie</li></ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
<b>3–5 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Post-pandemic recovery and digitalization</b> <i>The discussion will focus on the role of digitalization in the recovery from the pandemic and for building resilience to tackle potential future crises.</i></p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Mr. Mauricio Agudelo</b>, Digital Agenda Coordinator, Development Bank of Latin America</li><li>▪ <b>Mr. Aladdin D. Rillo</b>, Senior Economic Advisor, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia</li></ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>



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<b>Friday, 29 April (time zone: UTC+2)</b>	
<b>11 a.m.–1 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session 5: The role of international cooperation on the way forward towards digitalization for sustainable development</b> <i>The discussion will focus on the need for globally coordinated responses to the global crisis so that accelerated digitalization can work for sustainable development, considering that, in many policy areas, the global reach of the digital economy implies that national policies cannot be considered in isolation and require to be complemented by international policymaking.</i></p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano</b>, Secretary-General's, Acting Envoy on Technology, UNDESA (by video)</li> <li>▪ <b>Mr. Michael Pisa</b>, Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development</li> <li>▪ <b>Ms. Eleanor Carey</b>, Policy Analyst, Digital Co-operation Report, OECD</li> </ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
<b>3–4.30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Item 4: Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy</b> <i>The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will consider the report of the second meeting of the Working Group, held on 3 and 4 May 2021, and decide on the topic for the third meeting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mr. Livio Lugano</b>, Vice-Director and Head of the Economy Division of the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland, and Chair, second meeting, Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy</li> </ul> <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
<b>4.30–5 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Closing plenary*</b></p> <p><b>Item 3:</b> Consideration of draft agreed policy recommendations</p> <p><b>Item 5:</b> Provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy</p> <p><b>Item 6:</b> Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy on its fifth session</p>

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