Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Twelfth session

Promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of work of UNCTAD

Research & Analysis

Technical Cooperation

Consensus Building

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UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

An overview of the three pillars

Research & analysis

- Flagship reports
  - Digital Economy Report
  - Technology and Innovation Report
- Technical notes on the Digital Economy
- Policy Briefs
- Current studies on STI
- Other research (COVID), surveys

Technical cooperation

- E-commerce Strategies
- eTrade for all
- eTrade Readiness Assessments
- eTrade for Women
- E-commerce and Law Reform
- STI policy reviews
- STI capacity building trainings
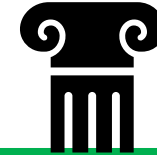- ASYCUDA

Consensus building

- CSTD
- ECOSOC/GA
- TDB and Commissions
- IGE on ECDE
- E-Commerce Weeks
- WG on Measuring ECDE
- FFD in COVID-19 era-Lead Cluster III on finance and technology

Synergies among 3 Pillars: E-Commerce and Digital Economy

1. Research & Analysis

DER 2019: value creation and capture

DER 2021: cross-border data flows

2. Policy dialogue & Consensus building
- IGE
- eCommerce Week
- ICT measurement WG
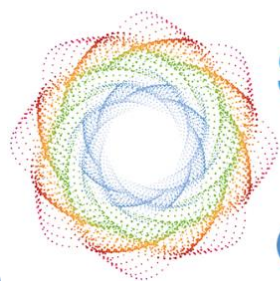- Cluster III--FFD in COVID19 era

3. Technical cooperation
- eTrade 4 all
- eTrade Readiness assessements
- eTrade 4 Women
- National Ecommerce Strategies
- Measuring ICT

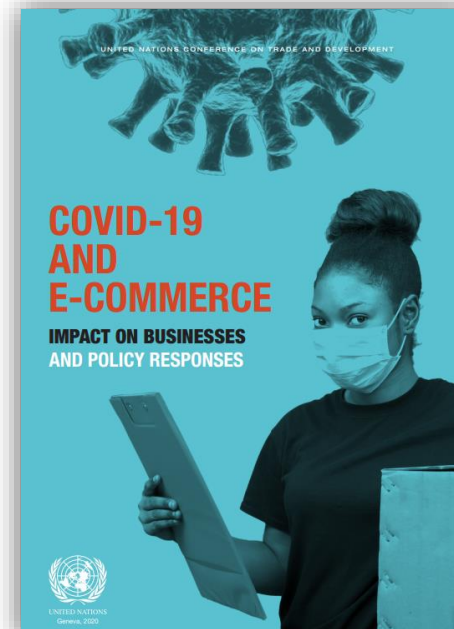# eCommerce and Digital Economy – Consensus Building

- Virtual eCommerce Week: +2000 participants from 134 countries
  - Discussed impact of COVID and role eCommerce in supporting developing countries adaptation
- IGE 2020
  - "Digital platforms and value creation in developing countries: Implications for national and international policies",
  - Working Group on measuring ICT postponed to 2021
- Preparing Asia eCommerce Week (Oct 2021)

eCommerce and Digital Economy – Research and Analysis

▶ Digital Economy Report - Linked to IGE discussions

▶ 2 cross-country surveys on impact of COVID-19 on E-commerce (consumers and business)

▶ Fast-tracking implementation of eTrade Readiness assessments

▶ Cyberlaw tracker updated

▶ Technical notes
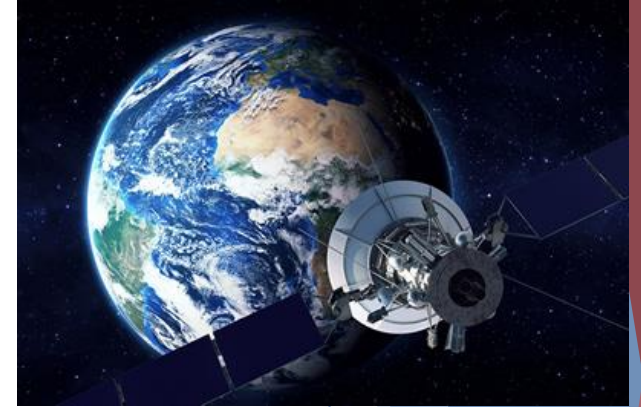
eCommerce and Digital Economy – Technical Cooperation

▶ eTrade Readiness Assessments: in 2020 completed Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Tanzania and UEMOA/WAEMU

▶ 15 requests not funded

▶ eTrade readiness for Women: 3 Masterclasses in 2020 (Western Africa, Eastern Africa, South East-Asia)

▶ National eCommerce Strategies: Botswana, Kenya. Myanmar

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The focal point of the UN on STI policy discourse

▶ CSTD 2020 themes: i) Space technology and Development; ii) harnessing frontier tech;

▶ High level segment discussed STI and COVID19. WSIS follow up

▶ CSTD 2021themes: i) STI and health, harnessing blockchains for development

▶ Discussions on STIP reviews

▶ In recent years CSTD became channel for provision of Technical Cooperation offered by Brazil, China, and Japan.

Technology and Innovation Report

- ► TIR 2021: Catching technological waves -Innovation with equity
  - ► Frontier Technology readiness index

- ► Launch 3 March 2021, will be discussed in TDB session in June, presented in NY to ECOSOC

STI Policy Reviews

Technical Cooperation in STI

▶ STIP review Uganda and Dominican Republic completed in 2020, Botswana and Zambia under way

▶ under Inter-Agency Task Team Work Stream 6 with other UN agencies

▶ Technical cooperation provided under CSTD:

  ▶ Cropwatch innovative cooperation programme (China)

  ▶ Young Female Scientist Programme (Japan)

  ▶ SENAI Innovation Institute Training Programme on industrial and innovation policy (Brazil)

▶ Upcoming: project on technology assessment in agriculture and renewable energy (UNDA)
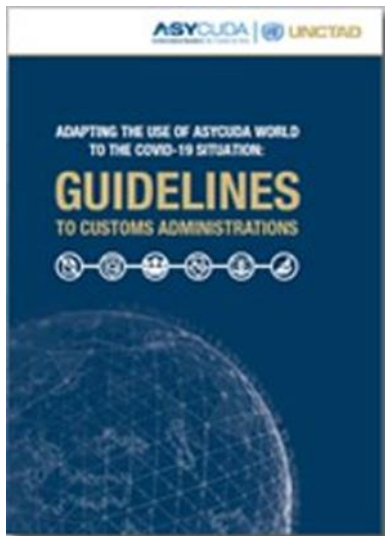
ASYCUDA
Technology transfer; digital platforms

▶ ASYCUDA in over 100 countries

▶ 79 operational projects in 2020; 8 regional projects

▶ Recent impacts

  ▶ Lebanon: 350+ containers processed through ASYCUDAWorld in Beirut Port 1 day after the blast

  ▶ Sudan: 30% reduction of Customs clearance time and 48% increase in Customs revenue

  ▶ Barbados (2021): "We are happy with the system and I can say that is the consensus of the trading community. [...] ASYCUDAWorld has made it easier to do business." Owen Holder, Comptroller of Customs, Barbados

▶ New user-countries: Gambia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Sierra Leone, Tuvalu

▶ Partnerships for Sustainable Development (Compendium 2020, 25 case studies)

ASYCUDA

COVID-19 Measures

▶ **Guidelines for Customs Administrations** to reduce the impact of COVID-19 (paperless procedures, review of risk management and organizational arrangements, ICT infrastructure adjustments, online payments…)

▶ Survey on the tailoring of ASYCUDA against COVID-19 Key findings:

➢ 39% user-countries do not require submission of hard copies of documentation

➢ 72% use ASYCUDAWorld reports to monitor impact of crisis on trade

➢ 48% need assistance to develop Business continuity plan

▶ Remote local, regional and international assistance from ASYCUDA experts to user-countries due to travel restrictions, including online trainings

Towards UNCTAD XV

- Strengthen UNCTAD's technology pillar

- Main challenge is the mismatch between the limited resource availability and the increasing demands on the sub-programme

- 36 formal TC requests to DTL by countries and regional organisations in the past 5 years have remained unfunded

Thank you

www.unctad.org/DTL