Enhancing e-trade readiness of developing countries: Insights from country assessment
In 2022, the Commonwealth countries reported a rise in digitally deliverable services exports which was estimated at US$911 billion.

Digital trade can unleash up to **US$1.2 trillion** additional trade by 2026 across the **56 Member States in the Commonwealth**.

**E-Trade** is a powerful development tool to the **33 small states, 25 SIDS and 14 LDCs** within the Commonwealth that **reduces trade costs, increases productivity and innovation, provides greater market access**.

In 2022, the Commonwealth countries reported a rise in digitally deliverable services exports which was estimated at **US$911 billion**.

**Digital divide** can broadly be attributed to **limited connectivity, lack of infrastructure and insufficient skills and knowledge development**.
E-Trade Readiness Assessments

CAMEROON
Review and development of National E-Commerce Strategy in 2018

SRI LANKA
E-Commerce Readiness Assessment in 2020

OECS
Assessment of Digital Trade and E-commerce in Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & The Grenadines in 2021
# Digital Economy Capacity Constraints

## Digital Infrastructure & Technology
1. Telecommunication infrastructure
2. Quality and Affordability of internet services
3. Internet Banking & E-payment solutions
4. Logistics and Transport Infrastructure

## Human Capacity
1. Lack of awareness and inadequate skills and IT knowledge
2. User confidence in the system: e-payments
3. Application of ICT across sectors: Banking and finance, retail businesses, manufacturing etc.

## Legal & Regulatory Frameworks
1. Effective regulatory frameworks: Consumer Protection
   - Data protection and privacy to secure information systems, networks, databases
   - Cybersecurity and cyber criminality
2. Accessible dispute resolution mechanisms

## Stakeholder Engagement
1. Interoperability of systems.
2. Coordination among public and private sector players.
Recommendations in a snapshot

- Raising e-commerce maturity of businesses through e-business modelling, skills development, awareness creation, diffusion of e-business innovation and ICT adoption.

- Raising e-commerce maturity of consumers by developing trust, awareness, user skills, internet accessibility and mobile connectivity.

- Developing secure IT infrastructure and systems including secure e-payments.

- Developing and implementing policies and regulations to protect consumers, businesses from data breaches and online transactions frauds.

- Developing a robust logistics and transportation system through increased automation and ICT application to support e-commerce.
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**Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda**

- Digital Connectivity Cluster: Member countries can strengthen dialogue, cooperation, and share country experiences and best practices on digital economy, digital trade and digital industrial policy.

**Trade Competitiveness**

- Capacity building workshops for MSME owners, focused on youth and women entrepreneurship
- Technical trainings for country experts on digital policies and frameworks

**International Trade Policy**

- Research and analysis
- Trade advisory support to Member States

**Partnerships for goals**

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
Digital Tools and Resources

1. Commonwealth FinTech Toolkit
2. Policymakers Guide to Manufacturing 4.0 in a digital world
4. Policy guide on Digital Agriculture in the Commonwealth
5. Publications: Digital Infrastructure Divide in the Commonwealth; Digital currencies on small states
6. Open Weaver Makeathon for the Commonwealth
Thank you