

# Revision of the UNCTAD Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy

**UNCTAD Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

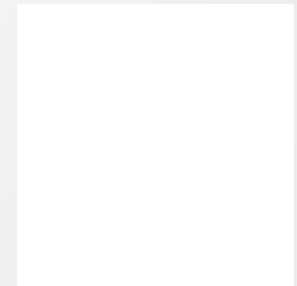
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## WHY DO WE NEED STATISTICAL DATA?

- Without data, policy makers are fumbling in the dark.
- Without measurement, how can we know if we are making progress?



- *“There are two kinds of statistics, the kind you look up and the kind you make up.”*  
— Rex Todhunter Stout (1886-1975).



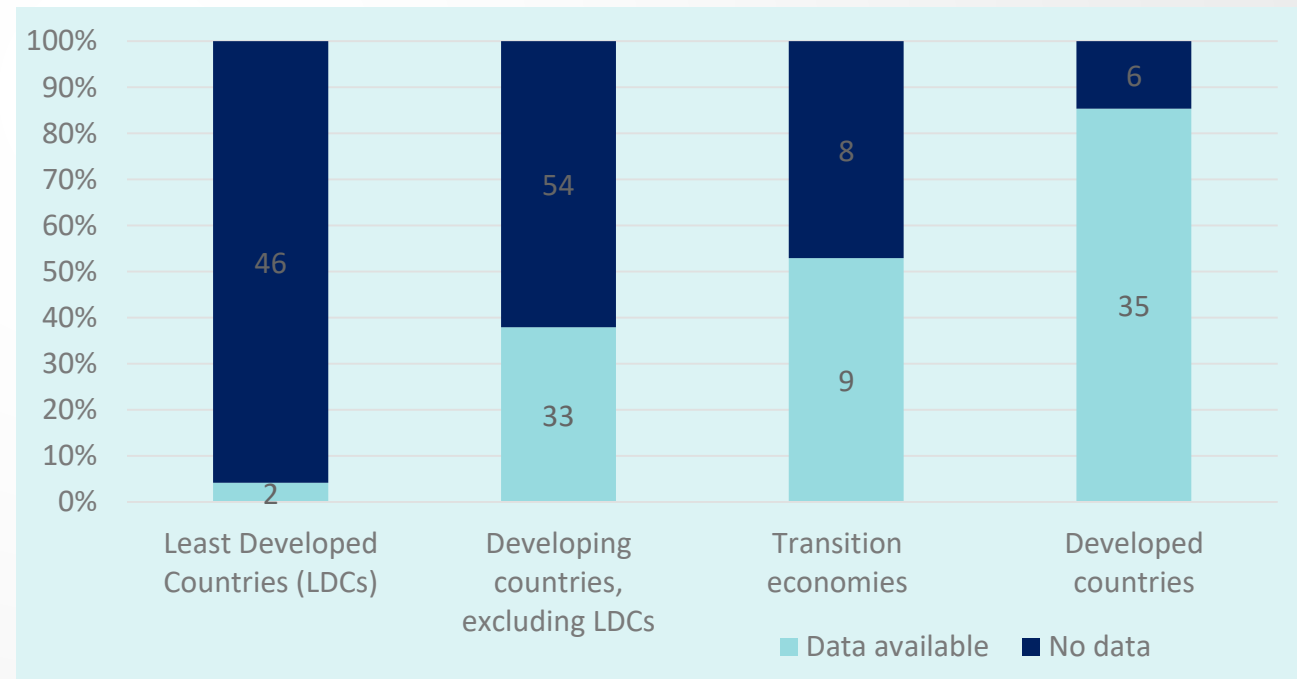
## BRINGING BETTER EVIDENCE FOR DECISION MAKING

### Statistics related to e-commerce and the digital economy

- Sound policy can't be made without relevant information, and statistics on **ICT use by businesses**, the **size of the ICT workforce**, **value added in the ICT sector**, and **ICT goods trade** are disseminated in UNCTADStat
- But while statistics on businesses' ICT use are disseminated for around 85% of developed countries, this figure falls to just 4% for LDCs



*Number of countries having reported data to UNCTAD on ICT use by businesses, by development group, 2003-2016.*





# FOSTERING AN INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE



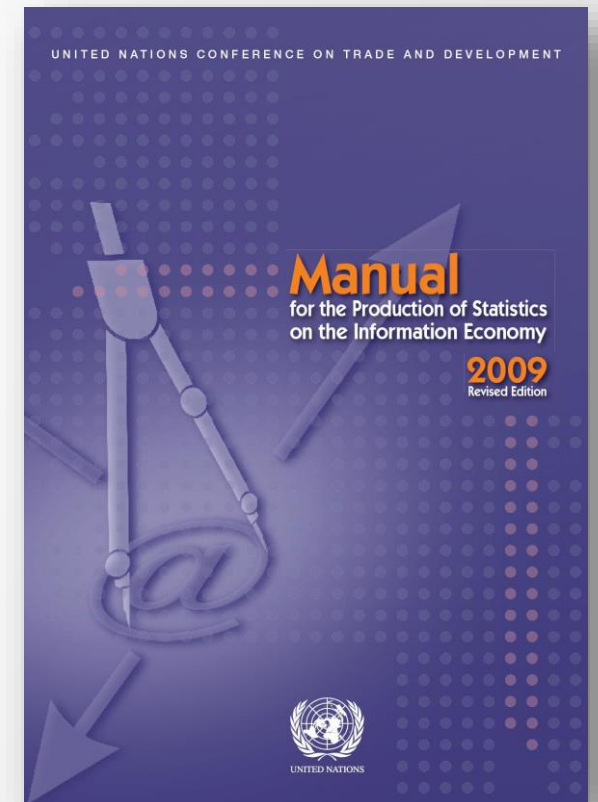
- UNCTAD is a member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, comprising 15 partner organizations
- In addition, we are active in related work such as:
  - Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS)
  - OECD Working Party on Measurement and Analysis of the Digital Economy (WP MADE)
  - Work with WCO, UPU and others, aimed at using administrative data to measure e-commerce
  - G20 and OECD initiatives on measuring the digital economy



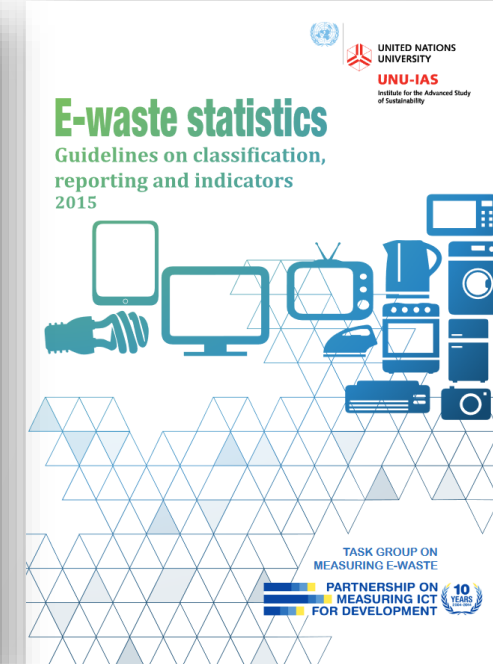
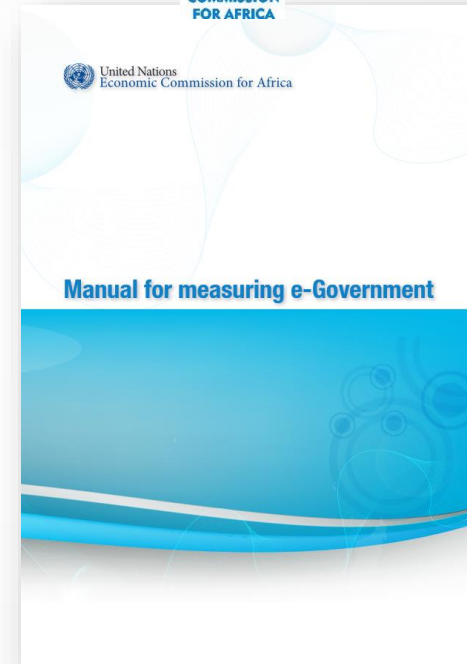
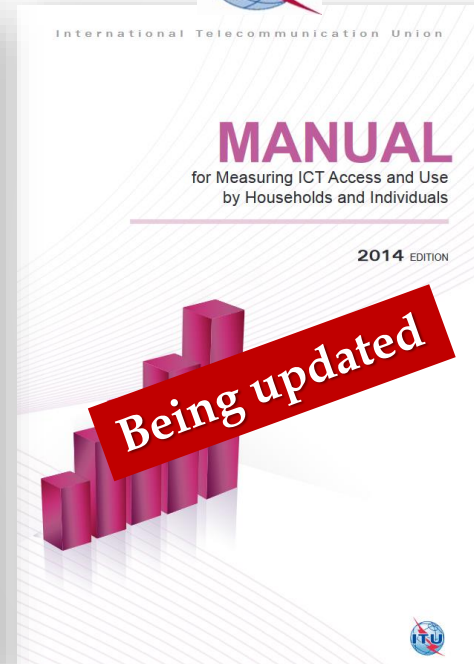
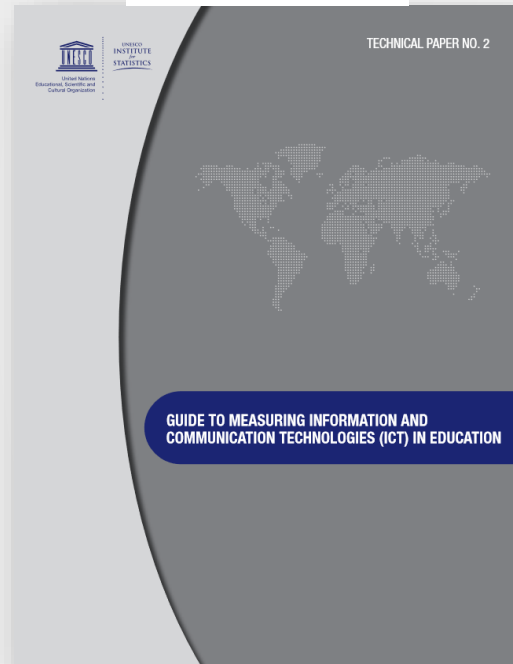
# HARNESSING COUNTRIES' READINESS TO ENGAGE IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

## Technical cooperation on measuring e-commerce, ICT and the digital economy

- UNCTAD provides methodological guidance, such as the Manual on the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy (*in need of updating*)
- UNCTAD (with UNSD) establishes definitions of ICT goods, based on reclassifications of the Harmonized System
- UNCTAD provides technical assistance, such as the piloting of surveys on exports of ICT-enabled services
  - In India, these accounted for 57% of total services exports in 2016-17

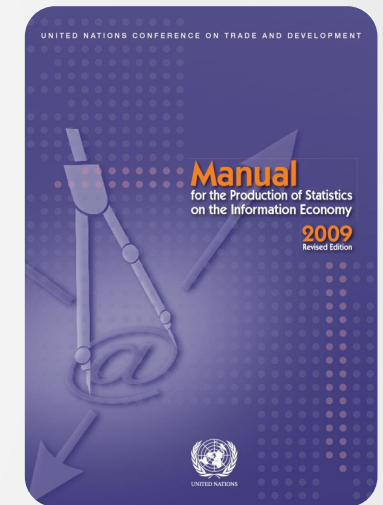


# OTHER PARTNERSHIP MANUALS



# PROCESS OF UPDATING UNCTAD MANUAL

- Oct-Nov 2019: First draft revision
- 3-4 Dec 2019: Working Group meeting: consultation with member States
- 17 Jan 2020: Deadline for submitting written comments to secretariat
- Jan-March 2020: Finalize the revised Manual
- 29 April-1 May 2020: IGE on E-Commerce and Digital Economy
- May-June 2020: Edited, format and print revised Manual
- Second part of 2020: Development of training material
  - Raise funds for capacity building
- 2021- : Organize training courses





## HOW CAN THE WG CONTRIBUTE?

- Provide feedback on changes proposed
- Share experiences and challenges with collecting statistics on e-commerce and the digital economy
  - Using enterprise surveys
  - Using national accounts
  - Using other sources of data
- Propose concrete examples of good practices and lessons learned that could be included in the Manual
- Identify needs for capacity building
- Provide written comments until 17 January 2020 to: [emeasurement@unctad.org](mailto:emeasurement@unctad.org)



# Thank You!

***“Digital economy data gap risks widening inequalities, UNCTAD says”***

**See: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1701>**