



12 Dec
2017
17H00-
18H30

ICTSD Trade
and Sustainable
Development
Symposium,
Breakout room 3

Session on Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessments

A tool to help the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) drive economic growth, inclusive trade and job creation from e-commerce

- Presenting findings from Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessments and raise awareness amongst governments, civil society, partners and donors;
- Define practical solutions and measures for strengthening the e-trade readiness of the LDCs that have participated in the assessments;
- Bring together government decision makers, professionals and leaders working on e-trade to exchange ideas, experiences and perspectives.

Background

Assessing the opportunities and challenges that LDCs may face towards e-commerce is frequently hampered by a lack of reliable information. Not having the information or technology available to assess and evaluate e-commerce and trade in the digital economy in their countries is a barrier to selecting priority areas for advancements and further development.

This session will present the findings of new Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessments of the LDCs conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The assessments by UNCTAD

provide the current e-commerce and digital trade situation in selected countries and serve as a tool for LDCs to identify opportunities, barriers and relevant policy measures. A number of these assessments are being conducted under the umbrella of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF).

These assessments report on the current state of e-commerce, offering fresh insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by LDCs in key policy areas.





Scope of the Session

In the changing global marketplace, e-commerce presents a powerful driver of economic growth, inclusive trade and job-creation including for the LDCs. Assessing their readiness to engage in and benefit from e-commerce is essential for the LDCs to develop relevant strategies and policies that harness the power of e-commerce for growth and sustainable development.

The Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessment project developed by UNCTAD is supporting LDCs to take stock of their readiness in seven key policy areas, including e-commerce readiness and strategy formulation, ICT infrastructure and services, trade logistics and trade facilitation, payment and mobile money solutions, legal and regulatory frameworks, e-commerce skills development and access to financing.

The first Rapid Assessments for Bhutan and Cambodia were released during the UNCTAD E-Commerce Week in April 2017. Thanks to the support of the Government of Sweden, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany and the EIF (Enhanced Integrated Framework), at least 20 additional LDCs will benefit from the project before the end of 2019. Under the umbrella of the UNCTAD/EIF partnership, UNCTAD released the assessments for Samoa in October and will release the assessment for Nepal in December. Assessments for Liberia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are expected to be completed before the first quarter of 2018.

Session format

The session will begin with opening remarks by Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD and Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Executive Secretariat for the EIF and a 10 minute presentation on the latest findings from the Rapid e-Trade Assessments will be given by Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director Division on Technology and Logistics at UNCTAD.

The session will then explore key challenges and opportunities of e-commerce in LDCs through a panel discussion with representatives from Samoa, Nepal, donor countries and the private sector. Shamika N. Sirimanne will moderate the discussion. The format is "Davos-style" with each speaker making a 2 minute introduction followed by discussions in the panel and with the audience. No power point presentations or formal speeches will be used to foster an open debate and lively interaction.

Moderator



Shamika N. Sirimanne
Director Division on Technology
and Logistics, UNCTAD

Speakers



Isabelle Durant
Deputy Secretary-General,
UNCTAD



Ratnakar Adhikari
Executive Director, EIF,
World Trade Organization



Chandra Kumar Ghimire
Secretary, Ministry of Commerce,
Government of Nepal



Peseta Noumea Simi
Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa



Dominik Ziller
Director-General, International
Development Policy, Federal Ministry
of Economic Cooperation and
Development, Germany



Teppo Tauriainen
Director General for Trade, Ministry
for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Issues for discussion

How large is the potential of e-commerce to in LDCs?

What are the main challenges preventing LDCs from participating in e-commerce?

What can governments do to overcome some of these challenges?

What can donors do to support e-commerce development in LDCs?

How can donors support key priorities in the e-trade readiness assessments, notably at the implementation stage?

Background documents



Cambodia
Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment



Rapid eTrade Readiness assessment [Cambodia](#)



Bhutan
Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment



Rapid eTrade Readiness assessment [Bhutan](#)



Samoa
Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment



Rapid eTrade Readiness assessment [Samoa](#)