



GDS/MISC/2018/4
(18/158ams)

NOTIFICATION

Technical session: South–South Digital Cooperation to Boost Trade Competitiveness Pre-event in celebration of 40 years of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action

Geneva, 5 October 2018

A technical session entitled “South–South Digital Cooperation to Boost Trade Competitiveness”, a pre-event to celebrate 40 years of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA+40), will take place on 5 October 2018, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in room XXII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Background

The establishment of the Group of 77 at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964 and the launch of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 1978 were two major steps towards institutionalization of economic cooperation among developing countries. In 2009, UNCTAD set up the Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries to reinforce work on South–South cooperation, which is increasingly reshaping the global economic development architecture. To celebrate BAPA+40 and strengthen the UNCTAD commitment to South–South development cooperation, the technical session is being organized by the Unit, under the UNCTAD Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, in partnership with the South Centre, to discuss the policies and regulations developing countries need to adopt to boost trade competitiveness in the fourth industrial revolution and how South–South digital cooperation can help developing countries prepare for Industry 4.0.

Overall objective

The main purpose of the technical session is to discuss ways to boost trade competitiveness of developing countries in the context of Industry 4.0 and ensure that the South–South digital cooperation agenda makes global trade more inclusive. The session will provide a platform for stakeholders from diverse regions and areas to discuss the policies developing countries need to boost their trade competitiveness in the digital era and how the South–South digital cooperation agenda can help developing countries build their digital infrastructures and digital capacities with regional support.

Format

The event will bring together international experts from diverse areas and organizations, including representatives of member States, industry, civil society organizations, the United Nations system, international partners and academia, as well as members of the media.

Nominations and participation

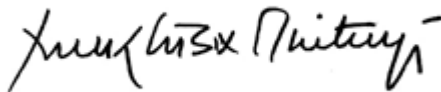
Registration should be completed online by **25 September 2018**. To do so, please use the following link: [Technical Session: South–South Digital Cooperation to Boost Trade Competitiveness](#). Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0050; email: florence.hudry@un.org.

Background documents

In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat will make the following publications available: *South–South Digital Cooperation for Industrialization: A Regional Integration Agenda* and *Trade and Development Report, 2018: Power, Platforms and the Free-Trade Delusion*. Studies will be available in English only.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, rashmi.banga@un.org, tel.: 41 22 917 3863.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

10 September 2018