



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Intergovernmental Group of Experts**  
**on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**  
Fourth session  
Geneva, 29 April–1 May 2020  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda  
**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

## Provisional agenda and annotations

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Digital platforms and value creation in developing countries: Implications for national and international policies.
4. Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
5. Provisional agenda of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
6. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy on its fourth session.

### II. Annotations

#### Item 1

##### Election of officers

1. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

#### Item 2

##### Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy may wish to adopt the provisional agenda contained in chapter I above.



3. It is proposed that the first plenary meeting of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, which will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 April 2020, should be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda) and introductory statements. The closing plenary meeting, on Friday, 1 May 2020, will be devoted to the adoption of the report and the provisional agenda of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to be held tentatively in April 2021 (item 5 of the provisional agenda). In view of the short duration of the session, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur will be authorized to complete the final report after closure of the session.

4. The remaining meetings, from 29 April (after the election of officers and general statements) to the morning of 1 May, can be devoted to substantive items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda. If necessary, the adoption of the report may be postponed until the late afternoon of 1 May in order to allow time for negotiation of the outcome text.

*Documentation*

TD/B/EDE/4/1                      Provisional agenda and annotations

### **Item 3**

#### **Digital platforms and value creation in developing countries: Implications for national and international policies**

5. At the sixty-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, held in Geneva from 30 September to 4 October 2019, the Board decided that the focus of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy should be on the topic, “Digital platforms and value creation in developing countries: implications for national and international policies” (TD/B/EX(68)/4).

6. Value creation in the digital economy is increasingly being driven by two emerging and related forces: digital data and digital platforms. An entirely new data value chain has evolved, comprising firms that support data collection, the production of insights from data, data storage, analysis and modelling. Value creation arises once data are transformed into digital intelligence and monetized through commercial use. This has different implications for countries at various levels of readiness related to connectivity and technological, skills, financial or logistical aspects, as well as development of local content and weak regulatory and institutional capacities. Developing countries face diverse opportunities and challenges for value creation when dealing with digital platforms. The net impact depends on the level of development and readiness of countries and their stakeholders, as well as on the policies adopted at the national and international levels, which play a key role in guiding the digital economy in a positive direction.

7. The Trade and Development Board also approved the following questions for discussion at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts:

(a) How is value created in digital economy activities and what are the implications for countries at varying levels of digital readiness?

(b) What are the opportunities and challenges for value creation that developing countries face when dealing with global digital platforms?

(c) What role can national policies play to help countries create and capture more value, including bridging digital divides, boosting digital entrepreneurship and harnessing local digital platforms?

(d) What role can international policymaking and cooperation play to promote a more inclusive digital economy?

*Documentation*

TD/B/EDE/4/2                      Digital platforms and value creation in developing countries:  
Implications for national and international policies

**Item 4****Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

8. In April 2019, at its third session, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy adopted the terms of reference for the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy and agreed on the topics for the first meeting of the Working Group:

(a) Revision of the 2009 UNCTAD *Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy*.<sup>1</sup>

(b) Measuring domestic and cross-border electronic commerce.<sup>2</sup>

9. The first session of the Working Group was held in Geneva on 3–4 December 2019.

10. A Chair's summary, adopted by the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy, will serve to report to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy at its fourth session.

11. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is invited to take note of the Chair's summary of the first meeting of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy and to decide on the topics for its second meeting, as proposed in the Chair's summary.

*Documentation*

TD/B/EDE/4/3

Chair's summary of the first meeting of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy

**Item 5****Provisional agenda of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

12. Acting in its capacity as the preparatory body for the fifth session, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy is expected to agree on the provisional agenda for the next session of the meeting, which should come out of the discussions under items 3 and 4.

**Item 6****Adoption of the report of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

13. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will adopt its report to the Trade and Development Board.

Experts are requested to submit written contributions related to the agenda item 3 to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible. For further information, please contact Pilar Fajarnes (pilar.fajarnes@unctad.org), Economic Affairs Officer, Information and Communications Technology Policy Section, Division of Technology and Logistics.

<sup>1</sup> UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/2007/2/Rev.1.

<sup>2</sup> TD/B/EDE/3/3.