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Trade and Development Board
Intergovernmental Group of Experts
on E-commerce and the Digital Economy
Seventh session
Geneva, 6–8 May 2024
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

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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 seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, which will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 6 May 2024, should be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda) and introductory statements. The closing plenary meeting,



on Wednesday, 8 May 2024, will be devoted to the adoption of the report and the provisional agenda of the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts. 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 6 May (after the election of officers and general statements) to the morning of 8 May, can be devoted to substantive items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/7/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Building digital readiness: From assessments to implementation

5. Members of the Trade and Development Board decided, through a silence procedure that ended on 2 June 2023, that the focus of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy should be “Building digital readiness: From assessments to implementation”.

6. Building digital readiness in countries is essential for bridging current divides and achieving more inclusive outcomes of digitalization. Developing countries face diverse and interconnected challenges in engaging with and deriving benefits from electronic commerce (e-commerce) and the digital economy. Tackling these challenges requires a holistic strategy that encompasses the relevant government policy areas, dialogue with the private sector and civil society and, in many cases, support from development partners. Collective action is needed to address these challenges in a coordinated and coherent manner, building capacities and offering possible policy options with a view to fostering digital readiness in countries lagging behind.

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

(a) What are the main challenges for developing countries to engage in and benefit from e-commerce and the digital economy?

(b) What are good practices and tools for effective implementation of policy measures at the national level to overcome the main challenges? What is the role of national Governments, agencies, United Nations resident coordinator offices and others in this process?

(c) How can international cooperation help enable greater benefits from e-commerce and digital trade?

(d) How can international partnerships and coordination for digital cooperation help accelerate progress in building readiness for e-commerce and the digital economy?

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/7/2 Building digital readiness: From assessments to implementation

Item 4

Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy

8. At its sixth session in May 2023, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy agreed that the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy at its fourth meeting should discuss progress in measuring e-commerce and digital economy work by relevant international organizations, measuring the value of e-commerce and non-survey-based measurement of e-commerce and the digital economy.

9. The issues above, as well as capacity-building in the area of e-commerce and digital economy measurement, were discussed at the fourth meeting of the Working Group held in hybrid format on 30 November and 1 December 2023. These discussions are presented, in the form of a Chair's summary, to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy at its seventh session.

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

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/7/3

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

Item 5

Provisional agenda of the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

11. Acting in its capacity as the preparatory body for the eighth 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 agenda items 3 and 4.

Item 6

Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

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

Experts are requested to submit written contributions related to agenda item 3 to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible. For further information, please contact Iris Macculi (iris.macculi@unctad.org), Digital Economy Capacity-building Section, E-Commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division of Technology and Logistics.