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Trade and Development Board
Intergovernmental Group of Experts
on E-commerce and the Digital Economy
Eighth session
Geneva, 12–14 May 2025
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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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 eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, which will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 May 2025, should be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda) and introductory statements. The closing plenary meeting, on Wednesday, 14 May 2025, will be devoted to the adoption of the report and the provisional agenda of the ninth 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 12 May (after the election of officers and general statements) to the morning of 14 May, can be devoted to substantive items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/8/1

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development

5. The Trade and Development Board decided, at its seventy-sixth executive session, that the focus of the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy should be making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development.

6. As the world is facing deeper and more interconnected global challenges, it becomes critical to enhance understanding of their complexities to inform policy debates at all levels. There is an increasingly close relationship between rapid digitalization, environmental sustainability and inclusive development. Major impacts on the environment are generated over the digitalization life cycle, and this has implications from the trade and development perspective. Ensuring inclusive and environmentally sustainable digitalization requires policy measures, at the national, regional and international levels, as well actions by all stakeholders towards sustainable consumption and production.

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

(a) What are the main environmental impacts of digitalization over its life cycle and how can they be addressed, and what are the implications from the trade and development perspective, particularly for developing countries?

(b) How can sustainable development gains from digitalization be ensured over its life cycle, looking particularly, among others, at critical minerals linked to the digital transformation process and waste management?

(c) How can national, regional and international policymaking and cooperation contribute to digitalization that is sustainable and inclusive and addresses environmental impacts, in particular for those furthest behind?

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/8/2 Making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development

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

8. At its seventh session in April 2024, 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 should discuss progress in measuring electronic commerce (e-commerce) and digital economy work by relevant international organizations, measurement of the value of e-commerce, non-survey-based measurement of e-commerce and the digital economy and development of capacities in measuring e-commerce and the digital economy.

9. The above issues were discussed at the fifth meeting of the Working Group, held on 11 and 12 December 2024. A Chair's summary of these discussions is presented to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy at its eighth session.

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

Documentation

TD/B/EDE/8/3 Chair's summary of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy

Item 5
Provisional agenda of the ninth 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 ninth 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 the agenda item 3 to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible to ecde@unctad.org. For further information, please contact Pilar Fajarnes (pilar.fajarnes@unctad.org), Digital Economy Policy Research Section, E-commerce and the Digital Economy Branch, Division of Technology and Logistics.