



**FIRST INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON E-COMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
4-6 October 2017
Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**PROGRAMME TIMETABLE
[as at 29 September]**

WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER	
10.00–11.00	<p>Opening plenary session of the IGE</p> <p>Item 1 - Election of officers Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Item 3 - Discussion regarding the development dimension of e-commerce and the digital economy, addressing associated opportunities and challenges</p> <p>Introductory remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD <p>Presentation of the Note by the Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD
11.00–13.00	<p>Session 1: Development implications of the digital economy <i>The session will set the stage and highlight some broad observations on the development implications of the digital economy, and implications for policy making.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andrew W. Wyckoff, Director, OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation ▪ Irmgard Nübler, Senior Economist, Research Department, ILO ▪ Richard Heeks, Professor of Development Informatics in the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
15.00–18.00	<p>Session 2: What do developing countries need in order to build competitive advantages through e-commerce and the digital economy? <i>Assessing the state-of-play of e-commerce to take appropriate action and devise strategies is of utmost importance for developing countries which would like to engage in the digital economy. This session will provide best practices with regard to existing tools to assess e-readiness and guidance on most-effective digital economy policies, especially the legal and regulatory environment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of UNCTAD B2C E-Commerce Index 2017, UNCTAD Secretariat ▪ Helani Galpaya, Chief Executive Officer, LIRNEasia ▪ Abdoullah Cissé, Professor, Université Gaston Berger de Saint Louis, Senegal <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
18:30-20.00	<p>Cocktail reception (Bar Serpent)</p>



THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER

10.00-13.00	<p>Session 3: What can developing countries do in order to strengthen their physical and technology infrastructure?</p> <p><i>The need for connectivity is explicitly specified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the targets of Goal 9 is that of striving to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in LDCs by 2020. The low level of broadband penetration in many developing countries is particularly unsatisfactory. There are different ways for Governments to strengthen the digital infrastructure. Best practices will be presented on how to accelerate the roll-out of relevant ICT connectivity, especially broadband connectivity and improve on physical and technology infrastructure, in developing countries, including in rural areas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phillippa Biggs, Content Coordinator, Broadband Commission for Digital Development, ITU ▪ Konstantinos Komaitis, Director, Policy Development at the Internet Society, ISOC ▪ Michael Ferrantino, Lead Economist for Trade and Competitiveness at the World Bank <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
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15.00-18.00	<p>Session 4: How can developed countries partner with developing countries, in the most impactful way, to maximize opportunities and address challenges relating to e-commerce and the digital economy?</p> <p><i>In view of the rapid pace at which the digital economy is evolving and the current major digital and other divides between as well as within countries, more effective support to developing countries to engage in and benefit from the digital economy is urgently needed. One way to capitalize on existing knowledge and maximize synergies with development partners is to tap into the eTrade for all platform. The eTrade for all initiative enables developing countries to find out more easily what kind of assistance that is available from the international community in seven policy areas. Member States, donors, international organizations and the private sector can all participate in and contribute to the resource.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD ▪ Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director at Enhanced Integrated Framework Secretariat, WTO ▪ Mere Falemaka, Permanent Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum to the WTO ▪ Daniel Crosby, King and Spalding Partners <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
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FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER

10.00-13.00	<p>Session 5: The way forward</p> <p><i>This session will aim at defining the work programme of the next session of the IGE based on the previous discussions.</i></p> <p>Issues to pursue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ David Souter, Consultant and researcher on development, governance, rights, ICTs and the Internet <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
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15.00-18.00	<p>Session 6: Closing session</p> <p>Item 4 - Provisional agenda for the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-Commerce and the Digital Economy</p> <p>Item 5 - Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-Commerce and the Digital Economy</p>
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