



NOTIFICATION

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy Eighth session

Geneva, 12–14 May 2025
Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

DTL/MISC/2025/3
(24/37gd)

The eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be held from 12 to 14 May 2025. The session will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 May, in room XIX of the Palais des Nations. The provisional agenda for the session is contained in document TD/B/EDE/8/1.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The substantive agenda items for the session are as follows:

- (a) Making digitalization work for inclusive and sustainable development;
- (b) Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

Further information and documentation for this session may be found at <https://unctad.org/meeting/intergovernmental-group-experts-e-commerce-and-digital-economy-eighth-session>.

Written contributions

To facilitate deliberations and the informal exchange of experiences and good practices on the topics to be discussed, member States and observers are requested to submit written contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat by Friday, 25 April 2025, at ecde@unctad.org.

Written contributions that share experiences, good practices and forward-looking suggestions with regard to the trade and development dimension of inclusive and environmentally sustainable digitalization, as well as related policies, are welcome, to inform the discussion on the first substantive agenda item, based on the following guiding questions approved by the Trade and Development Board at its seventy-sixth executive session:

- (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?



Participation

This session is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Online registration at <https://indico.un.org/event/1012738/> is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission in Geneva will suffice.

Further inquiries regarding registration should be addressed to meetings@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated government experts from developing countries, to cover the cost of travel to Geneva, as well as a daily subsistence allowance. The decision as to which of the nominated experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the experts, on the principle of equitable geographical and gender-based representation and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular the least developed countries. Requests for such funding should be made by 15 March 2025 by the permanent mission as part of the official nomination of the expert representative(s) to attend the session and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; postal and email addresses; telephone and fax numbers; and name of contact person at the relevant permanent mission in Geneva. Once the list of experts to receive financial assistance has been finalized, all travel arrangements will be made in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in room XIX of the Palais des Nations. Those who cannot attend the session in person will be able to listen to the live audio stream in the six official languages of the United Nations. The link to listen live will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one hour before the start of the session.

Participants will receive a digital badge consisting of their photo, a quick response (QR) code and the name and date of the meeting. The digital badge will be sent to each participant by email once they have been accredited by the meeting organizer and should be downloaded to a mobile telephone or other mobile device. Participants may also print the digital badge in order to use the QR code. Participants are also requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to scan their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations. Visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Contact details

Substantive inquiries should be addressed to the Division on Technology and Logistics, email: ecde@unctad.org.



Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development
12 February 2025