Launch of the UN Trade Digitalization Index (TDI): Mainstreaming Trade in Digital Connectivity

27 June 2024, Aid for Trade Global Review 2024, 14:00 - 15:00, WTO Room B

Introduction

Trade digitalization, also sometimes referred to as digital trade facilitation or paperless trade, has been increasingly recognized as a key element of trade and development policies geared to achieving the sustainable development goals. Digitalization of trade and supply chains is essential to enabling more inclusive trade, enhancing digital connectivity between countries, as well as facilitating control of the quality of goods traded and reducing CO2 emissions associated with trade transactions. In this context, this event will introduce the UN Trade Digitalization Index (TDI), a joint effort of the five UN regional commissions and UNCTAD, coordinated by ESCAP. The TDI measures the extent to which trade digitalization has progressed in over 160 countries and provide a new basis for evidence-based policy making in this important area. Based on the TDI, speakers in the session will discuss how trade digitalization may be best integrated in broader digital transformation and connectivity plans.

Opening remarks by Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of ESCAP and UnderSecretary General of the UN - on behalf of the six UN partner organizations

Launch presentation

- The Trade Digitalization Index (TDI) 2024: Global State of Play in Trade Digitalization
  Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP

Panel discussion on Mainstreaming Trade in Digital Connectivity and the TDI

- Mainstreaming trade digitalization in digital transformation and connectivity plans
  Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

- Public-private sector collaboration for trade digitalization and transformation
  Valerie Picard, Head of Trade, International Chamber of Commerce

- International standards for trade digitalization and interoperability
  Maria-Teresa Pisani, Acting Chief of the Trade Facilitation Section, UNECE

- Trade digitalization in Economic partnership agreements
  María Vásquez Callo-Müller, “Trade Law 4.0” Project Fellow, University of Lucerne

Way Forward