Unleashing the Power of E-Commerce for Development

18 July, 4.30 - 6 p.m.
Amphitheater, Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi

DESCRIPTION

This Ministerial Roundtable will hear the perspectives of Ministers, business executives and leading representatives of the development community on what policies – including legal and regulatory frameworks – are needed to unleash the full potential of e-commerce in developing countries. The Ministerial Roundtable will be followed by the official launch of the eTrade for All initiative, a timely, multi-stakeholder vehicle for supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. eTrade for All represents a novel approach to providing more coherent, efficient and transparent support to developing and transition economies in policy areas that are key to building the e-commerce readiness.

KEY ISSUES

ICT (Information and Communications Technology) is a key driver for increased connectivity among people, businesses and markets. It is thus a driver of development. Through improved ICT, new e-commerce and payment solutions have emerged, drastically reducing entry, transaction, and other trade cost for exporters, especially SMEs. B2C (Business-to-Consumer) e-commerce already amounts to 1.2 trillion USD (2013) and B2B (Business-to-Business) e-commerce is estimated at a whopping 15 trillion USD. According to some recent estimates, approximately 12 percent of the global goods trade is conducted via international e-commerce. But the "e-commerce divide" is still wide. Far from all countries have been able to tap its potential. This round table will focus on the policies – including legal and regulatory frameworks – that are needed to unleash the full potential of e-commerce in developing countries.

PARTICIPANTS

Opening remarks: Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Moderator: Ms. Kati Suominen, Founder and CEO of Nextrade Group and of TradeUp Capital Fund, United States

Panellists:
- H.E. Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Commerce, Pakistan
- H.E. Mr. François Kanimba, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda
- Mr. Bob Collymore, CEO, Safaricom, Kenya
- Ms. Berna Ozsar Kumcu, Secretary-General, World SME Forum, Turkey
- Mr. Leonard Stiegeler, General Manager, Ringier Africa, Switzerland
- Mr. Bob Collymore, CEO, Safaricom, Kenya
- Ms. Hanne Melin Orbe, Director Global Public Policy, eBay Inc., Switzerland
- Mr. Ibrahima Diagne, Chairman, African Alliance for E-Commerce, Senegal

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