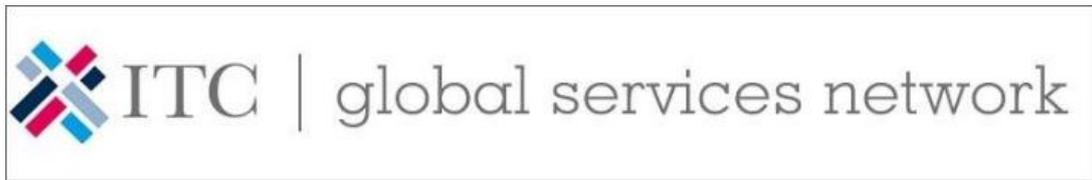


If this message doesn't display correctly, [click here](#)



EVENTS

Save the date for ITC sessions at UNCTAD E-commerce Week

SAVE THE DATE

**eCommerce
Week**

1-5 April 2019
Palais des Nations, Geneva



From Digitalization to Development

[Technology, Data and Global Trade: New Pathways of Development](#) on the opening day of UNCTAD E-commerce Week

Date and Time: Monday 1 April, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Room XXVI, UNCTAD headquarters, Geneva.

This ITC-Huawei joint session will examine the impact of digital transformation on future trade and investment, as well as explore the shape of global standards in the digital age. The session will cover some of the following topics:

- How will technological innovations such as blockchain, AI, 5G, IoT, robotics and additive manufacturing impact future trade?
- What can be done to ensure inclusiveness in future trade?
- Is the current process of international rule-making adequate to keep up with the technological advancement?
- Are the emerging international rules on data conducive to future trade and investment

[Monetizing big data in Africa](#)

Date and Time: Wednesday 3 April, 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM,

Location: Room XXI (Building E- 1st floor), UNCTAD headquarters, Geneva.

“Data is the new oil”. Data is being produced, stored and monetized around the world in an exponential manner. The market is predicted to be worth \$203 billion by the end of 2020. The session will review current and future opportunities specific to Africa, and the current developments in unleashing the potential of Big Data in the continent. The session will cover some of the following topics:

- Management, storage and use of data in Africa
- Recent data privacy drive
- Enabling environment for the collection & use of personal data
- Big data, a critical resource for the development of the African digital economy

[Collaborating for success in e-commerce: how jointly managed services can enable SMEs to conduct international e-Commerce](#)

Date and Time: Wednesday 3 April, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Room XXI (Building E- 1st floor), UNCTAD headquarters, Geneva.

Many of the most common barriers that hinder SMEs from succeeding in e-commerce can be overcome by collaborating and sharing resources. By working together, enterprises can share costs – accessing technology, payment solutions, transport and logistics, import and export services and promotions. The session will cover some of the following topics:

- An overview of the different forms of collaborative business models: examples of different forms of collaborative structure and how these have been used to support e-commerce from developing countries
- Logistics: models for consolidation of local and international shipments
- Fiscal and legal management: handling duties and taxes and legal issues of international e-commerce
- Payments: how can groups of SMEs better access payment solutions by working together?
- Promotion: how can groups of SMEs share promotional budgets and raise awareness of their collective offering

REGULATORY NEWS

[The European Union will modernise its copyright rules to fit the digital age](#)

On 26 March, the European Parliament approved a [copyright reform](#) to fit the digital age. The new Copyright Directive aims at benefiting citizens as well as the creative industries, which represent 11.65 million jobs, 6.8% of GDP and are worth €915,000 million per year in the EU. The Directive will improve the negotiating position of creators before platforms, which will be now responsible for [copyright infringements](#) by their users. The Council of the European Union will formally endorse the adopted text in the coming weeks. Member States will have 2 years to adjust their national legislation accordingly.

France to introduce a digital levy on platforms' sales commissions and revenue from targeted advertising

French Parliament [will discuss](#) legislation on a digital levy that can go up to 5% in April. The [digital tax](#) would apply to commissions for sales done through platforms and revenue from targeted advertising and the sale of user data. Companies subject to the tax would be those with global digital revenue of above Eur 750 million and French revenue surpassing Eur 25 million. Collection of the tax is planned retroactively from [1 January 2019](#) and is expected to reach Eur 500 million per year.

Reinvigorating interest at the WTO on the operationalisation of the LDC services waiver

During 19-21 March, a number of [services meetings](#) took place at the WTO, including at the Council for Trade in Services, the Working Party on Domestic Regulation and the Committee on Specific Commitments. Issues discussed included e-commerce and cybersecurity, regulatory disciplines and scheduling issues on mode 4, as well as the LDC services waiver.

ITC made a presentation at the Council for Trade in Services meeting, introducing ITC initiatives on services trade and the LDC waiver, including the ongoing collaboration between ITC and WTO to integrate the notifications done under the waiver into the I-TIP database. This will allow users to easily identify notifications in specific sectors and markets. The two organizations are also exploring joint technical assistance initiatives in the context of the waiver, focused on specific LDC countries and sectors.

Indonesia's plan to position itself as Southeast Asia's digital hub

The Indonesian government will issue or revise [regulations](#) dealing with the digital economy as a way to position the country as a digital hub in Southeast Asia. Topics under discussion for new regulations include e-commerce, personal data protection and an e-commerce tax, the revision of Presidential Regulation No. 74/2017 on the e-commerce road map and Government Regulation No. 82/2012 on the management of electronic transactions and systems. A [new report](#) estimates that by 2030 digital trade could generate \$ 172 billion of economic value for Indonesia.

BUSINESS NEWS

Spotify accuses Apple for stifling competition on in-app purchases

On 13 March, Spotify [filed](#) a legal complaint at the European Commission, accusing Apple of abusing their position as owner of the App Store. Spotify argues that the 30% charge that Apple takes from in-app purchases puts Spotify's app and other apps not developed by the iPhone creator at a disadvantage. Daniel Ek, Chief Executive at Spotify, [states](#) that current rules in the App Store force them to either inflate the price of premium services or submit to "technical and experience-limiting restrictions" on the app.

Uber to buy its rival Careem in the Middle East

Uber is in discussions to [buy](#) the Dubai-based biggest ride-hailing app in the Middle East, Careem. Established in 2012, Careem has now more than 30 million customers, being valued at around \$3 billion. Although Uber has retreated from China, Russia and eight South East Asian countries, they seem to be playing ambitiously before their IPO, expected to happen in the [second part of 2019](#).

[The China-Europe freight train for cross-border e-commerce made its first trip in March](#)

China added a new route to its China-Europe freight train with a service exclusive for [cross-border e-commerce goods](#). The first trip from Zhengzhou, capital of Central China's Henan province, to Liege, Belgium, took place on 2 March. This is the first freight line in China to operate under customs surveillance code "9610", introduced by the General Administration of Customs of China specifically for trade transactions by individuals or e-commerce enterprises conducted through e-commerce platforms. This [customs regime](#) facilitates customs clearance through the release upon manifest verification and consolidated declaration, provided that all relevant documents are sent to e-commerce customs clearance management platforms in real time.



TRADE I
FOR

To submit an information item for circulation, please send an email to tradeinservices@intracen.org

To subscribe to ITC Global Services Network, [click here](#).

To unsubscribe to ITC Global Services Network, [click here](#).

[Click this link to opt-out](#)