
A FIFD AND FED JOINT SEMINAR

*Exploiting synergies between investment facilitation and
e-commerce to promote trade connectivity and development*

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- Half the global population still does not have access to the Internet - around 75% of these are concentrated in just 20 developing countries
- Global Internet penetration has grown at only 2-3% annually over the last 15 years
- If current growth rates persist, more than 3 billion people will remain unconnected by 2020



- **By 2020:**

- Up to 200 billion devices could make up the Internet of Things
- Increased use of digital technologies could add 1.36 trillion to global economic output
- The gig economy could account for up to 40% of all jobs
- Online retail sales will rise to \$4 trillion
- 6.7 million 3D printers will be in operation



***Strive to provide universal and affordable access
to the Internet in least developed countries by
2020***

- This is SDG 9.c – committed to by all global leaders in September 2015



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Bridging the Digital Divide: Harnessing e-commerce and investment facilitation for inclusive trade and development



- How to leverage advances in technology for good rather than entrenching the digital divide?
- What are the key barriers holding back investments in hard and soft digital infrastructure?
- How to unlock capital and support to address these barriers?
- How to ensure people use increased Internet access to create new businesses and raise incomes?
- What is the role for trade policy in answering these questions?



World Economic Forum's Internet for All initiative

- Serves as a platform to help public, private and international actors collaborate on targeted projects to bring new Internet users online
- Developed a model for businesses and governments to estimate what it will cost, in dollar terms, to close the digital divide in a given country
- 4 categories inhibiting Internet access:
 - i. limited infrastructure;
 - ii. lack of affordability;
 - iii. poor digital skills; and
 - iv. absence of locally relevant online content.



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- What can countries do to help facilitate investment flows into digital infrastructure?
- What needs to be done nationally and where can international collaboration help?
- What level of transparency on investment policy issues – and on which issues?
- How to make it easier for companies to communicate with the governments of the countries in which they invest?
- What procedures need to be streamlined and how?
- Are there specific needs for different types of sectors, particularly those related to digital and other sustainable development infrastructure?
- What support do least developed countries need to put in place an enabling investment environment and what role for technical assistance?



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- Do national laws recognise contracts concluded online; how to build recognition between national electronic and digital signatures?
- What national and international rules are needed to govern mobile payments and fin-tech?
- How to ensure interoperability between different types of electronic payment channels?
- What barriers do logistics service providers face in delivering internationally?
- What type of technical assistance do countries need where e-commerce rules are not already in place?
- Can the TFA help to increase use of digital customs procedures that lower transaction costs – a particularly important consideration for SMEs?



Overlaps between investment and e-commerce facilitation

- Accepting contracts or supporting documents electronically
- Electronic single window mechanisms
- Examining the work of other international forums – in both the e-commerce and investment context efforts

Thank you!

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