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

- 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 one 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?
• 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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