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Republic of Uganda
Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment

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NOTE

Within the UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics, the ICT Policy Section carries out policy-oriented analytical work on the development implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and e-commerce. It is responsible for the preparation of the Information Economy Report (IER) as well as thematic studies on ICT for Development.

The ICT Policy Section promotes international dialogue on issues related to ICTs for development and contributes to building developing countries' capacities to measure the information economy and to design and implement relevant policies and legal frameworks. It also monitors the global state of e-commerce legislation (unctad.org/cyberlawtracker). Since 2016, the section has coordinated a multi-stakeholders' initiative entitled eTrade for all (etradeforall.org), which aims to improve the ability of developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), to use and benefit from e-commerce.

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The following symbols have been used in the tables:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported. Rows in tables have been omitted in those cases where no data are available for any of the elements in the row;

A dash (-) indicates that the item is equal to zero or its value is negligible;

Reference to "dollars" (US$) means United States of America dollars, unless otherwise indicated;

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to the totals because of rounding.

PREFACE

The eTrade for all initiative, launched at the fourteenth Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD in July 2016, is a practical example of how to harness the digital economy in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 8, 9, and 17. The initiative seeks to raise awareness, enhance synergies, and increase the scale of existing and new efforts by the development community to strengthen the ability of developing countries to engage in and benefit from e-commerce by addressing seven relevant policy areas:

- E-commerce readiness assessment and strategy formulation
- ICT infrastructure and services
- Trade logistics and trade facilitation
- Payment solutions
- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- E-commerce skills development
- Access to financing

As part of the initiative, demand-driven assessments are envisaged to provide a basic analysis of the current e-commerce situation in the countries concerned, and to identify opportunities and barriers. The resulting reports will serve as a valuable input to these countries' involvement in various discussions related to e-commerce and digital trade, such as in the context of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

It may furthermore help LDCs to identify areas in which they could benefit from assistance by partners of eTrade for all.

The Uganda Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment is the thirteenth such assessment conducted by UNCTAD and the first in Eastern and Southern Africa. This report is expected to contribute to the Government of Uganda's efforts to build a robust, safe and business-friendly e-commerce ecosystem.

With the eTrade for all partners, UNCTAD is committed to supporting Uganda in its resolve to harness the potential of e-commerce for development.

Shamika N. Sirimanne
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ABBREVIATIONS

BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
BoU	Bank of Uganda
CERT	Computer Emergency Response Team
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DFS	Digital Financial Services
EAC	East African Community
EAPS	East African Payment Systems
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GoU	Government of Uganda
GVC	Global Value Chains
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDI	ICT Developmental Index
IP	Internet Protocol
IPv6	Internet Protocol version six
IRA	Insurance Regulatory Authority
ISPs	Internet Service Providers
IoT	Internet of Things
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LGs	Local Governments
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDI	Microfinance Deposit-taking Institutions
MEACA	Ministry of East African Community Affairs
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MoICT & NG	Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoTIC	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives

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