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Solomon Islands
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.

Reference to companies and their activities should not be construed as an endorsement by UNCTAD of those companies or their activities.

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;

Reference to "SBD" means Solomon Islands Dollars, unless otherwise indicated; 1 SBD = 0.126 US$ (June 20, 2018).

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 Solomon Islands Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment is the tenth such assessment conducted by UNCTAD and the third for a Pacific Islands Nation. Requests for eT Ready have been received from Kiribati, Niue, Tonga and Tuvalu, which UNCTAD hopes to support in coming months. With this report, UNCTAD contributes to the recommendations of the joint WTO/UNCTAD/PIFS Workshop on e-Commerce for the Pacific to have all PIF members benefit from an eTrade Readiness Assessment as a first step towards developing a coherent regional E-Commerce strategy. The Solomon Islands Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment and action matrix contribute as well to the Pacific Aid-for-Trade strategy action plan.

With the eTrade for all partners, UNCTAD is committed to continue supporting Solomon Islands and other Pacific Islands Nations in its resolve to harness the potential of e-commerce for its development.

Shamika N. Sirimanne
Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

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ABBREVIATIONS

AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
BTCA	Better Than Cash Alliance
COD	Cash on Delivery
DFS	Digital Financial Services
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
DSFG	Digital Services Financial Group
EFTPOS	Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ICTSU	ICT Support Unit
IER	Information Economy Report
ITSSI	Information Technology Society Solomon Islands
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MCA	Ministry of Communications and Aviation
MCILI	Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labor and Immigration
MEHRD	Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development
MFAET	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MoFT	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
MoID	Ministry of Infrastructure Development
MoJLA	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NDS	National Development Strategy
NSO	National Statistics Office
NTDC	National Trade Development Council
SICED	Solomon Islands Customs and Excise Division (SICED)
SIPA	Solomon Islands Ports Authority
TCSI	Telecommunications Commission Solomon Islands
TF	Trade Facilitation
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TPO	Trade Promotion Organization
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UPU	Universal Postal Union
US$	US Dollar
WCO	World Customs Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
w3w	what3words

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