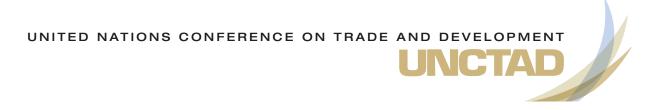


Republic of Vanuatu Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment







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NOTE

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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;

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

For the purpose of this report: US\$1 = VUV 110 and VUV1 = US\$0.0091



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 Vanuatu Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment is the ninth such assessment conducted by UNCTAD and the third for a Pacific Islands Nation, after Samoa in July 2017 and Solomon Islands in March 2018. Requests for eT Ready assessments have also 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 PIFS members benefit from an eTrade Readiness Assessment as a first step towards developing a coherent regional e-commerce policy; The Vanuatu Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment and action matrix contributes as well to the Pacific Aid-for-Trade strategy action plan.

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

Shamika N. Sirimanne

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ABBREVIATIONS

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ADB Asian Development Bank **MTTCINVB** Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce, Industry and Ni-Vanuatu Business AfT Aid-for-Trade **NCTF** National Committee on Trade **APG** Asia/Pacific Group on Money Facilitation Laundering **NSDP** National Sustainable Development Plan **ASMP** ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Pacific **NTDC** National Trade Development Committee ASYCUDA Automated System for Customs Data **NTFSC** National Trade Facilitation Steering **ATM** Automated Teller Machine Committee COD Cash on Delivery **OGCIO** Office of the Government Chief **CRMC** Customs Reforms and Modernization Information Officer Committee PCI Payment Card Industry **DCIR** Department of Customs and Inland **PICs** Pacific Island Countries Revenues **PICTA** Pacific Island Countries Trade **DFS** Digital Financial Services Agreement DP Development Partner **PIFS** Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat **DSPPAC** Department of Strategic Policy, **POS** Point of Sale Planning and Aid Coordination PPP Public-Private Partnership **DtF** Distance to Frontier **PSP** Payment Service Provider **EFTPOS** Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale **RBV** Reserve Bank of Vanuatu **EIF Enhanced Integrated Framework** State Law Office **SLO ESWS** Electronic Single Window System **SME** Small and Medium Enterprises **FATF** Financial Action Task Force on Money **TDD** Trade Development Division Laundering **TDU** Trade Development Unit **FIT** Financial Inclusion Taskforce **TFA** Trade Facilitation Agreement **FSP** Financial Service Providers **TPF** Trade Policy Framework G₂P Government-to-People **TPFIM** Trade Policy Framework **GDP Gross Domestic Product** Implementation Matrix **GfG** Governance for Growth **TRR** Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator GoV Government of Vanuatu **UNCTAD** United Nations Conference on Trade **ICT** Information and Communication and Development Technology

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