



Republic of Vanuatu 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 ;

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

Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD



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ABBREVIATIONS

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

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