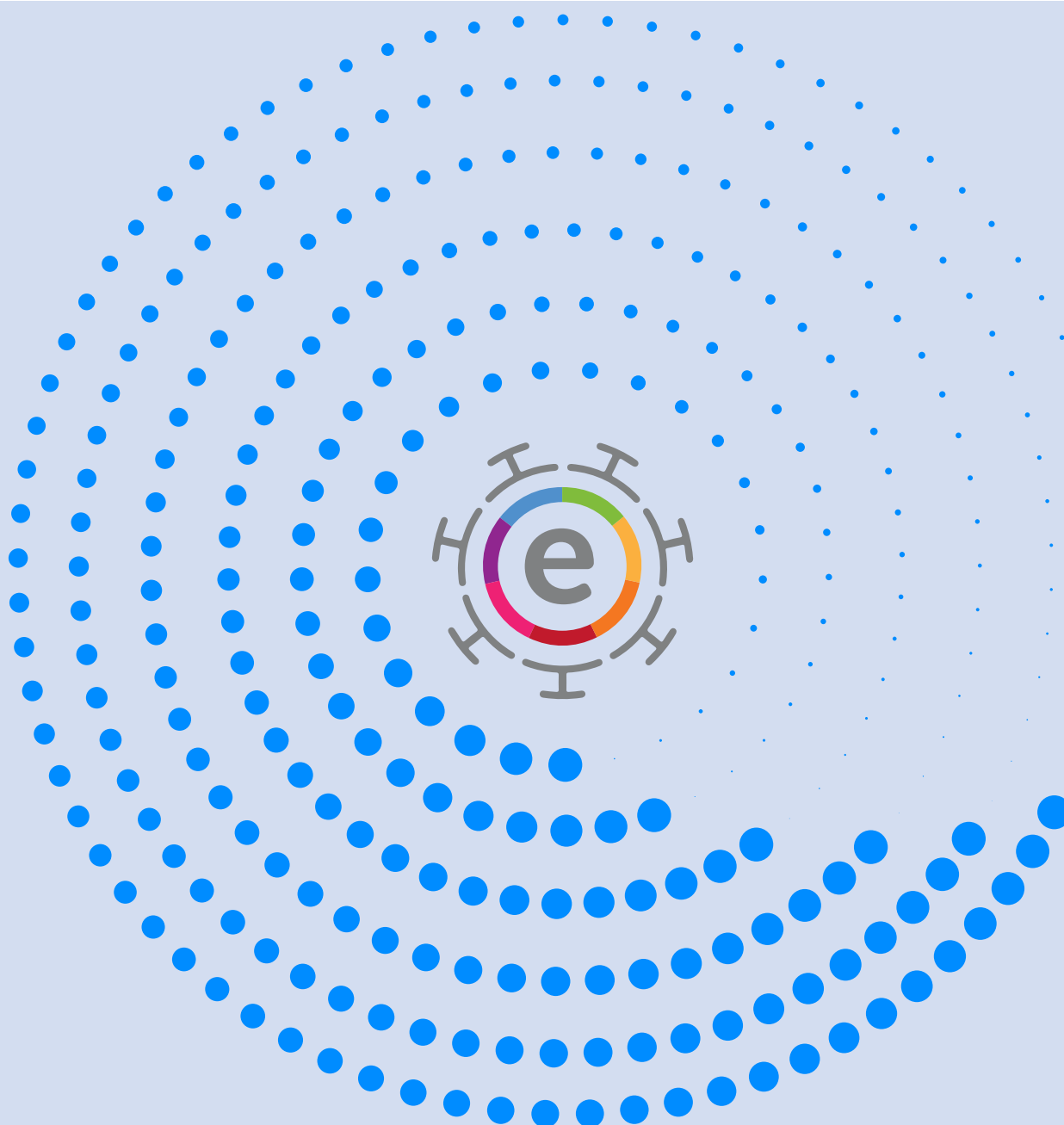


COVID-19 Impact on e-commerce

Post-pandemic COVID-19 Economic Recovery:
Harnessing E-commerce for the UNECE Transition Economies



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

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Preface

The COVID-19 pandemic caused disruptions to global trade, supply chains and labour markets, curbed consumption and investments, and slowed economic activity worldwide. It created significant repercussions in the UNECE region, including in countries with economies in transition. Although e-commerce experienced a boost, a myriad of challenges, old and new, surfaced. Many countries adjusted their policies and undertook initiatives to address immediate needs. Despite these attempts, much remains to be done to fully harness the power of e-commerce for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive post COVID recovery.

This report explores the impact of the pandemic on domestic and cross-border e-commerce in the transition economies of the UNECE region and highlights key areas for attention of policy makers. The report gives particular attention to trade facilitation and logistics as a major facilitator of e-commerce. During the pandemic, the need for greater trade facilitation became obvious for faster movement of goods across borders, including essential goods such as medicine and food.

Through the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), UNECE has for long been a leader in the development of norms and guidance on trade facilitation and electronic business. I hope that this report will contribute to greater understanding of the policy options for advancing e-commerce and fostering digitalization, as key levers for sustainable development in UNECE member States.



Olga Algayerova

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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The report benefitted from the series of discussions for the preparation of the Global Report – “COVID-19 and e-commerce – a global review”, the UNECE webinar on “Harnessing e-commerce post-COVID-19: opportunities and challenges for transition economies” and regional reports prepared by the United Nations Regional Commissions. Special appreciation goes to Universal Postal Union (UPU) for providing customized data for the UNECE member States.

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