# eTrade for all Connecting the dots



LEVERAGING SYNERGIES FOR AN INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ECONOMY



## **Foreword**

I am pleased to share with you this Year in Review of the eTrade for all initiative, which marks its four-year anniversary in July 2020. When the 15 bold founding partners of this ground-breaking initiative gathered at the fourteenth Ministerial conference of UNCTAD in Nairobi in 2016, the global outlook was very different. Confidence in multilateralism was high, following the agreement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The opportunities – and challenges – of e-commerce were gaining novel recognition from many countries, and general optimism was widely shared.

The mood has radically shifted since then, challenging those very same conditions. Nationalist headwinds, mistrust in global policy solutions, growing socio-economic and digital divides have spread across the continents. And in recent months, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a global health emergency and economic crisis.

Against this background, the eTrade for all initiative has become even more important. Mitigating the effects of the pandemic and fostering new strategies for post-Covid recovery place even more emphasis on the core message of the eTrade for all initiative; leveraging digital opportunities in an inclusive manner is essential as the world tries to cope with the fallout from the crisis. In order to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital economy, we need to work more, not less, together. I am therefore personally delighted to witness the strong commitment to and constant implication of the growing number of eTrade for all partners in all of the initiative's growing activities.

Our shared commitments have generated widely acknowledged and greatly needed programmes, such as the eTrade Readiness Assessments and the eTrade for Women initiatives. Two independent evaluations, the detailed findings of which are highlighted in this report, have acknowledged that eTrade for all is making the digital economy more inclusive, thanks to its role as a transparent and efficient "global help desk".

eTrade for all has evolved into a solid, trusted, neutral and useful source of information and a potent catalyst for partnerships across the digital economy's global landscape. More than ever, a safe haven is needed in these troubled waters. Together we will continue to collaborate to connect the dots for gainful benefit from the digital economy in developing countries.

Mukhisa Kituyi

Secretary-General of UNCTAD

# All this would not have been possible without the generous contributions of the Governments of:

Australia
Estonia
Finland
Germany
Korea
The Netherlands
- & -
Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)
International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)

# A word from the eTrade for all team

Welcome to the third edition of our Year in Review. During these last few years we have been very active in building synergies to better harness the complexities of the digital transformation for inclusive development.

The year 2019-2020 saw a consolidation of major efforts. Our partnership has also grown and deepened. A significant milestone was reached, with two external evaluations held over the last few months, acknowledging the good work done and the major steps achieved by leveraging the expertise and resources of all partners working together.

These evaluations have also highlighted the complexity of the task, the fragility of the environment in which we operate, and the huge needs and expectations which lie ahead. It is our intention to explore ways to implement relevant recommendations stemming from these evaluations with the support of our partners and the development community, to make eTrade for all even more relevant to those that we serve.

Early 2020, we were also confronted with a major crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic. While the economic fallout is hard to assess, the crisis has shown the importance and value of digital technologies for fostering a more inclusive digital economy. The first virtual eWeek 2020 illustrated that, even with various lockdown measures and travel restrictions, it is possible to hold global, multistakeholder dialogues in support of development.

eTrade for all will continue to act as the information-hub and catalytic partner you have come to know and appreciate, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Learn with us, grow with us, work with us. Let's continue to connect the dots.

# Connecting the dots for inclusive & sustainable development in the digital economy

# The eTrade for all initiative in a snapshot

#### A multi-stakeholder community sharing the same vision



#### A partnership with tangible achievements From April 2019 to April 2020







#### A multilingual information hub









134

Monthly newsletters

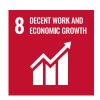
Daily news digest

Relevant events

Partners' publications

Country profiles

#### **Sustainable Development Goals**





The initiative collaborates toward the realization of

2 SDGs

#### **Essential resources on** eTradeforall.org

# Development solutions

Technical assistance offered by our partners, classified in the seven Policy Areas, and available in English, French and Spanish.

## 7 Key policy areas



E-commerce assessments



ICT infrastructure and services



Payment solutions



Trade logistics



Legal and regulatory frameworks



Skills development



Access to finance

# Why a global partnership?

The digital revolution has been transforming our lives, economies and societies at an unprecedented speed and scale. We have witnessed how new technologies can significantly contribute to sustainable development, but positive outcomes cannot be taken for granted.

In a world where almost half of the population has limited or no access to the Internet, widening digital divides threaten to leave developing countries, and especially least developed countries, further behind. Digital advances have already led to the creation of enormous wealth in record time, but this is highly concentrated in a small number of countries, companies, and individuals.

"Under current policies and regulations, this trajectory is likely to continue, further contributing to rising inequality (...) Inclusivity is essential to building a digital economy that delivers for all."

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

eTrade for all was born in 2016 from this common vision: digital advances can be a powerful driver of economic growth, inclusive trade, and job creation, including in the developing world But concerted global efforts are required to spread the rapidly expanding digital economy's gains to the many people who currently reap little benefit from it and to close the digital divide.

Recognizing this, 15 visionary partners joined forces during UNCTAD's 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference to launch the eTrade for all initiative.

Coordinating actions has the overall positive effect of greater transparency and aid efficiency for the programmes involved, as well as an increased impact of the activities concerned.

One of the main objectives of the initiative is to help developing countries understand and navigate more easily across the technical and financial cooperation programmes that the international community offers, with the overarching goal of closing the digital divides and spurring sustainable development.

93%

Within mobile broadband reach

(3G or higher)

预览已结束, 完整报告链接和二维码如下:

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5 8735



