



Forum on ICTs, Trade and Economic Growth

Launch of the *African ICTs, Trade and Economic Growth Initiative*

Addis Ababa, 14-16 March 2006

Tuesday, 14 March 2006

09:00 – 09:45

Session I: **Opening session**

Chair: Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer in Charge, Development Information Services Division, ECA

Welcoming remarks by:

Goodwill message by ECA Executive Secretary Abdoulie Janneh, to be read by Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Development Information Services Division, ECA

HE Mr Yves Boulanger, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Canada

Pierre Ouedraogo, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), France

Opening speech by:

Hon. Ahmed Tussa, State of Minister for Trade and Industry, Ethiopia

**09:45– 10:45 Session IIa: **The International e-Environment:
Global economic trends****

Chair: Richard Bourassa, Director, International Policy, Electronic Commerce Branch, Industry Canada

Rapporteur: Clement Dzidonou, INIIT, Ghana

This session will focus on the economic dimension of international e-Trade. E-trade in goods and services will be examined in terms of global trends and the significance in the African context will be explored.

In Partnership with



- Globalization and International Trade, Mario Apostolov, UNECE, Geneva (15 min)
- The Global Telecommunication Sector, Shola Taylor, Kemilinks International, UK (15 min)
- African Perspectives on Globalization: Focus on International Trade, Augustin Fosu, Economic and Social Policy Division, ECA

Case Study

- Business Process Outsourcing activities in Ghana, Kofi Benning, Ghana (10 minutes).

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 Session IIb: The International e-environment: Trade policy trends and issues

Chair: Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer in Charge, Development Information Services Division, ECA

Rapporteur: Andrew Gakiria, Kenya

This session will focus on international trade and policy issues in e-commerce and provide the context for the current the Global e-Trade from international trade experts. Analysis of global trends in trade and the impacts of the electronic environment will be highlighted with an assessment of their implications for African Countries.

- Global e-trade environment: implications for global e-policy, Richard Bourassa, Industry Canada, Canada(15 min)
- The impact of ICTs on economic growth and trade, Ms. Susan Teltscher, UNCTAD, Switzerland (15 min)
- The African Perspective on Policy Trends and Issues, Ms. Amal Elbeshbishi, Trade and Regional Integration Division, ECA (15 min)
- Gender, Trade and the Role of ICTs, Ms. Ngone Diop, African Center for Gender and Development, ECA (15 min)

Case Study

- Trade facilitation – the Senegal experience, Ibrahima Diagne, GAINDE 2000, Senegal (10 minutes).

12:30 – 13:00 Discussion on the International e-environment

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Session III: Enabling Environment

This three-part session will discuss the main requirements for establishing an enabling environment for the development of e-trade & e-commerce, including the legal and regulatory elements of the telecommunications environment; security of networks, authentication and certification issues as well as skills/capacity building, including facilitation, awareness-raising and skills upgrading. These sessions will assess the threats and opportunities for Africa in these subject areas and continue to examine some of the success stories of e-trade initiatives in Africa.

**14:30 – 15:30 Session IIIa: Enabling Environment:
Legal issues: Telecom and the Internet**

Chair: Pierre Dandjinou, e-Government Adviser, SURF-UNDP, Dakar

Rapporteur: Kofie Danner, Sierra Leone

- Legal and Regulatory environment for e-Trade Dayo Ogunyemi, EMC Matrix, US (15 min)
- The Internet as a new medium for trade, Nii Quaynor, Network Computer Systems Ghana, Ghana (15 min)
- The Role of Internet IPV6 in electronic commerce, Adiel Akplogan, CEO AFRINIC, ATAC-Member, Mauritius
- Emerging issues, Moubarak Lo, Emergence Consulting Group, Senegal (15 min)

Case Study

- ECOWAS Trade/Custom Programme, Mohamed Mansaray, ECOWAS, Nigeria (15 min)

15:30 – 16:00 Q&A on Legal Issues

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

**16:30 – 17:30 Session IIIb: **Enabling Environment:
Network, Security, Trust and
Confidence****

Chair: Pierre Ouedraogo, Program Officer, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, France

Rapporteur: Camara Moriba, Mali

- Network Security and applications:
 - Global Perspective, Michael Bitz, Tanzania (10 min)
 - African Perspective, Alain Aina, Togo (10)
- African Infrastructure, B. Zulli, African Union (10 mins)
- Authentication and Certification: The case of Tunisia, Ms. Lamia Chaffai El Sghaier, National Digital Certification Agency, Tunisia (10 min)
- Opportunities and challenges of e-finance in the UEMOA sub-region, Amadou Altine, West African Central Bank, Senegal (10 min)

Case Study

- The Tunisian e-Dinar, Ms. Lamia Chaffai El Sghaier, National Digital Certification Agency, Tunisia (10 min)
- Rural Cellphone Banking in South Africa, Brian Richardson, Wizzit, South Africa (10 min)

17:30 – 18:00 **Q&A on Security Issues**

Wednesday, 15 March 2006

**09:00 – 10:30 Session IIIc: **Enabling Environment:
ICT Skills/Capacity-Building****

Chair: Hakim Ben Hammouda, Director, Trade and Regional Integration Division, ECA

Rapporteur: Ebrima Jobe, Gambia

- Skills for SMMEs, Ms. Djuine Soh Désirée Mirabelle, Cameroun (10 min)
- Academia and ICTs, Dawit Bekele, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (10 min)
- SMEs skills development process, Ms. Sheila Smail, CeBI Secretariat , Canada (10 min)

- Youth Development, Gbenga Sesan, Paradigm Initiative, Nigeria (10 min)
- Content, Open Source Software and Trade, Hajanirina Ramboasalama, Madagascar (10mn)
- African Free and Open Source Software Services Providers & capacity building, Christian Roland, Cote-d'Ivoire (10mn)

Case Study

- Enterprise Development Facility and Capacity Building for African Women Entrepreneurs, Ms. Opportune Santos, RIFED, Togo (10 min)
- The case study of establishing Egypt Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), Dr. Nagwa El Shenawy, ITIDA, Egypt (10 min)

10:05 – 10:30 Q&A on Skills/Capacity-Building

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00 Session IV: Breakout sessions

The breakout sessions are intended to deepen discussion on the main conference themes. Outcomes of the sessions could include strengths, opportunities and next steps in the context of specific countries or for Africa as a whole. The results of the breakout sessions will be discussed in the plenary and, if agreed upon, incorporated into the objectives of the project.

Breakout Session A: Policy, legal and regulatory framework (Conference room 3)

Governments need to develop policies/strategies as well as implement a legal and regulatory framework that enables ICT use not only in the SME context, but also to enhance the impact of e-trade in the overall economy.

Chair: Shola Taylor, Director Kemilinks International, UK

Lead Discussant: Moubarack Lo, Emergence Consulting Group, Senegal

Rapporteurs: Ramboasalama Hajanirina, Madagascar – Andrew Gakiria, Kenya

Breakout Session B: Assessing Policy readiness (Conference room 5)

Metrics and methodologies for measuring e-readiness will be discussed in depth with respect to e-Trade and how countries incorporate some form of standard assessments in their e-trade initiatives.

Chair: Ms. Susan Teltscher, Chief, ICT Policy and Analysis Unit ICT and E-Business Branch, UNCTAD, Switzerland

Lead Discussant: Gaston Zongo, Impact – Africa, Senegal

Rapporteurs: Roland Christian, Cote-d'Ivoire - Ashraf Mutwakil, Sudan

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Session IV(ctd): Breakout sessions

Breakout Session C: Security (Conference room 3)

The enabling environment for secure e-Trade, including infrastructure, security, privacy, authentication and no repudiation, trust will be discussed and concrete recommendations made in the context of Africa.

Chair: Pierre Ouedraogo, Organisation International de la Francophonie (OIF)

Lead Discussant: Nii Quaynor, Network Computer Systems, Ghana and Ms. Lamia Chaffai, National Digital Certification Agency, Tunisia

Rapporteur: Michael Bitz, Canada/Alain Aina, Togo

Breakout Session D: Skills (Conference room 5)

This breakout session will review existing mechanisms, challenges and opportunities in mainstreaming ICT. Strategies for the facilitation of African and international transactions, through awareness and skills enhancement will be highlighted and recommended. These will include strategies for improving the ability of trade actors, from African countries and the developed world.

Chair: Ms. Sheila Smail, CeBI Secretariat, Canada

Lead Discussant: Ms. Djuine Soh Désirée Mirabelle, ASAFE, Cameroun

Rapporteurs: Kebba S. Touray, Gambia/ Ms. Opportune Santos, RIFED, Togo

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00 Session V: Report from Breakout sessions (Conference room 2)

Chair: Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer in Charge, Development Information Services Division, ECA

- Report from Breakout Session A: Policy, legal and regulatory framework (10 min)
- Discussion (15 min)

- Report from Breakout Session B: Assessing Policy readiness (10 min)
- Discussion (15 min)

- Report from Breakout Session C: Security (10 min)
- Discussion (15 min)

- Report from Breakout Session D: Skills (10 min)
- Discussion (15 min)

Thursday, 16 March 2006

National Forum: e-payment in Ethiopia (Conference room 5)

Chair: Ato Tesfaye Birru Chief Executive Officer, Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation, Ethiopia

Rapporteur: Ms. Woubalem Taye, Ethiopia

9:00 – 10:45

- e-Payment in Ethiopia, challenges and Opportunities, Wondwossen Tadesse, Addis Ababa University Student, Ethiopia
- VarsityNet ePayment pilot project proposal, Dr. Dawit Bekele, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- Case study: Online presence of Genuine Leather Crafts Plc, Teshome Kebede, Ethiopia

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 13:00

- Remarks by Ms. Lamia Chaffai El Sghaier, National Digital Certification Agency, Tunisia
- Discussion and the way forward

**09:00 – 13:00 (concurrent) Meeting of Rapporteurs to draft the
e-Trade Forum Report (Conference room 3)**

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 Session VII: Closing Session (Conference room 2)

Chair: Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer in Charge, Development Information Services Division, ECA

Rapporteur: Clement Dzidonou, INIIT, Ghana

Presentation and Adoption of the report, Clement Dzidonou, INIIT, Ghana

Announcement from ePol-Net, Richard Bourassa, Director, International Policy, Electronic Commerce Branch, Industry Canada

Closing statement by Organisation International de la Francophonie (OIF), Pierre Ouedraogo, Programme Officer, France

Closing statement and the way forward, Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer in

Charge, Development Information Services Division, ECA