



COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics-Knowledge Development Branch
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

Cross-border data flows and development: For whom the data flow

Thursday, 14 October 2021

Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XXIV
10:00 - 10:15	<p>Welcome address, Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics</p> <p>Short course will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Economic Affairs Officer / OIC, Policy Capacity Building Section</p>	
10:15 - 11:15	<p>Session 1</p> <p>This session will provide an introduction to the Digital Economy Report 2021: Cross-border data flows and Development – For whom the data flow. In setting the ground for this short course, it will look at the increasing importance of data in the world economy and society. It will analyze recent trends in the global landscape of the data-driven digital economy, highlighting global digital and data divides. The particular characteristics of data and the implications of data and cross-border data flows for development will be discussed.</p> <p>Presented by Ms. Pilar Fajarnes Garces, Economic Affairs Officer, E-Commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p> <p>Q&A</p>	
11:15 - 12:15	<p>Session 2</p> <p>This session will build on the previous one and focus on the current policy approaches to governing data and data flows around the world and across countries. It will present major policy approaches in the main data realms, which may risk fragmentation in the digital space, as well as provide a mapping of policy approaches at national level. Policy approaches at the regional and international level will also be considered. How these data are handled will greatly affect our ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	

	<p>Presented by Ms. Pilar Fajarnes Garces, Economic Affairs Officer, E-Commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:15 – 13:00	<p>Session 3</p> <p>This session will provide concrete recommendations on the way forward. It will also seek to stimulate discussions on the policy actions required to achieve a balanced approach to global data governance that could enable data to flow across borders while addressing various development objectives. Policy options will aim at reducing the digital and data divides, within and among countries, and achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>Presented by Ms. Pilar Fajarnes Garces, Economic Affairs Officer, E-Commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p> <p>Q&A</p>

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The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the process of digital transformation and added urgency for governments to respond effectively. One of the key challenges in this context is related to the governance and harnessing of the surge in digital data. It has been estimated that global Internet traffic in 2022 will exceed all the Internet traffic up to 2016. How these data are handled will greatly affect our ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This short course will be based on the Digital Economy Report 2021: Cross-border data flows and Development – For whom the data flow. It will discuss recent trends in data flows and their implications for development and policy making.

The objective of the course is to raise the awareness among delegates of the economic and strategic value of data; the special nature and multi-dimensionality of data; and current approaches to governing data and data flows around the world. The course will also seek to stimulate discussions on what policy actions are needed to achieve a balanced approach to global data governance that could help ensure that data can flow across borders as freely as necessary and possible, while at the same time achieving an equitable distribution of benefits, within and across countries, and addressing risks related to human rights and national security.

Pilar Fajarnes is Economic Affairs Officer in the E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch of the Division of Technology and Logistics at UNCTAD since 2017. She is the lead author of the Digital Economy Report. Before joining DTL, she worked in the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, as one of the main authors of the Trade and Development Report, between 2003 and 2016, and in the Commodities Branch, Division of Trade, between 2000 and 2003. Before joining UNCTAD, Pilar worked as a trade analyst, first at the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade and then in the Spanish Association of Construction Manufactures Exporters. Previously she had been doing teaching and research work at the University of Zaragoza, Spain. Pilar holds a Master of Arts in Development Economics by the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK.