

## THE RTA EXCHANGE DIALOGUE SERIES

### Digital Trade-Related Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements: Existing Models and Lessons for the Multilateral Trade System

13 July 2017, Maison de la Paix, Petal 5, Geneva

*A joint Initiative of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*

#### AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00

#### Coffee and Registration

09:00 – 09:30

#### Welcome Remarks

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, ICTSD  
Antoni Esteveordal, IDB

09:30 – 10:45

#### Session I: Setting the Context

*This session will delineate the scope of the discussion and provide an overview of the main approaches and “families” of disciplines in more recent RTAs.*

##### Moderator

Antoni Esteveordal, IDB

##### Speakers

Javier Lopez Gonzalez, OECD  
Mark Wu, Harvard Law School  
Hamid Mamdouh, WTO  
Simon Lacey, Huawei

##### Discussant

Daniel Crosby, King & Spalding

10:45 – 11:00

#### Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

#### Session II: RTA Disciplines and Regulatory Procedures on Digital Trade

*This session will consider regulatory aspects looking at approaches advanced in various RTAs to address emerging challenges, including privacy, cybersecurity, transparency, compliance and inadequate intellectual property protection. The session will analyse options for coherence and convergence between e-commerce regulations nationally and internationally. Strengthening transparency and availability of information and reducing the complexity of regulations will be explored as means to ensure the effective participation of SMEs through rules accessible and clear to actors of a range of infrastructure and capacity levels.*

#### Moderator

Felipe Sandoval, ICTSD

#### Speakers

Joshua Meltzer, Brookings Institution: Data flows and data protection

Lance Thompson, UNECE: E-signature and e-business exchange standards

Pedro Roffe, ICTSD: Intellectual property protection

Rohan Kariyawasam, Anglia Ruskin University: Telecoms

12:30 – 13:30

#### Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00

#### Session III: Liberalisation and Market Access

*This session will explore how market access has been carved out in RTAs to evaluate possibilities to catalyze action at the WTO from experience at the regional level. Localisation requirements and other market access limitations, including other FDI requirements, trading rights, and distribution rights, affect broad-distribution of benefits from the digital economy. This session will consider paths towards liberalisation of digital trade in goods and, services, including exemptions to de minimis thresholds to allow SMEs to expand their exports.*

#### Moderator

Andrew Crosby, ICTSD

#### Speakers

Dan Ciuriak, Ciuriak Consulting Inc: *Tariff and non-tariff measures in ICTs [connect via video conference]*

Amy Porges, Law Offices of Amelia Porges PLLC: *De minimis exemptions*

Felipe Sandoval, ICTSD : *Market access to services*

#### Discussants

Hanne Melin, Ebay: Private sector perspective

Gonzalo Navarro, Latin American Internet Association

15:00 – 16:30

#### Session IV: Cooperation Arrangements in RTAs

*This session will explore what we can learn from RTAs in terms of the potential for cooperation to maximise opportunities for inclusive digital trade and for bridging the 'digital divide', including through technical assistance and capacity building, special provisions for SMEs, trade facilitation, and reinforced Internet access infrastructure. It will also explore what role the private sector can play in advancing cooperation efforts for inclusive digital trade.*

#### Moderator

Christophe Bellmann, ICTSD

#### Speakers

Nick Ashton-Hart, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

*Leveraging digital trade for development*

Ady Beitler, ConnectAmericas / IDB (Argentina country office)

*Making digital trade inclusive [connect via video conference]*

Yann Duval, UNESCAP

*Trade Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific*

Ibrahim Diagne, African Performance Institute

*Cooperation from an African perspective*

#### Discussant

Pedro Less Andrade, Google (Latin America)

*Cooperation among business actors [connect via video conference]*

16:30 – 16:45

#### Coffee break

16:45 – 17:45

#### Session V: Next Steps: Promoting Convergence Towards MC11

*This session will offer an examination of next steps and implications for the WTO, specifying lessons we can learn in terms of elements from RTAs that could be replicated. The session will consider opportunities for action at the multilateral level, exploring options for reviving the e-commerce work programme. It will also consider plurilateral arrangements, e.g. the ITA, evaluating their roles as fora for a coalition of the willing to forge ahead.*

#### Moderator

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, ICTSD

#### Speaker

Mark Wu, Harvard Law School

#### Discussants

Junichi Ihara, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the WTO

Amy Porges, Law Offices of Amelia Porges PLLC

Malcolm Lee, Alibaba Group

Ram Upendra Das, Centre for Regional Trade (India)

Patrick Low, University of Hong Kong

17:45 – 18:00

#### Concluding Remarks