On the cusp of a new digital economy

The digital evolution has major implications for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Reduced cost of hard drive

Robotics
Artificial intelligence
Internet of Things (IoT)
Cloud computing
Big data analytics
3D printing
Digital economy is evolving fast...

Developing economies accounted for nearly 90% of the 750 million people that went online for the first time 2012-2015, India (177 m) China (122m).

Sources: UNCTAD, Cisco, ITU
But at **different speeds** and there are gaps ...

**Global connectivity gap**
- 50% remains offline
- Only 1 in 6 in LDCs is connected

**Gender gap**
in Internet use is most pronounced in developing countries

**MSMEs are less prepared**
to take advantage of the digital economy

Sources: UNCTAD, ITU
Small businesses are less prepared for the digital economy

More research is needed to see how MSMEs can connect with digitalized value chains:

- Global Value Chains
- Platforms
- Relevant policies
- Digitalization
- Small exporters

Share of enterprises receiving orders over the Internet, %

Source: UNCTAD
Digitalization changes jobs and skills

4 key changes due to increased digitalization

1. New jobs and occupations created

2. Some jobs will disappear as a result of automation

3. The conditions of work will be affected

4. More work will involve digital skills
New skills needed in the digital economy

New skills & education adjustments required

- Strong non-cognitive, adaptive and creative skills

Strategic jobs needed

- Data scientists & analysts

Challenges:

- Most pronounced skills gaps are in Latin America
- Changes in labour regulations may be needed to facilitate new jobs and skills transitions

Sources: Melguizo and Perea, European Commission, van Welsum and Lanvin
“Understanding existing national ICT data is key to digitalization “
Ms. Helani Galpaya, Chief Executive Officer of think-tank LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka
The policy challenge is multifaceted

Coordination

Effective cross-sectoral collaboration needed within the government and with other stakeholders.

A better measurement

Need to build the capacity of developing countries, and especially LDCs, to collect more and better data on relevant aspects of the digital economy.
Save the date!

• E-COMMERCE WEEK 2018
• 16-20 APRIL 2018 in GENEVA
• Second session of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

More than 1'000 participants in 2017

5 day-event including a 3-day dedicated meetings of experts (IGE 2018) on leveraging platforms and digital entrepreneurship for development

1 high-level conversation, eTrade for all private partners meeting, networking opportunities … and much more…
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Thank you!