

## Electronic commerce at the WTO

# Work Programme on Electronic Commerce

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- **What is electronic commerce?**

- The production, distribution, marketing, sale or delivery of goods and services by electronic means

- **How should it be addressed?**

- Relation between e-commerce and WTO agreements; consideration of economic, financial, and development needs; examination of aspects related to the moratorium

- **Where should it be discussed?**

- General Council and relevant bodies

# Thematic Dedicated Discussions in 2023



- Consumer protection
- Digital divide
- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- Digital trade facilitation and facilitation of electronic transactions
- Digital industrialization
- E-commerce-related technology transfer
- **Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions** → definition, scope and impact

# Work Programme on Electronic Commerce MC13 Ministerial Decision



- **Reinvigoration** of the Work Programme, with a focus on **development**
- Deepening discussions on **e-commerce-related topics**, building on previous Dedicated Discussions
- Continued discussions and examination of empirical evidence on **scope, definition, and impact of the moratorium**
- Cooperation with **other intergovernmental organizations**
- Periodic **reviews** and **report** to MC14, including with **recommendations for action**
- **Extension of the moratorium** until MC14 or 31 March 2026, whichever is earlier – moratorium and the Work Programme will expire on that date

# Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce

# Status of negotiations



- Stabilized text circulated in July
- Operative provisions covering
  - digital trade facilitation
  - open digital environment
  - trust in e-commerce

# Digital trade facilitation



Electronic transactions frameworks



Electronic authentication and electronic signatures



Electronic contracts



Electronic invoicing



Paperless trading



Single windows data exchange and system interoperability



Electronic payments



# Open digital environment



Open government data



Access to and use of the internet for e-commerce



Customs duties on electronic transmissions



Telecommunications

# Trust in e-commerce



Online consumer protection



Unsolicited commercial electronic messages



Personal data protection/Privacy



Cybersecurity

# Horizontal provisions



Scope and general provisions



Transparency



Cooperation



Development



Institutional arrangements and final provisions

Thank you

[Stefania.gallo@wto.org](mailto:Stefania.gallo@wto.org)