

# Digital Trade in Africa

## Implications for Inclusion and Human Rights



Room XXIII E-building  
**Tuesday, 24 Sept. 2019**  
**13:30-15:00**

Light lunch will be provided at 13:00

### Speakers:

**H.E. Ms. Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter,**  
Ambassador & Permanent Representative to  
the WTO, South Africa

**Mr. David Luke,** Coordinator of the African  
Trade Policy Centre, ECA

**Mr. Jonathan Andrew,** Research Fellow,  
Geneva Academy of International  
Humanitarian Law & Human Rights

**Ms. Nwanneakolam Vwede-Obahor,**  
Regional Representative East Africa, OHCHR

### Moderator:

**Mr. Hajo Lanz,** Director, FES Geneva office

### Abstract

Digitalization is rapid and accelerating, with innovation changing the way we design, produce and generate value from products and related services. Digital globalization of which trade is both a component and facilitator can have serious ramifications for human rights. African countries will need to explore and develop alternative industrialization routes, through building the relevant skills sets and capacities to actively participate in and benefit from the digital transformation.

The way new digital technologies interact with the global economy in turn poses new opportunities and challenges for inclusive development. The response must be an updating of policymakers' toolkits to face the new opportunities and challenges of digital trade, and ensure inclusive outcomes that progress human rights.

Following the launch of the OHCHR-ECA-FES publication, this session will discuss how moving into the digital trade space offers human rights practitioners a new platform to apply past successes and innovate future safeguards. The emergence of new technology systems, platforms, and ideas creates an opportunity for human rights to be a guiding framework for digital technology and development in Africa.



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