



WCP Virtual International Conference on International Trade and Investment (ICITI2023)

'Digital Trade in Africa: The Way Forward'

14–15 November 2023

Organised by the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) @ The University of Mauritius (Mauritius)
in collaboration with

the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)



the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)



and

the WTO Chairs at the North-West University (South Africa), University of Tunis (Tunisia), University of Nairobi (Kenya), University of Rwanda (Rwanda), TRAPCA (Tanzania) and Cairo University (Egypt)

PROGRAMME

*The time specified is the local time/Mauritian time. Please check your respective time zones. It is currently GMT+4

DAY 1

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023

OPENING CEREMONY AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 11:00–13:00 (GMT+4)		Zoom Link: Register here
*11:00–11:05	Opening and Welcoming Remarks by WCP Organising Team	
11:05–11:10	Address by Dr Werner Zdouc (WCP Team, WTO)	
11:10–11:15	Address by Prof S K Sobhee (Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius)	
11:15–11:20	Address by H E Mr Xiangchen Zhang (Deputy Director-General, WTO) [pre-recorded]	
11:20–11:25	Address by Amb H E Usha Dwarka-Canabady (Facilitator of the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, WTO) [pre-recorded]	
11:25–11:30	Address by Amb H E Jung Sung Park (Deputy Permanent Representative, South Korea)	
11:30–11:35	Address by Minister or Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius (TBC)	
11:35–11:55	Keynote Address: Prof Henry Gao (Singapore Management University and ABM of the WCP) 'The Regulation of Digital Trade in Trade Agreements: Three Digital Kingdoms'	
11:55–12:55	PANEL DISCUSSION: Digital Trade in Africa: The Way Forward Panellists: Mrs Bineswaree Boolaky (UNECA), Dr Christopher Onyago (COMESA), Ms Yasmin Ismail (CUTS), Mr Erik Sirali (TradeMark Africa) and Ms Emmanuelle Ganne (WTO) Moderator: Mr Paul Baker (International Economics Consulting Ltd)	

PARALLEL SESSION I TRACK 1: 13:00–15:00 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 1 THEME: DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Chair: Prof Wilma Viviers</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>The Employment Effects of Digital Developments in Africa: Emerging Trends and the Way Forward <i>Ali Parry, Prof Wilma Viviers and Dr Emmanuel Orkoh (North-West University, South Africa)</i></p>
	2.	<p>Artificial Intelligence and Trade in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges <i>Uchenna Anyamele (Hakakire Legal and Consulting Services, Nigeria)</i></p>
	3.	<p>Transformative Potential of Digital Readiness for Africa's Trade Facilitation <i>Dr Lorainne Ferreira and Prof Sonja Grater (North-West University, South Africa)</i></p>
	4.	<p>Digital Infrastructure in Africa <i>Laura Naliaka (Africa Trade Policy Centre, UNECA)</i></p>
	5.	<p>Digital Trade Across Africa: Which Countries are Truly Benefiting from the Rise of E-commerce? <i>Urvashi Appiah (Tutwa Consulting Inc)</i></p>

PARALLEL SESSION I TRACK 2: 13:00–15:00 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 2 THEME: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DIGITAL TRADE</p> <p>Chair: Prof Tabitha Kirithi</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>The Prospect of a Continental Digital Single Market <i>Paul Baker and Loan Le (International Economics Consulting Ltd, Mauritius)</i></p>
	2.	<p>Digital Trade in Trade Agreements: Lessons and Inspiration for the AfCFTA <i>Bhavna Mahadew and Viraj Fulena (University of Technology, Mauritius)</i></p>
	3.	<p>Fostering MSMEs' Digital Trade in the AfCFTA Context: Do Digital Trade Regulations Matter? <i>Manfred Kouty (WTO Chair, Institute of Cameroon/IRIC; University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon)</i></p>
	4.	<p>Closing the Information Gap for Trade Integration in Africa Through Digital Trade Facilitation <i>Prof Ermie Steenkamp and Dr Lorainne Ferreira (North-West University)</i></p>
	5.	<p>Cross-Border E-commerce and Regional Entrepreneurial Activity: Evidence from China <i>Chen Yongchang and Yinglei Lin (Beijing Technology and Business University)</i></p>

PARALLEL SESSION II TRACK 1: 15:15–17:15 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 1 THEME: REGULATORY FRAMEWORK</p>	1.	<p>Data Governance Rules to Boost African Digital Trade and Digital Economy <i>Paul Baker and Loan Le (International Economics Consulting Ltd, Mauritius)</i></p>
	2.	<p>Digital Trade Regulatory Environment – Opportunities for Regulatory Harmonisation in Africa</p>

<p>Chair: Varsha Mooneeram Chadee</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>		<i>Martina Ferracane and Erik van der Marel (European University Institute and European Centre for International Political Economy)</i>
	3.	Legal and Normative Implications of Digital Trade: An Analysis of the African Legal and Regulatory Framework <i>Thabelo Muleya (Tutwa Consulting Inc)</i>
	4.	Balancing African Digital Trade Strategy with Domestic Regulatory Interest <i>Pranav Narang and Teesta Lahiri (Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade)</i>
	5.	Advancing Digital Trade through the Sale of Goods and Services Framework in Africa <i>Rafia Akram (Tutwa Consulting Inc)</i>
	6.	Analysing the Legal Infrastructure of a Selection of African Countries for Enabling Digital Trade in Africa <i>Varsha Mooneeram-Chadee, Dr Verena Tandrayen and Prof Boopen Seetanah (University of Mauritius)</i>
PARALLEL SESSION II TRACK 2: 15:15–17:15 (GMT+4)		
<p><u>TRACK 2</u> THEME: DRIVERS OF DIGITAL TRADE/DIGITAL TRADE AND SMEs</p> <p>Chair: Dr Verena Tandrayen</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	Artificial Intelligence and Digital Trade <i>Geofrey Twesigye and Moraa Mercy Nyakunda (University of Kigali)</i>
	2.	Payment-Related Issues <i>Alphonse Izabayo (University of Rwanda)</i>
	3.	Exploring the Role of Digital Platforms in Facilitating Technology Transfer in International Trade <i>Chitisha Gunnoo (University of Mauritius)</i>
	4.	Digital Readiness of Rwandan Women Entrepreneurs to Tap Trade from the AfCFTA: A Survey from Selected Rwandan Women Exporters and Importers <i>Josephine Mutesi (University of Rwanda)</i>
	5.	Drivers of Digital Trade Adoption by SMEs in Rwanda <i>Benjamin Mudaheranwa and Jonas Barayandema (University of Rwanda)</i>

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

PARALLEL SESSION III TRACK 1: 09:00–11:00 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 1 THEME: DIGITAL TRADE AND SOCIETY</p> <p>Chair: Prof Wilma Viviers</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	Digital Trade in Kenya: A Gender Perspective <i>Prof Tabitha Kiriti (University of Nairobi)</i>
	2.	Digital Trade and Social Inclusion: A Case Study of Service Providers in the Tourism Sector Along the Western Coast of Mauritius <i>Nicolas Ragodoo (University of Mauritius)</i>
	3.	Digital Trade in Services and Inequality in Africa <i>Kefa Simiyu and Muthini Mbinya (University of Nairobi)</i>
	4.	Digital Trade in Africa: Implications for Inclusion and Human Rights <i>Roopanand Mahadew (University of Mauritius)</i>
	5.	Jobs and Skills for Africa's Digital Future: The Evolving Role of the Education Ecosystem <i>Dr Marie-Luce Kühn and Prof Wilma Viviers (North-West University)</i>

PARALLEL SESSION III TRACK 2: 09:00–11:00 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 2 THEME: DIGITAL TRADE IN MAURITIUS</p> <p>Chair: Dr Sheereen Fauzel</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	An Analysis of Challenges faced by Mauritian Woman Entrepreneurs in using Digital Technologies <i>Narvada Gopy, Reena Bhattu-Babajee and Boopen Seetanah (University of Mauritius)</i>
	2.	The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Digital Trade in Mauritius <i>Vanshi Roopam Sandooram, Rohan Ramayad and Sanroy Seechurn (Maurice Stratégie)</i>
	3.	Enhancing Merchant Success in Global Markets: An extended TAM Analysis of Mobile Payment Adoption in Mauritius <i>Dr Eric Bindah (University of Mauritius) and Leenshya Gunnoo (University of Technology, Mauritius)</i>
	4.	Gaps in Fostering Digital Trade in Mauritius <i>Varsha Mooneeram Chadee (University of Mauritius)</i>
	5.	Determinants of Digital Transactions in the African Region <i>Dr Jeevita Matadeen, Dr Sheereen Fauzel and Prof Boopen Seetanah (University of Mauritius)</i>

VOTE OF THANKS

Conference Co-Chairs:

Prof B Seetanah, Dr V Tandrayen Ragoobur, Mrs V Mooneeram Chadee (WCP, Mauritius) and Prof W Viviers (WCP, South Africa)