

**JSI on E-Commerce - Information session:
Impact Assessment of the Agreement on E-Commerce**

Monday, 29 September 2025

The co-convenors of the Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce organized an information session to present the study titled "Great Expectations: Quantifying the Potential Economic Impact of the WTO Agreement on E-commerce" jointly conducted by the WTO and OECD. The paper was initiated in response to a request by the co-convenors, Australia, Japan, and Singapore, to quantify the impact of the Agreement.

Eddy Bekkers of the WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division and Javier Lopez Gonzalez of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Digital Trade Unit presented the study.

Main findings

The study estimates the impact of the Agreement on trade flows and economic output by using an index that measures how much a digital trade agreement leads to digital trade integration and openness, while controlling for other potential influencing factors such as regional trade agreements.

It finds that adoption of the Agreement by the 71 economies that currently support its incorporation into the WTO legal architecture would increase participants' GDP by 0.43% and participants' trade by 0.97%. Global GDP and global trade are meanwhile projected to increase 0.14% and 0.58% respectively. "Put differently, failure to implement the Agreement on E-Commerce (among the 71 economies) leaves annually an average of US \$159 billion of trade on the table, which cumulatively is an increase in global trade by US \$2.4 trillion until 2040," the study states.

Moreover, participation in the Agreement by all 166 WTO members would generate a 0.51% increase in global GDP and 2.3% increase in global trade. The global cumulative increase in trade in this scenario is worth US \$8.7 trillion by 2040, almost quadrupling the trade outcome of the previous scenario. The study also finds that the WTO-wide adoption scenario leads to gains that are largest for low and lower-middle-income-economies, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

In addition, using the [Index of Digital Trade and Integration Openness \(INDIGO\)](#) the study finds that the world economy is only 8.5% on its way towards full digital trade integration and openness, with WTO commitments like the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the Informational Technology Agreement and the moratorium on customs duties on e-transmissions underpinning 90% of existing digital trade integration and openness.

The study is available [here](#).
