



Webinar: Digitalization and logistics resilience - lessons learned from COVID-19 and challenges ahead

15 October 2021 at 14:00 – 15:30 (Geneva time)

Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role played by logistics services and brought digitalization to the fore. Accelerated digitalization and its role in strengthening logistics and supply chain resilience is also one of the critical issues in post-COVID economic recovery. As digitalization is accelerating and expanding, various challenges lie ahead for the logistics industry. On the other hand, many issues raised in trade negotiations such as paperless trading, market access, interoperability, digital platforms, etc. are all crucial for the future of the logistics industry. More clarity on how digitalization is transforming logistics services and where new challenges may arise would be valuable for policy making as governments are promoting digitalization and at the same time strengthening logistics resilience.

This webinar brings together experts from the logistics industry covering express delivery, freight forwarding, e-commerce logistics, port operation, digital standards to share experience and exchange views on what lessons have been learned from COVID-19, what challenges lie ahead, and what kind of policies can help address those challenges.

14:00 – 14:05 Opening remarks:

- Ms. **Anabel Gonzalez**, Deputy-Director-General of the WTO

14:05 – 15:05 Presentations:

- Mr. **Carlos Grau Tanner**, Director General of the Global Express Association (**GEA**)
- Mr. **Stephane Graber**, Director General of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (**FIATA**)
- Mr. **William Xiong**, Chief Strategist and General Manager for Global Logistics, Cainiao, the Logistics affiliate of **Alibaba**
- Mr. **Alperen Güler**, Industrial Affairs Manager, Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers of Turkey (**UTIKAD**)
- Representative of the **Port of Rotterdam**
- Ms. **Hannah Nguyen**, Deputy Director of Digital Standard Initiative, International Chamber of Commerce (**ICC**)

15:05 – 15:30 Questions and Answers

Moderator: Ms. **Ruosi Zhang**, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO