

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group

9th Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on E-commerce and the Digital Economy (11-13 May 2026)

Chair,

The Asia-Pacific Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by Kenya on behalf of the G-77 and China.

The APG thanks UNCTAD for the preparation of the background note for this session, which highlights the growing importance of effective and equitable taxation of the digital economy for domestic resource mobilization.

The rapid growth of e-commerce and digitally delivered services presents both opportunities and challenges for developing countries. While digitalization can expand the tax base, improve transparency and create new revenue opportunities, many developing countries still face difficulties in taxing cross-border digital transactions and platform-based business models.

Developing countries are also concerned that WTO rules preventing customs duties on electronic transmissions may reduce future fiscal space and revenue opportunities. These challenges are further compounded by limited digital infrastructure, weak payment systems and limited institutional capacities within tax administrations.

In this context, international and regional cooperation will remain essential. The Geneva Consensus recognizes the importance of strengthening national capacities, enhancing data governance frameworks and supporting developing countries in harnessing the digital economy.

Our Group therefore encourages UNCTAD to strengthen technical assistance and capacity-building in areas such as indirect taxation of e-commerce, taxation of digitally delivered services, digital customs modernization and data-driven tax administration. UNCTAD should also facilitate South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange on practical experiences, regional toolkits and simplified compliance models adapted to the realities of developing countries.

The Asia-Pacific Group remains committed to working constructively with all partners to ensure that the digital economy contributes to equitable, inclusive and sustainable development, while preserving the fiscal policy space and development prospects of developing countries.