Dear all, please find below the report of last week’s round of negotiations on ecommerce in Geneva.

Best

Summary
This first hybrid round in 2 years has revived the negotiations, which should intensify under the co-conveners ambitious working plan, with monthly rounds until December.

Detailed report
General
The first hybrid round in 2 years brought a much needed push to the negotiations. In the space of 4 full days, the co-conveners organised 2 plenary sessions and small group negotiation sessions on privacy, cybersecurity, electronic transactions frameworks, e-invoicing, cybersecurity, customs duties on electronic transmissions and “stock-taking”. Co-conveners are planning three more in-person/hybrid rounds in 2022 (dates are not yet decided, but the following have been suggested: 12-16 September, 24-29 October and 28 Nov-2 Dec) and intersessional work.

Privacy
Telecoms
The first meeting of the small group on telecommunications was well received (Facilitator: EU). The EU presented the EU/NO/UA/UK proposal for updating disciplines in the WTO reference paper on telecommunications services. Some delegations are still analysing the text and not all sent their experts (which are needed in this area), but most participants were constructive.
Possible new small groups

plan to launch a new small group on cryptography in September.