

# **E-commerce JSI**

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Civil Society Dialogue

7 March 2023

# How it all started

- **Political launch** of negotiations in Davos in January **2019**
- Open to all WTO Members; currently **88 Members** (mix of developed, developing and some least-developed countries)
- **Systemic importance for the WTO**
- **EU key priorities:**
  - a commercially meaningful agreement
  - concluded by as many WTO Members as possible
  - integrated within the WTO framework



# Structure and scope

- The negotiations are chaired by **Japan, Australia and Singapore**, acting as co-conveners
- **Monthly hybrid negotiation rounds** since July 2022
  - Negotiations take place in **small groups** that handle specific articles
  - **Plenary sessions** ensure transparency by creating a forum for other WTO Members to comment
- Negotiations are based on the text proposals by JSI Members
- **+/- 40 different topics**, covering both services and goods

# State of play

- **Good progress so far**, small group discussions concluded on:  
*online consumer protection, paperless trading, open government data, spam, transparency, electronic contracts, electronic authentication and e-signatures, cybersecurity, open internet access, electronic invoicing, electronic transactions frameworks*
- **Stock-take sessions** for streamlining the text
- **Key remaining issues:** data flows, privacy, source code, custom duties on electronic transmissions, ICT products that use cryptography

# Way forward

- Eight more negotiation rounds until the end of the year
- Focus on **key regulatory issues** with a view of achieving substantive progress by the end of the year
- **High-level meetings** to provide political impetus to the process

