

Peer Learning Round Tables



Cross-cutting sessions

Session 4-2

Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals in the Wake of COVID-19

Monday, 15 March 2021, 10:00-12:30

Guiding questions for round table

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| Question 1 | What type of the new opportunities bring digitization to diverse sectors, such as health, agriculture, education, trade, urbanization, others? |
| Question 2 | How digital has been helping in addressing key challenges related to the COVID-19 breakout and created new opportunities for a new normal; and how to prepare digital society for the new normal, ensuring its readiness to benefit from digital space with confidence and safety? |
| Question 3 | How digital can create new opportunities to overcome inequalities, promote sustainability and create new pathways for empowering all members of society? |

Policy actions for discussion

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| Policy action 1 | <p>Ensuring universal digital inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bridging digital divides in the times of COVID-19, ensuring universal meaningful connectivity across the Europe and Central Europe. Developing digital skills and building human capacities to match the needs of gigabit society, thus empowering different groups of society, strengthening employability and creating new job opportunities (ITU)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications – Serbia (TBA)</i> |
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- Ensuring the participation of girls and women in digital sector and its dynamics, and the women's participation in the digital world; with a special focus on the repercussion of COVID-19 for women and girls in digital space. (UNIDO, UN Women)
 - [UNIDO: Ms. Oxana Kukharchuk, Board member of "Element" \(Russia – Private sector\)](#)
 - [UN Women: Ms. Nino Enukidze, Rector of Business and Technology University, Georgia.](#)
- Creating a safe and empowering cyberspace for children and the youth through capacity building, skills development and the adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach to address the new challenges related to the current global pandemic.
 - [Ms. Vilma Tomco, Director General NAECCS – Albania](#)
- Questions and answers

Lead for moderation: Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of ITU Office for Europe

Policy action 2

Accelerating digitalization of services

- Highlighting the emerging role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as an engine for agriculture development in Europe and Central Asia.
 - *Ms. Eszter Varga, Senior Researcher NARIC Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (EU expectations to meet CAP objectives in terms of digital agriculture)*
 - *M. Laszlo Papocsi Dr., Senior Expert – Digital Agriculture (Overview of the digital agriculture landscape in Europe and Central Asia – Challenges, opportunities and best practices)*
- Strengthening the national capacities in implementing mobile health in the European region and developing solutions to manage the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - *Prof. Isaac Túnez, General Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation of the Regional Ministry of Health and Families of Andalusia*
 - [Mr. Stefano Quintarelli, Chair of the Advisory Group for Advanced Technologies in Trade and Logistics of the UN-CEFACT](#)
- Open data policy towards the benefit of the society: Ensuring a climate resilient recovery from COVID-19
 - *WMO (TBA)*
- Questions and answers

Policy action 3

Creating enabling environment for digital trade

- Spotlighting the importance of new technologies to support trade and trade facilitation for more resilient and responsive economies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - [Ambassador Vuk Zugic – Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities](#)
- Strengthening sustainable trade through ICTs to promote inclusive, transparent and traceable value chains.
 - [Mr. Mathias Lörtscher, Head CITES MA of Switzerland at the Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA](#)
- Underscoring the importance of ICTs in pursuing trade-related environmental objectives following.
 - [Ms. Haruko Okusu: Chief of Section – CITES Programme Management](#)
 - Basel convention (TBA)
- Questions and answers

Moderator

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Mr. Jaroslav Ponder
Head of ITU Office for Europe
Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division of the UNECE

Background

This session will focus on the urgent needs of accelerating digital transformation across different sectors as an immediate response to the COVID-19. Session will provide an opportunity for the representatives of UN agencies and partners to highlight a series of actions, activities, initiatives and partnerships that advance digitalization and digitization processes in capacity building and skills development, health, trade, agriculture, governance, urbanization, others. This session will also highlight the importance of equal access to ICTs, digital skills and literacy, amongst gender and youth group.

Overall, this session aims at promoting the coordinated approach of UN agencies to support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda through ICTs. In particular, this session will have a cross-cutting character and will target on all SDGs of the 2021 focus, namely: SDG 1 “No poverty”, SDG 2 “Zero Hunger”, SDG 3 “Good health and well-being”, SDG 4 “Quality education”, SDG 8 “Decent work and Economic growth”, SDG 9 “Industry, innovation and infrastructure”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible consumption and production”, SDG 13 “Climate action”, and SDG 17 “Partnerships for the goals”.

Organizers

Lead organizer

ITU
UNECE

Contributors

CITES
FAO
UNCTAD
UNEP
UNFPA
UN Habitat
UNHCR
UNICEF
UNIDO
UN Women
WIPO
WMO
WHO
ILO