



THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE
ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

THE SUB-REGIONAL SPECA WORKSHOP ON INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AND

THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SPECA WORKING GROUP ON
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

20-21 OCTOBER 2021 · VIRTUAL MODE: ZOOM · GMT +6, BISHKEK/ ALMATY



Organized in co-operation with the State Agency of Intellectual
Property and Innovation of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzpatent



BACKGROUND

The Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (WG on ITSD) is a subsidiary body under the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), comprising senior policymakers, researchers, decision makers and other stakeholders in the area of innovation and technology from the seven participating SPECA countries, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The WG on ITSD provides a platform to discuss and forge cooperation around, especially from the perspective of policy and the role of governance, solutions that innovation and technology have to offer to benefit from the opportunities of knowledge-based development. Especially relevant are SDGs directly related to the development of innovation and technology (in particular, SDGs 8, 9, 13 and 17).

The SPECA WG on ITSD looks, inter alia, at:

- ICT for development;
- Promotion of innovation and innovative technology applications;
- Promotion of transfer and commercialization of innovative technologies; and
- Development of effective infrastructure for innovation support and financing, including through PPPs¹.

OBJECTIVES

This session of the SPECA WG on ITSD serves to endorse the Action Plan of the [SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development](#). The document will be presented to participants prior to the session and will be discussed at the preceding sub-regional workshop. The Action Plan will guide policies and initiatives in SPECA countries to put the objective of the Strategy into practice: a sustained improvement in the national capacity and capabilities of the SPECA countries to formulate and implement innovation policies for sustainable development and a higher level and quality of regional cooperation in the implementation of innovations that target and support sustainable development.

Furthermore, the session is an opportunity for SPECA countries to comment on and contribute to the activities of UNECE and ESCAP in support of the Innovation Strategy and the Action Plan. In addition, the session will aim to explore new opportunities to share experiences among the SPECA countries in the implementation of digital connectivity and inclusion, digital technology applications, e-resilience, and regional cooperation on digital solutions for sustainable development.

DELEGATES AND PARTICIPANTS

The participants of the WG on ITSD are nominated by Governments of the SPECA countries, representing senior public officials involved in the formulation and implementation of national innovation policies and policies and programmes related to digital connectivity and technology development. The participants of the sub-regional workshop preceding the WG session include policymakers, representatives of academia, public and private sector institutions, involved in policies and initiatives in innovation and technology.

¹ Based on the updated Terms of Reference

https://unece.org/DAM/SPECA/documents/gc/session14/IX_ToR_SPECA_WG_on_ITSD_English.pdf

Please note that the times indicated below are based on the GMT+6 time zone (Bishkek/Almaty)

DAY 1 • Wednesday, 20 October 2021	
Sub-regional Workshop on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development	
To join, please use this link	
12:30 – 13:00	<i>Online meeting log in</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Session 1: Opening Session Moderator: Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE
	<i>Welcoming statements by</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Zharasul Abduraimov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic • Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE • Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE • Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP
13:30 – 14:00	Session 2: Overview of the event Moderator: Ms. Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP
	<i>Introduction of participants and key objectives and structure of the event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE <i>Next steps for regional cooperation among SPECA countries</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE <i>Overview of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development in preparation of the discussion of the draft Action Plan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky, Director for Strategy, European Alliance for Innovation
14:00 – 16:15	Session 3: Policy Discussion: Action Plan of the SPECA Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development Moderator: Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE
	<i>Presentation of the draft Action Plan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky, Director for Strategy, European Alliance for Innovation

	<p><i>Feedback and suggestions for incorporation into the Action Plan by the SPECA countries representatives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Shakhlo Turdikulova, Deputy Minister of Innovative Development, Uzbekistan • Mr. Toyly Myalikov, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, Turkmenistan (TBC) • Mr. Fariz Guliev, Member of the Executive Board of the Innovations Agency, Azerbaijan • Mr. Meirbek Mukatov, Director of Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry, Kazakhstan • Ms. Aisuluu Mustapakulova, Head of Division for Innovations, Kyrgyzpatent • Mr. Anvar Kodirov, Director of the Center for Innovative Development of Science and New Technologies, National Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan <p><i>Presentation on “Innovation and Technology Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jonathan Wong, Chief, Technology and Innovation, ESCAP <p><i>Comments by other participants</i></p>
16:15– 16:30	<p>Wrap-up</p> <p>Mr. Rumén Dobrinsky, Director for Strategy, European Alliance for Innovation</p> <p>Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE</p>

DAY 2 • Thursday, 21 October 2021

Sub-regional Workshop on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (continued)

To join, please [use this link](#)

10:30 – 11:00 *Online meeting log in*

Session 4: Innovative Technology Applications for the SDGs
Moderator: Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP

11:00 – 13:15

ESCAP toolkits and the way forward under Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative

- **Mr. Tae Hyung Kim**, Chief, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP: [The AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026](#)
- **Ms. Aida Karazhanova**, Economic Affairs Officer and **Mr. Zorikto Gomboin**, consultant, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP: [E-resilience Monitoring Dashboard for Digital Foresight Planning](#)
- **Mr. Vadim Kaptur**, consultant, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP and **Mr. Talaipek Makeev**, expert, International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC): [Co-deployment of infrastructure for Integrated Corridor Development](#)

	<p><i>Discussions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Huangsuk Seong, Programme Management Officer, the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT): <u>Capacity-building activities related to the AP-IS Action Plan</u> • Mr Siopé Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP: <u>Promoting efficient Internet traffic management through Internet Exchange Point</u> • Mr. Askar Tazhiyev, consultant, ESCAP: <u>Road Map for setting up the Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development</u> <p><i>Comments by other participants</i></p>
13:15 – 13:30	<p>Wrap-up by moderator Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP</p>
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Break</i>
Second Session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (WG on ITSD)	
To join, please use this link	
14:00 – 14:30	Online meeting log in
14:30 – 14:45	<p>Item 1: Opening of the Session, adoption of the agenda and election of officers Moderator: Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE</p>
	<p><i>Welcoming statement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Islambek Moidinov, Secretary of State, State Service of Intellectual Property (IP) and Innovation of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzpatent) • Mr. Almaz Yktybaev, Chair of the session, Head of International Relations Department, State Service of Intellectual Property (IP) and Innovation of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzpatent)
14:45 – 16:15	<p>Item 2: Review of activities since the last session and Work Plan 2021-2023 of the SPECA WG on ITSD</p>
	<p><i>Briefing on activities of the SPECA WG on ITSD 2020-2021 and Work Plan 2021-2023</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP • Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE

	<p><i>Presentation on key findings of the UNECE handbook on “Business Incubators for Sustainable Development in the SPECA Subregion” and the upcoming ECE work on “Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises in the SPECA sub-region”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, consultant, UNECE <p><i>Presentation on potential scope for and fundraising for the activities on subregional cooperation on innovation policy, including under the Innovation Policy Outlook for the SPECA subregion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jakob Fexer, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE
16:15 – 16:45	<p>Item 3: Adoption of the Programme of Work 2021-2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals by representatives of SPECA countries on the planned activities in the Programme of Work of the SPECA WG on ITSD for 2021-2023. • Adoption of the ECE and ESCAP Work Plan 2021-2023 by representatives of SPECA countries.
16:45 – 16:50	<p>Item 4: Other Matters</p> <p>Date and venue for the next session of the SPECA WG on ITSD.</p>
16:50 – 17:00	<p>Item 5: Adoption of decisions</p> <p>Chair, Mr. Almaz Yktybaev, Chair of the session, Head of International Relations Department, State Service of Intellectual Property (IP) and Innovation of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzpatent)</p>
17:00	<p>Item 6: Closing of the session</p> <p>Chair, Mr. Almaz Yktybaev, Chair of the session, Head of International Relations Department, State Service of Intellectual Property (IP) and Innovation of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzpatent)</p>