



**DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSFORMATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Side events leading up to the Seventieth session of the Commission**

**Tuesday, 4 April 2023**

09:30 a.m. – 03:30 p.m. (CET)

**Outline and objective:**

Digital and green transformations play a critical role in promoting sustainable development and accelerating the transition to a circular economy. By improving resource efficiency, driving innovation, and building circular supply chains, these transformations can help reduce waste and emissions, and conserve natural resources.

They also promote the development of new technologies and business models that create new opportunities for economic growth while reducing environmental impact. Digital and green transformations can facilitate data and document exchange across the global supply chain, allowing businesses to make more informed decisions and improving transparency and accountability. Overall, these transformations are essential for creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

UNECE and its subsidiary body UN/CEFACT have been developing standards for trade facilitation and electronic business for many decades. Such global standards are now necessary more than ever, so that the efforts at digitalization of information flows in the international supply chains are not fragmented, which could easily result in new interoperability challenges for trade stakeholders and the economy as a whole. During the Covid-19 pandemic, responding to the expressed need for seamless electronic exchange of information in cross-border supply chains, UN/CEFACT finalized a package of standards and supporting tools (data sets, structures and schemas) for the digitalization of a set of key transport documents accompanying goods moved by the main modes of transport. The key ambition was to develop data exchange standards which offer innovative interoperability between information flows in a cross-modal, cross-sectoral perspective. Using the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model as a common foundation, a semantic *lingua franca* for interoperable digital exchange of data and documents between trade agents.. For more information, please see the information on the standards on the UN/CEFACT web site <https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/mainstandards>, and information on some pilot projects at the website of the interagency UN project on trade and transport connectivity <https://unttc.org/stream/electronic-trade-and-transport-documents-and-data>. In light of the growing importance and acceptance in the public and private sectors, of the UN/CEFACT standards, the objective of this short session include:

- To explore the potential of and raise awareness about the many opportunities that digital solutions offer for the transition to a circular economy.
- To identify key challenges for using these digital tools to overcome barriers to the circular economy.
- To discuss how new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, blockchain, digital twins, and the internet of things are currently being used by various industry players, civil society and governments to improve the management of natural resources.

Audience:



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Speakers and participants will include representatives from member States, UN entities, the private sector, NGOs, youth representatives and academia, among others.

### Format and language:

The meeting will be held in four virtual sessions in one day and convened via the Zoom platform. Interpretation will be available in all UNECE languages [TBC].

After the high-level opening session, the following side-events would gather 3-5 panellists and consist of a talk, moderated by the panel chair, and a Q&A session. The audience would be able to submit questions to the panellists via Zoom or raise their hand to ask the question directly to the panellists.

To allow for a lively and informative discussion, UNECE will ensure balanced gender and geographic representation as well as diversity in the backgrounds and views represented by the roundtable participants.

### SETTING THE STAGE

09:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (CET)

This session will introduce the theme of the event, Digital and Green Transformations for Sustainable Development, and provide a platform for member State representatives to share their experiences.

**Moderator:** *Elisabeth Türk, UNECE Director of Economic Cooperation and Trade Division*

- **EXPECTATIONS FROM UNECE MEMBER STATES**
  - Interventions from Member States representatives
- **KEYNOTE**
  - **Khaled Soufani**, Director of the Circular Economy Centre, Cambridge Judge Business School
  - **Seizo Onoe-san**, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU

### SESSION 1: LEVERAGING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (CET)

Session 1 will take the form of a moderated discussion among thought leaders and experts, including from think tanks and the public and private sectors to explore the opportunities that digital solutions offer for the transition to a circular and more sustainable economy (e.g., improving resource efficiency, driving innovation, building circular supply chains, etc).

**Moderator:** *Elisabeth Türk, UNECE Director of Economic Cooperation and Trade Division*

- **PANELISTS**
  - **Steve O'Reilly**, Rediscovery Centre, the National Centre for the Circular Economy of Ireland
  - **Yanina Liubyva**, Expert, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
  - **Tamara Stojkovic**, Youth Delegate of Serbia to the UN and Co-Founder, Zajednički frižider



- **Inga Petersen**, Executive Director, Global Battery Alliance
- **Stefan Šipka**, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre
- **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

**SESSION 2: DIGITALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS: A PATH FOR THE LOW-CARBON ENERGY TRANSITION**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CET)**

Session 2 will take the form of a moderated discussion on strengthening regional cooperation on sustainable CRM management for low-carbon transition and sustainable resource management in the digital age.

***Moderator: Dario Liguti, UNECE Director of Sustainable Energy Division***

- **PANELISTS**
  - **Rahmonbek Bakhtdavlratov**, Chairman, State Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan on Mineral Reserves
  - **Felicitas Riedl**, Director Innovation and Competitiveness, European Investment Bank
  - **Elisa Tonda**, Director, Resources and Markets Branch, UNEP
  - **Frances Wall**, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
  - **Bianca Derya Neumann**, Member, Resource Management Young Member Group, UNECE
- **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

**SESSION 3: UN STANDARDS AND REFERENCE DATAMODELS: CONNECTING THE DOTS FOR THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN**

**02:00 p.m. – 03:00 p.m. (CET)**

Session 3 will take the form of a moderated discussion to present standards for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange as the semantic foundation for data and document exchange of a crucial part of the global supply chain.

***Moderator: Sue Probert, UN/CEFACT Chair***

- **PANELISTS**
  - **Annika Kroon**, Head of Unit, DG MOVE, European Commission
  - **Shahin Ismayilov**, Head, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan
  - **Oleksandr Moskalenko**, Director, Customs Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine
  - **Ivan Petrov**, President, FIATA
  - **Inga Abliņiene**, Development and Project Implementation Partner of the Transport Innovations Association, Lithuania and/or Representative of “Lithuania Railways”



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- **DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

**CLOSING SESSION:**

**WRAP UP AND REFLECTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF UNECE MEMBER STATES**

**03:00 p.m. – 03:30 p.m. (CET)**

***Moderator: Dario Liguti, UNECE Director of Sustainable Energy Division***

- **WRAP UP FOR THE DAY**
  - Reflections from representatives of UNECE Member States on the day's sessions