

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

**SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for
Sustainable Development**

and

**SPECA Workshop on Innovation and Technology for
Sustainable Development**

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan
18-19 October 2023**

Draft programme

In-person event

*Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovations of the Republic of
Uzbekistan*

University Street 7, Almazar district, Tashkent



**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
INNOVATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

Background

The SPECA 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 SPECA 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 assess progress in the implementation of the [Action Plan](#) of the [SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development](#) as approved by the 16th session of the SPECA Governing Council in Tashkent on 19 November 2021.

A questionnaire will be presented to SPECA focal points and nominated participants prior to the session, and implementation progress will be discussed at the preceding subregional workshop.

The Action Plan guides policies and initiatives in the 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 and implementation of the APIS action plan 2022-2026.

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 subregional workshop preceding the WG session include policymakers, representatives of academia, and 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+4 time zone (Tashkent).

DAY 1 / Wednesday, 18 October 2023	
4th session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (part 1): Workshop on Innovation and Digital Transformation (Room 516)	
To register, please use this link	
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch for foreign delegates</i>
14:15 – 14:45	Session 1: Opening Session <u>Moderator:</u> Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE
	<i>Welcoming statements by</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of Uzbekistan (TBC) • Rusyan Mamiit, Partnership and Development Finance Officer, United Nations Office in Uzbekistan • H. E. Askar Zhambakin, Vice Minister of Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry, Kazakhstan (online) • Christopher Athey, Secretary to the SPECA WG on ITSD, UNECE • Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Development Section (IDS), IDD, ESCAP
14:45 – 15:20	Session 2: Overview of the Workshop <u>Moderator:</u> 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"> • Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE
	<i>Action Plan 2022-2026 of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) initiative</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Development Section (ISD), IDD, ESCAP
	<i>Regional cooperation among SPECA countries: innovation in the digitalization of trans-Caspian multimodal and supply chain information exchange</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE (online)
	<i>Progress update on the SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anastasia Pankova, Consultant, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE • Ekaterina Guznova, Consultant, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

<p>15:20 - 17:15</p>	<p>Session 3: Policy Discussion: Progress update on the Action Plan of the SPECA Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development <u>Moderator:</u> Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE</p>
	<p><i>Presentation of the Action Plan and its implementation to date</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rumen Dobrinsky, Director for Strategy, European Alliance for Innovation • Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, Consultant, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE <p><i>Update on measures taken under the Action Plan of the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development and recent policy actions on innovation and technology for sustainable development:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yevgeniya Bikmurzina, Head of the Innovation Ecosystem Department, Innovation and Digital Development Agency, Azerbaijan • Vladimir Popov, Director "KBTU Startup Incubator", JSC "Kazakh-British Technical University", Kazakhstan • Yerbolat Orazbekuly, First vice-president of the Association of Business Incubators and Accelerators based at universities, Kazakhstan • Aisuluu Mustapakulova, Head of Innovation and Strategic Development Department, Kyrgyzpatent, Kyrgyzstan • Firuzmuhammad Saidov, Deputy Director, State Enterprise Business-Incubator of Tajikistan • Vladimir Tsoy, Director, C.A.T. Science Accelerator, Uzbekistan • Bunyod Rakhmatullaev, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan • Sanat Akhanov, Chairman of the Board of "National Agency for the Development of Innovations, QazInnovations" JSC, Kazakhstan <p><i>Comments from the floor</i></p>
	<p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rumen Dobrinsky, Director for Strategy, European Alliance for Innovation • Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE
<p>18:00</p>	<p><i>Buffet organized by the German delegation</i></p>

DAY 2 / Thursday, 19 October 2023- Hybrid

4th session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (part 2): Workshop on Innovation and Digital Transformation (Room 315)

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

Session 4: Good Practices of Digital Technology Applications

Moderator: Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Development Section (IDS), ESCAP

ESCAP Connectivity Tools and the E-resilience Monitoring Dashboard for Digital Foresight Planning

- **Vadym Kaptur**, Consultant, IDS, IDD, ESCAP (online)
- **Aida Karazhanova**, Economic Affairs Officer, IDS, IDD, ESCAP

Good practice on Digital ID Framework in Korea

- **Eugene Lee**, President, Global Business Division, FIDO Alliance Board Member, RaonSecure Co., Ltd (online)

Digital technology applications for environment and air pollution

- **Soon Myung Hong**, Head of Technical Group & SDG Action Forum CEO, Korean Professional Engineers Association, Republic of Korea

09:30 - 10:30

Innovations for Data Sharing and GovTech, FinTech, GreenTech for Digital Transformation

- **Vitaliy Alexandrov**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan at ESCAP, Embassy of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Thailand (online)
- **Sanat Akhannov**, Chairman of the Board of "National Agency for the Development of Innovations, QazInnovations" JSC, Kazakhstan

Discussions

- **Representative of Azerbaijan**
- **Representative of Kazakhstan**
- **Representative of Kyrgyzstan**
- **Representative of Tajikistan**
- **Representative of Turkmenistan**
- **Representative of Uzbekistan**

Comments from the floor

Moderator: Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT & Development Section (IDS), ESCAP

10:30 - 11:30

Establishment of a UN Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development

- **Vitaliy Alexandrov**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan at ESCAP, Embassy of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Thailand (online)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arken Arystanov, Chairman of the Board, KazAid (online) <p><i>Discussions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of Azerbaijan • Representative of Kazakhstan • Representative of Kyrgyzstan • Representative of Tajikistan • Representative of Turkmenistan • Representative of Uzbekistan <p><i>Comments from the floor</i></p>
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 – 12:15	<p>Wrap-up by moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT & Development Section (IDS), IDD, ESCAP
12:15 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
<p>4th Session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (WG on ITSD) (Room 315)</p>	
<p>To register, please use this link</p>	
14:00 – 14:15	<p>Session 1: Opening of the Session, adoption of the agenda and election of officers <u>Moderator</u>: Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE</p>
	<p><i>Welcoming statement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of Uzbekistan (TBC) • Chair of Session (Uzbekistan TBC)
14:15 – 15:30	<p>Session 2: Review of activities since the last session and Work Plan 2024-2025 of the SPECA WG on ITSD</p>
	<p><i>Briefing on activities of the SPECA WG on ITSD 2022-2023 and Work Plan 2024-2025</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ESCAP • Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section (IPDS), UNECE <p><i>Presentation on key findings of the UNECE handbooks on “Business Incubators for Sustainable Development in the SPECA Subregion”, “Supporting Innovative High-Growth Enterprises in the SPECA subregion” and “New Innovation Policy in the SPECA Subregion”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE • Ekaterina Guznova, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

	<p><i>Progress update and next steps for the SPECA Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development (NBIASD)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anastasia Pankova, Consultant, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE <p><i>Key findings of the UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Uzbekistan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Athey, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE <p><i>Briefing on Workshop “Harnessing the potential of blockchain technology for sustainable trade facilitation”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
15:30 - 15:45	Session 3: Adoption of the Work Plan 2024-2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals by representatives of SPECA countries on the planned activities in the Work Plan of the SPECA WG on ITSD for 2024-2025. • Adoption of the UNECE and ESCAP Work Plan 2024-2025 by representatives of SPECA countries.
15:45 - 16:00	Session 4: Adoption of Draft Decisions
16:00 - 16:15	Session 5: Other Matters
	Date and venue for the next session of the SPECA WG on ITSD.
16:15 - 16:30	Session 6: Closing of the Session
	Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan (TBC).

