

Partnerships for inclusive and sustainable digital development

Roundtable on SDG 9 & 17

29 March 2023

15:00-18:00 CEST

Hybrid (Online, Geneva)



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REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION



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The **Roundtable on SDG 9 and 17** [**"Partnerships for inclusive and sustainable digital development"**](#) of the [**Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region**](#) will take place on **29 March 2023 from 15:00 to 18:00 Geneva Time**. It will be held in a hybrid format, in WMO Building in Geneva, Switzerland, and online. The Roundtable is organized by the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia, with the leadership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the contribution of UNEP, UNIDO and UN Women.

The need to address green and digital transitions jointly and the link that those two notions hold is of growing importance in the Europe and Central Asia region and became a defining characteristic to reach the 2030 Agenda. The UN75 Declaration and its subsequent [**Common Agenda**](#) deployed by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres calls on renewed efforts to improve digital cooperation and to protect the planet. Those two notions are brought together under the UN SG [**Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**](#) which addresses Digital Environmental Sustainability. The [**Global Digital Compact**](#), proposed under the Common Agenda and informed by the Roadmap, will be agreed upon at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 which reviews the progress made on the UN75 Declaration.

In light of the above, this roundtable will share policy recommendations and actions to support an inclusive and green digital transformation. It will look at factors hindering internet connectivity access and use across communities and locations. It will discuss the importance of robust digital infrastructure as a prerequisite for the successful uptake of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) solutions serving climate action. Overall, the roundtable will review the achievement made on SDG 9 and 17 indicators related to internet connectivity access and use, ICT infrastructure, innovation, and the development, transfer, and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies. Recognizing the need for strengthened digital cooperation, this roundtable will emphasize a systemic approach to digital development. Collaboration between the ICT and the Environment sectors is even more so crucial to a successful environmentally-sound digital development.

Guiding questions

The roundtable discussion will be guided by the following questions:

1. What are the key solutions to developing robust and reliable ICT infrastructure that can provide universal, affordable, and safe internet connectivity?
2. What are effective policies and actions that governments can implement to limit the negative impact of the manufacturing and use of digital and ICT solutions and devices on the environment, such as e-waste generation, greenhouse gas emission, or loss of rare and raw earth materials?
3. How can innovative ICT-based solutions and emerging technologies be leveraged to support governments in mitigating environmental risks and challenges?
4. Which kind of partnerships are needed to achieve this objective and what are the effective mechanisms that can be leveraged?

Scenario

[15:00-15:05]	<p>Welcome <i>Overview of the session and the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Europe Office
[15:05-15:20]	<p>Introductory remarks by the co-organizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Markus Reubi, Co-Chair of the 2023 RFSD for the UNECE Region• Cosmas Zavazava, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau• Filipe Domingos Freires Lúcio, Director, Member Services & Development Department, World Meteorological Organization
<p><i>Building block 1: Universal access to internet connectivity</i></p> <p>Question 1: What are the critical solutions to developing robust and reliable ICT infrastructure that can provide universal, affordable, and safe connectivity?</p>	
[15:20-15:25]	<p>Keynote – Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)</p> <p><i>Ensuring gender-responsive digital development through inclusive and sustainable partnerships: Regional commitments from the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality of the Generation Equality Forum and the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Gevorg Mantashyan, Deputy Minister of High Tech Industry of Armenia• Ms. Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
[15:25-15:55]	<p>Roundtable discussion</p>

	<p>The roundtable discussion will bring stakeholders to discuss the policy actions and recommendations needed to ensure internet connectivity, access, usage, affordability, and digital inclusion for everyone and in all places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olga Tumuruc, Head, E-Government Agency, Moldova • Łukasz Różycki, Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations in Geneva • Representative of Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry, Kazakhstan - TBA • Civil Society Representative – TBA <p>Moderator: Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Europe Office</p>
<p>[15:55-16:15]</p>	<p><i>In-depth case studies</i></p> <p>The in-depth case studies will provide concrete examples of initiatives that may be scaled up in the region to achieve this objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meliha Kovacevic, Head of Telecommunications licensing department, Communication Regulatory Authority, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Talant Sultanov, Chair and co-founder of the Kyrgyz Internet Society
<p>[16:15-16:20]</p>	<p><i>Q&A and wrap-up of building block 1</i></p> <p>The floor will be open to questions from the audience.</p>
<p><i>Building block 2: Green and digital - Sustainable digital transformation and digital transformation for sustainability</i></p>	
<p>Question 2: What effective policies or actions can governments implement to manage e-waste and make ICT and digital solutions and devices circular and sustainable?</p> <p>Question 3: How can innovative ICT-based solutions and emerging technologies be leveraged to support governments in mitigating environmental risks and challenges?</p>	
<p>[16:20-16:25]</p>	<p><i>Keynote speaker</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Golestan, Chief Digital Officer, UNEP
<p>[16:25-16:55]</p>	<p><i>Roundtable discussion</i></p> <p>This roundtable will bring stakeholders to discuss the policy actions needed to foster the circularity and sustainability of electronic devices, and manufacturing. It will also shed light on digital solutions' role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umberto Modigliani, ECMWF Deputy Director of Forecasts • Anne Yvrande-Billon, Director Economy, market and digital, ARCEP, France • Hugo Andra Costa, Member of the Board of Directors, PortugalSpace • Ilias Iakovidis, Advisor, Digital aspects of Green Transition, DG CNECT

	Moderator: Vanessa Gray, Head, Emergency Telecommunication and Environment Unit, ITU
[16:55-17:05]	<p><i>In-depth case studies</i></p> <p>The in-depth case studies will provide concrete examples of initiatives that may be scaled up in the region. On the one hand, reduce and manage negative externalities of ICTs on the environment, and on the other hand, capture the benefit of ICTs for climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrii Hnap, CEO, Data Analyst, Waste Ukraine Analytics, Ukraine
[17:05-17:10]	<p><i>Q&A and wrap-up of building block 2</i></p> <p>The floor will be open to questions from the audience.</p>
[17:10-17:20]	<i>Break</i>
<p><i>Building block 3: Innovative partnerships toward inclusive and sustainable digital development</i></p> <p>Question 4: Which kind of partnerships are needed to achieve this objective, and what are the effective mechanisms that can be leveraged?</p>	
[17:20-17:50]	<p><i>Moderated session</i></p> <p>Based on the insights gained throughout the roundtable, this concluding segment will bring regional and national actors to reflect jointly on the partnerships and mechanisms needed to foster inclusive and sustainable digital development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avtandil Kasradze, Chairperson of Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) Maja Tomanič-Vidovič, Director, Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF), Slovenia Roar Skålin, Director General, Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Norway Orkhan Nabiiev, Senior Project Specialist, Innovation and digital development agency, Azerbaijan Sarah Delporte, Project Office, ITU Office for Europe <p>Moderator: Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS</p>
[17:50-18:00]	<p><i>Wrap up of the Peer Learning Round Table and concluding remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS

Organizers

Lead organizers UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia, ITU, WMO

Contributor(s) UNEP, UNIDO, UN Women