

Incorporating Digital Transformation with Broader Inclusiveness and Greater Innovation to Build a Straight Path to Sustainability Post Covid-19

Date: 14 July 2022

Time: 10:00-11:30am (UTC-4)

1. Rationale

In 2022, we entered the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has inflicted unprecedented human suffering and, with its combined social, economic, and health impacts, outdone any other major crisis in recent history. While the pandemic continues to force societal changes around the globe, governments, businesses, schools, and people have been looking for ways to continue operations remotely, fostering and speeding up the digital transformation. Children with home internet access began attending classes remotely, many employees started working from home, and numerous firms adopted digital business models to maintain operations and preserve revenue flows. As a result, in some countries, internet traffic increased by up to 60% shortly after the outbreak¹, underscoring the digital acceleration sparked by the pandemic. Meanwhile, with the drastic reduction in human activity caused by the pandemic, there may be a chance for the oceans and land to recuperate. As the world is ready to open up again, early deployment of monitoring and automatic systems utilizing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) might be necessary. Facing these incoming challenges, digital transformation and innovation will bring the solutions that drive quicker response and better protection of all life, in water and on land.

The pandemic has disrupted sustainable development and diverted prior resource allocation away from it. Before the pandemic, digitalization was considered the bridge for closing gaps between developing and developed countries, urban and rural families, men and women. Today, digital transformation not only focuses on digitalization but also digital adaptation and applications. To apply technology properly and efficiently, the digital transformation is supposed to be more inclusive and innovative, involving users, beneficiaries, businesses, public workers, and other stakeholders to maximize the possibilities of best solutions for all parties. This webinar, responding to the themes of the 2022 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), invites experts from public, private, and civil society organizations to share their strategies, collaborative efforts, and experience in adapting to and promoting digital transformation for quality education, gender equality, life below water, and life on land. Through the panel discussion, audience members will be able to understand the expectations and needs for digital transformation from

¹ Digital Transformation in the Age of COVID-19 (OECD, 2020a)

developing country perspectives and also discover more resources and possibilities for further digital cooperation.

2. Purpose

This side event aims to share how the public and private sectors can work together to facilitate digital transformation, adaptation, and innovative application to achieve sustainability and fulfill the needs of life post COVID-19.

3. Responding to SDG goals and targets

- Goal 4 - Quality Education

Target 4.4 - By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship

Target 4.b - By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, Small Island Developing States, and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training, information and communications technology, and technical, engineering and scientific programs in developed countries and other developing countries

- Goal 5 - Gender equality

Target 5.b - Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth

Target 8.2 - Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including a focus on high-value and labor-intensive sectors

- Goal 14 - Life below water

Target 14.7 - By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism

Target 14.a - Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States and least developed countries

- Goal 15 - Life on land

Target 15.b - Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to

finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

Target 17.6 - Knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation

Target 17.7 - Promote sustainable technologies to developing countries

Target 17.8 - Strengthen the science, technology and innovation capacity of least developed countries

4. Panelists and Subtopics

- (1) Mr. Phesheya David Dube, Principle of Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Kingdom of Eswatini (TBC)

Pros and cons - what impact will digitalization bring while achieving universal connectivity?

- (2) Mr. Alex Shyy, Deputy Secretary General, International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) (TBC)

Boosting digital transformation and ensuring digital inclusion for all

- (3) Mr. Mark Johnson, Deputy Chief Information Officer, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) (TBC)

Shortening digital gaps and spreading media literacy to promote trust and security of the digital environment in the post Covid-19 era

- (4) Mr. Tony Long, Chief Executive Officer, Global Fishing Watch (GFW) (TBC)

Protecting marine ecosystems by revolutionizing ocean monitoring and analysis and building a more effective architecture for digital cooperation

- (5) Mr. Rick Chen, Chief Project Manager, Supergeo

Building Partnerships with Information Technology to Activate Digital Transformation

5. Moderator

Representative from St. Kitts & Nevis

6. Tentative Agenda: 1.5-hour webinar

Time	Content
10:00-10:02	Event Introduction - Moderator

10:02-10:07	Opening Remarks - Amb. Timothy Hsiang, Secretary General, TaiwanICDF
10:07-10:11	Topic Introduction - Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ General introduction to digital transformation and its relationship to SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15, 17 ■ Introducing Panelists
10:11-10:21	Pros and cons: What other impacts will digitalization bring while achieving universal connectivity? - Mr. Phesheya David Dube, Principle of Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Kingdom of Eswatini (TBC)
10:21-10:31	Boosting digital transformation and ensuring digital inclusion for all - Mr. Alex Shyy, Deputy Secretary General, International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) (TBC)
10:31-10:41	Shortening digital gaps and spreading media literacy to promote trust and security of the digital environment in the post Covid-19 era - Mr. Mark Johnson, Deputy Chief Information Officer, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) (TBC)
10:41-10:51	Protecting marine ecosystem by revolutionizing ocean monitoring and analysis and building a more effective architecture for digital cooperation - Mr. Tony Long, Chief Executive Officer, Global Fishing Watch (GFW) (TBC)
10:51-11:01	Building Partnerships with Information Technology to Activate Digital Transformation - Mr. Rick Chen, Chief Project Manager, Supergeo
11:01-11:26	Panel Discussion & Conclusion - Moderator
11:26-11:29	Closing Remarks - Amb. James K. J. Lee, Director -General of TECO in New York
11:29-11:30	Closing Remarks - Moderator

7. Platform of Webinar: Webex