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>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning, and good afternoon for some of us. And welcome this session on the digitalization, "Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals in the wake of COVID-19". This event is held within the framework of the UN regional Forum on sustainable development for UNECE region. It is co-organized by many UN agencies and I would like to thank all of you for joining the forces in advancing digitalization in Europe and Central Asia. My name is Jaroslaw Ponder and I have the honor to head the Europe office for the ITU and I will have the pleasure also to Chair this session and be the Moderator of the first part of this event focusing on the connectivity. Before we start, I give the floor to our technical Moderator who will share us some housekeeping information.

>> Thank you so much. Dear participants hello and thank you for joining. My name is Evengiia and I am the remote participation Moderator

for this event. I would like to give you some instructions on the Zoom platform and the meeting. The meeting is entirely remote. The audience is asked to switch off the microphone. The Moderator of the session will address the speakers and give you the floor when your turns come. We encourage the audience to use the chat or any questions or comment. Put your name affiliation and for whom it is addressed to make it easier for the organizers. Moderators will be monitoring and any comments may be read out if time allows. When the floor is open to the audience please raise your hand to request it. The raise hand function is available at the bottom of the participant window. To access the participant window please click on the participant button in the bottom left of the Zoom interface. You can activate the captioning by clicking on closed function at the bottom of the Zoom interface. The session also benefits from English Russian interpretation with you can activate by pressing the button on the bottom of the interface.

(Technical difficulties)

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: And in order to transform this in to the means for connectivity is even the numbers are even higher. This is the reason why we are seeing this event as a special opportunity to make a call to join the forces not to waste any time but really accelerate digitalization across Europe and Central Asia. This year is very special. This year we are holding in November and world telecom ICT development conference which will set the new global agenda for connectivity for all. With the aim of accelerating Sustainable Development Goals. We have set already priorities for Europe in January and I would like to thank many UN agencies and so many stakeholders for being part of this program exercise. And we will doing programtory work in April for the NCIS countries. On activity and digitalization inclusion and cybersecurity are the top on our agenda. But also the new strategy of EU on digitalization shows the skills infrastructure and focus on business and Government remains in the focus of the new digital compass of the EU which will have also the implications for our operational work. This year on the 27th of April at the level of the General Assembly digital cooperation connectivity will be debated by many countries, making sure that we are doing the progress. Also the UN Secretary-General digital cooperation roadmap is going in to the implementation phase and we are looking forward to having this.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today we are meeting in the context of the regional Forum that builds contribution to the HLPF and its significant opportunity for us to provide policy advice on how to use the ICTs for the achievement of the SDGs. Thanks to the UN digital transformation group for Europe and Central Asia many partnerships like equals, giga, digitization of agriculture and health and national reviews on skills, Smart Cities, they are on the highlights on what the UN is working on currently. And we invite you all to consult the page and read the new stock taking report which

should be the inspiration for those who would like to join our journey and for advancing digitalization in our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me thank the stakeholders for being with us and partnering with us and encouraging the others to do so. Also let me thank other UN -- the other sister agencies and UN partners including development coordination office, and resident coordinators for great cooperation in providing support to the countries in this regard. With this I would like to thank very much for your attention and it is my great pleasure to hand over to Elisabeth Tuerk director of economic and trade division. Andre Francisco, secretary of foreign affairs and cooperation in Portugal and Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, regional director of Europe and Central Asia and United Nations development coordination office for further -- to further contribute to opening session. So first let me turn to Elisabeth for her opening remarks.

>> ELISABETH TUERK: Many thanks. Technologically, yes. Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, Francisco Andre, distinguished speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen, a warm welcome to all of you here today. My name is Elisabeth Tuerk. I'm the director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division at UNECE. And it is migrate pleasure to be here with you in this opening session of our joint session for the 2021 regional Forum on sustainable development. It is really with a combined efforts of both ITU and UNECE and all the many partners in the UN digital transformation group for Europe and Central Asia that we have successfully brought together very relevant and also very high level speakers to this event.

And I wish here to thank all the actors involved in the preparation of this exercise. Particularly each member of the UN digital transformation group for Europe and Central Asia with special thanks to our partners at ITU that's Jaroslaw and Sarah. Digital transformation is a very important topic. The COVID-19 pandemic with very devastating impacts it shown us that information and communication technologies they form the backbone of today's economy. I'm sure we will discuss them in-depth. But let me hear two concerns which I hope our speakers will also address and I think Jaroslaw you have already mentioned in your opening remarks. Let us not forget the ability to go digital varies a lot. We see huge digital divides between regions, between countries as well as inequalities of access between different genders. And this huge digital divides they may mean further digital shifts which have the potential to result in even greater inequalities. Second, most digital solutions are being used that we are using today are provided by relatively small number of large companies. The increased market power of this handful of players has fuelled concerns about the distribution of the value created, about Consumer Protection and fair competition.

We really need to address these two and many other challenges that we are encountering on our way to fully harness the benefits of digitalization.

And to fully harness these benefits, achieving international cooperation can be very, very helpful. International cooperation between states and between international organizations and between different stakeholders that should really be at the forefront of all our policy actions and it would be our focus. At UNECE we contribute to this goal by serving as a facilitator of cooperation as a source of normative instruments and as provider of expertise and let me flag to you some of our innovative solutions for making trade more sustainable. That's at the core of UNECE's cooperation and trade division and making trade for inclusive is also at the core of building back better.

For example, we are working to make value chains more transparent and more sustainable in the area of garments and footwear and we are using blockchain technology to achieve this. Another example to reduce food waste and loss, we have joined with other UN agencies, that helps us to identify and quantity and trace food loss and waste along the value chain. Third to protect endangered species. We support societies allowing government to secure exchange of electronic permits in legal trade of endangered species. And fourth we are also supporting the promotion of sound management of hazardous waste. That's really important for the circular economy by supporting the implementation of the Basal Convention through our eBasal standard. We are supporting fishing. So all of these are digitally supported solutions for making trade more sustainable and more inclusive and for supporting our efforts to build back better. We aim to harness the power of digitalization across all our workstreams and very proud to have with us today, the Chair of our advisory group on advanced technologies and trade and logistics and that's Mr. Stefano Quintarelli. For us to use -- for us to use the new technologies to -- (cutting out) thank you very much and I look forward to benefitting from the ideas and expertise and knowledge you will be sharing and I wish you a wonderful session and see you shortly for topic 3. Thank you.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much. It is now a great pleasure and honor to to introduce His Excellency, Mr. Francisco Andre, co-Chair of regional Forum on sustainable development and Secretary of State of foreign affairs holding this year and presidency in the EU Council as well. So His Excellency, the floor is yours.

>> FRANCISCO ANDRE: Thank you Jaroslaw. First of all I want to thank you and Elisabeth and Gwi for sharing this panel with me. I would like to thank the ITU for the opportunity to contribute to this cross-cutting session on digitalization. Digital technologies play an increasing and important role on our economies and continue to significantly shape our societies, and the way that businesses operate at ever-increasing speed. COVID-19 has further accelerated the rise of Digital Economy and virtual technologies and become an integral part of our new normal. Digital technologies have enables us to carry on. Y and the whole of new media

networks and virtual platforms we can keep in touch with friends and families ever so slightly -- confinement mi measures. Digital assets and tools helps to boost digital commerce. However, the pandemic brought along new challenges that are widening the digital divide within and between countries and inequalities and further exploiting those who are not digitally connected. The lack of digitalization not only about loss of access, in very practical terms it means no access to education or health. It means no access to work in many cases.

We need to bridge digital divide while we are covering and sharing the (inaudible). Mainly across Europe and Central Asia. The need to embrace digital transformation beneficial to all and across all sectors of economy is one of the main lessons of the current crisis.

COVID-19 made digital transformation a top priority not only to neutralize the negative impacts of pandemic but to accelerate economic recovery fostering new forms of growth and strengthening resilience. The multilateral systems, politically steer this process to ensure that digitalization will make it more and not less sustainable. In order to avoid increasing inequalities and share the technology benefits all, actions should be taken to guarantee that all citizens and businesses across different sectors can leverage digital transformation for a better and more prosperous life. Then it is crucial that engage in a comprehensive strategy that includes a broad scope of needs supported by a wide range of stakeholders. Must join efforts as promoting accessibility and affordability developing skills and raising awareness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Portugal attaches utmost importance to integration of digitalization in the Government policies. It is an important area for Portuguese cooperation with positive results achieved in telemedicine and digital environment and also an area such as the promotion of the ICT the digitalization of civil registries and public administration through e-governance. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that digital transformation is also a priority of ongoing presidency of European Union. Our digital agenda is very ambitious and will contribute to digitalizing the transition as a driver of economic recovery and innovation across different sectors within the European Union and beyond.

In conclusion, let me stress the crucial importance of sharing a safe and affordable access to the Internet, to every person, if we are to realize the full potential of digital technologies in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The challenge is only partially an infrastructure one. It is also essential to invest in developing digital skills and building human capacity so that workers can adapt to new production processes that are working to digital transformation or business and digital platforms, to the areas of the e-commerce payment and accession to the promotion of health and disease prevention and to distance learning in education and lifelong learning. Leaving no one behind is also leaving no one offline. Thank you

very much for your attention.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Excellency, thank you very much for this opening remarks and the message from the country. But also of making the link to the EU presidency. Thank you very much one more time for being with us and we are looking forward to the successful outcomes of the whole Forum with digital component reflected in those. Let me turn me to our colleague, Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, regional director of the development coordination office for her remarks.

>> GWI YEOP SON: Thank you very much, colleagues, especially ITU and UNECE for giving me this opportunity. Development coordination office representing the RFSD system we feel very privileged to take part in this session. As was mentioned by other speakers and like all the e regions our region has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. It has had drastic circumstances for people and societies with major setbacks across multiple SDGs reversing development gains and exacerbating trends that predate the COVID-19 pandemic. Digital access is one of these trends. So during the COVID-19 pandemic as was mentioned by other colleagues the availability of Internet connectivity has helped maintain business continuity, keep children in school and ensure that people can access essential goods and services online.

At the same time the pandemic has also exposed a significant -- exclusion in the digital world, pointing to the need to provide access to technology for all people. Looking at some global statistics as to how the pandemic has impacted, 463 million students around the world remain cut off from education in 2020 cue to a lack of remote learning policies or lack of equipment needed for learning at home. So, of course, we need to do more.

At the same time the positive news that 90% of countries implemented some form of remote learning policy and measures have taken reached the approximately 69% of us school children in preprimary to secondary education globally. So this has been made possible, thanks to digital transformation and technology and it also means that many children could continue learning, despite schools being closed physically. Another example is how digital transformation has helped businesses to adapt to virtual office and online shopping. At the same time micro small and medium enterprises without digital access are not able to stay competitive. For instance, rural women have been hit hard by this. Compounded by rural leave rural women in particular with a greatest risk of being left further behind.

To address these challenges, this digital transformation group led by ITU and UNECE in our region on the -- on stock taking exercise which I think has been posted now in the chat, as you can access the report identifies flagship initiatives as scaleable solutions to access SDGs. It includes participation of women and girls in the digital sector and digital agriculture and raising financing to connect every school to the Internet.

For instance, with the support of UNWOMEN a number of Member States can now improve participation of women and girls in to the sector. With the support of FAO Member States have an overview of digital agriculture aiming at closing the gender divide which I mentioned earlier.

(Technical difficulties)

>> Elisabeth mentioned some of them and I will repeat. But digitalization, information, technology such as blockchain and Artificial Intelligence can further facilitate new business models and include opportunities. Not just any regular employment opportunities but building back better with job standards and securities and also green job growth.

So this is what we must together achieve during the nine years left of the Decade of Action. So let me conclude by reaffirming the UN's commitment to support the Member States if the members of the -- and sustainable way to ensure that no one is left behind. UN is an integral partner to ensuring the digital inclusion of the most vulnerable particularly women and girls, youth, children, Persons with Disabilities, the older persons, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and people living in remote or rural areas.

The UN is committed to working with all of you to achieve university connectivity for all and everywhere.

So thank you very much for this opportunity. And let me pause.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much and really grateful for great cooperation and making digital a reality. So thank you. I would like to thank all the speakers for the opening segment. I would like to encourage you to stay with us because we have a special guest for this event who is coming -- as you know the Minister of digital transformation has been created under the leadership of the deputy Prime Minister. Today we have a great opportunity to hear the insight on the strategy and the advancement from the Her Excellency, Valeryia Ionan. I'm handing over to you.

>> VALERYIA IONAN: Thank you it is a very big honor to be a part of this event today. I would like to talk about our achievements so far and some things about strategy. Digital transformation in Ukraine was inaugurated in end of 2019 and we have a big philosophy to transform people's lives. Our ministry has four strategic goals for the next three years. To make 100% of public services available online and access to Internet, to teach 6 million of Ukrainen people with digital skills and to develop the IT industry and for achieving these four strategic goals we have a big national project which is called DIA. It is translated in to English as an action. And DIA is an ecosystem of five big national projects. First win is a DIA app which was downloaded and used by more than 7 million of Ukrainen people and with the help of the DIA app we can use documents in Smartphone, namely passports, driver's licenses and even use some -- big project is website of public services online DIA. The third one is the first

virtual business country DCT. The fourth project is DIA business, the national project of the development of small and medium enterprises I had was two components. The first one is an online stop shop for future and current entrepreneurs and second one is very special offline hubs and consulting those where people who want to become entrepreneurs or people who already have businesses and want to develop them can get free consultations on 50 big topics, including, HR, fundraising, access to finance. And visit three educational events. And the fifth project of the DIA ecosystem is the DIA, digital literacy which also has two big components. First is a national online platform. We have already published more than 50 different educational series in entertainment format. These are a series which have been dub done in a micro learning format. Every episode is very short, from 7 up to 10 minutes with stop lessons and final test and certificates and only for a year we have more than one -- more than of that of a million of Ukrainen people who are registered on the platform and who -- and who are having their educational process on the platform.

And the second big component of this project is the network also of offline hubs. Actually these are places with an access to Internet, with gadgets to people who are living in villages or in small cities who not yet have good access to the Internet are not yet have the gadget can actually go to these places. And learn digital literacy there. So we have almost 6,000 hubs which are majorly libraries, centers for public services, schools, universities and even private sector where people can go and for free use an Internet gadget and learn through our platform.

Of course, we are working with other directions like cybersecurity, innovations, crypto currencies, online security for kids and with support creating a safe and empowering digital environment for children through skills development and adoption of multi-stakeholder approach to address new challenges and here I would like to express our sincere gratitude to ITU for all the support that we as Minister of digital transformation are getting from you for all the projects that we are doing together and thank you so much for supporting these important topics. Also using this opportunity I would like to mention and invite every speaker and every listener of this event to join the European, all digital week. It will be digital literacy week starting from 22 and ending in on 28th of March.

So we encourage you to join this big event and to initiate a range of events on digital literacy topics. Thank you so much. I think that's all from my side. And it was a pleasure to be a part of this event and thank you again for your support.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Excellency, thank you very much for this inspiring keynote. And referring to so many excellent work which you are doing for the country, which can serve also as the reference point for the others to get additional inspiration in their work in the digitalization of certain activities, particular in the COVID time. We feel from what you say

that the digital helps to substitute the face to face interactions and this is something that we need in particular these days. Ladies and Gentlemen to thank you very much for being with us. But before we are closing the -- setting the context of this event, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome with us the representative of the EU we have create the the Europe youth group under the Generation Connect initiative in order to listen, hear and transpose the ideas of the young generation working on the digital, feeling the digital and believing in the digital for the future generation. And this is great pleasure for us to be joined today by the Daniel Kalemi who will deliver for us his remarks on behalf of the group. Daniel, the floor is us.

>> DANIEL KALEMI: Am I audible?

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: All good.

>> DANIEL KALEMI: So dear Mr. Ponder, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, through digitalization the role of youth is becoming increasingly important. As younger generations become the drivers of social change. In accordance with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, we recognize strategic role of meaningful connectivity for sustainable development. Taking in to account the challenges and opportunities of this century in the context of the European region the Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group, developed a providing a views of European regional priorities. This resulted in 26 data driven youth centric actionable recommendations across 10 thematic priorities, including capacity development, policy regulation, cybersecurity, the environment, and digital inclusion. As representative of the Europe youth group I will be presenting a set of selected actions that in our view Member States can adopt and advance the SDG agenda through the use of ICTs. Starting with capacity development, continues to provide empirical challenges and opportunities for young people. With more than a fifth of European youth lacking basic skills, recognizing that technological issues are shared responsibilities among all stakeholders. We recommend increasing digital literacy among youth through high quality free online courses while recognizing the job related challenges. Additionally we repose to identify the existing resources provided by the ITU and partner organizations. Joining the policy regulations which can have a big impact on youth, increased communication and awareness raising may lead to a generation that is well aware of policies and regulations.

And the rights and duties that flow from these processes. To that end we recommend increasing the involvement of youth in the regulatory process ensuring improved communication and presentation. We also propose an additional focus on the youth dimension in the context of ICT policies and regulations. Going in to the cybersecurity rapid changes caused by COVID-19 and the future of work forced us to move our daily lives from the real world to the online world, exposing everyone to the numerous digital threats at present. It is vital to equip youth with cybersecurity skills,

to prepare such literate digital citizens for future challenges.

To that end we propose raising awareness and promote medial literacy and cybersecurity to educate youth on online safety creating a secure online environment. We also recommend increasing cybersecurity skills among young people and ensure a larger presentation of women in the field. We encourage to establish capacity building standards for European countries with cross-sectorial cybersecurity curriculum Guidelines. Going through the fourth and the environment part, the youth are currently in perspectivetively bearing the largest burden coping with consequences of climate change and actions and decisions taken by all stakeholders. While needing to reduce its very own ecological footprint ICT can play a key role to mitigate climate change. By including youth in this process, this potential can be further leveraged. To that end, we recommend collaboration with youth, to leverage ICT to reduce the ecological footprint of industries and its own. A circular economy including ICT industries and devices is crucially needed. Additionally, we encourage Governments to create professional roles educational paths, and grants for startups and initiatives for youth people to specifically support sustainable development through technology. Finally, we the European youth group advocate for digital inclusion.

Equality of access and effective use of digital platforms by all groups in society must be ensured, especially for those who experience digital exclusion, based on their age, gender, abilities, geographical location, socioeconomic status or lack of language skills.

To that end we propose that Governments and industry stakeholders guarantee inclusive digital technology designed for all particularly those with specific needs. Lastly, we recommend that governments subsidize the cost of Internet activity for those low income households that provide free Internet in public places to promote affordability and equality of access to digital services.

Thank you very much for listening.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: I got connectivity back. Sorry for this break. Thank you very much Daniel for this statement. This is really important contribution to our deliberations. And the demonstration of how the participation of the youth in our discussions on the policies but also more importantly even the implementation can be done in the meaningful way and that from the ideas we move towards the real action. So with this Ladies and Gentlemen I would like to thank all speakers of the opening segment and with this we would move to the first topic of this session which will be focusing on the connectivity. We have prepared a few slides to set the context. I will not go in-depth because we are running a little bit late. But I would like to ask Sarah to display the slides in the meantime and let's go through the setting the context.

This session will consist of the contributions of a series of experts and the leaders in this field. So let me be very short. ITU connectivity is the

top priority and strategic goal. The ITU believes in the connectivity but also not only the technology but more importantly as the enabler for social economic development. Next slide.

And this is the reason why we have recently also carried out in all regions of the world the study in order to understand better how the broadband connectivity could impact the development of the economies. And we see on the slide that the fixed broadband and mobile broadband has immense impact on the economy. But more importantly also digitally, not only about the factor, it is about the digital process which building it on the infrastructure and we see the relationship between the digitization and development index. And the impact on the (inaudible) at the global level. Next slide, the same are proven for two of our regions which we are considering today for Europe and CIS. We see that the increase of 10% in the IT technologies, increase in development index, and increase of 10% of broadband penetration which yields (inaudible). Next slide. This is the reason why we need to take a look how the strategic investment and partnerships should support this advanced challenge of the world. And we've noticed that in the Europe and Central Asia in the coming ten years, we need to mobilize -- a billion of European -- to connect the unconnected with the broadband connection. Next slide.

But this investment is not only -- also should go in the -- at the policy development and create digital and create proper environment for investment but also search meaningful use of the connectivity. This is the reason also with the recent studies one which is already available for Europe and the other one which is going to come for the CIS countries but drawing attention to the main challenges which we are in front of us, next slide, next slide. Which we are encountering in Europe. We see the emerging role of the connectivity. We see that even though we are doing very well in the broadband connectivity, still we see a big (inaudible) in the region and in particular the divide between the EU and non-EU countries. We also see the mobile connectivity it play an important role with the 5G emerges it requires much more attention for making the strategic decision. Next slide, in terms of affordability, (inaudible) national cooperation with the national -- there are some countries which still didn't reach the broadband affordability cup, which is for most of the countries the necessity in order to make transform at the ICTs in to real impact. Next slide.

We are also observing that we have the clear challenges still in youth skills and persisting the gender divide which requires the joint action of many of us. And this is the reason -- next slide -- why we are focussing and targeting a group of countries in order to prepare to compromise support those and to work together on a meaningful connectivity. But with this I will stop my intervention. Thank you very much Sarah for displaying the slides and I would like to first welcome all our speakers coming from a different setups, private sector, academia and the Government. And the

first speaker I have the pleasure to introduce is Ms. Oxana Kukharchuk.

>> OXANA KUKHARCHUK: I will pronounce my last name.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much. Who is from private sector in Russia. The floor is yours.

>> OXANA KUKHARCHUK: If I can share presentation. I share the presentation. One second. I'm very happy to see everyone's at this event. And my name is Oxana Kukharchuk. And today I would like to share with you about the projects that we do jointly with UNIDO to development digital skills. As today already it was discussed that currently girls and women globally are less likely to have access to digital technologies. And especially with the COVID-19 pandemic we see very strong hit on every aspect of our lives. And the lack of connectivity has been increasing. So that's why digital disparities amplify other inequalities that exist in our society. And Jaroslaw Ponder was like talking a lot about it in the opening session. Therefore our partner, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization has been advocating for more women in industry as an important element. Allow women to share the benefit of industrialization and raise the status at home and in the community while bringing a large skill source in to the economy. And fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The need to make progress in this direction is getting more pressing for women who are bearing the burden of the COVID-19 crisis, losing their jobs and businesses. According to UNWOMEN in Europe and Central Asia a quarter of self-employed women have lost their jobs as a result of pandemic compared to a fifth of men. And also Gwi Yeop Son today in the opening session was also saying that small and medium business just fall behind due to the current situation. According to the International Labour Organization overall women's employment is 19% more at risk than man. This is primarily attributed to the fact that women are overrepresented in low paid risk jobs than men. And millions of women currently working in labor intensive industries such as textile and garment sectors and are forced to seek new forms of employment in higher skills jobs that are more resilient in the employment landscape. So that's why empowering women economically and digitally would help strengthen their financial independence and sustainability of families and communities. So since 2019 we have been collaborating with UNIDO --

>> Can you please change your slide? Very sorry to interrupt. There is no sound now. I'm sorry again.

>> OXANA KUKHARCHUK: Okay. Now? So as of 2019 we have been collaborating with UNIDO on their project aimed to develop a targeted online training course that would help women, women entrepreneurs strength their knowledge in modern digital technologies and create opportunities to advancing labor market.

We can see very well the digital skills nowadays represent the crucial precondition for social and economic inclusion. The existing skill gaps needs

to be bridged to help women better integrate in the global economic processes and benefit from emerging technologies. Even though those we are able to enjoy during our sessions today. We believe specialized training sessions in this field would help boost economic growth and prosperity while contributing to attainment of SDGs 5, 8 and 9 that would be particularly relevant in the aftermath of the pandemic. It is about innovation for women entrepreneurs is expected to be finalized and piloted at the end of spring 2021. And will be in English and Russian in online format through the UNIDO learning platform. Digital technologies and digital marketing and digital project management, and e-commerce, social media marketing and customer relationship management. For the development of this force we partnered with UNIDO to conduct market studies and Focus Groups researchers to identify the main needs and challenges faced by women in this field. We care for the selected expert speakers who delivered fully interactive lectures on this subject and topics. We hope that our cooperation with UNIDO will give a positive result. And the online course will be utilized globally by women and girls driving the achievements of the 2030 Agenda. So thank you very much. And colleagues from UNIDO and I will be happy to address any questions that you may have.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much for this very inspiring project and a lot of impact within it. And now let me turn to our next speaker, Ms. Nino Enukidze director of business and technology University from Georgia.

>> NINO ENUKIDZE: Thank you very much. First of all, I'd like to say that I'm really honored to participate in this wonderful event and discuss what we can do to further have girls and women participate in the sector. I will start with statistics, according to the latest statistics, women startup, just receive 2.3% of startup funding. Underrepresented group entrepreneurs. They are more likely to stick to the existing networks which consists mostly by men. The world is not on track to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and 5 to ensuring equitable quality education. Digital literacy is an additional barrier to adoption by certain community, both in developed and developing markets. In lower income economies, only 32% of population have basic digital skills. Among them a number of men is higher than of women. Women are mostly underrepresented in technology industries which are driving forth industrial revolution in the world. Even though we all know that encouraging women in IT sector will boost economies and there is a big gender gap and lack of female candidates on the job market. Perhaps the most important thing which we could do is to think about digital inclusion not in isolation but part of the social context under which we use it. Developing Countries and their citizens need to act boldly to build digitally powered economy that works for girls and for women also.

I'd say that private sector global private sector donors and other

stakeholders need to start thinking of themselves as critical partners around the area. So if they don't, for almost half of the population of the world, maybe the pessimistic predictions about technologies might come true. I'd say that engaging women and girls in ICT sector is not only the right thing to do, but in -- from the point of social justice. It's also smart for the economies. For example, we know that women led startups get funded whenever women led startups get funded they are more likely to be successful. They ultimately deliver their revenue more than twice as much invested. This is what Boston consulting group has delivered as part of their research several months. We discuss many solutions. To start supporting startups simply because they are funded by women perhaps is not a solution. But instead to look for human centered business model, if this is seek out businesses that will focus to fulfill gender gaps and societal need, providing increasing numbers of jobs for women over time and provide a work culture that empowers employees with elements such as safety, and career development, in economic context, return on investment will be higher. So this model seems to be beneficial for everyone and why not starting doing it now in Georgia to support female entrepreneurship. Georgia organization with support of Microsoft, with support of women in tech global movement and many other organizations and today, we serve hundreds and hundreds many women who want to transfer in to technology and so we teach front end and back end development and other programming languages. For supporting the entrepreneurship of women, we have launched the entrepreneurship center, to somehow address these issues.

So the last thing I would like to say is that for girls and women, the cost of Internet connection is also very high. 48% of the world's population remains unconnected to Internet. Many countries do not meet global standards of being able to access the Internet. And giving women access to digital tools will be a strong drive to solve the problem and technology gap. Women's increasing need to Internet can add up to 20 million U.S. dollars to GDP in countries. These numbers and statistics might speak for themselves. That the industry which is highly dominated by men is very much leading women participation and it's even more important than ever. Thank you very much for your attention.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much for this. And making so many good points. We encourage all of you to work on the gender equality is very close to hearts of many of us and we have to keep this very high on the agenda reminding the -- all stakeholders about the importance of this issue.

But now let me turn to Ms. Yvette Ramos, President of the UNDA AI and high tech and the President of the Swiss engineering in Geneva. The floor is yours.

>> YVETTE RAMOS: Yes. Hello, can you hear we well?

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Absolutely is.
>> YVETTE RAMOS: I will share my screen. Can you see it?
>> JAROSLAW PONDER: We can see it.
>> YVETTE RAMOS: With the slides?
>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Absolutely.
>> YVETTE RAMOS: Thank you so much. I am very pleased to be with you today. My name is Yvette Ramos. And I do represent today amongst others the regional Civil Society engagement mechanism. That is a platform aimed to enable stronger cross constitution coordination and ensure that all voices of all subregions are heard in Intergovernmental processes at regional and global. Thanks so much for the very interesting panel presentations and it was great to hear all those voices and congratulations to you all for the debates. Access for all regardless of age, gender and ethnicity give our group the opportunity to highlight our activities and offer partnerships in terms of advocacy, and capacity development for the marginalized social groups we do represent.

The importance of technology and equal access to all shows that yet a lot has to be done to promote coordination amongst Governmental stakeholders at national and international levels on one hand and the Civil Society on the other hand. To implement efficiency and effectively the 2030 Agenda through ICTs. Challenging in accessing technology lie in many factors. We believe that political fragility and second looming barriers posed by climate change and third gender and other discrimination factors such as age and this is what you have here. I would like to focus on what we Civil Society do recommend. First developing the digital skills and building human capacities to each communities of Persons with Disabilities, et cetera, et cetera. Although technologies are becoming increasingly affordable the acquisition of basic digital skills remain a barrier. In the digital divides persist and exclude those who need it the most. Second, strengthening youth employment opportunities while ensuring the participation of girls and women in ICTs in all socioeconomic sectors.

Third, offering technological solutions to fight sexual harassment and violence at school, at University campuses and other workplace and for that we have solutions, technological solutions. Then reinforcing quality education across life course through activities where women are the main role models and for this better and stronger cooperation of all stakeholders is a prerequisite ensuring convergence, synergies and cross disciplinary expertise. And transforming school and dult learning culture in partnership with local communities and local actors. Also ensuring steps are taken at regional national and local level to address digital divide and those most left behind receive adequate support. And finally we can help, designing a Strategic Plan to address barriers to their digital access.

Let's keep up the action as it is time to formalize those practices and following the recommendation of the UN and other global stakeholders to

develop strategies for equality in the public and private arenas, within small or large organizations, NGOs, engineering society and engineering and science faculties and local authorities. Through partnership boost between UN bodies and Civil Society and through it all the SDGs for more inclusive and sustainable -- fair and sustainable world. Thank you very much and I wish you all and us a productive collaboration on the regional Forum, 2021.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much for your contribution. And dear Ladies and Gentlemen, now let me turn to Klorenta Janushi who will be talking more on the child online protection. Also part very important part of the digital inclusion work. So Klorenta, the floor is yours.

>> KLORENTA JANUSHI: Thank you. National authority for locate tron nick certification. The development of the Internet as well as the innovative changes in technology have brought radical changes. Albania is a developing country and aiming to increase the standard of living and improving public services. In addition to the benefits of using new digital technology the use of Internet brings only threats related to cybersecurity. Albania in this regard has taken important steps to improve the cybersecurity ecosystem in addition to developments in the field of information technology and the legal framework for cybersecurity has been supplemented and improved. Providing is a safer Internet is one of the strategic objectives of national strategy for cybersecurity which was approved next December. The Internet mobile phones and other information technologies tools are part of their daily lives. Family parents, mother, especially, peers in schools are the three environments of children stigmatization while the digital environment has become the fourth. The distinction between online and offline is becoming increasingly meaningful and they move between the two environments easily. Protecting child online requires articulated actions in a simple and clear manner. At the same time the protection of children online should be proportionate to the risks they face. In the national cybersecurity strategy is related to creating the necessary mechanisms for the safety of children in cyberspace while preparing the new generation capable of taking advantage of information technology and meeting development challenge. In this regard the authority for electronic certification and cybersecurity in Albania, in cooperation the international communication union, developing a series of training with special focus on household level. This event was held online for five days last December. It was to encourage safer environment for children online and highlighting tips in communicating and supporting and educating them. With about 100 unique participants in Albania and abroad by motivating and:a boost in the field of ICT and online safety. I want to close by acknowledging ITU for the important work you have done and you are still doing in enhancing child online protection. We know that the pilot project in Albania took effect at the beginning of the year and we are looking forward to see how it would impact children's experiences if we enlarge the

scope of awareness campaign with different aspects. I am happy to take any questions. Thank you.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much. And with this contribution we are arriving to the questions and answers and I encourage all of the participants to put their questions in the chat box. I believe that we will not be able to take all of them. We will be able to answer them or in the chat room. Also we are running -- (cutting out). This Forum today we are meeting to see how we invite the policymakers in the diversion of actions in the particular course and to be taken to be strengthened in order in particular in this session seeking the guidance on the digital inclusion. Should we have the power of having something seen in the main outcomes of the Forum, what would be your policy recommendation in terms of the strengthening digital inclusion in your respective area of expertise? And let me start from the first speaker.

>> OXANA KUKHARCHUK: That's a very good question and I would like to pass the answer to our colleagues from UNIDO.

>> Good afternoon colleagues do you hear me well?

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: All is good.

>> First of all, Jaroslaw Ponder and colleagues I must say we are very impressed, I am personally impressed by the number of pilot projects and initiatives that are implemented by numerous agencies, UN agencies and Governments. We have heard so many amazing stories today and especially to my heart at UNIDO we work closely on gender equality and women empowerment policy actions related to women equality and inclusion of women in Digital Economy are very, very much needed.

We see at UNIDO that such policy actions have specifically focusing on women economic empowerment and inclusion in to the digital sector could target three broad areas. It is also a conclusion from today's interventions coming from our speakers from Georgia, from Russia and from Ukraine. So first of all it is critically important for policymakers focus on promoting digital skills and education. Secondly, important area for policy action is supporting and advocating for more women entrepreneurs. We have heard the number from Georgians from different studies. Third policy action is in the area of breaking stereotypes and raising awareness on existing successful business models and projects that were highlighted numerous times today. They can be integrated in the national agenda or addressed as a stand alone issue. And one of the policy actions that we could suggest from UNIDO's side and you have heard about our project is to enhance women's access to digital tools and platforms as well as to facilitate the development of gender sensitive educational programs to help women, especially those in rural areas whom it is not easy to reach out to. To develop skills that -- further integration in to the Digital Economy. We know that women struggle beginning education training with household responsibility. Additional opportunities for women to participate in learning

helps to increase chances to job. We could foster the resilience of women in employment in the long run.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much. For sure a lot of good points which will capture in order to have clear outcome of our deliberation but let me turn now with the same question to Ms. Nino for her input. Ms. Nino.

>> NINO ENUKIDZE: Yes. I'm sorry, I have some disconnection of the Internet.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: So we are taking those messages which our session would like to transmit to the whole Forum, reinforcing digital inclusion in your respective field of expertise.

>> NINO ENUKIDZE: Yes. So actually we were thinking about certain messages to be delivered after the Forum is ended. So I think that if I might say it briefly, in a digitized world opening access to technology for women is the most important action we can take. Building countries all strategy of how to do so is the process we need to start already. And even though some countries and -- I mean countries from which the representatives of today's Forums are attending already have taken certain actions and delivered actions of how to do so. The countries I represent and several others are still in the process of working on it. So delivering this strategy and covering the areas of public and private sector is the most important thing I think that needs to be done.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Okay. Thank you very much for this. So very well noted. So let's focus on the partnership building as well and strengthening the input of the different stakeholders, with this action and let me now turn to Ms. Yvette Ramos for her input.

>> Ms. Ramos had to leave the meeting.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Okay. So we are turning to Ms. Klorenta Janushi for her input.

>> KLORENTA JANUSHI: Thank you. Since I represent the Government sector in this session I will of course base my answer in the action plan of the national strategy for cybersecurity. Here I can mention some of the specific objectives that we are planning to implement during our implementation of the five year strategy. And they consist in raising awareness and educating vulnerable segments. Raising capacities of women and girls to ensure gender equality. And also international cooperation may be good indicator or a step to take to implement mentorship programs for women and girls especially in the ICT or cybersecurity field. I have seen some very good developments in regard to this ITU with the African region. We are looking forward to implement this initiative soon in Europe and also in Albania.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Excellent. Thank you very much. Dear, Ladies and Gentlemen, the time is a little bit going passed. During this session we learned a lot as we got concrete proposals for the policy

recommendations to be forwarded to the -- digital -- international cooperation part and multi-stakeholder partnerships are key but there are many, many more that will be reflected in the report. But not prolonging, I let me thank all presenters of this session for their contribution. And I would like to hand over the floor to Ms. Sophie Treinen who will be comoderating the topic with Clayton Hamilton and I would like to ask the speakers to -- to all participants just to thank our speakers of our session for the great contributions. Thank you very much. And I'm handing over to Sophie.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: Thank you very much Jaroslaw. In the second section we are highlighting the emerging role of information and communication technology as an engine for agriculture development in Europe and Central Asia.

So I will start presenting the current -- and it will be followed by another presentation on the European Union, what the preaccession countries how they can prepare themselves.

So I will start now with the overall context for Europe and Central Asia. And we can move directly in to the opportunities and the challenges. And as many of the previous speakers have mentioned today, of course, there are these opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce transaction cost and better management of risk, strengthen trust between the different actors and inclusion and access to finance. However the digital divide exists everywhere. Let's go directly in to what are the roles of the technologies that can be offered by agriculture. So I would like just -- I don't tell them all because of time, but sustainable farming, this is something very important. This is management, and enhance market access. And then food safety traceability and regulatory framework because this is what we also need. We need to have those. And FAO and ITU have been working together to actually understand what is the stages of digital agriculture in specific countries of Europe and Central Asia. I'm sure you will have the link in the chat. And after having done these status, we launch a call on digital Excellency in agriculture and we were quite lucky and received more than 200 replies and I will share in the next slides very quickly some of the challenges that people have been confronted with.

And, of course, there is the technical difficulties, the connectivity, but also to have user friendly software interfaces for farmers. Because we are working in agriculture, the rural area, you need to have very strong device and this is still what we are missing. Then, of course, energy is an another thing. And data. We will come back to data and in the next slide the challenges where the low probability, the importance of having a return over investment, finding the right business, the opportunities. Again data, the ownership, the moneyization of data, because otherwise people are reluctant to share. And all these things we need to see how we can scale them up in other countries.

The other challenges that were discussed was the policy. And that's why we need to have some regulation on data interoperability and to make public data availability and of better quality. Here we need to have some legislation, and not only legislation but funding support and better communication between the actors. The next challenges are skills and mentality. So yes, we have this triple divide. We need to have more digital skills but also equipment to actually awareness, to train people, whether developers or whether farmers. To have local languages, proper languages and not so much jargon. And then we have to move with the mentality overcoming skepticism because there is a low reduction of process and also to reduce the high financial risk. The other challenges that we can face can actually be also overcome. And so there are a few good things we are having now some of these evidence. So, for example, farm management, have a better land management, weather forecast, include soil monitoring, using remote sensing to see the animal behavior and you have good management and good usage of data you have a better perspective of what's happening and how to manage it.

Other suggestions are from farm to fork. To have direct sale, to have direct communication between consumers and producers. And there are plenty of examples that we receive such as the traceability, the transparency, and also providing certificates. And if I can then really show what is important, importance to close this triple divide, between rural, urban, gender, it's actually investment. Investing on the supply side, demand side, meaning rural network coverage, and the availability of digital applications. And then on the demand side, as many said digital skills, literacy and specifically for women and men. In addressing such factors specific range of public policy intervention. And most importantly regulatory environment that attracts private sector investment.

And I would like to conclude saying that the conducive environment for digitalization of agriculture requires expanding and improving infrastructure, and not only ICTs, all the infrastructures. Improving people's ability to use the Internet effectively and designing a regulatory framework that is both conducive to innovation. FAO and ITU have designed these Guidelines to actually develop national digital agriculture strategy. So the work continues.

Thank you very much. And it continues and it continues looking at what's happening in -- at the European Union side and also how the preaccession countries can actually prepare themselves. So I would like to invite Eszter Varga who is working for the agriculture institute and she is going to present us how preaccession countries can prepare themselves towards digitalization. Eszter, the floor is yours.

>> ESZTER VARGA: Thank you very much Sophie. Good afternoon or good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce my presentation. I will share the screen. Can you see this?

>> Yes.

>> ESZTER VARGA: Thank you. So my presentation is on EU expectations and CAP objectives and digital agriculture concerning the accessionion countries. First of all, I would like to talk a little bit about the European way of digital transformation because if you talk about the western Balkans, preaccession countries, the economic investment plan states that the guiding principle is the European Union digital strategy. This strategy was prepared last year and it introduces the European approach to digital transformation. It means special European way considering the economic societal and environmental aspects at the same time while assuring the digital transformation benefits for the people as well.

And also considering the European values. If you see the three pillars of this digital strategy, the first one is the human centric technology, means the safe -- it means safe technology that contributes to higher quality of life for people. The second one is the economy, Digital Economy which is fair and competitive, single market that the rights of consumers are respected. And the third pillar is the trust worth environment which includes climate as well for the citizens to participate and share data.

So the human centric digital path for Europe is guided by these objectives that you can see here in these clouds. Namely digital technological severity and cybersecurity, boosting economy and competitiveness as well as digital solutions for societal challenges and climate.

And regarding the objectives of the common agricultural policy, digitalization can be relevant in each segment of the CAP. You can see the nine specific objectives and among these only the second one, the competitiveness states explicitly the importance of digitalization but in spite of this, almost all of these nine objectives can consider digitalization and utilize digitalization. For example, monitoring from activities, remote sensing, Sophie already talked about it. So I will not repeat. But maybe there is a tool in the environment care. It is the fifth objective. Foster development and management of resources. There is a tool. The first tool you might know it already, but it's the farm sustainability tool. It is a free digital tool which can be used in a mobile application as well. And it will have individual farmers in their farm management and provide support in their decision-making process.

And they can use it to optimize their nutrient excuse and to optimize their income as well. And in the time of COVID-19 this kind of tools can help paying agencies because it can eliminate or reduce the need of all subjects. And it can utilize the satellite base checks by monitoring and accelerate farmer access to subsidies. And also the CAP has cross-cutting objectives sharing knowledge innovation and digitalization. These are interconnected areas. And digitalization is a cross-cutting objective. Also modernization through digitalization refers to the first pillar as well

integrated administration and control system can be digitalized even more. Which can be a benefit both for farmers and Member States. For farmers just mention one example. They can do it in less time. And, for example, for the Member States it means reduced costs and more efficiency.

And my final slide is about agricultural knowledge and innovation system. It's -- it really important central theme of the new CAP. It means knowledge flows between persons, organization and institutions. You can see here in this figure that there are many partners in this system. And the main thing is that in the center, the farmers are in the center. So all the knowledge flows are going towards the farmers and to have them provide them the benefits through knowledge sharing.

Also the role of advisors are very important, especially in the -- in countries where the farmers themselves don't have digital skills or infrastructures have less infrastructure because they can have them to be more important part of this system. And enabling environment is also very important. If I have one minute left then you can mention, for example, in Austria there is a platform installed for digitalization in agriculture where different stakeholders are collected. And they describe the development and challenges and benefits of new technologies in this platform. And it is especially good for small and middle size farms.

And the Austrian rural development program education campaigns for digitalization in agriculture and forestry is also considered. Another example is Ireland, where digital advisory tools are provided, digital tools to support advisory services to support evidence-based decision making at farm level by combining the data from different sources.

So there are a lot of other examples and if you are interested, I put the resources of my presentation to the left side. So in case of interest everybody can find more examples as well. Thank you very much.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: Thank you very much. This is also part of a joint FAO/ITU the study that we are doing together in order to prepare the Balkan countries and the preaccession countries. We are going to talk about open data policy. I would like to invite Milan Dacic who is the representative of the world meteorological organization to talk about open data policy towards the benefits of the society ensuring a climate resilient recovery from COVID-19. The floor is yours.

>> MILAN DACIC: Thank you. Climate change causes impact on natural and human systems. The frequency of occurrence, weather water and climate events are very likely. Heat waves will occur and last longer. (Inaudible) 193 Member States and territories with national meteorological services in these countries, not only prinl pal focal point of organizations. The basic activity in weather climate and forecasting is used in mathematical models to predict future state. This is based on observations, so-called global observations. All countries that are significant to the WMO Convention are responsible for maintenance of their system. Rapid manner

to secure timely operational weather prediction global region and local levels. Using high performance super computers on Resolution fine enough to make the results useful to help protect life and property, and enhance national economies is at the core of the business of WMO and its members. So everything is digital. The climate change is a threat to sustainable development. One of the soft measures of adaption to climate change is empower of countries to improve early warning systems. This needs to be done at national strategy, driven by the global nature. Approaches for managing the risk of climate change, institutional level and in legislative framework it is envisaged to update the water regulations and support Disaster Risk Reduction. That should be aligned with the international agreements, for example, Convention on the World Meteorological Organization. And many countries of Southeast Europe legislative framework needs to be updated on modern laws that must be aligned with the broader legislation, in particular the one on Disaster Risk Reduction. Part of this process is the discussion about the open data policy, a burning issue to many stakeholders in the country. Issue of 2030 Agenda, is playing a role -- the European Commission digital strategy sets a vision to become a digitally transformed user focused administration by 2022. Where all data says -- it is data are secure. Southeast Europe and Middle East may need to align their data policies as part of the European innovation process more under other multilateral partnerships with the EU. On the way forward to full open data policy, WMO and Member States offer approach by adopting the data policy which will benefit the production of global and warnings. 18 countries of Southeast Europe security -- Cypress, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine with joint development, 15 of these countries already signed regional data policy agreement on exchange of meteorological data, information focusing on advisories under the system. Adopting these policy the global regional and production of warnings could benefit from wealth of existing but not adequately shared digital data and best quality of focus and warnings. Countries agreed to work together and share data and develop tools and pursue -- establishing digital common information platforms which serves as data exchange and collaborative space as part of early warning system. Products of system are translated to the end users to national meteorological services serving at the end more than 200 million inhabitants in Southeast Europe. Existing national data policies restricted are hampering the research and development and regular operational practice, with subregion and regional scope. Inadequate sourcing of meteorological services and similar technical agencies of these organizations are forced to sell their observations to secure revenues for day-to-day operational work including the maintenance of the existing observing station network. The situation of underresourced national meteorological services is consequence of inadequate legislative framework that does not support the sharing of digital information for

essential for provided of focus arranges and other related analysis. COVID-19 pandemic had an impact as well as -- meteorological measurements taken from aircrafts have dropped by an average of 75 to 80% compared to normal. South hemisphere the -- many stations are manual rather than automatic. In conclusion about the lessons learned the collaboration and improved data sharing between Southeast Europe and global and regional centers such as European center for weather forecast, improve at a larger scale, benefit national authorities. Joint work on sharing digital data and development of tools and digital common information platform which supports the digital intense cooperation results in better quality of information and advisories of multi-hazards risk. Further work is needed updating laws of meteorological activities providing better resourcing on MHSs and their cobusinesses. WMO is considering promoting this type of collaboration elsewhere or in the world through implementation of its global multi-hazard system. In conclusion we can say that utilization, partnership and work towards open data policy could reduce the COVID-19 pandemic effectively and contribute to building back better. Thank you very much.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: Thank you. And you made us discover how to become the invisible pen in just having a papers in front of you. This is amazing. You should watch this later.

>> MILAN DACIC: It is good.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: I'm sharing this moderation with my colleague from WHO. So Clayton, Clayton Hamilton I will pass you the moderation from now.

>> CLAYTON HAMILTON: Thank you so much. And I appreciate the wonderful perspectives that we have brought in. Good afternoon colleagues. There is a lot of information that has already been presented in this session. So very briefly the session that we are looking at now is strengthening the national capacities and implementing mobile health. And just to set the scene I'm going to give you a very short brief introduction to what we mean from the health perspective. So two slides, one key message. So the first I really want to point out and not just to state the obvious but COVID-19 has had a significant impact on health systems and their capacity to respond to this immense public health challenges that we are all well aware and it has had a number of specific perspectives that I think are worth mentioning for this session. The first one is a very key disruption of traditional modes of care provision. Even as little as 12 months ago we couldn't have envisaged a such an incredible uptake of digital technologies in health and their application in many different perspectives and I will get a little bit more of that in a moment. What it has also done is exposed specific gender inequalities in the design and access to digital health services. What we talk about in WHO is how we can avoid translating the existing and social gender divide that we have in to the real

world in to digital environment. COVID-19 has pushed these issues to the forefront than we ever could have imagined and also necessitated a significant reconfiguration of health system resources and what it has done is forced Governments and health authorities in to having what we call a dual tram health system response. That means that the Government -- while the redirecting us a significant -- to respond to COVID-19. What it has also done is ability of health authorities and this is quite specific to health to access and utilize data for a number of different things. Research and understanding of how COVID-19 is spreading, how to reallocate health -- and resources. And also how to finally adjust or calibrate the delivery of health and social measures. It is not a one size fits all approach and even within a single country we can have many of how digital technologies are working together. Then finally a great acceleration in demand for digital technologies and health authorities have struggled with how they best adapt.

So just to really sketch this out we won't go in to detail but just to say this is a wonderful illustration of how digital technologies have been implemented in many different perspectives during COVID-19 and these my key message. Mobile health in particular has been one very strong conduit, empowering individual through the mobile devices that may be in their hands. But again it also presents us with a challenge. As Jaroslaw pointed out in the beginning not everyone has access to technology. How we calibrate and take in to account the gender perspectives. And it is really I think many people can consider it just the device in the hand but it is actually much more. And in many different ways. So what I'll do now is actually hand over to my dear colleague, Stefano Quintarelli who is the share of the advisory group for advanced technologies and trade and logistics of the UN CFAC in order to present his implementation. Over to you.

>> STEFANO QUINTARELLI: Thank you very much. Very interesting presentation and thank to all colleagues. Good morning, good afternoon. It is my pleasure to be here and give you a brief perspective and overview of the consideration we have made over these topics at the advisory group on advanced technologies and logistics. First of all to give you a broad context, we already have some standards and interoperability frameworks. We have the subset, relevant subset of schemas and that includes various certificates for related to health care and sanitary and future sanitary issues. Then we have reference models that provide us the mean by which the data may be described, categorized. We already have a framework that somehow helps in dealing with digital exchange of data.

Within the -- to enter the context of the pandemic within the group we run a survey in last year focusing on the impact of the virus on international trade and logistics and requesting experts comments on how the advanced technology could help in the scenario. After this survey we publish a report

and we define three major areas of focus which are digital platforms and products and interoperability. It is very interesting Clayton said, there is much more than devices and, of course, there is much more than devices. At the basis of all these -- of all the practices that we can imagine related to digital health and interoperability there is one major Foundation which is the basis of everything and is digital identity at the basis we have digital identity. Let me just give you an idea of how the system should work within the e-Health program of the EU.

So you have a person, that person is provided a digital identity from their identity provider in their home country. The identity provider can either be a public entity or private entity. I will talk more about this in a second. And then the idea is that you have a trusted network of entities related to health care, that deal with health care in all different countries. I added Switzerland because of the hospitality of the meeting, within Europe. Suppose you are an Italian citizen you ski in Switzerland and you break your leg and you use your identification to identify to the Swiss hospital and the Swiss hospital can -- access to health care data in the Italian hospital, relevant to you. Because all of these health care institutions form part of a trusted networks of institutions that have a common and shared access to data.

Of course, you do identifications toward the Swiss hospital, and then the data flows within the trusted network of institutions. This is a possible framework and the complication of this framework is that it has a very significant burden in terms of the agreements that you have to set up and the governance of the all related parties because all the related parties are going to be able to share in the access information and this is very difficult to build. Something we have seen emerging recently is the concept of self-sovereign identity. The idea is that you have your EID, electronic I.D. provided by your identity provider and your local hospital provides you attestations that gets stored on your wallet, on a digital wallet on your device or also on the cloud maybe, and then when you go to the hospital, you provide directly the data access to the data to the hospital. And so the only thing that is needed is a trust verification of the certification that the hospital to which -- to that originates the information is to trusted accredited institution. You don't need to set up a whole network of principles of transfer of data. This system is like in terms of governance requirement and more quickly deployed. From the basis from the Point of View of the electronic identity I just want to add one thing, in Europe we have this eIDAS electronic identification authentication and trust services. And each Member State has a local, a local implementation of these services with respect to digital identity Italian one is called SPID and it is a particular model that's now gaining some attention abroad in other European countries and also Switzerland. By the way that are running a referendum with one of these days. One of the major characteristics of SPID it is based on

private entities. There is a key difference between the usage of generally EID compared to physical I.D.s. physical I.D.s get issued with ties with the body that are issuing them. And nobody gets notified of that. While when you have an authentication system, an EID that provides an authentication system to access data, then you have a tie to the entity that is verifying those credential and that entity can know the authentications that you have run. In Europe we have a lot of attention to privacy related issues. The way we have built in Italy, it is creating a federation of private identity providers that provide the authentication services. So authentication at the root is based on the credential delivered by the state but then the authentication services are run by a federation of private entities. In this way the authentication system is subject to the judiciary branch and not to the executive branch. This is one of the characteristics of our system. That was a broad overview. To all the things related to health care and to automating flow of information and interoperability at the very root we have the digital identity, digital identity can come in various different flavors. EIDAS is a European framework. SPID is a system in Italy which has some peculiar characteristics and evolution that we are going to work on with the Italian system is to implement this concept of the wallet or the pods as Mr. Tim Birner calls them within the solid framework, to implement those within the wallets of our digital identity system.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: Sorry, can you wrap up please? We are running out of time.

>> STEFANO QUINTARELLI: I'm linking some additional resources so that if you want to delve deeper you can. And if you want to write to me, get in touch on these issues these are my coordinates. That's it. Thank you.

>> CLAYTON HAMILTON: Thank you very much. Really appreciate some very interesting perspectives and in particular the cruciality of having digital identity. I'm going to segway very quickly in to our second speaker, Dr. Ana Maria from regional Ministry of Health who will present on the European mHealth hub. Over to you.

>> Yes. Thank you very much. I think you are able to see my screen, right? Okay. Good. So the opposite. There is one -- okay. So it is a great honor for me to be here. Representing the regional health ministry in Spain. And to have the possibility to share the experience in the development of the European mHealth hub.

Today as has been mobile and digital services are a reality and here to stay. My contribution will provide a point of view from the health sector more particularly. So let me start by saying that the hub was launched last year in February during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Geneva. It was a very important moment for all of us. Because gather all partners involving implementation of this initiative which is led by the WHO, the ITU, and the regional Ministry of Health. This European mHealth

monitoring innovation hub is funded by the European comigs and based on the previous work which these two UN agencies, the mHealth -- and together with the EU agencies and the broad pan European consortium with diverse skills and experience in the field of digital health with the contribution of almost 20 partners from 12 European countries from the public and private sector including national and regional Governments, health care systems, sector, and NGOs and academia. So based on this background, the European mHealth knowledge and innovation hub was established to collect and share experiences on mHealth and to support countries and regions in setting up large scales mHealth programs.

So now it is a reality. It is based here. It is for Europe and international community and it covers the entire WHO European region and including Russian and European countries. The areas covered with mHealth assessment framework. Both initiated led or supported by Government on the institution as well as -- and not Government initiatives. The hub has produced assessment frameworks, building knowledge and contributing to assisting European countries and regions in improving or adapting assessment framework on health apps at a large scale level. Additionally a summary of health apps in Europe is included with information of health apps from several countries. A second work area is the related to evidence-based and health solutions for NCDs. One of the most interesting work areas is the one on integration and mHealth in to e-Health systems with a specific samples from several countries. Covering aspects such as governance, interoperability, architecture, change management and assessment, et cetera. The fourth one is the one related to support large scale implementation of mHealth programs which is very much linked to the fifth one. Here are a number of technical papers and case studies from Austria, Portugal and Italy has been incorporated to the Web. The last one is work area is considering health care issues.

So special interest and in the framework of this conference that COVID-19 recovery faces there is very specific work carried out during the crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many mHealth initiatives have been developed by governments companies and citizens movements to keep the population informed and to help manage the crisis situation. The hub has included a specific repository for COVID-19 apps as a preliminary leading economic list of some initiatives developed in Europe. And currently more than 80 apps are listed in the Web.

Also all the areas the hub is contributing with actions in the -- in this recovery phase of the pandemic are the one on evaluation of accreditation of national apps and data sharing and interoperability and mHealth solutions and monitoring effectiveness of apps.

I am sure that this repository and all the work developing the hub constitutes a solid base for sharing this information. Knowledge that will help us to recover from this crisis and contribute to reaching the goals

proposed. Thank you very much.

>> CLAYTON HAMILTON: Thank you very much for a wonderful presentation. Very interesting perspectives. Our time is short. I will briefly before I hand back to you Sophie, as my coconspire ator for this session. If we have to list one action which would be a primary action to undertake what would it be. Upon handing back to you I'm going to hand you this question and see if you can respond. What would be your one action? Over.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: Maria you want to go ahead?

>> No. You can go. You can start from the first speaker.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: I think what we have seen among whether it is health, whether it's agriculture, it is not only about being connected but it is also being able to share data. And to have interoperability of data. So when we are talking about policy, we need to make sure that we have integrated framework and it's not only agriculture working on agriculture but to make connectivity and connection in between the different sectors. Because a person will be working in different sectors, will have connection with different sector. So this data interoperability in this session what I would say something that really have to work on. Whether it is legal, whether it is norm standards, mechanisms. There is a lot to work on. This would be my contribution. Over to you Clayton.

>> CLAYTON HAMILTON: Thanks very much. I'm actually going to I think ask if you could ask the questions from your speakers. The same question and then pass it back to me and we will ask the questions from the mobile health speakers.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: I would ask Eszter what do you think about what would be the -- your main message for what we should tackle first.

>> ESZTER VARGA: Yes. Thank you. It's not only the thing to choose one only one, but to be a little bit tricky and I have to say that there are preconditions for this one chosen argument which is eliminating bottlenecks. This is the one priority action I think what should be done. But the previous actions need to be done since we are talking about preaccession in large countries. The fundamentals first idea. So these areas needs to be tackled first. And then so the infrastructure, broadband and Smartphone availability, and another very important prerequisite is political support and resources.

So considering these and taking them as even, I think because we are talking about a lot of kind of countries, each country needs to find in their own system that bottleneck that needs to be tackled apart from these prerequisites. It can be digital skills, awareness raising. These are all relevant but I think it is very important to consider that certain country that we are talking about.

So eliminating bottlenecks, this is the priority action.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: Thank you very much. Milan, from your Point

of View, what it would be?

>> MILAN DACIC: Thanks. Very much agree with Eszter what she said at the moment. In order to devise a proper policy measures we need to create interfaces. We need to have a lot of data. This is a conflicting requirement to many countries and there are not really -- not all countries are willing to share the data. Not all countries are in the open data policy space. That is a -- to explain very much how useful it the open data policy. What is the benefit of open data policy. And if a country is not still ready to go for full and unrestricted access to the data, then to go to a certain data policies that are kind of intermediate action to provide the policy interfaces to be able to inform decision makers better with proper data behind, I think this is for me from WMO is a good step forward because the open data policy will not happen tomorrow as we press the button. It has to be negotiated and take some time, even in the WMO arena. It has been there for decades and we are now changing the data policy in October, able to have a big Congress, regional organization Congress and we are going to discuss about new data policy on global data exchange. And that will be another step for or -- for sure the proper data policy, the proper resourcing as Eszter said resourcing of important institutions in the country is very important and not pushing organizations to earn money on market and providing the observations that we all need. So that's very short from my side. Thank you.

>> SOPHIE TREINEN: I pass again the floor to you Clayton, and I want to also tell you that when I had seen your slide about what were all the challenges that could be faced in health sector during COVID these are very similar challenges and difficulties that we face in the digital aspect of the sector. So and I think that together we could really join forces and really find a solutions together because they will be very similar.

>> CLAYTON HAMILTON: Thanks. I completely agree and it is almost remarkable when you say a level of similarities makes us realize that sessions like this aim to which us together. There are a lot of synergies that you can use and leverage each other's skills for. I'm goes to pass, unfortunately Stefano Quintarelli had to leave us and I am going to ask Ana if you would like to give your perspectives on one recommendation. Which would you give?

>> Thank you. I said it is very difficult just to pick one solution. And as has been already said, regarding infrastructure and open datasets and everything, I will stress the need for collaboration or for sharing experiences to improve our knowledge about how to implement, how to mobilize mHealth in particular but in general solutions, in the field of health, very important in at this moment but also in all the different aspects in life. So collaboration and sharing experiences would be my key message.

>> CLAYTON HAMILTON: Thanks. Before handing over to Jaroslaw I would like to give my one perspective and I would capitalize upon data. I

think really -- in health in particular we have seen that we don't really mind all capture the level of data that we need. And this is -- I think COVID-19 pandemic has particularly pushed that aspect in to the spotlight. Even if we could improve that situation by 10 to 20% across the European region I think we would see a marked difference in responding to health challenges that we have. I hand back to you Jaroslaw and thank you to my co-Moderator Sophie Treinen and to all the speakers of our session.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much to all of you for this great session. Now we are moving to the next session. Before we are moving as you have noticed we run a little bit late with the agenda. But we are aiming at closing the event around 12:50 or 1300 hours. With this I would like o ask the interpreters and captioner would be able to stay with us for this few minutes more. Is it okay? Okay. I don't hear. Will check offline but with this I would like to hand over the moderation to Elisabeth for the next session which is focusing on digital trend. Elisabeth the floor is yours.

>> ELISABETH TUERK: Many thanks and proceed on the assumption that interpreters stay with us because we still have a very important and interesting dimension left. And I'm very pleased now to welcome speakers and participants to our third session which is about creating an enabling environment for digital trade. So when we talk about the COVID response it is clear that COVID has significantly impacted trade and trade will play and is playing a major role in the recovery and we recognize that very strongly in UNECE where just recently we've looked at e-commerce and e-commerce in our region. And also last week as part of the regional Forum we had a specific session looking at now at trade facilitation and its role in the recovery efforts. What I hope to do for this third session is add two elements for this debate. Add the important digitalization which is the core of our event here today. But also add the dimension of environmental sustainability. So when we talk about recovery, it is clear that today we are not talking about business as usual. But we are talking about building back better. Or building forward better. And we are talking about recovery where issues of inclusiveness but also environmental sustainability play a major role. And with this I'm very excited to introduce amazing lineup of speakers that are well placed to discuss with us the environmental dimension and digitalization can play in making trade sustainable and harnessing the power of trade for sustainable recovery. I am very happy we have representatives from two Secretariats of multilateral environment agreements and very happy to have with us representatives from Convention international trade and endangered species and also from the BRS Secretariat. And I'm very happy that we also have representative of a Member State working closely on this MA related issues. And last but not least a representative from OSCE and from the environmental branch in this regard. So let me introduce and let me see whether we have our speakers

here on the podium. Let me introduce Ms. Haruka Okusu, of wildfire line Secretariat. Secondly I'm with great pleasure introducing Mr. Mathias Lortscher who is the head of the CITES management authority and thirdly very pleased to introduce Maria Cardenas Fischer. She is the senior policy and strategy advisor in the executive office of the BRS Secretariat. And fourthly it is my honor to introduce His Excellency, Ambassador Vuk Zugic who has been the co-coordinator of OSCE economic and environmental activities fund. Can I see whether all our four speakers are with us? I trust that they are. And without further ado, let me give the floor to our first speakers Ms. Haruka Okusu and I understand that you will be talking to us about how to strengthen sustainable trade through ICTs. And how to promote inclusive transparent and traceable value chains. So that's a really important topic for UNECE on your economic and trade cooperation and the floor is yours.

>> HARUKO OKUSU: Thank you very much for staying long enough session. I would like to give you an introduction on Situs is an international agreement whose aim is to ensure that international trade, specimens does not threaten the life of the species. It crosses between both trade and environment sectors and we currently have 182 countries plus the European Union that are controlling trade in over 38,000 species of animals and plants. And that's includes live, dead, parts and derivatives of them. Our member parties have agreed mission to issues certificates for those species in order to ensure legality, sustainability and traceability of trade.

In the topic of this particular meeting the digitalization of trade has brought many opportunities for bringing more effective implementation of the Convention in a few different areas but I will try to focus on the direct trade aspects here. As some of you might know that a lot of the regulatory control of global international trade has already been on the path of electronic information exchange, automated risk assessment and targeted inspections. And CITES is currently trying to catch up with that trend as well. Trade and specimens have particular characteristics that needs to address be carefully. First of all CITES has a regard of 20 million trade actions and they increasing. This number is rather small compared to the overall size of the trade in general. CITES has regulates at tax on mic level and doesn't distinguish too much at the commodity level. It covers furniture, food, fashion, et cetera, et cetera. So these challenges bring a new dimension to how do we regulate as a Convention better all of the trade that includes the CITES listed specimens. On the other hand, there are increasing concerns for -- to prevent and minimize the legal wildlife trade. These are considered highly lucrative and poses a serious risk of conservation of species. And it can come at a high cost as well as the value of ecosystem services that are lost as a result.

So electronic permit systems and information exchange can potentially strengthen permit issuance, control and information and exchange to fight

illegal trade. Now the current status is that a lot of parties have agreed that the electronic CITES systems is very important and is a priority for them. And especially there has been an increased interest due to the COVID-19 related restrictions because more authorities had to issue and evaluate permits remotely and they also had to make the process less face to face and paper oriented.

Right now a big -- big countries have electronic systems in place and maybe 30 or 40 more that are considering. Support in donor agencies is crucial for implementation in Developing Countries. The Secretariat has distinguished four distinct sections or processes for implementing an electronic permitting process. There needs to be an automation of internal workflow in a country from application to the issuance of the permit. Second, there should be an integration of border agencies for cross-checking the permits with electronic border. And there needs to be an automatic generation of reports for CITES reporting purposes and other customized reports for analysis and exchange of electronic permit data between authorities in different countries would be facilitating a lot of the objectives that I have noted earlier.

There are many challenges and opportunities involving this, especially complex environments and requirements at national level involving many different agencies and different species and all of these systems that require consideration are very much case to case basis depending on the country's regulatory frameworks.

Now also the permit volumes are relatively low in some countries. So there may be a high development cost and initial investment for very few permits being issued. So we need to look at cost effective solutions. At the end pilot data standards and sharing experience are very important aspects for meeting these challenges.

And I think I'll end it here. And my colleague Mathias from Switzerland will elaborate on what a party experience in implementing CITES looks like and with respect to the last step which is this exchange of electronic permit data. Thank you very much.

>> ELISABETH TUERK: Many thanks for this excellent overview and the importance of ensuring that trade is legal, traceable and sustainable. And I think that really brings us to this sustainable post COVID recovery and you have shown us the breadth of trade covered under CITES Convention. You have highlighted the importance of these electronic systems in this regard and I think you have also -- you have also have the donors to support implementation in the Developing Countries and that's a crucial point of how to take that forward. And you have flagged the complexity at a national level and that's the transition to our next speaker and very happy to welcome here with us Mr. Mathias Lortscher who is head of CITES management authority in Switzerland and I understand that you are also the Chair of our UNECE and UN ESCAP task force on e-CITES. The floor is

yours.

>> MATHIAS LORTSCHER: Thank you. I will share my screen. So can you see it?

>> ELISABETH TUERK: We can see it. Yes.

>> MATHIAS LORTSCHER: Perfect. Thank you. First of all, let me thank ITU and UNECE for allowing me to address this cross-cutting session on digitalization. As you see Switzerland is a country which issues 100,000 -- over 100,000 permits every year. As Haruko has explained it is a variety of goods and animals are being traded under CITES. Our job is to control the trade and support customs in fighting illegal trade. By doing so we have to make sure that trade, that we permit is legal, sustainable and traceable. You see on this graph the number of permits issued by Switzerland since 1975, since the Convention entered in to force.

And you see that it has -- it has -- its numbers have increased considerably and this is due to a very successful watch industry in Switzerland. We export and import over a million watch straps made of reptile letter every year. They are fixed on to luxury watches and reexported. And we have to make sure that this trade is well controlled and not a burden, big burden for us and to trade.

You also see on this graph the effects that the COVID pandemic has had on that trade. You see numbers for 2020 they have gone below 85,000 permits and before they were 120,000. So there has been quite an impact on that trade itself also. So if we want to make that trade legal inclusive transparent, how do we do that? How have we done an electronic permitting process?

I will only look at one process, the export procedures today. So companies they have an Internet connection to our database in our office. And they can submit applications online. We can then look at these application. We can ask for more information. This is also transmitted electronically and so all the documents all the steps who has done what in the system is then recorded. So we have absolutely traceable process from are the start of the application until we issue the permit. We issue the permit and it can be printed at our office or the Chamber of Commerce that is close to the business. It can only be printed once by this institution to make sure that the permits are not duplicated, of course. So everything is traceable and overseeible. So this is one of the processes that we have put in to place and the impacts is quite large. Before we have that permitting system the processing time for a permit lasted between 10 and 20 days. So for a company which is acting worldwide it is -- this is very hindering. After we have introduced that permitting system the processing time is between 5 hours and maximum of five days, if we have to ask for additional documents and so on.

So we have been -- we are a lot faster nowadays. The system is widely accepted now in Switzerland. After six months there were already 60% of

the permits processed and today it is more than 98% of the permits is being processed through that system and we have over 270 companies and more than 700 users using that system on a daily basis. We have made quite some economies in personnel costs as you can see and it is a very -- it has been a very effective implementation. The savings for the industry it is hard to quantify but it must be considerably, but if they have to wait 20 days for permits to export the goods, this is a time gain and a gain in time that goods are not moving are just having to be stored.

Other impacts we have been able to better use our resources personal resources and money resources which has helped us a lot and on the COVID-19 almost from one day to another, we had to work from home all of us and we have been able to keep us the processing times and the quality of our services to trade even though we have been working from home. So it is -- this has been able to because of the that system. And permitting processes are traceable and verifiable and transparent. We have good image at the moment for our customers but to make sure that this trade is traceable and legal.

So next steps we'll ask Haruko also mentioned will be inclusion of border agencies. So that our systems talk with their systems to be able to make risk assessment automated risk assessments in their controls at the border.

So we will have an electronic data exchange with customs systems and collaborate and identify with them to develop risk-based processes. So this will allow us to have a better control at the border, faster clearance of the goods, better trade statistics and also less legal -- illegal trade and less fraud. And finally, we also in the process of developing e-exchange that part where we want to go paperless. Papers can still be tampered with and copied. There is a lot of problems around paper documents and we want to go digital there. So we will need to have fully automated national CITES systems in both countries. We need common technical standards which is very important. We have to adhere to common standards which we already have developed in CITES. In e-permitting work we have worked with standard setting bodies and we have these standards ready to be used. And we also have, of course, have to be ready to exchange the permits between parties.

So this will allow us to have cross-border process, reduction of fraud, prearrival information to be able to make targeted inspections and, of course, better statistics.

Because today what many parties deliver as annual trade data is permitted trade and not actually happening trade. And integration of these processes will allow us to have realtime and precise trade to allow us to react when we things might not be going in the right direction. And I have the honor to Chair the UNECE UN ESCAP task force for CITES. This is exchange of electronic permits between parties. This platform supports party the and stakeholders to start and carry out pilots. It collaborates with

the e-CITES permitting group. It is open to CITES management authorities from the mainly primarily from the UNECE UN ESCAP region and these activities are if you look at it more in data and detail, we have regular nonphysical meetings at the moment. We do support parties and starting -- by giving capacity building and share of practice lessons and by also developing guide lines and recommendations. We are making studies and make research available and contribute to the development of standards, we are present in all these standard setting bodies. So that's the way we try to really push the issue and get parties to now start exchanging permits because on a technical level everything is there. We just have to make it work now.

So thank you for your interest.

>> ELISABETH TUERK: Thank you for a very informative presentation giving Member States perspective and you have told us what you have achieved so far impressive increase in permits and you have outlined what are the next steps and important for our session here today going digital and thank you for calling upon all interested stakeholders also to express their interest in the joint work we are doing here in -- together with UNECE and UN ESCAP. Now we have a bit of a timing challenge and I will have to ask our two last speakers to be to the point and short but it is great pleasure for me to welcome Ms. Maria Cardenas Fischer. We are now moving towards another multilateral environmental agreement. We are moving towards the BRS Secretariat. Maria I understand you will be talking about transboundary of waste, waste being very important for circular economy. Without further ado the floor is yours.

>> MARIA CARDENAS FISCHER: Thank you very much for inviting us to this event. I will quickly give you an overview of the Basl Convention and what it does. I'm going to share a couple of slides. I think you have them or I can do it from my side.

>> Sarah will you be able to share the slides? (Off microphone).

>> MARIA CARDENAS FISCHER: Can you see the slides?

>> ELISABETH TUERK: We can see part of it.

>> The interpreters will stay for another five minutes.

>> ELISABETH TUERK: So the Basal Convention and transboundary movements, was adopted over 30 years ago. (Off microphone). It has a main objective which is to protect human health and the environment that get against the adverse effects of hazardous waste and today it has 188 parties implementing it. The Convention actually covers different aspects related to the lifecycle and has three main pillars. Minimization of generation of waste and promotion of environmental and management of waste. The control of transboundary movement of waste under the recent procedures. (Captioner signing off)

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