## Cross-cutting session: Digital transformation beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Side event held within the framework of the United Nations Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region*

**1 April, 10:00-13:00 CEST | Virtual**

*\*Timing expressed in CEST (UTC+2)*

| Draft Agenda |
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**10:00 – 10:15**   **Opening remarks**

- Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe
- Ms. Elizabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE

| **10:15 – 10:20** | **Special statement from the youth**<br><br>This special statement from the youth will focus on viewpoints and aspirations on digital transformation processes related to the SDGs in focus for this year's RFSD.<br><br>• Ms. Athéna Vassilopoulos, Representative of the ITU Generation Connect Europe Youth Group |
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| **10:20 – 12:4** | **Segment 1: SDG 4 "Quality of Education"**<br><br>This segment will focus on answering the question: *"What are the main challenges of fostering digital skills development for all, e-governance of the education system and smart and flexible education delivery at home, and what are some solutions to grasp the potential of digital technology to improve quality and equity in education?"* |

- Ms. Romina Kostani, Director of Innovation and e-Gov IPA Funds, National Agency on Information Society, Albania
- Mr. Enis Ylli, Director of E-Gov Security Department, National Agency on Information Society, Albania
- Mr. Talant Sultanov, Chair and co-founder of the Internet Society Kyrgyzstan Chapter
- Ms. Ana Mickovska Raleva, Education Specialist, Macedonian Civic Education Center, North Macedonia

## Segment 2: SDG 5 "Gender Equality"

This segment will focus on answering the question: *"How can governments overcome challenges that hinder the participation of women, girls, youth and those from other marginalized groups at risk of exclusion and disadvantage in the labour market, in the digital world and STEAM sectors?"*

- Prof Marijana Petrovic, Professor at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, Serbia and author of the thematic focus of the Gender Equality Index
- Ms. Mariam Torosyan, Founder and CEO at Impact Innovations Institute, Armenia
- Ms. Bojana Zoric, Senior Policy Analyst, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- Prof. George Anthony Giannoumis, Vice-rapporteur in ITU-D SG Q7/1 and Associate Professor of Universal Design of Information and Communication Technology at Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet)

## Segment 3: SDG 14 "Life below water"
This segment will focus on answering the questions:
*"What are effective policies or actions that government can put in place to make digitization and digitalization processes green and sustainable?"* and *"How can innovative ICT-based solutions and emerging technologies support governments in mitigating environmental risks and challenges, and sustainably use natural and earth resources, inter alia conserving marine and terrestrial ecosystems?"*

- Mr. Rudin Qehajaj, Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policies and Programmes Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania
- Mr. Manuel da Costa-Cabral, Market Regulator expert, ANACOM, Portugal

## Segment 4: SDG15 "Life on land"

This segment will intend to answer the same questions as segment 3.

- Ms. Ševala Korajčević, Head of Transport, Environment, Energy and Regional Statistics Department, Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ms. Ingrid Teich, Ms. Ingrid Teich, Land degradation expert, WOCAT - Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern
- Mr. Norbert Pfaffinger, IT Business analyst, Environment Agency, Austria

In addition, panellists in all segments will also answer the question *"How can multistakeholder partnerships support digital development and thereby accelerate the achievement of all SDGs?"*

| 12:45 – 12:50 | **Special statement from the youth** |
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| | This special statement from the youth will focus on viewpoints and aspirations on digital transformation processes related to the SDGs in focus for this year's RFSD. |
| | • Ms Emilia Volkova, Representative of ITU Generation Connect Youth Representative for CIS |
| 12:50 – 13:00 | **Summary of the discussion and closing remarks** |
| | The closing remarks will intend to summarize the discussion and key policy actions put forward by panellists to be channelled into the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2022, and the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. |
| | • Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe<br>• Ms. Elizabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE |

**Co-moderators of the SDG segments:**

- Ms. Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Office for CIS
- Ms. Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, Chief, Trade Facilitation, UNECE

**Chair of the session:**

- Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe