



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Expert Group Meeting on
“**Socially just transition towards sustainable development:
The role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all**”

**UNDESA/Division for Inclusive Social Development, in collaboration with
UNCTAD and ITU**

4 – 7 August 2020

Draft Agenda

(as of 6 August 2020)

Tuesday, 4 August (Day 1)

Opening Session

Welcome and introduction

8:00 – 8:15am (NYT)

Welcome remarks by

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Mr. Stephen Breaux, Deputy to the Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

Mr. Angel Gonzalez-Sanz, Chief, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Introduction by UNDESA on the format, objectives and expected outputs of the 4-day expert group meeting

Session 1 (plenary)

**Socially just transition towards sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda:
Concept and strategies/policies to achieve it**

8:15am – 10:15am (NYT)

Moderator

Prof. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr Professor of International Affairs and Program Director

Studley Graduate Programme in International Affairs (SGPIA, The New School

Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development Policy

Setting the stage: a video message from Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the United Nations' 75th Anniversary and the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation

Presenters (7 minutes each)

Mr. Jeremy Millard, Senior Consultant at the Danish Technological Institute and Visiting Senior Research Fellowships at both Galway University (Ireland) and Bradford University (UK).

Prof. Richard Wilkinson, Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology at the University of Nottingham Medical School, Honorary Professor at University College London and Visiting Professor at the University of York

Discussants (5 minutes each)

Mr. Ekkehard Ernst, Chief of the Macroeconomic Policies and Jobs Unit, ILO

Mr. Alexandre Kolev, Head, Social Cohesion Unit, OECD Development Centre

Aim: This session aims to develop a common understanding of a socially just transition towards sustainable development and discuss broad strategies and policies to achieve it.

Guiding questions:

- What is a socially just transition towards sustainable development?
- How can we create synergies among social, economic and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda to promote socially just transition, while addressing the specific needs of people who could be negatively affected, so to also contribute to poverty and inequality reduction and social inclusion?
- What kind of data is available or needed to support evidence-based policymaking for socially justice transition?
- What policies are necessary to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition towards a more inclusive and sustainable societies?
- How can governments maintain or increase social expenditure to ensure universal access to basic services and social protection in the context COVID-19?

Participating experts for interactive discussion

Prof. Anis (Anisuzzaman) Chowdhury, Co-editor, Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy, Adjunct Professor, University of New South Wales & Western Sydney University

Prof. John Mathiason (USA, Visiting Lecturer at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs at Cornell University, and formerly Professor of International Relations at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and Project Manager for International Education and Distance Learning with Maxwell's Executive Education Program

Prof. Veena B. Dubal, Associate Professor of Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law **Prof. Onyukwu E. Onyukwu**, Professor at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nigeria

Ms. Simel Esim, Programme Manager (Senior Technical Specialist) at the Enterprises Department, ILO

Prof. Liliana B. Andonova, Professor at the International Relations/Political Science, Head, interdisciplinary Programmes, and Academic Co-Director, Centre for International Environmental Studies, at Centre for International Environmental Studies, Geneva, Switzerland

Prof. Eglė Staniškienė, Professor at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Ms. Gilian D'Souza – Nazareth, the Director of Global Partnerships and Principal Representative to the United Nations for the Red Dot Foundation. (Representing the NGO Committee for Social Development)

Ms. Maysoun Ibrahim, Member of the Board of Directors & Chairperson of the National Forum on the 4th Industrial Revolution, Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence (HCIE), State of Palestine

Mr. Pedro Manuel Monreal Gonzalez, Programme Specialist, the Research, Policy and Foresight Section, Sector for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, UNESCAP

Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, UNESCAP

Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, UNESCAP

Session 2

Socially just transition and the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all: regional perspectives (regional break-out session)

Aim: Taking a regional perspective, this session will examine socially just transition and trends in digital technologies, including the opportunities they bring and the risks they pose, as well as their role during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond

8:00 – 10:00am (NYT)
15:00 – 17:00 (EAT)

Regional break-out session: UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Moderator

Mr. Tunde Fafunwa, Senior Advisor, Digital Center for Transformation, ECA

Presenter

Ms. Rebecca Enonchong, Board Chair AfriLabs

Discussants

Ms. Myriam Said Ali, Advisor Digital transformation, Office of the Prime Minister, Ethiopia

Participating experts for interactive discussions (TBC)

Ms. Hoodah Abrahams-Fayker, The Black Sash, South Africa

Ms. Laura Bingham, Senior Managing Legal Officer, Open Society Foundations

Ms. Ethel Cofie, President, Women in Tech Africa

Ms. Reine Essobmadje, President, Digital Economy Committee, Cameroonian Business Council and Founder, Evolving Consulting

Ms. Laura Goodwin, Director, Namati

Ms. Djanabou Mahonde, Senior Advisor, Generation Unlimited – Africa

Prof. Benno Ndulu, Former Governor, Tanzania Central Bank

Mr. Patrick Nyirishema, Director General, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA)

Mr. Tebello Qhotsokoane, Research and Policy Officer, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

Dr. Ralph Oyini, Head of Digital Transformation, Innovation and Services, Smart Africa

Mr. Saurabh Sinha, Chief, Social Policy, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, ECA

8:00 – 10:00am (NYT)
14:00 -16:00 (CEST)

Regional break-out session: UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Moderator

Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief, Population Unit, Statistical Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Presenter:

Prof. Egle Staniskiene at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Discussants

Dr. Tommaso Ciarli, Senior Research Fellow, SPRU - Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex

Participating experts for interactive discussion

Dr. Claudia Müller, Assistant Professor of Business Informatics, IT for the Ageing Society, University of Siegen, Germany

Prof. Sabine Maasen, Director of the Munich Center for Technology in Society, Professor of Sociology of Science

Mr. Jeremy Millard, Senior Consultant at the Danish Technological Institute and Visiting Senior Research Fellowships at both Galway University (Ireland) and Bradford University (UK).

Prof. John Mathiason (USA, Visiting Lecturer at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs at Cornell University, and formerly Professor of International Relations at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and Project Manager for International Education and Distance Learning with Maxwell's Executive Education Program

Prof. Maria Savona, Professor of Innovation and Evolutionary Economics

Editor, Research Policy; Associate Editor, Journal of Evolutionary Economics, Economia Politica

Dr. David Souter, Managing Director of ict Development Associates

11:00am - 12:30pm
(Santiago and NY time)

Regional break-out session: ECLAC

(Conducted in Spanish)

Moderator

Mr. Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

Presenters

Ms. Amalia Palma, Researcher, Social Development Division, ECLAC, "Social impacts of new technologies"

Ms. Daniela Trucco, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC, "Childhood and adolescence in the digital era"

Discussants

H.E. Mr. Juan Bermúdez, Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion, Costa Rica (tbc)

Ms. Magdalena Claro, Academic Director of the Observatory of Digital Educational Practices and assistant professor at the Faculty of Education of the Universidad Católica de Chile

Participating experts for interactive discussions (TBC)

Mr. Alexandre Barbosa, Head of the Center of Studies for Information and Communications Technologies (CETIC.br)

Mr. Fabio Senne, Research Coordinator at the Regional Centre of Studies for the Development of the Information Society under the auspices of UNESCO (Cetic.br)

Mr. Jurgen Weller, Former Chief of Labor Unit, Economic Development Division, ECLAC

Mr. Cristobal Cobo, Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank

Prof. Martin Hilbert, Professor at University of California, Davis

Prof. Rosalía Winocur, Professor - researcher at the Faculty of Information and Communication, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Mr. Mario Castillo, Officer in charge of Gender Affairs Division, ECLAC

Dr. Monica Duhem, Founder and Director of Hearcolors, Mexico, accessibility expert

3:00am – 5:00am (NYT)
14:00 – 16:00 (ICT)

Regional break-out session: ESCAP

Moderator

Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section
Social Development Division, UNESCAP

Presenters

Mr. Zhang Wei, Assistant President, China Resources Land; Director of Healthcare and Hotel Business, China

Ms. Sunghee Chung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Discussants

Mr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Director for Asia, HelpAge International

Video presentation (10 minutes)

Presenters

Ms. Nadira Mohd Yusoff, Founder and CEO of Kiddocare and Head of AWEN, Malaysia

Ms. Kamolrat Intaratat, Associate Professor, Faculty of Communication, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand

Prof. Masahito Kawamori, Professor of the Graduate School of Media and Governance at Keio University, Japan

Discussants

Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Nirmita Narasimhan, Senior Fellow and Programme Director, Global Initiative for Inclusive ICT

Mr. Ricardo Garcia Bahamonde, International Consultant

Participating experts

Dr. Christopher S. Yoo, Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Ms. Aida Alzhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, ITC and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP

Mr. Talaipek Makeev, Expert on environment and sustainable development

Mr. Channarith Meng, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP

Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP

8:00 – 10:00am (NYT)

Regional break-out session: ESCWA

(Conducted in English, with interventions in Arabic optional)

Moderator

Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Social Justice Section, Social Development Division

Presenter

Dr. Eng. Bakr Zade, Egyptian-British expert, who works on innovative IT for development solutions and is teaching in Dubai

Discussants

Ms. Nibal Idlebi, Chief of Innovation Section, Technology for development Division, ESCWA

Participating experts (TBC)

Ms. Ghada Labib, Deputy Minister, Ministry of ICT, Egypt

Mr. Mohamad El Gawsaky, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Egypt

Mr. Amir Albayati, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Iraq

Mr. Hasan Al-Sayed, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Qatar

Mr. Fadia Souliman, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communication and Technology, Syria

Mr. Mazen Mahayeri, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communication and Technology, Syria

Mr. Mohamad Al-Qaed, CEO, Information and eGovernment Authority, Bahrain

Mr. Ali Alasiri, Director General, e-Government Program (YESSER), Saudi Arabia

Mr. Baha Khasawneh, Director, National Information Technology Center (NITC), Jordan
Ms. Nada Khater, Director of e-Government, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Jordan
Ms. Salam Yamout, Senior Expert, Lebanon
Mr. Nasser Israoui, Director of e-Government, Office of Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), Lebanon
Mr. Ahmed Laamoumri, Ministere de la fonction publique et de la modernisation de l'Administration, Mauritania
Ms. Maysoun Ibrahim, Member of the Board of Directors & Chairperson of the National Forum on the 4th Industrial Revolution, Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence (HCIE), State of Palestine
Ms. Rania Naser, General Director, Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology, State of Palestine
Mr. Suded Hussein, Acting General Director, National Information Center (NIC), Sudan
Mr. Khaled Sellami, e-Gov Unit Director, Prime Ministry, Tunisia
Ms. Huda Al Hashimi, Assistant Director General, Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, United Arab Emirates
Ms. Samia Chakri, Director of Information Systems, Ministry of Reform of Administration and Civil Service, Morocco
Mr. Nawar Al Awa, Regional Advisor, ESCWA
Ms. Mirna Barbar, Program Management Officer, ESCWA
Ms. Lize Denner, Associate Program Management Officer, ESCWA

Interactive discussion (facilitated by the moderator)

Guiding questions:

- What are the progress and challenges from your region in promoting socially just transition to sustainable development?
- What impact have digital technologies had in social development and well-being of all in your region? What is their potential role for the future in near and medium-term?
- What are some of the potential risks that emerging digital technologies pose to social development and equality?
- What are the lessons learned from the COVID-19 in terms of the impact of digital technologies on social development in your region, including leveraging these technologies for the social inclusion of vulnerable social groups?
- What are some of the plausible scenarios of the impact of technologies on social development and the SDGs in your region?
- What kind of national strategies and policy measures as well as regional and international cooperation would be necessary to enable developing countries to leverage digital technologies for social development?

Thursday, 6 August (Day 3)

Session 3

The role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all: thematic discussions

(Break-out Sessions)

Aim: Explore deeper into thematic areas and prepare the basis for policy recommendations. This session will examine four sub-themes relating to digital technologies



8.00am – 10.00am (NYT)

Sub-theme 1: Closing the digital divide though the digital infrastructure, policies and measures close and ensure access for all (e.g. existing digital divides between and within countries (poor-wealthy, rural-urban, old-young, women-men) in terms of unequal access to digital infrastructure, ICTs).

Moderator

Mr. Clovis Freire, Economic Affairs Officer, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section
Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Presenter (10 minutes)

Prof. Jan A.G.M. van Dijk, Professor of communication science at the University of Twente, the Netherlands, Department of Communication

Discussants (5 minutes each)

Ms. Mariagrazia Squicciarini, Senior Economist, Head of Unit (Industry, innovation and IP; WPIA Secretariat), Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (PIE) Division, OECD

Dr. David Souter, Managing Director of ict Development Associates

Participating experts for interactive discussion

Ms. Doris Macharia, Director of East and Southern Africa offices, FHI 360

Dr. Onyukwu E. Onyukwu, Professor at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nigeria

Ms. Mei Lin Fung, Co-Founder; Organizer, People Centered Internet. Co-founder with Vint Cerf of the People Centered Internet.

Ms. Eleanor Sarpong, Deputy Director and Policy lead for the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), World Wide Web Foundation

Ms. Nathalia Foditsch, Senior Policy and Regulatory specialist, A4AI, World Wide Web Foundation

Mr. Talaibek Makeev, Expert on environment and sustainable development

Ms. Daniela Trucco, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

8.00am – 10.00am (NYT)

Sub-theme 2: Digital governance in the fields of privacy and data protection, online safety and security, and misinformation and disinformation, algorithmic discrimination or bias, etc.

Moderator:

Dr. Walter D. Valdivia, Senior Fellow, Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, Arizona State University and Senior Policy Editor for the Mercatus Center, George Mason University

Presenter (10 minutes)

Dr. Deborah D. Stine, President of Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Analysis & Education, LLC., on the Governing Board of the Journal of Science Policy and Governance, and Associate Editor for the journal Research Policy and Strategic Management

Discussants (5 minutes each)

Ms. Valentine Goddard, Founder and Executive Director, AI Impact Alliance

Ms. Barbara Ubaldi, Senior Policy Analyst at the OECD, responsible for Digital Government, Open Government Data and Data-Driven Public Sectors

Participating experts for interactive discussions

Dr. Rediet Abebe, Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows and an incoming Assistant Professor at UC Berkeley EECS

Prof. Pascale Fung, Professor in the Department of Electronic & Computer Engineering and the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

Prof. Sonia Livingstone, Professor of Social Psychology, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics
Mr. Jeremy Millard, Senior Consultant at the Danish Technological Institute and Visiting Senior Research Fellowships at both Galway University (Ireland) and Bradford University (UK)
Prof. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr Professor of International Affairs and Program Director Studley Graduate Programme in International Affairs (SGPIA, The New School Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development Policy
Ms. Morgan Livingston, Youth representative, a Senior at UC Berkeley and an intern at the Wilson Center's Science Technology and Innovation Program
Prof. John Mathiason, Visiting Lecturer at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs at Cornell University, and formerly Professor of International Relations at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and Project Manager for International Education and Distance Learning with Maxwell's Executive Education Program
Prof. Lei Zheng, Professor at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs and the Director of the Lab for Digital and Mobile Governance, Fudan University
Prof. Annette Markham, Professor of Information Studies at Aarhus University, Denmark & Affiliate Professor of Digital Ethics in the School of Communication at Loyola University, Chicago
Ms. Sunghee Chung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Mr. Dhanaraj Thakur, Research Director at the Center for Democracy and Technology
Dr. Eng. Bakr Zade, Egyptian-British expert, who works on innovative IT for development solutions and is teaching in Dubai
Ms. Fanny-Carlotta Rotino, Project Coordinator, Child Online Protection, ITU
Ms. Pilar Fajarnes Garces, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

8.00am – 10.00am (NYT)

Sub-theme 3: Partnerships and innovative solutions in using digital technologies to foster social inclusion and equal access so that no one is left behind (e.g. gross-root innovation, PPPs, international cooperation, south-south cooperation)

Moderator:

Mr. Mina J Hanna - Chair of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) -USA Artificial Intelligence ad-hoc committee, and 2018 Vice Chair of IEEE-USA R&D Policy Committee

Presenter (10 minutes)

Ms. Mila Romanoff, Privacy Specialist, Data Policy and Governance Lead, UN Global Pulse

Discussants (5 minutes each)

Mr. Andrew Zolli, Vice President Global Impact Initiatives, Planet

Mr. Bob Willard, Chief Sustainability Champion and Founder, Sustainability Advantage

Participating experts for interactive discussion

Dr. Mariana Dahan, Founder and CEO of World Identity Network

Ms. Gilian D'Souza – Nazareth, the Director of Global Partnerships and Principal Representative to the United Nations for the Red Dot Foundation

Dr. Dawit Bekele, Regional Vice President Internet Society – Africa

Mr. Jason W. Munyan, Office of the Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Preparations for the 75th UN Anniversary and the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation

Prof. Isabel Bortagaray, Professor at the Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay

Mr. Rodrigo Martinez, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division (SDD), ECLAC

Dr. Loly Gaitan, Project Officer, Digital Inclusion Division, ITU

8.00am – 10.00am (NYT) **Sub-theme 4: Digital Inclusion: addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups** (including indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth, women) to ensure that everyone leverages the benefits of digital technology and ensure their participation in their design and application.

Moderator

Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations, New York

Presenter (10 minutes)

Ms. Alison Bryant, Senior Vice President of AARP Research

Discussants (5 minutes each)

Mr. Jaco du Toit, Chief of the Universal Access to Information Section, the Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO

Dr. Monica Duhem, Founder and Director of Hearcolors, Mexico, accessibility expert

Dr. Ifeyinwa Ofong, National Coordinator of Women in Development and Environment, Nigeria

Participating experts for interactive discussion

Prof. Egle Staniskiene at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Dr. Hyunsun (Catherine) Yoon, Senior Lecturer, University of Greenwich, London, UK

Dr. Claudia Müller, Assistant Professor of Business Informatics, IT for the Ageing Society, University of Siegen, Germany

Prof. Jutta Treviranus, Professor and Director of Inclusive Design Institute, OCAD University

Ms. Frances West, Faculty Instructor, University of Massachusetts, Boston and former IBM Chief Accessibility Officer, IBM and founder of Frances West Co.

Mr. Eddie Avila, Director of Rising Voices, Bolivia

Mr. Lianjun Dai, China Disabled Persons Federation

Mr. Richard Dzikunu, Youth representative, Ghana

Mr. Milburn Line, Senior Advisor for Policy and Content at the Shared Societies Project of the World Leadership Alliance - Club de Madrid

Ms. Jenny Arana Vizcaya, Digital Inclusion Programme Officer Digital Networks & Society Department, ITU

Ms. Amalia Palma, Research Assistant, SDD, ECLAC

Ms. Farzana Sharmin, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP

Friday, 7 August (Day 4)

Session 4 (plenary) **Report back from Day 1, 2 and 3 breakout sessions**

8:00 – 9:00am (NYT)

Moderator: **Prof. John Mathiason**, presentation (7-10 mins) on take-away from Day 1

Plenary presentations by moderators of the 5 regional breakout sessions and 4 thematic breakout sessions (4mins each, focusing on 4 – 5 key issues and policy recommendations).

Session 5 (plenary) **EGM policy recommendations**

Moderator: **Ms. Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Global Dialogue for Social Development, DISD, DESA

9:00 – 10:30am (NYT)

All participants to discuss and finalize policy recommendations

9:00 – 9:30 Socially just transition

With co-moderators: **Mr. Clovis Freire**, UNCTAD and **Ms. Ursula Wynhoven**, ITU
9:30 – 10:30 Digital technologies

10:30 (NYT)

Plenary closing – endorsement of policy recommendations

