



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

2018 INTEGRATION SEGMENT

**“Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies”**

1 - 3 May 2018

ECOSOC Chamber

PROGRAMME

H.E. Mr. Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov (Tajikistan), Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council will preside over the Integration Segment

**DAY I (Tuesday, 1 May)**

10:00 – 11:30

Opening of the Integration Segment

### Opening statements

H.E. Mr. Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov (Tajikistan), Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

H.E. Mr. Kamoliddinzoda Ilyos Jamoliddin, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan

Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

### The quest for resilience and sustainability: seizing the moment

#### Dialogue moderated by

Mr. Eduardo Porter, Journalist, The New York Times, and author of the book “The Price of Everything”

#### With the participation of

Mr. Daniel Recht, CEO, Volute Inc., and Senior Engineer, OtherLab

Ms. Sheela Patel, Founding Director, Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), Chair, Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)

Ms. Jolly Amatya, UN Major Group for Children and Youth

*Interactive discussion*

11:25 – 11:30

**Short video**

Climate Change in Fiji in Virtual Reality: “Our Home, Our People” produced by the World Bank

11:30 – 13:00

**Session 1: Resilience decoded – building blocks towards 2030**

This session will ‘decode’ or ‘unpack’ the multidimensional concepts of resilience and vulnerabilities, or resilience gaps, present at the local, national and regional levels. The 2030 Agenda embeds a pledge to shift the world onto a sustainable path; this will require building more resilient societies, economies and environment. The term ‘resilience’ describes the ability to recover from or adjust easily to calamity or change; such ability can have a significant impact on the progress towards the SDGs. Building resilience requires preventing new and reducing existing disaster risks, preparedness for climate change, extreme weather events and other natural hazards, economic shocks, public health crises, food insecurity and water crises, institutional gaps, connectivity malfunctions and cyberattacks, amongst others.

**Key questions to guide the discussion:**

- What are some of the main risks communities currently face at the local, national and regional levels? How can these be addressed?
- How can the needs of countries in special situations be best addressed to reach the furthest behind first and ensure that no one is left behind?
- How can integrated policies contribute to addressing the resilience gaps and accelerate advancement towards the SDGs?

**Moderator**

**Mr. Vinicius Pinheiro**, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director, International Labour Organization

**Panelists**

**Ms. Carla Mucavi**, Director, Food and Agriculture Organization Liaison Office in New York

**Dr. Ayona Datta**, Reader in Urban Futures, King’s College

**Dr. Rashmi Jaipal**, Main Representative, American Psychological Association at the UN; and Professor Emeritus Cross-cultural Psychology Center for Cultures and Communication and Alternative Visions for the Future, Bloomfield College

**Ms. Orsolya Bartha**, Senior Advisor, International Disability Alliance

**Discussants**

**Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, Vice- Chair of the Committee for Development Policy at its 20<sup>th</sup> session

**Mr. Brian Keane**, Rapporteur of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its 17<sup>th</sup> session

*Interactive discussion*

**13:15 – 14:30****Side event**

“Humanitarian Technological Innovation: Building Safer and Resilient Cities and Human Settlements”, organized by the NGO Committee on Human Settlements and UN-Habitat, Conference Room A.

**14:55 – 15:00****Short video**

“Now is the Time to Invest in Resilient Cities” produced by the World Bank

**15:00 – 16:30****Session 2: Technology and disaster risk reduction**

This session will focus on how technology and innovation can be used as effective tools for disaster risk reduction and, in this context, advancing the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework. Natural hazards and extreme weather events and natural disasters, exacerbated by climate change, may cause substantial hardship to affected communities, hazardous and persistent effects in human health, consequential losses in biodiversity and economic activity, creating significant stress on countries’ institutional systems. Integrated strategies, leveraged by technology, will be required to reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience of across economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental areas. The technology facilitation mechanism’s on-line platform adopted in the 2030 Agenda is one of the instruments that can also serve as a comprehensive mapping of, and a gateway for information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes. The session will seek to exchange experiences and lessons learned in terms of the latest technology and innovations to reduce disaster risk, including through the technology facilitation mechanism and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

**Key questions to guide the discussion:**

- What specific measures have been put in place by countries to reduce disaster risk, including through the technology facilitation mechanism and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030?
- What has been the experience of countries in using technology and innovation to strengthen resilience and inclusion in an integrated manner?

**Moderator**

**H.E. Ms. Koki Muli Grignon**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, and Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women at its 62<sup>nd</sup> session

**Panelists**

**Mr. Rustam Shohiyon**, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Tajikistan

**Mr. Ronald Jackson**, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Jamaica

**Ms. Annisa Triyanti**, Representative of the Young Scientists in the UNISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group (2017-2018)

**Dr. Youba Sokona**, Special Advisor, Sustainable Development, South Centre, and Honorary Professor, Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy, University College London

#### **Discussant**

**H.E. Mr. Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob**, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its 13<sup>th</sup> session

*Interactive discussion*

**16:30-18:00**

#### **General Debate**

Member States have the opportunity to present focused statements on the theme of the 2018 ECOSOC Integration Segment, with its overarching link to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Member States may also want to reflect on their experiences in leveraging technology and innovation to build resilient societies, within broader national development objectives.

### **DAY 2 (Wednesday, 2 May)**

**09:55 – 10:00**

#### **Short video**

“Superblocks: How Barcelona is taking city streets back from cars” produced by Vox

**10:00 – 13:00**

#### **Session 3: Balancing infrastructure development and sustainability**

This session will address the challenge of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in several areas, including health, education, energy, transport, security and public institutions. Several cities around the world have rolled out multi-stakeholder strategies setting out roadmaps with solutions to their resilience challenges. The discussion will address how these strategies relate to the national, regional and international levels, as well as highlight the importance of inclusiveness in building resilient societies. The session will also address the increasing challenge of citizen security and cybercrime, particularly through the discussion of opportunities and risks of technology-enabled public services, as for example in “smart cities.”

#### **Key questions to guide the discussion:**

- What approaches have cities and countries taken to design resilient and sustainable infrastructure? What challenges have been encountered and how have they been addressed?
- What role can technology-enabled solutions play in this regard?
- What measures can cities take to secure citizen safety and ‘smart’ infrastructure?

#### **Moderator**

**Mr. Michael Shank**, Communications Director, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance

**Panel 1**

**Dr. Yousef Al-Shawaarbeh**, Mayor of Amman, Jordan

**Mr. Christopher Williams**, Director, UN-Habitat New York Office

**Dr. Nancy Odendaal**, Associate Professor, UCT School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, Cape Town, South Africa

**Discussants**

**H.E. Mr. Ion Jinga**, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations and Chair of the Commission on Population and Development at its 51<sup>st</sup> session

**Mr. Nikulás Hannigan**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations and Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its 56<sup>th</sup> session

**Panel 2**

**Mr. Federico Gutiérrez**, Mayor of Medellín, Colombia

**Mr. Daniel Zarrilli**, Chief Resilience Officer, New York City, USA

**Ms. Ursula Wynhoven**, International Telecommunications Union Representative, New York

**Mr. Daniel Ponce Gandarillas**, Co-founder and CEO, CityHeroes Inc.

**Discussant**

**Ms. Dorine Burmanje**, Chair of the Executive Board of the Netherlands' Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster), and co-Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

*Interactive discussion*

**13:15 – 14:30**

**Side event**

[“Resilient cities – strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus”](#), organized by UN-Habitat and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Conference Room 8.

**14:55 – 15:00**

**Short video**

“Smart climate change adaptation in practice” produced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**15:00 – 16:30**

**Session 4: National strategies for resilience**

This session will feature examples of integrated national strategies and policies that foster sustainable development and resilience. The focus of the session will be on sharing experiences and best practices regarding comprehensive strategies and policies at the national level, to boost resilience and sustainability working at the core of the 2030 Agenda. The session will also explore how technology and innovation can be leveraged to support the

implementation of such strategies while leaving no one behind. Means of implementation required to execute such strategies in an integrated and coherent way, investment requirements, technology transfer and capacity building, will be discussed.

**Key questions to guide the discussion:**

- How have countries formulated resilience strategies and policies to mitigate their vulnerabilities?
- What challenges did they encounter in formulating these strategies and policies? What tools were most effective?
- What can the ECOSOC system do to support countries in leveraging technology and innovation and catalysing further required means to implement national resilience strategies, policies and initiatives and achieve the 2030 Agenda?

**Moderator**

**Mr. Dominic Allen**, Chief, United Nations Volunteer Office in New York

**Panelists**

**H.E. Mr. Henk Ovink**, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**H.E. Mr. Romauld Sotario Ferreira**, Minister of the Environment and Housing, Bahamas

**Dr. Royol Chitradon**, Advisor, Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAI), Ministry of Sciences and Technology, Thailand

**Mr. Amr Nour**, Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office

*Interactive discussion*

**16:30-18:00**

**Continuation of the General Debate**

**DAY 3 (Thursday, 3 May)**

**09:55 – 10:00**

**Short video**

“Tanzania Flying Labs” produced by WeRobotics

**10:00 – 13:00**

**Session 5: Leveraging technology and innovation to support resilience and inclusiveness in Africa in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

This session will address the particular challenges of African countries. Africa faces enormous development challenges in the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. The volatility of oil and other commodity prices further demonstrated the continent’s vulnerability to global economic shocks due to reliance on a narrow base of raw-commodity exports. The Ebola virus crisis illustrated the urgent need to build resilient health systems, including through promoting R&D for public health needs and using technologies for data collection and dissemination of information. Tackling the

digital divide, building the capacity of data systems, boosting productive capacity and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship will be critical for maximizing the role of technology and innovation in boosting resilience and inclusive growth in Africa. Against this background, panelists will explore the synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063 to build sustainable and resilient societies. The discussion will explore how technological and innovative solutions applied to specific contexts have the potential to mitigate a significant number of vulnerabilities of the continent, spurring progress towards the SDGs. The session will showcase concrete examples and initiatives.

**Key questions to guide the discussion:**

- How can integrated public policy responses support African countries in addressing vulnerabilities, such as to the global economic shocks, health crises and environmental hazards?
- What challenges do African countries encounter in the formulation of integrated policies?
- What has been the experience of African countries in using technology and innovation to strengthen resilience and inclusion in an integrated manner?
- How the UN development system and traditional, new and emerging development partners can support African countries in leveraging technology and innovation to support resilience and inclusiveness in the implementation of national, sub-regional and continental strategies?

**Moderator**

**Ms. Gogontlejang Phaladi**, Founder and Executive Director of the Gogontlejang Phaladi Pillar of Hope Project (GPPHP)

**Panelists**

**H.E. Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah**, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Liberia

**H.E. Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza**, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations *(TBC)*

**Ms. Bience Gawanas**, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa

**Ms. Rafiah Ibrahim**, Senior Vice President and Head of Market Area Middle East & Africa, Ericsson

**Mr. Frank Selker**, Director of International Sales, Trans-African HydroMeteorological Observatory (TAHMO)

**Mr. Joshua Ogure**, Coordinator, Map Kibera Trust

*Interactive discussion*

**13:15 – 14:30**

**Side events**

Organized by Member States, UN system and civil society

14:55 – 15:00

**Short video**

“Building Up Africa’s Resilience to Climate Shocks” produced by the World Bank

15:00 – 17:30

**Session 6: Designing a resilient and sustainable future – a toolkit to better prepare for tomorrow**

This session will explore the contribution of frontier technologies to building resilience. The discussions will also focus on policy planning toolkits and techniques and how these have been impacted by technology and innovation. Different elements of a toolkit to better prepare for tomorrow, including multi-hazard early warning systems, climate risk early warning initiatives, foresighting techniques, capacity building, partnerships, resilience investments and insurance scheme, will be explored. The role and contribution of technology and innovation at different positions of the spectrum – from mobile phones to fiber-optics to frontier technology, such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology – will be assessed through examples, experiences and lessons learned. Countries will be invited to share their experiences in using some of these instruments and technologies to anticipate and manage their most salient risks, with a view of designing a resilient and sustainable future for their societies.

**Key questions to guide the discussion:**

- What policy planning instruments are available to countries to enhance their preparedness to hazards across the spectrum? Which have been most effective, and how can best practices be replicated and scaled up?
- Has technology and innovation improved countries’ abilities to use policy planning instruments more effectively?
- Which tools are available at the regional and global level to support countries’ efforts in improving resilience to their biggest challenges? How can the ECOSOC system leverage such tools to better support countries in building resilience?

**Moderator**

**Mr. Jeffery Huffines**, United Nations Representative in New York, CIVICUS

**Panelists**

**Dr. Carlos Valdés González**, Director General, Civil Protection, National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), Mexico

**Dr. Hayat Sindi**, Founder and President, Institute for Imagination and Ingenuity (i2institute), and Member of the 10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (2016-2017)

**Mr. Jamil Ahmad**, Director a.i. of United Nations Environment Programme, New York Office

**Mr. Marshall Moutenot**, Co-Founder, Upstream

**Mr. Arno Zimmermann**, Co-founder, Coolar

**Discussant**

**H.E. Mr. Plácido Gómez**, Vice-Minister for Science and Technology, Dominican Republic, and Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its 21<sup>st</sup> session

*Interactive discussion*

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