# Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions with the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly

*79th session of the UN General Assembly*

*21 October 2024, New York*

UNECE

*Building an inclusive and sustainable digital future for accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on poverty eradication and advancement of gender equality: experiences from the regions*

Dmitry Mariyasin
Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

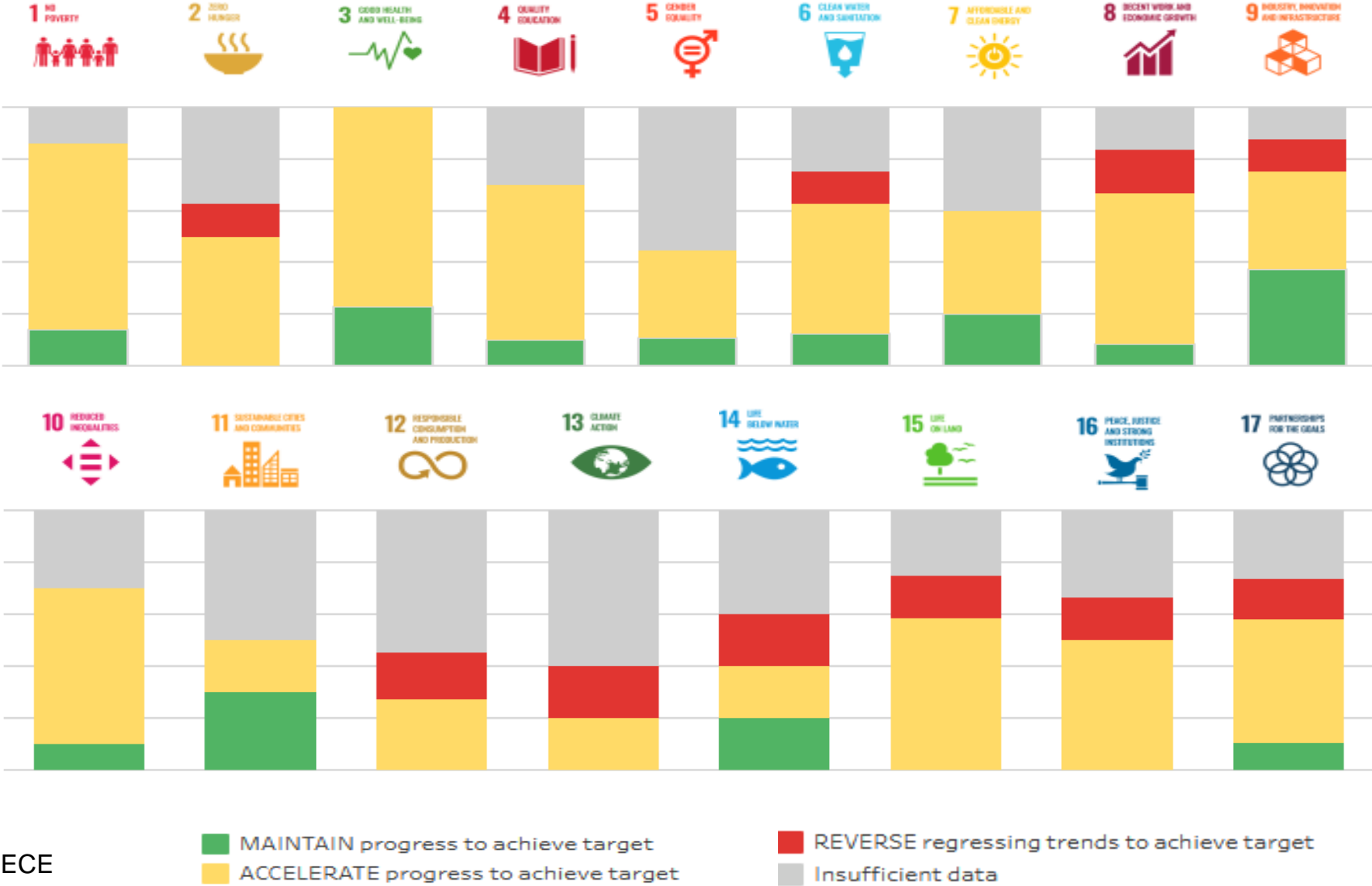# Context: UNECE region & digital transformaiton

# SDG targets



On track to achieve — 21 ← 26

Accelerate progress — 64 → 79

Reverse trend — 15

*Source*:  UNECE Annual Assessment, 2023

# SDG progress in the UNECE region



**MAINTAIN** progress to achieve target
**ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target
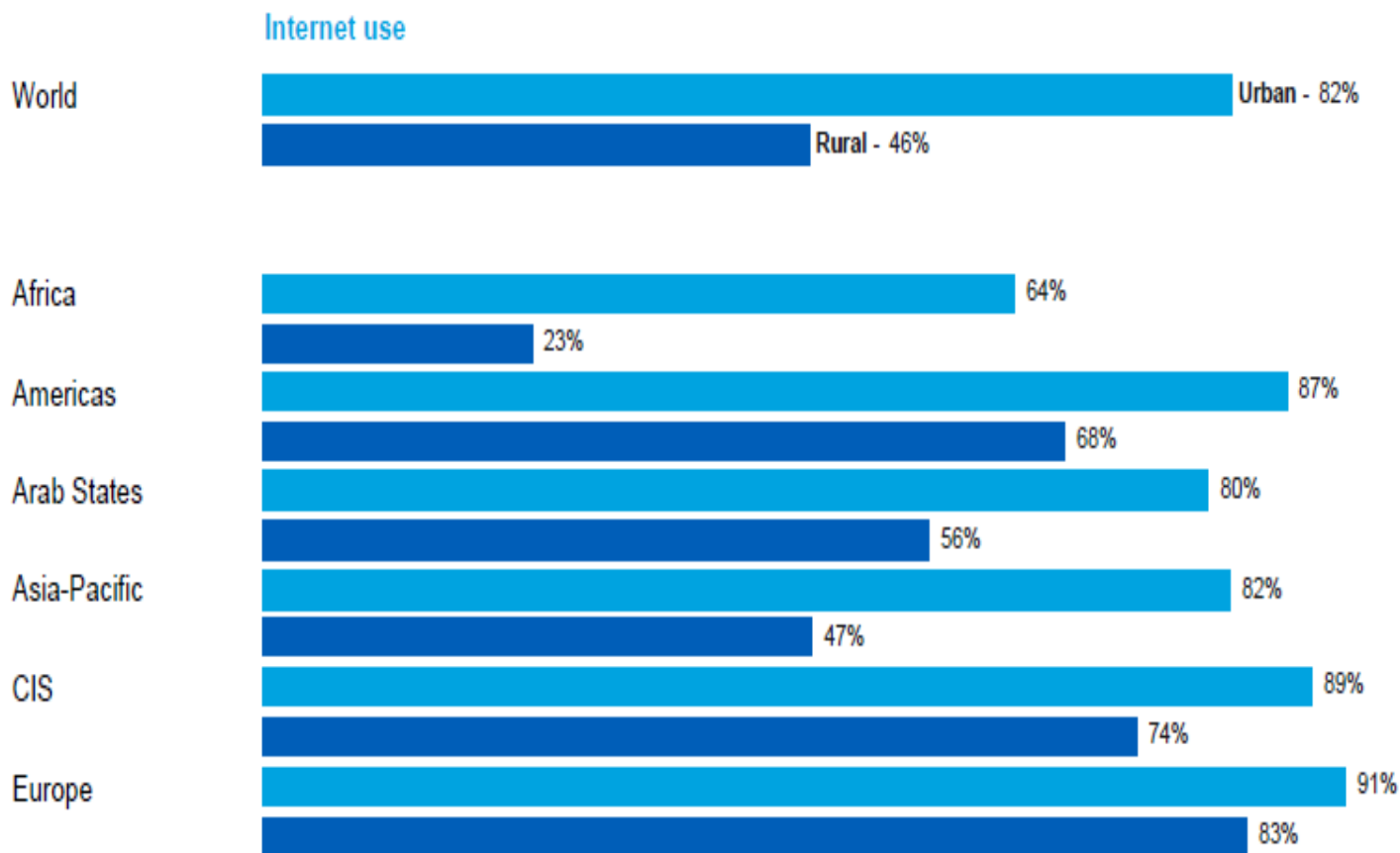**REVERSE** regressing trends to achieve target
Insufficient data

Source: UNECE

# SDG progress in the UNECE region:  digital transformation



## Internet users in urban and rural areas, 2022

Internet use

| Region | | |
|---|---|---|
| World | Urban - 82% | |
| | Rural - 46% | |
| Africa | 64% | |
| | 23% | |
| Americas | 87% | |
| | 68% | |
| Arab States | 80% | |
| | 56% | |
| Asia-Pacific | 82% | |
| | 47% | |
| CIS | 89% | |
| | 74% | |
| Europe | 91% | |
| | 83% | |

## Internet users by age, 2022
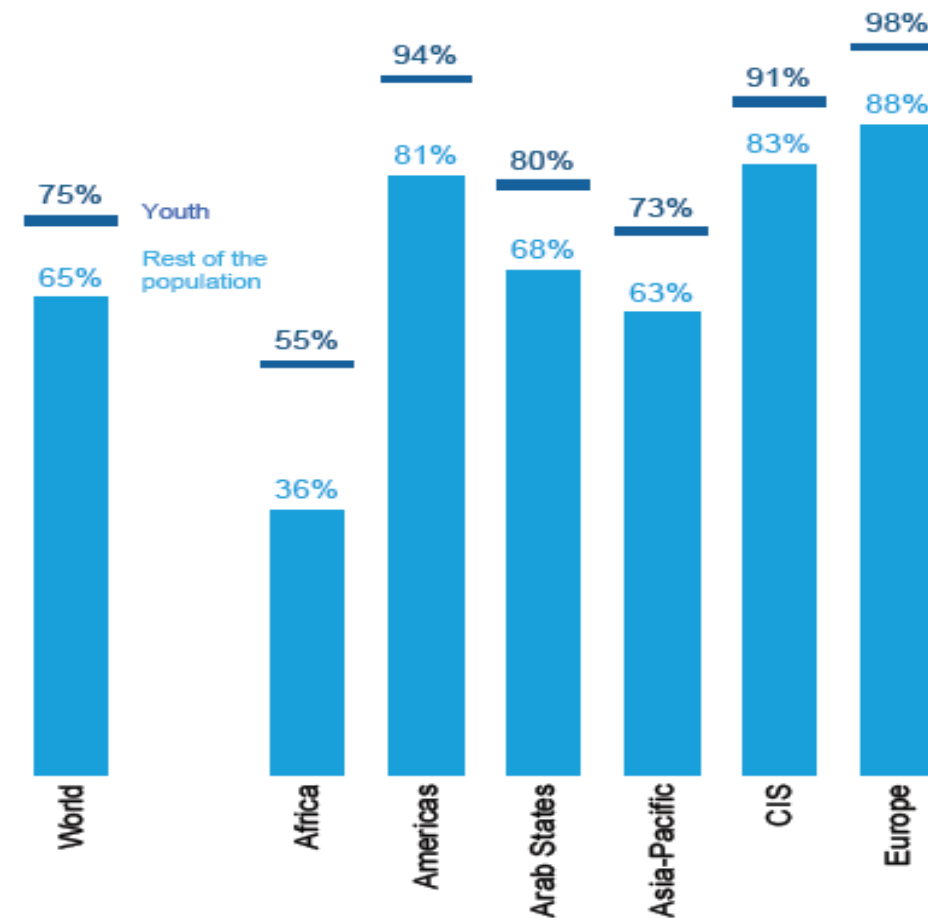
| Region | Youth | Rest of the population |
|---|---|---|
| World | 75% | 65% |
| Africa | 55% | 36% |
| Americas | 94% | 81% |
| Arab States | 80% | 68% |
| Asia-Pacific | 73% | 63% |
| CIS | 91% | 83% |
| Europe | 98% | 88% |

*Source*: ITU

# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION READINESS
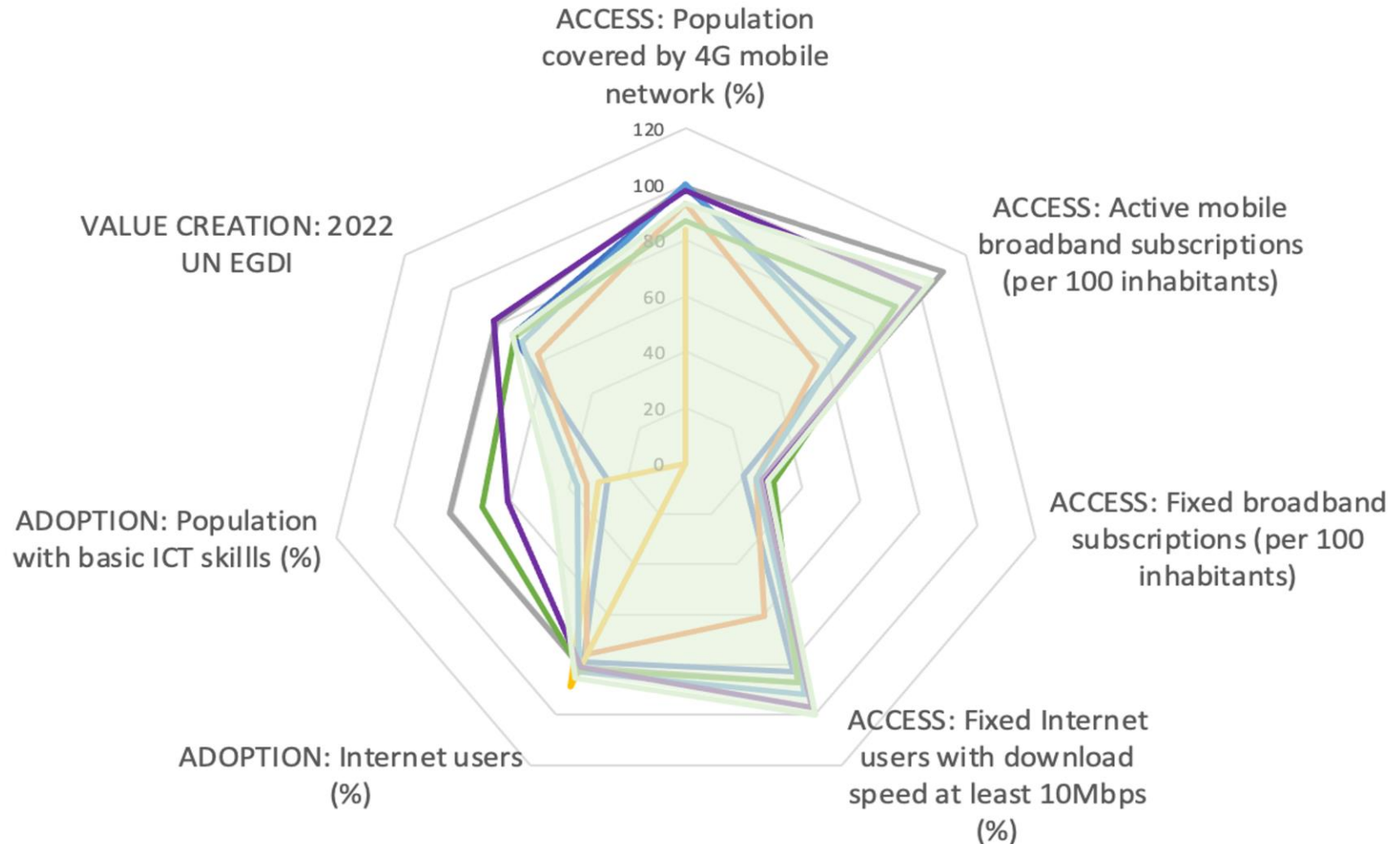
# SDG progress in the UNECE region: where are the gaps on digital?



## Priority sectors for digital transformation

### Central Asia

- innovation
- statistics
- trade facilitation
- transport
- environment
- forest
- land management
- urban developmet
- energy

### Eastern Europe

- innovation
- statistics
- trade facilitation
- transport
- environment
- forest
- land management
- urban developmet
- energy

### Western Balkans

- innovation
- statistics
- trade facilitation
- transport
- environment
- forest
- land management
- urban developmet
- energy

# Adapting Regulations to Digital Transformation

# Adapting Regulations to Digital Transformation

Alignment and harmonization of regulations for **agile governance**

**AGILITY**

Contributing to **bridging gaps and inconsistencies in the global regulatory framework**

**CROSS-REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

Supporting the development of **forward-looking & Future-ready sectoral regulations and standards**

**STRATEGIC FORESIGHT**

SDG-focused **partnerships with and learning from private / tech sector**

**DIGITAL4GOOD**

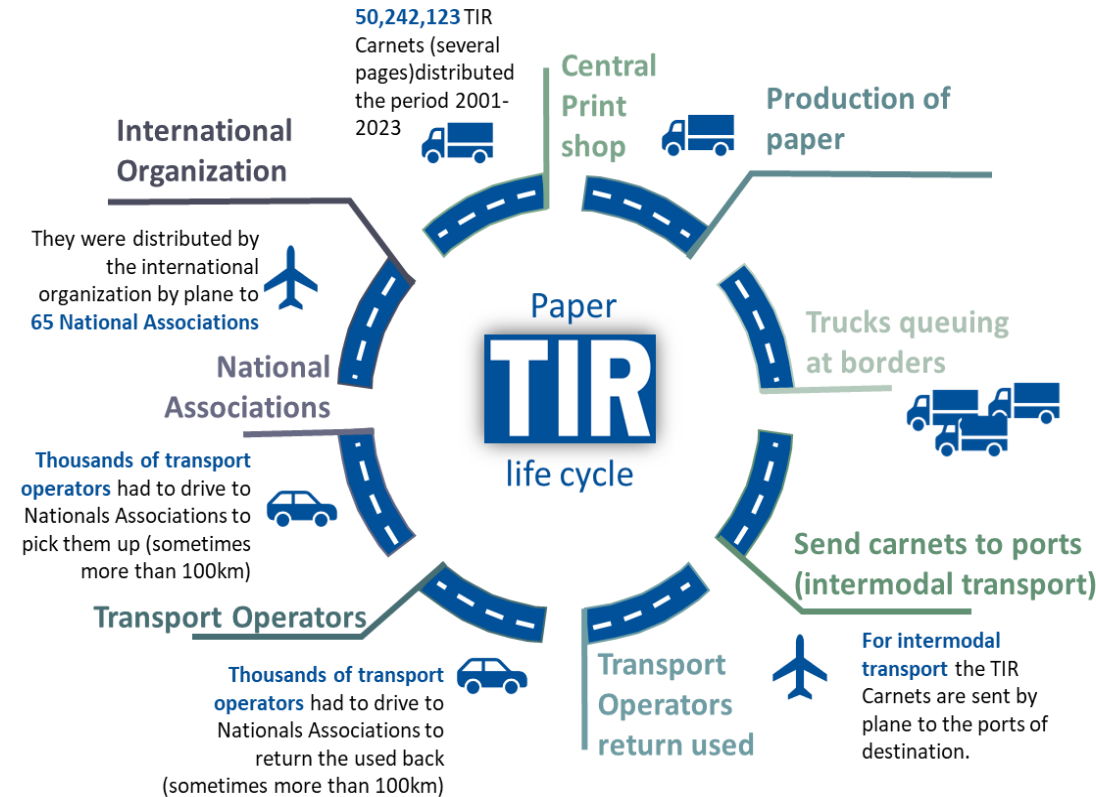# Adapting Regulations to Digital Transformation: Sustainable Transport



- **Vehicle regulations** adapted to digital tools: **road safety**

- **CMR Convention** - contract international carriage of goods by road: electronic consignment note (e-CMR).

- Customs convention - temporary importation (1954) & commercial road vehicles (1956) - **electronic CPDs**.

- **Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles (GRVA):** 1st UN Reg. on cyber security & technical regulation on automated vehicles

Contribution to the reduction of CO2 emissions

50,242,123 TIR Carnets (several pages)distributed the period 2001-2023

**International Organization** They were distributed by the international organization by plane to **65 National Associations**

**National Associations** **Thousands of transport operators** had to drive to Nationals Associations to pick them up (sometimes more than 100km)

**Transport Operators** **Thousands of transport operators** had to drive to Nationals Associations to return the used back (sometimes more than 100km)

**Central Print shop**

**Production of paper**

Paper **TIR** life cycle

**Trucks queuing at borders**

**Send carnets to ports (intermodal transport)**

**For intermodal transport** the TIR Carnets are sent by plane to the ports of destination.

**Transport Operators return used**

# Potential of Digitalization to Advance the Green Transformation

## How does UNECE harness it?

**Promoting the use of digital technologies for data collection** of environmental performance as well as green and circular transitions.

**Conducive environments for innovative technologies** that enhance resource utilization efficiency and promote resource recovery.

**Enabling transparency and accountability across supply and global value chains** through traceability systems. *Example: Sustainability Pledge*

**Public awareness and engagement** through podcasts and promoting digital platforms. *Example: INForest.*

**Inter-generational solutions:** UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy – *Energy Systems Young Experts Group*.

# Potential of Digitalization to Advance the Green Transformation
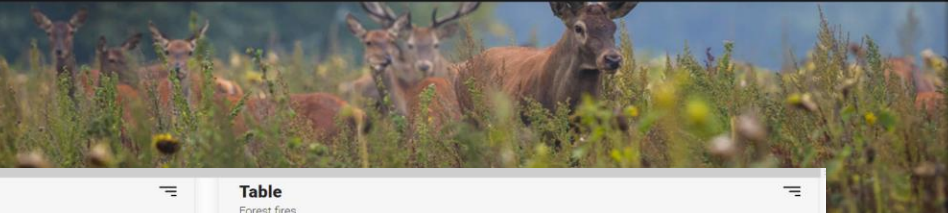
# Blockchain Pilots

## Pilots geographical coverage



- Blockchain Cotton Pilot
- Blockchain Leather Pilot
- Blockchain Cotton and Leather Pilot

## Partners' selection



## Overview of products' use cases and value chain coverage



| Jeans | Turkish virgin cotton + recycled cotton | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |
| Shirt | American organic cotton | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |
| Socks | Egyptian virgin cotton + upcycled cotton fibres | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |
| Yarn | Egyptian organic cotton | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |
| Shirt | Egyptian organic cotton | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |
| Pyjama | Peruvian pima cotton | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |
| T-Shirt | Uzbek cotton | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |
| Denim Fabric | Indian organic cotton | Farm | Harvest | Ginning | Spin | Dye | Weave | Produce | Finish | Sell | Consume | Recycle |

Value chain stage covered — Out of scope

| Shoes | Brazilian leather | Farming/Hunting of Livestock | Slaughter | Hide/Skin preservation | Tanning (Raw to Tanned) | Splitting, Shaving, Sorting | Retanning, Fatliquoring & Crusting | Dyeing, Setting Out, Sammying | Drying, Conditioning, Softening & Finishing | Product Assembly, Dispatch | Fulfilment and Retail | Post-consumption |
| Shoes | American leather | Farming/Hunting of Livestock | Slaughter | Hide/Skin preservation | Tanning (Raw to Tanned) | Splitting, Shaving, Sorting | Retanning, Fatliquoring & Crusting | Dyeing, Setting Out, Sammying | Drying, Conditioning, Softening & Finishing | Product Assembly, Dispatch | Fulfilment and Retail | Post-consumption |
| Leather | Calf leather | Farming/Hunting of Livestock | Slaughter | Hide/Skin preservation | Tanning (Raw to Tanned) | Splitting, Shaving, Sorting | Retanning, Fatliquoring & Crusting | Dyeing, Setting Out, Sammying | Drying, Conditioning, Softening & Finishing | Product Assembly, Dispatch | Fulfilment and Retail | Post-consumption |
| Bag | Leather | Farming/Hunting of Livestock | Slaughter | Hide/Skin preservation | Tanning (Raw to Tanned) | Splitting, Shaving, Sorting | Retanning, Fatliquoring & Crusting | Dyeing, Setting Out, Sammying | Drying, Conditioning, Softening & Finishing | Product Assembly, Dispatch | Fulfilment and Retail | Post-consumption |
| Suede | Finnish Goat Suede | Farming/Hunting of Livestock | Slaughter | Hide/Skin preservation | Tanning (Raw to Tanned) | Splitting, Shaving, Sorting | Retanning, Fatliquoring & Crusting | Dyeing, Setting Out, Sammying | Drying, Conditioning, Softening & Finishing | Product Assembly, Dispatch | Fulfilment and Retail | Post-consumption |

Value chain stage covered — Out of scope

# Digitalization & Decarbonization, Sustainable mobility, Urban Development

UNECE

# Digitalization & Decarbonization, Sustainable mobility, Urban Development

**UNECE**

## Energy decarbonization

- Smart grids
- Smart energy monitoring and management systems

## Sustainable Mobility

- Electric vehicles (EVs) and associated infrastructure
- Mobility-as-a-Service
- Climate resilient inland transport

## Sustainable Urban Development

- Smart climate resilient cities
- Building Information Modeling

**UNECE**

## UNECE's AI-Powered Platform for Resilient Energy Systems

**Three Pillars of Resiliency:**

- Energy Security
- Affordability
- Environmental Sustainability

**Knowledge Input:** AI-powered platform providing real-time, interactive information on energy system resilience.

**Collaborating Organizations:** EIB, IAEA, IEA, ITU, OSCE, WMO, WB, University of Zürich.

**Expert Vetting:** Information and data sources vetted by an Editorial Board of experts.

**Future Expansion:** Additional partners will be invited to join the initiative.

# Digitalization & Decarbonization, Sustainable mobility, Urban Development



**UNECE Decarbonization Strategy for Inland Transport**

- Covers road, rail, and inland waterway transport.

- Aspirational goal of net zero GHG emissions from inland transport by 2050.

- Integrated solutions for the reduction of GHG emissions from the inland transport sector.

- 33 initial, coordinated actions for the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
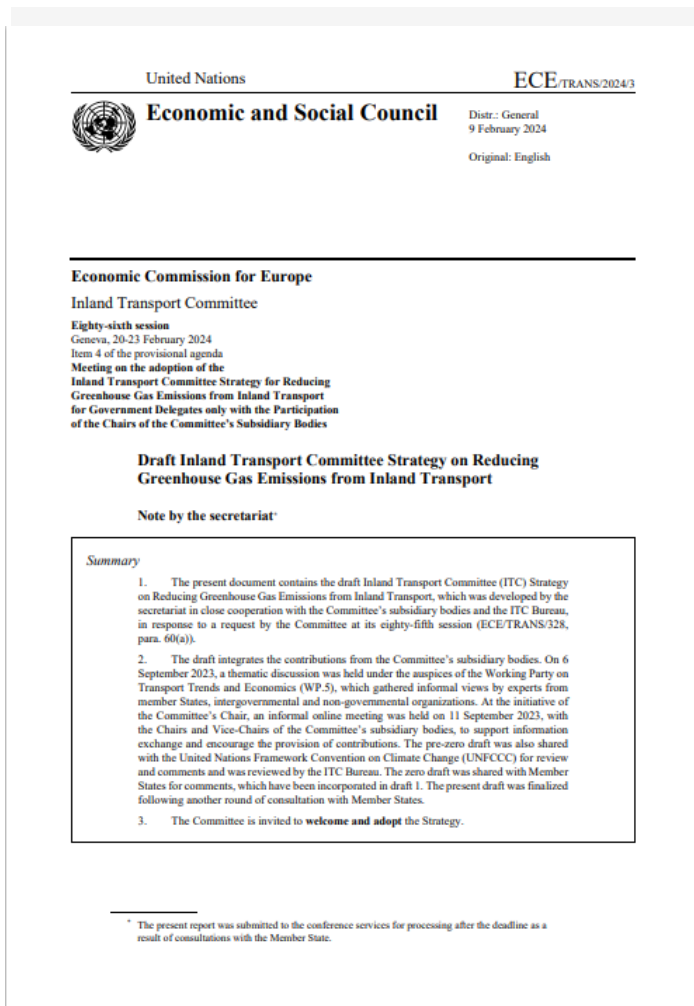
# Digitalization & Decarbonization, Sustainable mobility, Urban Development

**UNECE**

**minimum in-vehicle battery durability requirements for light duty vehicles**

**harmonized regulations for EVs**

**data availability & definitions - EV charging infrastructure.**

**commercial EV fleets in intermodal transport.**

**security aspects of charging stations**

**E-mobility task force: deployment of EV technology and charging infrastructure**

**greening of the inland fleet and inland waterway infrastructure**

**low & zero emission propulsion systems, onshore power systems**

WP.29/GRPE

WP.29

WP.6

WP.24

SC.1

WP.5

SC.3

**Inland Transport Committee: regulations, knowledge, capacity building for adoption & deployment of EVs.**

# Partnerships for Advance Digital and Green Transformations

# Partnerships for Advance Digital and Green Transformations

**UNECE**

**Public-Private Partnerships**

to leverage private sector expertise and mobilize resources.

**Cross-sector collaboration**

between policy-makers and experts for policy coherence.

**International cooperation**

Including technical assistance as well as South-South and triangular collaboration.

**Stakeholder Engagement Platforms**

Circular Step

ETIN (Transformative Innovation Network).

**Innovation hubs & incubators**

promoted as essential for supporting startups and SMEs

**Forum of Mayors**

platform for mutual learning, integrating local perspectives into global governance.

# Partnerships for Advance Digital and Green Transformations: PPPs

**UNECE**

## Value for Money

## Value for People

## Value for the Planet

**Access and Equity**

**Economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability**

**Resilience and environmental sustainability**

**Replicability**

**Stakeholder engagement**

**UNECE Guiding Principles for PPPs for the SDGs**

**UNECE Digital PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)**

**UNECE Policy and sectoral standards and Guides to improve transparency and lower transaction cost**

**UNECE PPP/Concession legal framework for the SDGs**

**Broad participation**

- Around 400 participants

**Themes discussed**

- Cities Summit of the Future

- Localizing the SDGs

- Financing for development

**Outcome**

- Adopted the outcome statement **"Local and regional governments for a renewed and inclusive multilateralism for a sustainable future"**

# Mainstreaming <u>Gender Equality</u> Considerations in Advancing Digital and green Transformations
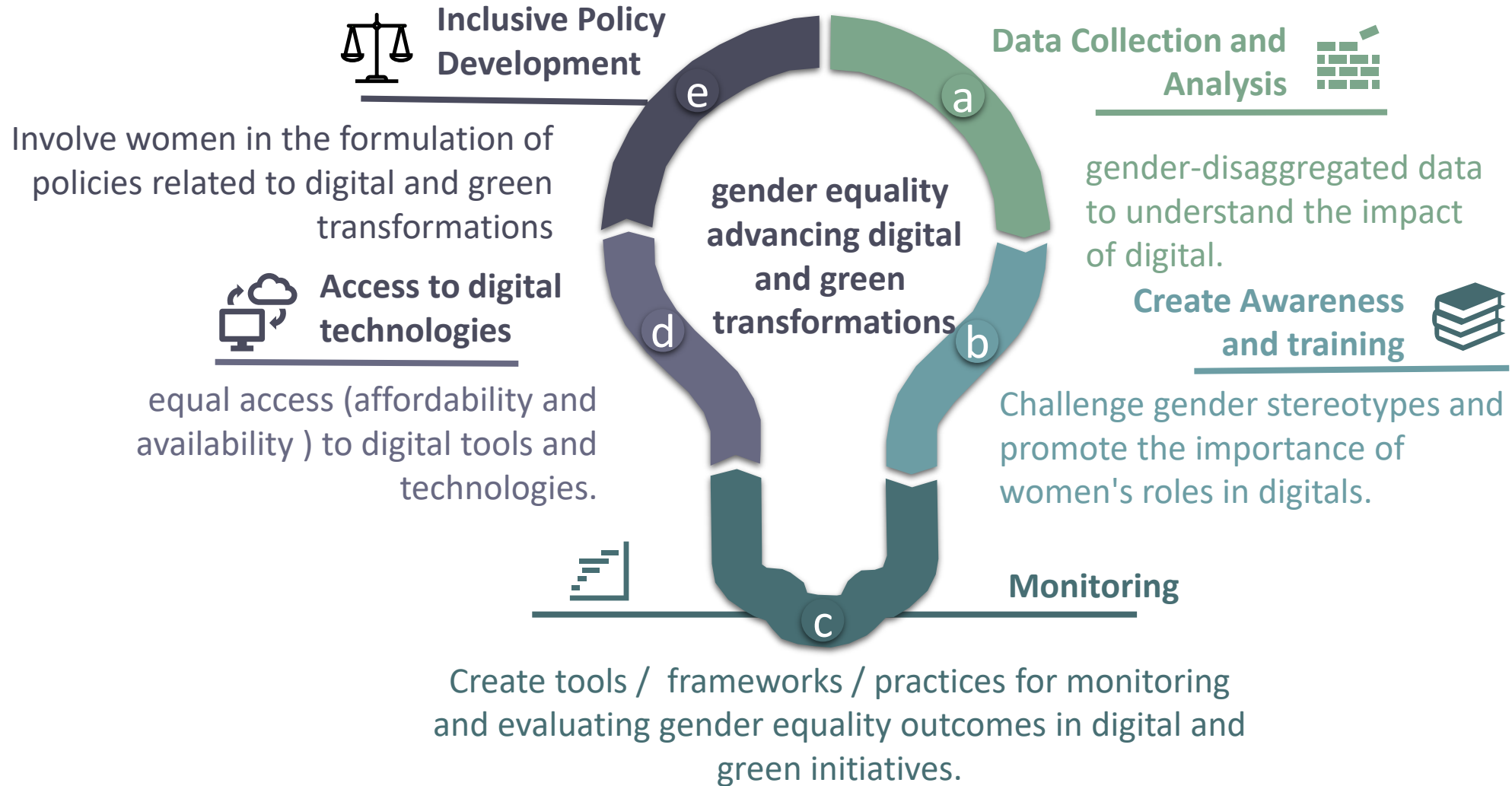
**UNECE**

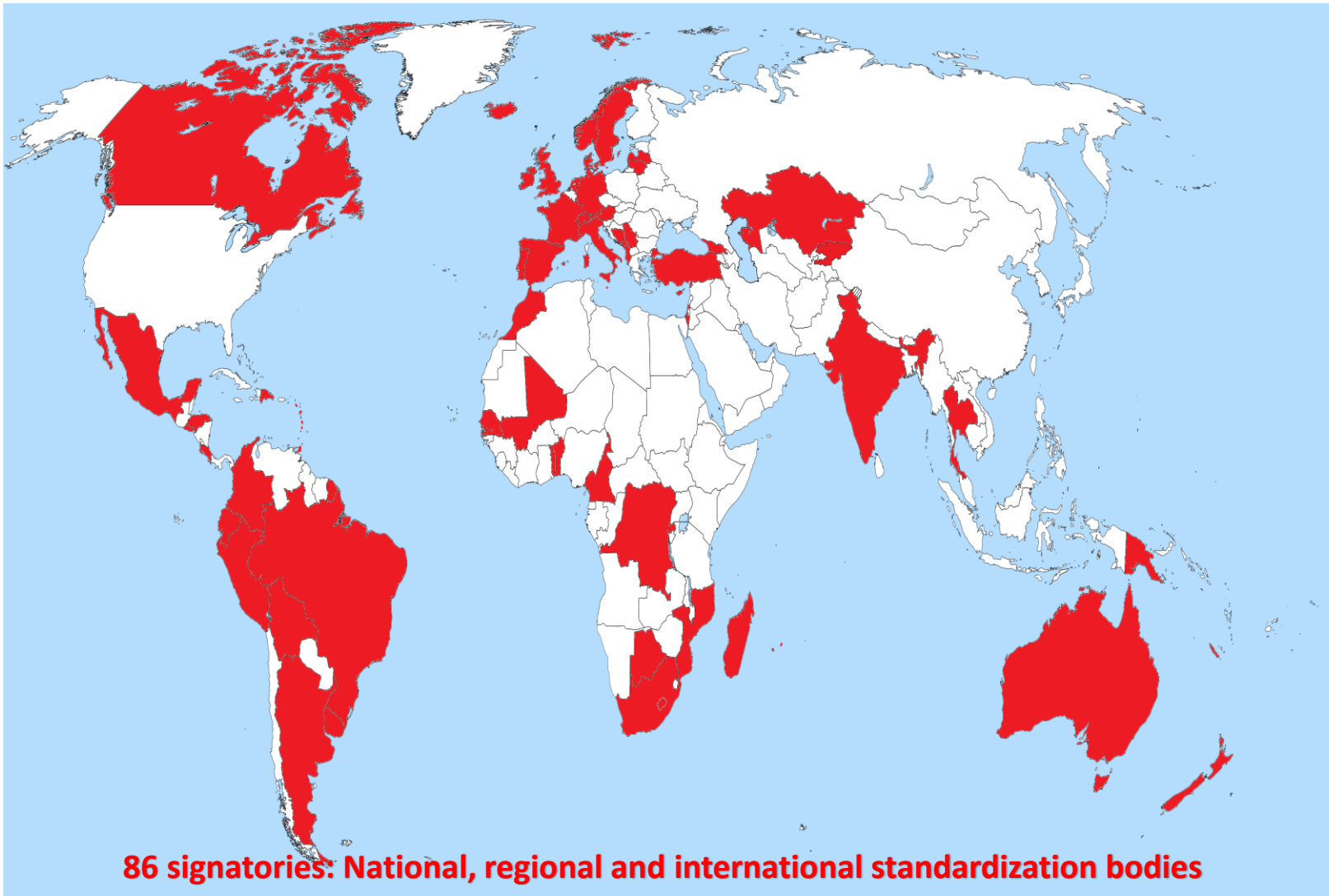# Gender Equality Considerations in Advancing Digital and green Transformations



**Inclusive Policy Development**

Involve women in the formulation of policies related to digital and green transformations

**Access to digital technologies**

equal access (affordability and availability ) to digital tools and technologies.

gender equality advancing digital and green transformations

**Data Collection and Analysis**

gender-disaggregated data to understand the impact of digital.

**Create Awareness and training**

Challenge gender stereotypes and promote the importance of women's roles in digitals.

**Monitoring**

Create tools / frameworks / practices for monitoring and evaluating gender equality outcomes in digital and green initiatives.

## Gender Responsive Standards



**86 signatories: National, regional and international standardization bodies**
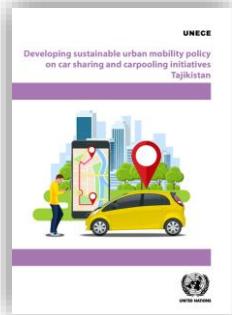
# For more information:

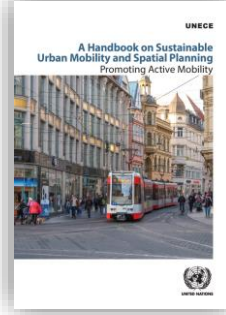# Publications – Digital tools -  Applications: Transport



## Publications

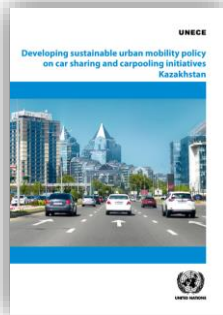**Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for Sustainable Mobility**

**Developing sustainable urban mobility policy on car sharing and carpooling initiatives - Tajikistan**

**Developing sustainable urban mobility policy on car sharing and carpooling initiatives - Kyrgyzstan**

**Handbook on Sustainable Urban Mobility and Spatial Planning**

**Developing sustainable urban mobility policy on car sharing and carpooling initiatives - Kazakhstan**

**Framework Document for Automated/ Autonomous Vehicles**

**Recommendations for Green and Healthy Sustainable Transport – "Building Forward Better"**

**Jobs in green and healthy transport**

## Digital tools

LearnITC

SITCIN

ITIO International Transport Infrastructure Observatory

## Applications

eTIR International System

ITDB

CPD CARNET DE PASSAGES EN DOUANE

Observatory on border crossings status due to COVID 19 restrictions

## Publications: Sustainable Energy

- "Digitalization: enabling the new phase of energy efficiency" (GEEE-7/2020/INF.3)
- "Digitalization: Accelerating the Electricity System Transformation" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/4-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/4)
- "Addressing Behavioural Barriers to Energy Digitalization" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/5)
- "Challenges of big data and analytics-driven demand-side management" (GEEE-9/2022/INF.3
- "Key considerations and solutions to ensure cyber resiliency in smart integrated energy systems" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/3-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/3)
- "Improving efficiency and reliability of energy systems by means of Big Data analytics" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/4-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/4)
- "Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the digital and data transformation in the electricity sector" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2024/3, ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2024/3)
- "The twin transition in non-electricity sector" (GEEE-11/2024/INF.6), case studies
- "Compendium of case studies on digitalization in energy in the UNECE region" (ECE Energy Series No.80, advanced version)

# THANK YOU