



DESA



Global Policy Dialogue Series

version 27 October 2020

Global Policy Dialogue Series
'Technological and Science-based Solutions to the COVID-19 Challenge'
Thursday, 29 October 2020, 10:00-11:30 a.m. EDT
Zoom and UN DESA's Facebook page

Programme

Welcome

(2 minutes)

- **Ms. Tanya Lewis**, Associate Editor, Health and Medicine, Scientific American

Introductory remarks

(10 minutes)

- **Mr. Munir Akram**, President of the UN Economic and Social Council.
- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (video message)

Discussion 1: Using science-based decision-making to counter COVID-19

(40 minutes)

Moderator: Ms. Tanya Lewis, Associate Editor, Health and Medicine, Scientific American

- **Ms. Susan Athey**, Economics of Technology Professor at Stanford Graduate School of Business
- **Ms. Socorro Escalante**, Coordinator, Essential Medicines and Health Technologies, Division of Health Systems and Services, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific
- **Mr. Paulo Gadelha**, President, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), former member of the 10-Member Group of the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs
- **Mr. Houman Haddad**, Chief of Emerging Technologies, World Food Programme
- **Mr. Vaughan Turekian**, Executive Director of the Policy and Global Affairs Division, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine; member of the 10-Member Group of the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs

[Discussion 2: Regional perspectives on harnessing technology to limit the worst effects of COVID-19](#)

(40 minutes)

Breakout session 1: Regional technological highlights (in English)

Moderator: Ms. Tanya Lewis, Associate Editor, Health and Medicine, Scientific American

- **Ms. Buthaina Mohammed Al Kindi**, Senior Executive, e-Transformation, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Sultanate of Oman; contributor to the *Compendium on Digital Governance Initiatives in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*
- **Mr. Victor Konde**, Officer-in-charge, Green Economy, Innovation and Technology Section, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **Mr. Nebojsa Nakicenovic**, former Deputy Director General and CEO of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and former member of the 10-Member Group of the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs
- **Ms. Seong Ju Park**, Deputy Director, Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea; contributor to the *Compendium on Digital Governance Initiatives in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*
- **Mr. Jonathan Wong**, Chief of Technology and Innovation at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

In parallel

Breakout session 2: Technological and science-based solutions in Western Asia (in Arabic)

Moderator: Mr. Fouad Mrad, Senior Programme Manager, Technology for Development, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

- **Mr. Ziad Abdallah**, Central Administration for Statistics, Lebanon
- **Ms. Ahlam Al-Rosan**, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan

[Conclusion](#)

(5 minutes)

Highlights of UN ESCWA breakout session:

- **Mr. Fouad Mrad**, Senior Programme Manager, Technology for Development, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Wrap up:

- **Ms. Tanya Lewis**, Associate Editor, Health and Medicine, Scientific American