



DESA



Global Policy Dialogue Series

Version 14 January 2020

Shaping a New Social Contract and New Global Deal: UN DESA Fireside Chats

Session 1: “Ensuring Equality, Inclusive Growth and Access to Opportunities” (Tuesday, 19 January 2021, 8:45-10:15 a.m. EST)

Session 2: “Using Data and Statistics to Support the Climate and SDG Agenda” (Thursday, 21 January 2021, 8:45-10:15 a.m. EST)

Background

In 2020 the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) demonstrated its thought leadership, providing agile and valuable support to Member States to address the devastating economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. UN DESA quickly adapted to the crisis by orienting its intergovernmental support, analytical and capacity development work to provide Member States and other stakeholders with the timely data, policy recommendations and other tools that they would need to respond quickly and effectively to the extraordinary challenges before them and recover better. An interdivisional taskforce was set up to shape interdisciplinary exploration of the social, economic and financial impact of the pandemic. In a span of six months, the downloads of DESA’s policy briefs reached 600,000, and traffic to the UN DESA main website increased by 30%. In July 2020, UN DESA launched its Global Policy Dialogue Series to reinforce the recommendations of these policy briefs, as well as support the initiatives of the Department and the wider UN system. In 2020, Policy Dialogues were held in support of economic recovery, youth employment, scientific and technological solutions for COVID-19, gender equality and food systems livelihoods.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new sense of urgency to the need for transformative change to strengthen public institutions, address financing gaps and support the development dilemmas of the most vulnerable countries, and the need to leverage and innovate data collection, data use and interdisciplinary analytical approaches to enable an evidence-based and risk-informed approach to decision-making. The pandemic has highlighted long known but ill-addressed systemic flaws in the social contract at global and national levels, with the social and economic impacts hitting along existing fault lines of inequality and inequity based on gender, racial, ethnic, ageist and economic discrimination, among others. It is in this context that UN DESA will hold its next Policy Dialogues on “Shaping a New Social Contract and New

Global Deal,” in which DESA’s in-house experts on these economic, social and environmental issues will take questions from the audience in a “town hall”-style format. Two separate sessions during one week will allow for the experts to dive deep into their work and share their experiences with the public.

To enhance engagement, participants will be invited to submit questions online at the time of registration and in the webinar and Facebook chat during the event. Several interactive polls will also be conducted throughout the event, through the Zoom platform or a third-party service such as Mentimeter, to gauge the audience’s thoughts on the ideas and solutions highlighted by the speakers.

The results of the discussion will be shared with UN leadership and will inform future UN DESA policy briefs on the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and the Department’s support to the Decade of Action.

Date and time

The dialogue will be held over two days. The first session will take place on Tuesday, 19 January 2020, 8:45-10:15 a.m. EST. The second session will take place two days later, on Thursday, 21 January 2021, 8:45-10:15 a.m. EST.

Location

The event will be held on Microsoft Teams or Zoom and streamed to UN DESA’s [Facebook channel](#).

Moderator

A leading broadcast journalist will serve as moderator for the first event to serve as an additional draw for the audience. The second event will be moderated by a colleague from IISD.

Event format:

Session 1: Ensuring Equality, Inclusive Growth and Access to Opportunities

I. **Introduction**

(2 minutes)

Moderator: Ms. Kristen Saloomey, Al Jazeera English

II. **Welcome remarks:**

(2 minutes)

UN DESA Assistant Secretary-General Elliott Harris

III. Opening remarks

(5 minutes)

- Mr. Juan Somavia, former Director-General, International Labour Organization

IV. Discussion 1: Promoting equality and inclusive growth during COVID-19

(40 minutes)

In the first session, the moderator will introduce each panelist, who will answer the audience's questions regarding their work promoting social and economic inclusivity.

Speakers:

- Ms. Wenyan Yang, Division for Inclusive Social Development
- Mr. Hamid Rashid, Economic Analysis and Policy Division
- Ms. Astra Bonini, Division for Sustainable Development Goals

Moderator: Ms. Kristen Saloomey, Al Jazeera English

V. Discussion 2: Deploying digital technologies for an inclusive and sustainable future

(40 minutes)

In the second session, the moderator will introduce each panelist, who will answer the audience's questions regarding their work on the potential opportunities and risks of digital technologies and closing the digital divide.

Speakers:

- Ms. Shari Spiegel, Financing for Sustainable Development Office
- Mr. Deniz Susar, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Governance
- Mr. Richard Roehrl, Division for Sustainable Development Goals

Moderator: Ms. Kristen Saloomey, Al Jazeera English

VI. Concluding remarks

(2 minutes)

Moderator

Session 2: Using Data and Statistics to Support the Climate and SDG Agenda

I. Introduction

(2 minutes)

Moderator: Mr. Stefan Jungcurt, IISD

II. Welcome remarks:

(2 minutes)

UN DESA Assistant Secretary-General Maria-Francesca Spatolisano

III. Opening remarks

(5 minutes)

- **Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, Senior Adviser at the Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia, and former Assistant Secretary-General for UN DESA

VII. Discussion 1: Aligning the climate and SDG agenda to recover better

(40 minutes)

In the first session, the moderator will introduce each panelist, who will answer the audience's questions regarding their work regarding the interlinkages between climate change and all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Irena Zubcevic**, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development
- **Ms. Mita Sen**, United Nations Forum on Forests
- **Mr. Sai Navoti**, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, SIDS Unit

Moderator: Mr. Stefan Jungcurt, IISD

VIII. Discussion 2: Using data and statistics to support climate and SDG action in the COVID era

(40 minutes)

In the first session, the moderator will introduce each panelist, who will answer the audience's questions regarding how their work uses data to support climate action.

Speakers (tbc):

- **Ms. Reena Shah**, Statistics Division
- **Mr. Ingo Pitterle**, Economic Analysis and Policy Division

- **Mr. Bela Hovy, Population Division**

Moderator: Mr. Stefan Jungcurt, IISD

IX. Concluding remarks

(2 minutes)

Moderator