

Cross-cutting Session on Digitalization

Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals in the Wake of COVID-19

Organized by ITU and UNECE and supported by the members of the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (#UNDTG4ECA)

Held within the framework of the 2021 UN Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for UNECE Region
<https://unece.org/rfsd2021>

Biographies of Guest Speakers



Mr. Jaroslav K. Ponder, Head of the Office for Europe at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (Geneva, Switzerland), representing ITU in Europe and directing actions, projects, initiatives and experts groups targeting 46 countries of the Europe Region. His portfolio includes set of Regional Initiatives for Europe, designed by the European Member States and focusing on the ICT Infrastructure, Digitization, Digital Inclusion, Accessibility, Innovation and Cybersecurity. Along the professional career, Mr. Ponder held official positions in the public sector and was a contributor to the legislative projects having the impact on the public policy. Since 2014, Mr. Ponder has been working for ITU holding diverse positions in the General Secretariat, Telecommunication

Development Bureau, and Regional Presence, addressing complexity of information society development and digital transformation at national, regional, international level, including United Nations level. For several years he has managed ITU's work on the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process, leading towards the establishment of the annual WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes, WSIS Stocktaking, others.



Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk is Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) at UNECE and leads the Division's work across its four Sections: Cooperation and Partnerships, Innovative Policies Development, Market Access and Trade Facilitation. The Division works to support closer economic relations among UNECE's 56 Member States in the pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. It assists member States in better integrating their economies into the world economy and in promoting a better policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to inclusive economic growth, innovative and sustainable development and higher competitiveness in the ECE region.

The ECTD services a large number of inter-governmental entities active in the development of standards and best practice

recommendations for trade facilitation and electronic businesses (UN/CEFACT), regulatory cooperation (WP.6), agricultural quality standards (WP.7), public-private partnerships (PPPs) and innovation policies (ToS ICP). It also provides technical assistance for the implementation of such standards and recommendations, as well as targeted and demand-driven research and analytical work. The ECTD's contributions to UNECE wide activities, along with initiatives and programmes at the level of the United Nations System, support an inclusive and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery and a transition to a more circular economy, e.g. through the traceability of supply chains, the reduction of food loss/waste and the promotion of gender-sensitive standards.

Prior to that, Ms. Tuerk acted as Chief of the Section on International Investment Agreements (IIAs) in UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE), where she led the Section's work across the three pillars of UNCTAD activities: research and analysis, capacity-building and consensus-building. Ms. Tuerk also coordinated the Section's contribution to other UNCTAD products, such as the joint UNCTAD/OECD monitoring of G20 countries' investment policy changes, the annual World Investment Report (WIR), and the biennial World Investment Forum (WIF), including key events such as Ministerial Roundtables.

Ms. Tuerk's earlier professional activities included functions in UNCTAD's Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC), covering e.g. WTO accessions and GATS negotiations, in the Geneva office of the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Ms. Tuerk holds a master's degree from the World Trade Institute (WTI) in Bern, Switzerland, and both a degree in international management and a degree in law from the Karl-Franzens Universität in Graz, Austria. Ms. Tuerk is a national of Austria.

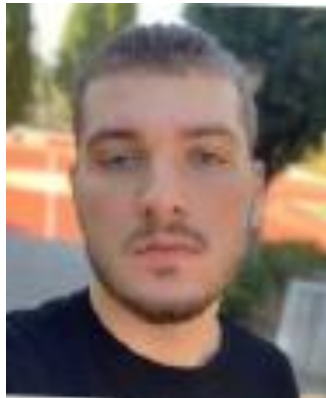


Mr. Francisco André is Co-Chair of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2021 (RFSD 2021), and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Portugal. He was born in Leiria, Portugal, in 1976. He holds a degree in Law by the University of Lisbon, with focus in legal-economic areas, and started his professional career as a lawyer. Among other positions, in public offices, he was Head of Cabinet of the Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (2005/2008), Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union in Brussels (2009/2013) and Head of Cabinet of the Prime Minister (2018/2020).



Ms. Gwi Yeop Son is the **Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia in United Nations Development Coordination Office**. She began her career in Haiti, assisting HIV/AIDS patients with the non-governmental organization. She then worked with the Country Women’s Association of Nigeria, focusing on microfinance schemes. In 1994, Ms. Son was posted to Somalia as a Programme Officer with the United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP), marking the beginning of an 18-year period with UNDP. After two years in Somalia, she worked in various other locations including Lao PDR, Timor-Leste during the pre-independence period, Indonesia during the first democratic elections and Tsunami 2004 period. She was also posted in New York to serve as a Programme Adviser on

Afghanistan and as OCHA’s Director of Corporate Programmes. In OCHA, she was responsible for organizing the World Humanitarian Summit and provided direct oversight over work on communications, information services, policy development and humanitarian financing including the CERF and the country based pooled funds. Ms. Son took up her assignment as the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in August 2018 until August 2020. Subsequently, she assumed the Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia with the Development Coordination Office.



Mr. Daniel Kalemi is a **Youth Advocate of the Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group** and a **Software Engineer**, pursuing his B.Sc. in Computer Science in Greece. He is the co-organizer of the UN-recognized Albanian Youth Internet Governance Forum, a tech mentor and an organizing member at SEEDIG Youth School. He is also Co-Author in the MIT Science Policy Review journal. His interests lay at the intersection of technology, policy and entrepreneurship, mainly in digital equity, capacity building, decarbonized economy, AI, big data, cybersecurity, and social entrepreneurship.



Ms. Valeriya Ionan is **Deputy Minister in European Integration of Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine**. Ms. Ionan is in charge of digital literacy national program, development and growth of SME, new digital professions, online children protection and eurointegration. Ms. Ionan and her team have launched Diia.Digital Education as a national project. It consists of two components. The first one is an online component.

It’s the national platform for digital education <https://osvita.diia.gov.ua>. The educational process is presented in the form of educational serials. More than 344 000 Ukrainians have already started to get digital skills on the platform. The second one is an offline component represented by digital education hubs all over Ukraine. There are places where every citizen could come to and get free access to the online platform. Valeria’s team has already built a network of more than 1500 such digital education hubs. Also, Ms.

lonan's team have launched «Diia.Business» as a national project, aimed at helping entrepreneurs. It consists of two components too. An online component is represented by a national platform for entrepreneurs <https://business.diia.gov.ua>. There are free online consultations for entrepreneurs on different aspects (taxes, sales, marketing, HR), free online courses for entrepreneurs, columns from the market leaders, and a lot of other useful services. An offline component is represented by entrepreneurship support centers all over Ukraine. The first center has already been opened in Kharkiv city. Before working in the Ukrainian government, Valeria had been an entrepreneur. She launched Quadrate 28 specializing on teams on outsource for SME, that has 250+ clients worldwide. Also, she launched MC Today, a first online magazine for entrepreneurs. She has got certificates from MBA program at Edinburgh Business School Eastern Europe in Marketing, Organizational Behavior, Negotiations.



Ms. Oxana Kukharchuk is Board member of “Element”, the leading semiconductors industrial manufacturer in Russia with 10,000 employees, where more than 60% of them are women. During the COVID-19 pandemic in Russia, Element developed special programs to ensure health safety at factories, remote work, as well as a special approach for women with children who had to work remotely from home. Ms. Kukharchuk is also founder of Lady007.ru and Talentedme.ru, two educational startups that focus on personal and business development of women and girls and which register 300,000+ participants in online training courses. She is also an active member of the Strategy Committee of the Higher School of

Management, focusing on the University's digital development. She is among TOP 1,000 best managers in Russia, 2020 and among TOP 6 female entrepreneurs that transformed the online educational system in Russia, 2019.



Ms. Nino Enukidze is Rector of the Business and Technology University in Georgia. Since February 2021, she is President of the Academic Consortium at the European Marketing and Management Association (EUMMAS). A Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) signee since 2018, Ms. Enukidze launched the Coding School for Women in 2019 involving a first group of 20 students. Her objective is to further expand the Coding School Initiative outside Tbilisi.



Ms. Yvette Ramos is President of WOMENVAI and Swiss Engineering Geneva. She is Representative of Switzerland for the WFEO, governing body of RCEM-UNECE for the Scientific & Technological community. She is Ms. Science of Engineering (electronics-telecom), EPF (1992), France and Ms. Human Resource Management, MBA(IAE2002). With a background in Engineering and twenty-five years professional experience, starting with a position of Project Manager in the Industry (Schlumberger, Ascom) to Expert in Strategic planning and Change Management, including capacity development for telecom companies and hydrological, meteorological and climate services at international level, she has developed extensive experience on managing teams and projects abroad. Over the last twenty

years, she had the chance to work with international teams, in the private and public sector, in the business and development environment. She holds the position of Expert at the specialized United Nations Agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Development Bureau, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), both with HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. She has recently accepted the challenging position of Project Manager (2018-2021) of the System Integrator of the AIRBM-2 World Bank project for the modernization of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Myanmar. She is the first woman president of the +100 years aged Swiss Engineering Geneva chapter (2011-...) and founder and president of WOMENVAI, an international NGO, a platform for innovative projects in Environment and High-Tech, led by women and supported by women and men.



Ms. Kloreanta Janushi is a cyber security expert with more than 5 years' experience in cyber field. She holds the position of **Head of Communication and Information Dissemination Unit at the National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security, Council of Ministers**, while actively participating in both national and international discussions in cyber security. She is also the national coordinator of Women4Cyber – Albania, an initiative of European Cyber Security Organization, which aims to promote, encourage and support the participation of women in the field of cybersecurity. Ms. Janushi is co-author of several research papers in cyber security and internet governance.



Ms. Eszter Varga is **Senior Researcher at the Institute of Agricultural Economics of Hungary** with expertise in agricultural innovation, knowledge sharing and digitalization in rural areas. She also works as an evaluator of the rural development programmes and provides support in the national planning process of the new CAP. She has extensive experience in participating in large-scale science and innovation projects, including H2020, such as LIAISON, SmartAgriHubs and SHERPA.



Ms. Sophie Treinen is working at the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Regional office for Europe and Central Asia**, where she provides assistance to the countries of the region addressing the role of information, communication and knowledge sharing. Her major responsibility is to develop approaches for developing institutional and individual capacities. She supports the development of national digital agriculture strategy, and pays particular attention to systems, which make the most of digital and more conventional technologies to address stakeholders' needs. She is also applying participatory approaches and examining gender issues linked to the introduction of new digital Information and Communication Technologies. With 30 years of experience, Sophie possesses a varied experience in raising awareness for sustainability issues within the UN, governments, private sector and civil society.

She was the FAO Focal Point for the World Summit on the Information Society Action Line on e-agriculture and served as the Organization's Communication Lead for the UN Global Information Society Group.



Mr. Milan Dacic serves as **Representative for Europe of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**. Part of career he spent as researcher and other part in public administration and international organizations (some duties: Director of Hydrometeorological Service and Permanent Representative of Serbia with WMO, Head of international relations of the Yugoslav Federal Hydrometeorological Institute, UNFCCC and IPCC Focal Point, senior officer of the Ministry of Environmental Protection working on climate related issues, Director of the Serbia's Country Office of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe - REC, WMO consultant). Milan was instrumental in setting-up of sub-regional SEE Virtual Climate Change Center and worked on advancing its operational functions as science to policy interface. While working as WMO Consultant Milan

contributed to design of the South East European Multi Hazard Early Warning System for the Western Balkans and Turkey. On country level he was coordinating the creation, negotiation, and final adoption by the Parliament of the Law on Meteorological and Hydrological Activities in Serbia. He actively contributed to design of legislative framework and operational practice in the disaster risk management. While

working in WMO, he engaged with eighteen countries of SEE to develop and agree the data policy for improved data sharing supporting the global and regional data processing and forecasting centers in Europe.



Mr. Clayton Hamilton leads the **digital health flagship programme within the WHO Regional Office for Europe's Division for Country Health Policies and Systems**, providing support and guidance on all aspects of digital health and innovation to support health systems strengthening and reform in the Region's 53 Member States. With a background in ICT development and business management and over 22 years of UN experience working in the fields of technology, digital health, and public health, Mr. Hamilton provides strategic guidance to assist countries in their development of national digital health programmes within the framework of delivering on WHO's triple billion targets and in working towards the achievement of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. In working to accelerate the uptake of safe and inclusive digital health services for all, Mr. Hamilton leads the development of dialogue and regional guidance

on digital health and innovation, establishes partnerships with major international stakeholders working to reform health systems and public health, and provides thought leadership on the adoption of frontier digital technologies to improve access to healthcare and empower individuals in their choices for better health and well-being.



Mr. Stefano Quintarelli is the **Chair of Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies in Trade and Logistics of the UN-CEFACT**. He is serial entrepreneur and executive with international experience in the TMT sector and a technology background. He has been Italian Member of the Parliament from 2013 to 2018. During his 25 years career, he have managed large teams, sold various companies (most notably: I.NET to British Telecom in 2000 - EV EUR870M), served as BoD member in listed and private companies, and contributed to digital transformation and innovation strategies in the private and public sector.



Ms. Ana Maria Carriazo is Senior Advisor at the Regional Ministry of Health and Families of Andalusia.

Since 2007, she coordinates the work of Andalusia as Reference Site of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. She graduated in Medicine and Surgery in 1986, further obtaining a Doctoral Degree in Medicine from the Public Health Program by the University of Seville in 1987, a Diploma in Statistics from the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2001, becoming a Specialist in Preventive Medicine and Public Health in 2003. She started working in the Andalusian Health Service, the government-run health system for the autonomous community of Andalusia, in 1988, taking up various responsibilities in management of sanitary information systems and digital health initiatives.

She frequently collaborates with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Social Sciences of the University of Seville and contributes to the publication of national and international scientific

papers. Her field of work focuses on the integration of healthcare components in European countries initiatives and programs, promoting European reforms in the healthcare sector, enhancing use and access to digital healthcare solutions, active and sustainable living, research and development, innovation.



Ambassador Vuk Žugić has been the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities since 2017.

Acting in support of the Chairman-in Office, he is charged with strengthening the ability of the Permanent Council and the OSCE institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security. Ambassador Žugić is a career diplomat with international experience in various high-level positions. Before joining the OSCE Secretariat, he acted as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna (2012-2017). He also served as Chairperson of the

OSCE Permanent Council during Serbia's OSCE Chairmanship in 2015. Prior to that assignment, between 2004 and 2009, he was Ambassador of Serbia to the Republic of India. Amongst other significant functions, Ambassador Žugić held the positions of Assistant Foreign Minister/Director General, Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation (2009-2012), Assistant Foreign Minister, and Head of Sector for Multilateral Cooperation (2001-2004) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia. Ambassador Žugić holds a Master's Degree in International Law and Relations from the University of Belgrade.



Mr. Mathias Lörtscher is the **Head of CITES MA of Switzerland at the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA)**. He obtained a Doctoral Degree in Zoology and Animal Biology from the University of Bern in 1995. After working for five years at IGE IPI, the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, he moved to the Switzerland Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), the center of excellence in the fields of food safety, nutrition, animal health and biodiversity.



Ms. Haruko Okusu is **Chief, Outreach and Projects Unit of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**. She has over 20 years of experience in policy support and capacity building, particularly in the areas of biodiversity, natural resource management and international governance including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Prior to her current position Haruko has served in different organizations, such as the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, and for the Science Council Secretariat of the Consortium Group for International

Agricultural Research (CGIAR). A Japanese national, Haruko holds a Ph.D in Law (University of Sheffield) and a Master's degree in Biochemistry (University of California, Berkeley).



Ms. Maria Cardenas Fischer is a **Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor in the Executive Office of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions** where she is responsible for the provision of policy and strategic advice on several areas of work of the BRS Secretariat, including in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, on cooperation with key partners as well as on the coordination and implementation of a number of substantive, policy and programmatic matters. She is an experienced negotiator on environmental multilateral diplomacy. She joined UNEP in 2001 and has held several positions both in the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and in the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions following the merging of the three Secretariats in 2012 as a result of the

synergies process. Prior to joining the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Cárdenas-Fischer, worked for the Colombian Government at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1993 to 2001), where she was a special advisor for environmental issues, representing her government in numerous multilateral fora and negotiations.