

UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (#DTG4ECA)

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) form the backbone of today's digital economy and have enormous potential to fast forward progress on the SDGs and improve people's lives in fundamental ways. Emerging technologies like 5G, Big Data, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, together with high speed broadband connectivity, create new avenues for addressing global challenges in the fields of education, employment, health, agriculture, inequalities, climate change, governance and many more.

Although ICTs are not mentioned much in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they are cross-cutting enablers for advancing the SDGs. For the last 15 years the global community has been building upon the outcomes of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), including by stressing the importance of human-centered ICTs, to ensure that no one is left behind. In 2015 UNGA Resolution 70/125 called for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the crosscutting contribution of information and communications technologies to the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard coordinated action on digital transformation and is of paramount importance.

Cooperation and collaboration are crucial accelerators for ICT development and digital transformation. Given the lack of barriers characterizing the digital world, standardization, sharing experiences and harmonization of practices are essential to build a better world. Understanding and exchanging common and good practices in the UN system is a key component to accelerating achievement of SDGs. Taking into account the reach of actions related to the information and communication technologies for achieving SDGs, undertaken at the regional level, and great potential of synergies that might be created through joint actions, strengthened regional cooperation of the UN system in the field of digital transformation will be of a great value.

Ongoing reform of regional UN Development System offers unique opportunity for UN System in Europe and Central Asia to strengthen its impact through implementation of actions of a cross-cutting character, building upon the enabling power of ICTs and advancing digital transformation. Such actions need to build upon the competencies of diverse agencies of UN system

Objectives

The objective of the **United Nations Group on Digital Transformation for Europe and Central Asia (UN-DTG4ECA)** is to provide a regional platform for UN agencies to

- (i) facilitate **cooperation and collaboration** between different UN agencies in the field of digital transformation, realizing synergies among related areas of work and contributing to the relevant platforms, processes, conferences, etc.;
- (ii) promote coordinated UN support to Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda through ICTs, while providing **support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs)** on digital transformation issues;
- (iii) strengthen **information sharing on activities of UN System** in Europe and Central Asia in field of digital transformation and their impact on the advancing achievement of SDGs
- (iv) provide support to the work of the **Issues Based Coalitions and the Regional Knowledge Hub** of the UN System for Europe and Central Asia, with focus on digital transformation,



UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (#DTG4ECA)

while keeping track and providing regular updates on the information of new technologies and trends which may be utilized as SDG enablers and accelerators.

Membership

The UN DTG4ECA is open to all UN funds, agencies and programmes. Each member agency will designate a focal point and an alternate, ideally a specialist working on digital transformation. Any cost of participation will be met by each participating member agency.

The focal points represent their agencies and are responsible for providing an update on their activities in the field of digital transformation. The focal point is also responsible for keeping their colleagues in the respective agencies informed on the activities of the digital transformation.

Coordination

- Co-Chairs: ITU and UNECE
- Members: FAO, ILO, ITU UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, Others
- Secretariat: ITU

Work Modalities

- Dedicated website serving as the main repository of information
- Regular calls or video conferencing, at least every two months, as needed.
- Ad-hoc calls if needed to prepare for supporting UN missions, CCA preparations, reports and interventions at the national and regional level.
- Yearly review of work, results, progress towards achieving these terms of reference, engagement and attendance of agencies, country feedback and UN Regional Coordination Platform.
- Overall coordination of all regional activities which include ICT component

Geographical scope

The UN DTG4ECA will primarily focus on countries in Europe and Central Asia while supporting inter-regional and global coordination.

Focal Points

- Jaroslaw PONDER, Head of ITU Office for Europe, ITU (Jaroslaw.Ponder@itu.int)
- Maria Rosaria CECCARELLI, Director-Officer-in-Charge. Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE (Maria.Ceccarelli@un.org)

