

**WSIS Forum 2021**  
**“WSIS UN Regional Commissions Meeting**  
**Round Table” UN Regional Commissions**  
**Thursday, 20 May 2021, 14:00-15:00 CEST**

**Register:**

[https://itu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KfqPEnvFQeWrrh\\_mzdcK2A](https://itu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KfqPEnvFQeWrrh_mzdcK2A)

**Background:**

The pandemic led to an economic and social collapse of unthinkable magnitudes. The crisis is affecting all countries in the world but with a greater weight to less developed ones due to their structural challenges. Digital technologies have proven to be essential tools for social and economic resilience. Although there are a large number of people and organizations who have been able to mitigate the effects of the crisis through the use of digital technologies, the digital divide continues to be a challenge. In this regard, governments have been able to ease the access to the Internet and communication services, through several measures, expanding their access and universal programs, urging operators to provide low cost services, granting access without cost to certain applications or websites, among other initiatives. Also, digital technologies have been essential tools for prevention, monitoring and treatment of the pandemic, using artificial intelligence, big data and IoT.

Digitization also brings enormous challenges. For example, in the field of cybersecurity, with increasing threats aimed at accessing, changing, or destroying confidential information, extorting users and interrupting productive and commercial processes. On the other hand, the use of digital tools increased concerns about privacy and personal data protection. Likewise, the use of new technologies like artificial intelligence, can lead to biased in decision making. Other technologies like 5G require standards and norms that facilitate their adoption and generate synergies. In this way, it is necessary to develop norms, regulations, policies, and guidelines that can provide safe, inclusive, affordable, and reliable access to Internet and digital technologies.

Regional commissions within their mandate have carried out various initiatives that promote the use of digital technologies in the face of the pandemic and aligned with the principles promoted by WSIS. These initiatives include the provision of research and statistics that facilitate decision-making, develop capacity building, and offer technical cooperation. In this webinar these initiatives will be discussed and shared.

**Objectives:**

This roundtable session promotes information sharing among UN Regional Commissions on their respective programmes and activities for the implementation of the WSIS action lines and those initiatives at regional level aim to promote the use of digital technology to cope with the pandemic and facilitate economic and social recovery.

## Programme

**20 May 2021 at 14:00-15:00 CEST (1 hour)**

Sebastian Rovira, Economic Affairs Officer, ECLAC	Chair	14:00-14:01 1 min
Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU	Global activities	14:01-14:09 8 min

### Representatives:

Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP	Report ESCAP activities	14:09-14:17 8 min
Ayman Elsherbiny, Chief of the ICT Policies Section, ESCWA	Report ESCWA activities	14:17-14:25 8 min
Mario Apostolov, Regional Advisor, ECE	Report ECE activities	14:25-14:33 8 min
Jean-Paul Adam, Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, ECA	Report ECA activities	14:33-14:41 8 min
Sebastian Rovira, Economic Affairs Officer, ECLAC	Report ECLAC activities	14:41-14:49 8 min

### Q/A

Participants	14:49-14:59 10 min
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### Closing

Chair	14:59-15:00 1 min
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