

## UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2019 Under the auspices of ECOSOC

“Attaining the SDGs in a future that is digital: the role of capacity building,  
education and skills development for digital inclusion”

UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 5

9 July 2019, 3-6 p.m.

### Brief description of the event

As the world is becoming increasingly digital, the question of how sustainable development and equality can be achieved without achieving digital inclusion is becoming more and more critical. The majority of the people who are not yet connected live in rural and low-income areas in the developing world. One of the main barriers to digital inclusion is the lack of education, capacity and skills to embrace digital technologies. At the same time, the majority of current and future jobs require some knowledge of digital skills. This workshop will discuss the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) capacity and skills development, through formal education and lifelong learning, as a key enabler for attaining the SDGs.

### Key objectives

- To illustrate the link between digital knowledge/literacy and skills on the one hand, and ensuring inclusiveness and equality on the other hand
- To demonstrate how an ICT-literate citizenry benefits from increased access to education, economic and job opportunities, and basic public services (e.g. health)
- To showcase how ICTs can be used as a tool to enhance education and lifelong learning
- To provide examples on how capacity development in ICT can contribute to achievement of Goal 4, 8, 10 and 17

## PROGRAMME

### 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Opening remarks

- H.E. Juan Ramón de la Fuente, Permanent Representative of Mexico, Chair of the UN Core Group on Exponential Technological Change
- Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General, ITU
- Einar Bjorgo, Director, Division for Satellite Applications and Applied Research, UNITAR

Moderator: Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations, New York

### 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Global perspectives and situational analysis

This session will illustrate why capacity building, education and skills development on digital technologies is critical to achievement of the SDGs. It will provide an overview of key opportunities, challenges and policy actions needed to overcome barriers and bridge the divides and address the following questions: Why are digital skills and ICT in education programmes critical to development? Where do we stand today, globally, regionally and nationally? What are existing global and national frameworks countries can adopt to develop an ICT-literate citizenry fit for purpose. What does the future job market look like and how can we ensure young people have the required digital skills demanded by the industry?

- Susan Teltscher, Head, Capacity Building Division, ITU
- Guilherme Canela De Souza Godoi, Senior Advisor for Communication, UNESCO
- Matthieu Cognac, Youth Employment Expert, ILO
- Followed by interactive debate with the audience

### 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Concrete projects and initiatives

This session will look at concrete projects and initiatives aimed at strengthening digital skills and building capacity that have been implemented successfully. It will feature a number of case study presentations and highlight lessons learned.

- Nadi Albino, Senior Advisor, Generation Unlimited
- Mariela Machado, Program Manager, Engineering for Change
- Steven Vosloo, Digital Policy Specialist, Policy Lab, UNICEF
- Paul Landers, Partnership Director, Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility, Ericsson
- Claire Scharwatt, Advocacy Director, Connected Women and Connected Society, GSMA
- Followed by interactive debate with the audience

### 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Wrap up and closing