UN STI Forum Side Event
New Technologies, Ethics and Policy Engagement for Sustainable Development:
An Interdisciplinary Model for Engaging with the Technology Community
Monday, 3 May 2021
11AM-12PM EDT
Organized by IEEE TechEthics and UN-DESA

Overview
Since the end of 2020, IEEE TechEthics and UN-DESA have jointly organized an IEEE/UN series of online events on *New Technologies, Ethics and Policy Engagement for Sustainable Development*. The series facilitates sharing of technology ideas and solutions and brings together policy makers, engineers, legal experts, ethicists, social scientists, and others, to engage in substantive discussions on a variety of topics related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To date, events have been held on the following themes:

- Health & Human Well-being (17 December 2020)
- Universal Access to Energy (11 February 2021)
- Global Environmental Solutions (10 March 2021)

Each event featured presentations by leading engineers and technologists addressing key questions related to existing technologies and pending advancements, along with discussion about the related social impacts. The events also provided information on work being done by the UN, the IEEE, and their partners, as well as discussed engagement opportunities for attendees interested in participating in those efforts. Recordings from the sessions are available online at techethics.ieee.org/videos.

This 2021 STI Forum side event will provide information on lessons learned from the event series to date, particularly the opportunity it has presented for increased collaboration between policy makers and technology professionals in a neutral setting.

The event will also provide an overview of specific outcomes from each event, and present a proposal for the evolution of the series into a regularly-scheduled set of virtual events that will allow for continued collaboration and topical discussion between annual STI Forums.

Speakers
Richard A. Roehrl, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DSDG, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Mark A. Vasquez, Sr. Program Manager, IEEE TechEthics

Additional Background
IEEE (www.ieee.org) and its members have long played an important role in contributing to and advising national governments and the United Nations. It is the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity, with

almost 400,000 members in 160 countries. IEEE develops, defines, and reviews electronics and computer science standards, produces about one-third of the world's literature in the electrical and electronics engineering and computer science fields in about 200 peer-reviewed journals and almost 2,000 conference proceedings every year, and offers extensive professional and technical education opportunities. In addition to being organized along geographic lines (Regions/Sections/Chapters), it is also comprised of thematic societies and technical councils, many of which respond to emerging issues. Several key IEEE programs also focus on emerging issues, including IEEE Techethics (techethics.ieee.org), which focuses on driving comprehensive and balanced conversation, debate and discussion on the ethical and societal impacts of technology. Through its vast network, IEEE is able to invite international contributions from a wide variety of stakeholders groups within the technology ecosphere, including those from the fields of engineering, entrepreneurship, humanities, and more.