



SIDE EVENT — Digitalization to Achieve the SDGs: promoting effective and coherent UN support through mapping and country level initiatives

*Co-organized by the Office of Secretary General's Envoy on Technology
and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

DATE: 6 May 2022

TIME: 7:30-9 a.m. EDT

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HERE* 

In this Decade of Action, we must better utilize the potential of digital technologies to narrow digital divides in order to leave no one behind and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In better responding to Member States' needs, the United Nations system strives to bring about "a more coherent and strategic approach" to digital issues, as emphasized by the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation; including its various parts better harnessing digital technologies to fulfill their mandates. The Roadmap for Digital Cooperation also stresses the importance of coordinated and coherent global digital capacity-building efforts, alongside matching efforts at the national level, especially through the United Nations' presence on the ground.

This event will thus explore how more effective and coherent UN support to Member States on digital is critically needed, as well as promote further awareness of how digital technologies play a crucial role in achieving the SDG. The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology and DESA will present the initial results from their joint initiative – a UN systemwide mapping of digital-related initiatives, with almost 500 submissions received from across the system; while UN system entities will also showcase key projects and programmes to illustrate how digitalization can help facilitate the achievement of socio-economic and environmental, sustainable development, with a specific focus on country-level needs. Resident coordinators will also speak from their experiences in this regard.

The Acting Envoy on Technology, ASG Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, will open the event. Her remarks will be followed by a presentation of the UN-systemwide mapping, reflections from Resident Coordinators, and contributions from UN entities, including FAO, UN-Habitat, WFP, and others.

*The 2022 STI Forum will be held on the WHOVA platform. Please register on WHOVA to attend this side event.