



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Quantum for Good: Frontier Technology for the SDGs

20 September 2024
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (EDT)
Accenture – One Manhattan West, New York

Organized by:

United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC)
Republic of Namibia
Kingdom of the Netherlands
Quantum Delta NL
International Telecommunication Union
World Economic Forum

Hosted by: Accenture

Background on the event

Quantum technologies – including computing, sensing, and communication—represent the next frontier of technological advancement, with the potential to revolutionize fields such as climate modeling, drug discovery, financial forecasting, and secure communication. By harnessing the power of quantum mechanics, their applications offer the ability to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges with unprecedented speed and precision. In this context, this side event explored the transformative potential of quantum technologies in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as challenges in unlocking their full impact.

Key Issues discussed

- The current state of quantum technologies and their potential applications in sustainable development
- Case studies of quantum solutions addressing specific SDGs
- Strategies for fostering international cooperation in quantum research and development
- Ensuring equitable access to quantum technologies across developed and developing nations
- Ethical considerations and governance frameworks for responsible quantum innovation

Key recommendations for action

- Raise awareness of the potential for quantum technology to drive progress and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Identify and prioritize use cases and pilot projects that leverage quantum technologies, focusing on applications that can address key global challenges.
- Foster cross-sector partnerships to drive innovation, ensuring collaboration between governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society to keep public services at the forefront of technological advancements.
- Shape inclusive policies that make quantum technology accessible to all, ensuring equitable access and preventing technological divides.
- Prepare for potential side effects by exploring the implications of quantum technology early on, creating safeguards to mitigate risks and ensure responsible deployment.
- Organize a follow-up conference to set the stage for the International Year of Quantum, bringing together UN agencies, experts and stakeholders to discuss the roadmap, opportunities, and challenges in advancing quantum technologies globally.

Webpage to find more information:

<https://www.unicc.org/quantum-for-good-nov-2024/>