Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Digital Future for All: Innovative Solutions for Digital Cooperation

21.09.2024, 6.30-9.00 p.m., New York, Google Office at St. John's Terminal

Organized by: UNIDO, Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Google Cloud, International Coffee Organization

Background on the event

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Google Cloud, and the International Coffee Organization (ICO) jointly organized a side event as part of the Summit of the Future Action Days to showcase concrete and innovative solutions for advancing SDGs through digital cooperation and sustainable industrialization, in line with the objectives of the recently adopted Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact.

On this occasion, UNIDO launched the Solutions Platform – a digital space designed to foster partnerships and highlight scalable solutions for sustainable industrialization. An initial lighthouse solution – leveraging Google's AI, cloud and geospatial data technologies to support farmers, deforestation-free supply chains and regulatory compliance in coffee supply chains – was presented and discussed by Member States, coffee and technology industry representatives.

Key Issues discussed

- **Bridging the digital divide in developing countries**: Examined new solutions and tools aimed to enhance digital inclusion and ensure that the benefits of the digital economy reach developing nations, in alignment with the objectives of the Global Digital Compact.
- **Accelerating SDG progress by means of digital technologies**: Explored innovative digital approaches to accelerate progress on SDGs, particularly SDG 9 (industry, infrastructure, and innovation), and other SDGs such as 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 13 (climate action) and 17 (partnerships).
- **Scaling-up of SDG-oriented practices in developing countries**: Discussed digital solutions that developing countries can implement to modernize their coffee supply chains and how these practices can be scaled to other sectors to drive economic progress and achieve the SDGs.

- **Innovating coffee supply chains with digital and AI solutions**: Analysed how digital technologies, AI, traceability, and geospatial data solutions can support farmers, contribute to combating deforestation, improve sustainability, regulatory compliance, and technical cooperation, using the example of coffee supply chains in Ethiopia.
- **Empowering multi-stakeholder action for digital innovation**: Explored strategies to strengthen multi-stakeholder action in overcoming divides in digital access, data use, and innovation, and leveraging science and technology for sustainable development.
- **Leveraging the UNIDO Solutions Platform (USP)**: Assessed how the USP can accelerate resource mobilization by helping effectively mobilize private and public sector resources, foster transfer of innovation technologies, promote digital collaboration among diverse stakeholders across sectors and showcase scalable solutions that benefit Member States, academia, industry, donors, and youth, while fostering global collaboration.

Key recommendations for action

- **Create conducive environments to bridge the digital divide and expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy in developing countries**: Support international and national efforts to develop an enabling environment for digital transformation through policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.
- **Implement scalable and replicable digital solutions**: Develop innovative digital solutions aligned with the objectives of the Global Digital Compact, that can replicate and scale up existing initiatives such as those in coffee supply chains in Ethiopia, across various sectors in agriculture, energy and others, supporting poverty reduction and climate action.
- **Foster multi-stakeholder collaboration for digital and sustainable industrialization**: Strengthen partnerships between governments, the private sector, youth, academia, and civil society, including by using the UNIDO Solutions Platform (USP) as a tool to mobilize partnerships, resources and scale-up solutions for digital and sustainable industrialization.
- **Leverage AI and geospatial technologies for sustainable supply chains**: Invest in advanced technologies such as AI, cloud computing, and geospatial data to enhance transparency, traceability, and sustainability in global supply chains.

Webpage to find more information:

- [UNIDO launches Solutions Platform and joins forces with Google on digital solutions at the Summit of the Future | UNIDO](#)
- https://www.unido.org/events/digital-future-all