

IGF 2017 Main Session Information Template: Digital Economy

DATE & TIME: Thursday December 21, 2017 10:00 - 13:00 (Day 4)
VENUE: Main Hall - Room XVII - E United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

1. Title/ Length of the Session + Format and Room-Setup/Audio Requests (if applicable)

Digital Transformation: How Do We Shape Its Socio-Economic and Labor Impacts for Good? (3 hours; Debate-Style)

2. Brief Description/Objective [in 200 words or less - this should be a high-level 'marketing' pitch to participants - i.e. why should they join the session and what should they expect to get from it?]

This session aims to facilitate a thoughtful dialogue on the process of digitization and digital transformation, examining its effect on the global value chain, new business models, and the future workforce.

Cross-border data flow has accelerated economic globalization while the flows of international trade and finance have flattened since 2008. The increase in digital flows is underpinned by a process of statistically-evidenced vertiginous digitization¹. The digitization of products that were traditionally delivered physically but can also be transmitted electronically over the Internet, plays an important role in this process, opens new possibilities for e-commerce, and is an essential part of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The increased use of data will be required to realize the potential of the digital transformation. In the near future, data flows will increase under the pervasive Internet of Things (IoT). Data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI) are perceived to be fundamental to the transformation of both developed and developing economics². Under the 'sharing economy', digital platforms enable direct exchanges between service providers and potential customers. They also reshape organizations and the future of the work, necessitating a dialogue about how to enable an inclusive digital transformation which benefits everyone.

[199 words]

¹ It is estimated that in the year 2000, a quarter of the information available in the world was digital. In 2010, the situation had drastically changed: only 2% of the available information was non-digital.

² Recent research estimates that AI can double annual economic growth rates by 2035 for 12 developed countries that generate more than 50% of the world's economic output, and boost labour productivity by up to 40% (See, Accenture, *Why Artificial Intelligence is the Future of Growth*, September 28, 2016, url: <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/insight-artificial-intelligence-future-growth> [as of August 2017]). In developing countries, UN agencies have embraced AI as an accelerator for realizing the SDGs.

3. Agenda

This session will be divided into two parts:

- The first part will be dedicated to understanding how digitization is affecting global digital production and commerce, and impacting development.
- The second part will discuss the impact of the digital economy on the workforce in both developed and developing countries, especially examining a relationship between the consequences of the sharing economy and automation and job creation / destruction, productivity, and labor rights, taking into account the distinct contexts of declining / increasing demographics.

【 Agenda 】

I. Introduction (10 min.)

II. Part 1: Digitization and global production and flows of digital commerce (60 min.)

- Short initial remarks from discussants (20 min.)
- Discussions (40 min.)
- The discussion will seamlessly combine initial remarks with interactive reactions from the audience/participants

III. Part 2: Digitization, automation and employment issues (90 min.)

- Short initial remarks from key discussants (20 min.)
- Discussions (70 min.)
- The discussion will seamlessly combine initial remarks with interactive reactions from the audience/participants

IV: Conclusions and wrap-up (20 min.)

- The organizers will distill the conclusions of the discussion in a set of short key “messages” which will be presented to the participants at the end of the session

4. Policy Questions *[up to 5]*

Part 1: Digitization and global production and flows of digital commerce (60 min.)

1) How is the new digital ecosystem different than the traditional ecosystem? What are considerations for enabling the development of healthy digital ecosystems? What are the main policy issues related to global production value chains in the digital environment?

- 2) What are the contributions of different types of e-commerce (B2B, B2C, B2G) to the global economy and how is e-commerce distributed worldwide? What is the role of e-commerce marketplaces for the inclusion of SMEs and developing market contenders in global trade chains?
- 3) How do emerging technologies, such as big data, IoT, and AI affect e-commerce? What are the main policy options that facilitate or create obstacles to global trade flows?
- 4) How does digitization enable new business models and encourage entrepreneurship?
- 5) What roles do international organizations play in facilitating the discussion of these policies and how can they work with other actors to promote better coordination in the field of e-commerce?

Part 2: Digitisation, automation and employment issues (90 min.)

- 1) What are some of the lessons learned from past market transformations, e.g., agricultural to industrial, and how does digitization assist in making the most of the lessons (taking also into account the context of sharing economy)?
- 2) Are there tools that can better measure and predict the impact of ICT on the labor market? Are there tools that can predict what skills are needed going forward?
- 3) What are the ways in which the labor market will most likely be affected by digitization and automation? What policies should be considered in an environment of increasing demographics in developing countries? Do ICTs actually assist developed countries in addressing understaffing situation while maintaining the diversity of a career choice as well as mitigating risks to the well-being of the labor force?
- 4) What will be the necessary professional skills to take advantage of the jobs created in a highly digital society and what are examples of innovative approaches to training by which workers can be more effectively connected to more opportunities? Should different approaches be considered for people at different stages in their career?
- 5) How can education and capacity development play a role in this new scenario and what kind of efforts would be necessary for public / private stakeholders to promote the education and capacity development in both developed and developing countries?

5. Chair(s) and/or Moderator(s)

We will have 2 moderators (one for Part 1, another for Part 2) since moderation should be dynamic, proposing questions and making sure that the “debate-style” flows smoothly, and that the audience has the chance to participate. Because of the importance of this role, we will continue to brainstorm on who the moderators should be based on a pool of names below.

6. Panellists/Speakers

(1) Number of Panelists/Speakers

In order to ensure more dynamism and have sufficient time for discussions while making sure that we have a sufficiently diverse group of panelists/speakers, we will have at least 10 panelists/speakers.

In this regard, in order to facilitate interactive discussion and also leverage the expert knowledge of every panelist/speaker, we will have 2 groups of at least 5 panelists/speakers each for the 2 different parts of the session.

(2) List of Proposed Panelists/Speakers

In this regard, we will have at least 2 panelists/speakers from each 5 sector as follows:

【Government】

- 1) Mr. Oscar Gonzalez, Undersecretary of Regulation, ICT Secretariat, Ministry of Modernization, Argentina
- 2) Ms. Oktavía Hrund Jónsdóttir, Iceland Deputy MP and Chairperson European Pirate Party

【International Organization】

- 1) Ms. Anne Carblanc, Head of Digital Economy Policy Division, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD
- 2) Ms. Valentina Scialpi, DG CONNECT, EU

【Business】

- 1) Mr. Philip Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union
- 2) Ms. Ankhi Das, Public Policy Director - India, South & Central Asia, Facebook

【Civil Society/Academia】

- 1) Mr. Edmon Chung, CEO, DotAsia Organization
- 2) Ms. Farzaneh Badiei, Executive Director, Internet Governance Project / Research Associate at Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Public Policy

【Technical Community】

- 1) Dr. Walid Al-Saqaf, Member, Internet Society Board of Trustees / Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Södertörn University
- 2) Ms. Karen McCabe, Senior Director of Technology Policy and International Affairs, IEEE

*The above list is subject to change. Pending further discussion, the above list of panelists/speakers may be replaced and/or enhanced with someone listed in the following pool of names:

- H.E. Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive, Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB)
- Mr. David Martinon, French Amabssador for Cyberdiplomaty and Digital Economy
- Mr. Rob Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy from the US Government
- Mr. Agustin Garzon, Head of ENACOM, the government of Argentina
- Mr. Raul Echeberria, Vice President, Internet Society (ISOC)
- Ms. Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Chief at ICT Analysis Section, UNCTAD
- Ms. Azita Berar Awad, Director, Employment Policy Department, ILO
- Ms. Marion Jansen, Chief Economist, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Mr. Marc Bacchetta, Counsellor, Economics Research and Statistics Division, WTO
- Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD
- Ms. Deborah Greenfield, Deputy Director-General for Policy, ILO
- High-level speakers from Disney, AT&T, Oxford Analytica, etc.

7. Plan for in-room participant engagement/interaction?

First of all, because our session will be “debate-style”, there will be active interaction among expert speakers/panelists and the mood will be set for audience interventions and questions. To put it another way, we will make every single effort to create an atmosphere for active interaction not only among the panelists/speakers but between the panel and the audience.

Second, in order to foster interactive discussion among all participants, there will be the opportunity of an open mic. We will ask moderators for 2 sub-sessions to pay closer attention to the reaction of the audience during the sessions and involve the audience as much as possible.

8. Remote moderator/Plan for online interaction?

Interventions from online participants will be given equal priority as to those from the physical audience. Onsite and online moderator will coordinate closely. To broaden participation, online interaction will rely on the WebEx platform and will also include social media (Twitter and Facebook). Online moderators will be in charge of browsing social media using some hashtags (to be defined). We will try to have English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish online moderators, and a systematic queue.

In addition, we plan to use a “Twitter wall” which can be either a physical monitor at the session or a tag with a Storify-like interface where people can interact with before, during, and after the session. Since we have ever collaborated with Youth IGFs, we will ask Youth IGF volunteers to be part of our team and support our session on this aspect. We are confident that it will introduce dynamism and reinforce the goal of maximizing the opportunities for the involvement of the audience in situ and remote.

9. Connections with other sessions?

Our session connects with multiple workshops of IGF 2017 which deal with in some way the topic of digital economy. A workshop titled [“WS #141 Equipping populations with the skills to shape and secure their digital future”](#) is one example which directly relates to our session. Since most of us get actively involved in the multiple workshops and have ever discussed the topic of digital economy in many international conferences, we will be able to share good practices in order to hold a dynamic and interactive main session on digital economy.

10. Desired results/outputs? Possible next steps?

The results of the discussion will be distilled by the organizers in a set of short key “messages” that will be presented at the end of the wrap-up of the session.