



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

ADDRESSING EMERGING REQUIREMENTS
AND CHALLENGES FOR POLICY AND
DECISION-MAKING IN DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES

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COVID-19 SPECIAL EDITION

How Can Digitalization Help Us Respond to This Unprecedented Crisis?

- **UN/DESA Policy Brief #61: Covid-19: Embracing Digital Government During the Pandemic and Beyond**
- **The Opportunities of Digitization in Latin America In Front of Covid-19**
- **UNICEF: How to Keep Your Child Safe Online While Stuck at Home During the Covid-19 Outbreak**
- **3 Key Areas Innovative Tech Is Helping During the Covid-19 Pandemic**
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- **Pan-European Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing**
- **Covid-19 Shows Why Internet Access Is A Basic Right**
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- **Apple and Google Want to Turn Your Phone into A Covid-Tracking Machine**
- **World Wide Web Foundation Covid-19 Policy Brief: Misinformation and Freedom of Expression**
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- **Azerbaijan E-Permit System during COVID-19**

UN/DESA Policy Brief #61: Covid-19: Embracing Digital Government During the Pandemic and Beyond



“It is vital for governments to provide accurate, useful and up-to-date information to people, particularly during times of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, governments started providing information on their national portals, mobile apps or through social media platforms...”

The Opportunities of Digitization in Latin America In Front of Covid-19



“UN-ECLAC has published the report the report "The Opportunities of Digitization in Latin America In Front of Covid-19", which analyzes the degree of digital readiness of the region and highlight the digital inequality that countries of the region are facing. In some countries, Internet users between the ages of 25-73 represent less than 50% of the population, limiting the use of solution as teleworking...”

UNICEF: How to Keep Your Child Safe Online While Stuck at Home During the Covid-19 Outbreak



“Being connected helps children and teenagers reduce the impact of this new (temporary) normal and encourages them to continue with their lives. But it also presents a new set of challenges for every parent. How can you maximize all that the internet has to offer, while minimizing the potential harm? It’s not an easy balance on a normal day, let alone when facing a health crisis like COVID-19...”

3 Key Areas Innovative Tech Is Helping During the Covid-19 Pandemic



“Information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other technologies are increasingly being used to support efforts to combat and contain the spread of the global COVID-19 pandemic...”

This Is How Smart City Technology Can Be Used to Tell If Social Distancing Is Working



“Social distancing measures have been implemented all across the world, to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Researchers from the University of Newcastle have developed a way of tracking urban movement to understand if social distancing is being followed, and whether it's effective. Their research showed how smart cities can prepare better for future crises...”

GIGA - Connecting Every School to The Internet



“GIGA is an initiative to connect every school to the Internet, and every young person to information, opportunity and choice. ITU and UNICEF have joined forces in a bid to connect every school to the Internet by 2030. GIGA will bring the power of meaningful connectivity to fast track young people's access to educational resources and opportunities...”

Keeping Everyone and Everything Connected in Europe: European Mobile Network Operators Respond to Covid-19 Pandemic



“The breakout of novel coronavirus in Europe has paralysed the lives of many European citizens and businesses. As Europe and the world move to adjust to the new norms of the daily life, the importance of connectivity has never been clearer than it is today. Now more than ever operators are focused on ensuring connectivity, and keeping people connected to their friends, loved ones, work places, and critical sources of health and emergency information...”

Pan-European Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing



“Pan-European Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing (PEPP-PT) makes it possible to interrupt new chains of SARS-CoV-2 transmission rapidly and effectively by informing potentially exposed people. We are a large and inclusive European team. We provide standards, technology, and services to countries and developers...”

Covid-19 Shows Why Internet Access Is A Basic Right



“For those fortunate enough to have meaningful connectivity, the internet provides a crucial link to information that helps us keep our families healthy and safe during this global health crisis. With social distancing measures the new norm across the globe, we are living our lives online. From online learning to working from home, live streamed religious services — even weddings and funerals — the web connects us to loved ones in this time of physical isolation...”

Amazon's Covid-19 Blog: Daily Updates on How We're Responding to The Crisis



“Our top concern is ensuring the health and safety of our employees. We made over 150 process updates—from enhanced cleaning and social distancing measures to piloting new efforts like disinfectant fog in a New York fulfillment center...”

Apple and Google Want to Turn Your Phone into A Covid-Tracking Machine



“Apple and Google made a big announcement: They are joining forces to build an opt-in contact-tracing tool using Bluetooth technology that could help public health officials track the spread of Covid-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. The new tool brings with it not only hope for a quicker end to the pandemic, but also a host of privacy and security concerns...”

World Wide Web Foundation Covid-19 Policy Brief: Misinformation and Freedom of Expression



“As Covid-19 continues to spread rapidly around the world, it’s more critical than ever that people, governments, companies and the medical community have access to timely and credible information. Lives depend on it. The Web Foundation is especially concerned about the viral spread of misinformation and disinformation, censorship and other interference with legitimate free expression, and the ability for scientists, medical professionals and others to easily share and access knowledge...”

World Wide Web Foundation Covid-19 Policy Brief: Internet Access and Affordability



“The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the shocking inequalities in internet access and affordability across the globe. Without access to reliable connectivity and devices, billions of people risk being further cut off from vital information on health and safety, online learning, and the opportunity to voice their views and engage in commerce. Never before has the need to bridge the global digital divide been more important. The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) and the Web Foundation recommend governments, companies and civil society take urgent actions to bring as many people online as possible during this global emergency...”

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Impact of COVID-19 - eTrade For All Newsletter



“As indicated in the editorial, in this special edition we will share a few resources from our partners on the impacts of COVID-19 in their respective areas of work, as well as a few useful resources for you to explore. Not all of them fully relate only to digital issues, but offer interesting insights on various sectors and areas, which infringe on digital aspects...”

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Azerbaijan E-Permit System during COVID-19



“The e-GOV Development Center under the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs has created a [System for Obtaining Permits and Monitoring during the Implementation of the Special Quarantine Regime...](#)”

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