United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

IN THIS EDITION:

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Committee of Experts on Public Administration, 19th session**

- **WSIS Forum 2020**

- **Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group**

- **AI for Good Global Summit 2020**

- **WTIS-20 - Towards an Inclusive Digital Society**

- **International Girls in ICT Day**

- **World Telecommunication & Information Society Day**

- **Fifth UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)**

- **High-Level Political Forum 2020 Under the Auspices of ECOSOC**

- **The United Nations World Data Forum 2020 (UNWDF)**

- **Internet Governance Forum 2020 Poland**

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Microsoft Appoints Senior Government Affairs Leaders in Brussels and New York, Establishes New York Office to Work with the United Nations

"Microsoft announced two senior appointments to its government affairs team and the opening of a new Microsoft representation office to the United Nations (UN) in New York. Microsoft's new representation office to the United Nations headquarters in New York will provide support for several Microsoft teams who work with the broader UN community on policy and business issues…"

The Digital Building Blocks of Better Communities

"In cities and communities across the world, citizens of all ages and backgrounds are getting the chance to literally play an important role in redesigning their public spaces, thanks to an innovative collaboration between the UN, and the company behind the popular computer game Minecraft…

We Urgently Need Better Evidence on the Impacts of Digitalisation

"Digitalisation is breaking down old structures and creating new ones. It's bringing inequality into sharp focus: the digital divide is a serious concern within and between countries and between men and women, old and young.…"

Including Everyone: Strengthening the Collection and Use of Data about Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Situations

"To ensure that persons with disabilities are protected and assisted during humanitarian emergencies, reliable and up-to-date information is needed on the number of individuals with a disability in the affected population and the barriers they face. …"

Pacific Report to the Dynamic Coalition of Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy

"2019 was an active year for Pacific involvement in the Internet economy. What we have demonstrated is that originating from small island developing states (SIDS) in the Pacific does not restrict one's opportunity to become a leader within large international organizations like ICANN, which manages and allocates domain names and IP addresses globally…"

Digital Transformation Is Top Priority for China

"Bankers in China believe that blockchain will change the core standards of the financial system. It will also have an over-whelming impact upon the foundational systems of the existing banking system and relationships between participants.…"

Aboriginal Communities in Australia Acquire Skills for Digital Storytelling

"The SharingStories Foundation works with more than a dozen Aboriginal communities across Australia to support children, young people and elders to record ancient creation stories in new digital formats. Through the SharingStories programme, participants acquire digital skills – including storyboarding, audio recording, sound design, filming, editing, photography, and animation – to record their community's stories as animated digital touch books, which are also used as teaching tools…"

Nigeria and IBM Partner Up for Digital Skills Development Drive

"The government of Nigeria and IBM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost digital skills development in the country. Among the objectives of the MoU are to equip citizens with digital skills with globally recognized certifications, lower the access barrier to digital tools, and support the development and use of digital tools and applications to improve government service delivery.…"

How Digital Health Technology Can Help Manage the Coronavirus Outbreak

"…much has changed within the 17-year gap between those two pandemics. For one, technology in the healthcare sector has known an exponential boom. New technologies that were nonexistent or poorly developed in 2003 are now more affordable and widespread and can help manage and even prevent such cases. Let's see how this can be the case.…"

Coding in Namibia: UN Supports Young Women's Computing Career Dreams

"The African Union (AU) estimates that 90 per cent of future jobs will require ICT skills and that some two million jobs will be created in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). However, women comprise around 28 per cent of those pursuing STEM careers; in sub-Saharan Africa, the average is 30 per cent.…"

Announcement on Action Coalition Themes

"The **Generation Equality Forum** is a civil society-led, global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. It will see the launch of Action Coalitions which will be global, innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships that will mobilize governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector. **One of the six Action Coalitions will be on Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality** and aims to mobilize a strong, vibrant and results-driven constituency of partners…"

UPCOMING EVENTS

ITU-D Study Groups

Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs; ICT services and applications for the promotion of sustainable development.

- 17-28 February 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

90th Geneva International Motor Show

The world's most renowned manufacturers will present their newest models, from the efficient city car to the dream hypercar.

- 5-15 March 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

Symposium on the Future Networked Car (FNC 2020)

Vehicle manufacturers, system suppliers and new market entrants are investing significantly in research and development of highly automated driving systems within a more realistic recognition of how quickly they can move toward commercialisation.

- 5 March 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

International Forum on Innovation in Agri-Food Systems to Achieve the SDGs

Countries in the Near East and North Africa region face numerous common challenges to achieving improved food security, nutrition and inclusive agricultural development.

- 15-17 March, 2020
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Telecommunication Development Advisory Group 2020

The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), reviews priorities, strategies, operations and financial matters of the ITU.

- 24-27 March, 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

1st prep meeting for WTDC-21 back to back with a High Level Forum on OTT

1st prep meeting for WTDC-21 back to back with a workshop on e-Waste Guidelines validation

- 30 March – 3 April 2020
- Dakar Senegal (TBC)

Committee of Experts on Public Administration, 19th session

Promoting effective governance and institutional reform to acceralte delivery of the SDGs

- 30 March - 3 April, 2020
- United Nations, New York, U.S.

WSIS Forum 2020

Fostering digital transformation and global partnerships: WSIS Action Lines for achieving SDGs

- 6-9 April, 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group

The principal duties of the RAG are, inter alia, to review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies related to Radiocommunication Assemblies, Study Groups and the preparation of Radiocommunication Conferences, and any specific matters as directed by a conference of the Union, a Radiocommunication Assembly or the Council.

- 6-9 April 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

AI for Good Global Summit 2020

Connecting AI Innovators with problem owners to solve global challenges

- 4-8 May 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

WTIS-20 - Towards an Inclusive Digital Society

The ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) is the main global forum for telecommunication and information society measurements.

- 15 to 17 April 2020
- Geneva, Switzerland

International Girls in ICT Day

ITU encourages all ITU Members to become part of this global campaign by organizing Girls in ICT Day events to introduce girls and young women to ICT career opportunities, involve them in hands-on ICT creation workshops, and directly contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

- 23 April, 2020

World Telecommunication & Information Society Day
Theme: "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
- 17 May, 2020

Fifth UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)
- 12-13 May, 2020
- New York City, U.S.

High-Level Political Forum 2020 Under the Auspices of ECOSOC
The theme will be "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development ".
- 7 - 16 July, 2020
- New York City, U.S.

The United Nations World Data Forum 2020 (UNWDF)
Road to Bern
The UNWDF 2020 is a welcome opportunity for Switzerland to use both existing events and organize new ones, to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 18 - 21 October, 2020
- Bern, Switzerland

Internet Governance Forum 2020 Poland
"Internet United" is a motto of the approaching IGF. However, it is not just another empty slogan but a real obligation and challenge for the whole Internet society, involving representatives of governments, the private sector, academia, civil societies and technical organizations.
- 2-6 November, 2020
- Poland