Collaborating to Create Digital Solutions for the Future and Beyond

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VIDEO MESSAGE ON WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY

"Information technology can be a beacon of hope, allowing billions of people around the world to connect. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these connections – with loved ones, with schools and colleges, with workplaces, with healthcare professionals and essential supplies– are more important than ever. The International Telecommunication Union continues to work with the information and communication technology community and UN agencies to help manage and end this crisis, and recover better."

RESILIENT INSTITUTIONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS: TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL KEY TO EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

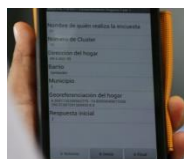"This brief discusses the challenges of the COVID-19 emergency along key dimensions of national institutions highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal 16 (transparency, access to information, accountability and anti-corruption, participation and engagement). It also explores how government institutions and civil society have innovatively responded to ensure that transparent, accountable, responsive and equitable mechanisms continue to govern the functioning of government processes and organizations, thus increasing the resilience of institutions to shocks such as the coronavirus pandemic…"

ITU LAUNCHES NEW STUDY PAPER ON BROADBAND AND CONNECTIVITY SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

"Rural and remote areas of many countries worldwide continue to be sparsely covered in terms of broadband connectivity. Major challenges for rural and remote area connectivity include inadequate supporting infrastructure, difficult terrain, illiteracy, high cost of installation of information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and policy issues"

WHO-ITU-UNICEF INITIATIVE DELIVERS VITAL INFORMATION ON COVID-19

"People's awareness and compliance with preventive measures is crucial to defeating COVID-19. While over 3.6 billion people are still not connected to the Internet, mobile networks reach nearly 97 per cent of the global population. They

represent the communication channel with the widest reach – and a crucial means for relaying critical, life-saving information regarding COVID-19"

COVID-19: REVAMPING AFRICA'S TELECOMS INFRASTRUCTURE CRUCIAL FOR DIGITAL HEALTH SERVICES

"Africa's telecoms infrastructure services need to be revamped if the continent is to effectively deliver digital health services, a new paper from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) notes. Produced in light of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the paper notes how the unprecedented crisis has demonstrated across the world the vital role of digital technologies in fighting such health epidemics…"

UN AGENCIES LAUNCH TECH ACCESS PARTNERSHIP IN JOINT EFFORT TO SCALE UP LOCAL PRODUCTION OF LIFE-SAVING HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES FOR COVID-19

"The United Nations Technology Bank, together with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Health Organization (WHO), launched the Tech Access Partnership (TAP) today as part of a coordinated approach to strengthen developing countries' responses to COVID-19 and increase access to lifesaving health technologies. As demand for personal protective equipment, medical devices and diagnostics increases exponentially amid the global pandemic, countries with limited resources are often unable to purchase or produce the tools they need to mount effective responses to COVID-19…"

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS: THE DIGITAL RISKS FACING OUR CHILDREN DURING COVID-19

"In this time of coronavirus, though, with lockdowns closing schools around the world, keeping children safe online has never been more critical. On 16 May, 69.3% of total enrolled learners were affected by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to UNESCO, with 158 countrywide closures. Park has set up a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, to provide a free Child Digital Readiness Kit for families and schools around the world during the school shut-down and to help countries keep children safe online during the pandemic and beyond. Here, Yuhyun Park explains the risks children are facing during lockdown, and how the world would benefit from digital citizenship…"

WIPO LAUNCHES TOOL TO TRACK IP POLICY INFORMATION IN MEMBER STATES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

"WIPO today launched a new tool that tracks COVID-19 related intellectual property (IP) policy changes or other measures being implemented by WIPO member states in their response to the global pandemic. This is the latest in a series of measures taken by the Organization in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker is an information repository that will help all stakeholders navigate changes implemented by the worldwide IP community as it adjusts to the COVID-19 pandemic," said WIPO Director General Francis Gurry…"

TACKLING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WITH DIGITAL SOLUTIONS ACROSS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

"National governments around the world are working tirelessly to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. As the pandemic continues to spread around the world — across over 210 countries and territories to date — countries in the Asia-Pacific region are using information and communication technology (ICT) and digital solutions such as mobile apps and devices, artificial intelligence, open government data, and telemedicine to fight the virus and flatten the curve…"

BIG DATA FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

"In the face of the extreme uncertainty about economic prospects as the pandemic and the shutdown continue, policymakers need as much information as possible. But exactly when they need it, information is in short supply…"

FACEBOOK LAUNCHES 'DISCOVER' TO PROVIDE FREE DATA: WEB FOUNDATION VIEW

"As we face a global health crisis caused by Covid-19, it's clearer than ever that internet access is a lifeline, not a luxury. But almost half the world remains unable to get online and many others have limited connectivity and struggle to afford data. We must work to ensure everyone has 'meaningful connectivity', including access to enough data at sufficient speeds to make full use of the web…"

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY GOING GLOBAL

"Digital connectivity will feature prominently in the upcoming EU–Japan summit scheduled for May 2020, and in the EU–Africa summit of November 2020. On both occasions, digital Official Development Assistance (ODA) deserves a more prominent place on the agenda than seen so far. For Japan, this means implementing coordinated digital development initiatives and aiming for greater contributions to the e-economy and e-government, and for African governments, the European Union (EU) should identify real needs that inform targeted, request-based action on digital ODA…"