

**Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the**

**Republic of Korea joining the United Nations**

**Panel 3**

**Innovation and Digital Transformation**

**22 October 2021**

**13:00-14:15 PM (GMT+9)**

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 **Via Zoom**

 ***Registration*** [***https://bit.ly/UN-ROK30***](https://bit.ly/UN-ROK30) ***« Click here to register***

 **Organized by**

The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT/ESCAP)

UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNCITRAL RCAP)

UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO ITPO) Korea

UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence

United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)

World Food Programme (WFP) Technology Division (TEC)

1. **Event Description**

On the occasion of celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Republic of Korea’s entry into the United Nations, six UN agencies resident in Korea, namely APCICT/ESCAP, UNCITRAL RCAP, UNIDP ITPO Korea, UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence, UNPOG and WFP Seoul Office, are jointly organizing a panel discussion on innovation and digital transformation for building back better and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which which will be held from 13:00 to 14:15 PM (GMT+9) on 22 October 2021. It is expected that over 1,000 participants from Korea will attend the virtual event, including participants from government, international organizations, academia, and NGOs.

This panel discussion is part of the Policy Dialogue on the Future of Multilateralism and the Role of the Republic of Korea to celebrate the 30th Anniversary.

1. **Objectives**

This panel discussion will will offer a platform to:

1. Discuss opportunities and challenges of leveraging innovaton and digital transformation for delivering mandates of UN agencies.
2. Promote coordination with corresponding Korean government agencies for advancing international development cooperation
3. Explore the approaches and strategies to strenthen capacity development support to developing Member States in thematic areas.
4. Enhance the understanding of new mindsets and competencies, among UN agencies and other stakeholders, needed to harnessing innovation and digital transformation.
5. **Co-organizers**

**The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT/ESCAP).** As a regional institute of UN ESCAP, the APCICT has been assisting member States in strengthening their human and institutional capacities to leverage digital technologies for sustainable development. It supports countries in fostering inclusive digital transformation through demand-driven training programs, technical assistance / advisory services, and facilitating exchange of good practices. The Centre collaborates closely with its vibrant network of sub-regional and national partners in implementing capacity building programs for policymakers, civil servants, women entrepreneurs, and other beneficiaries.

**The UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP).** The [United Nations Commission on International Trade Law](https://uncitral.un.org/en/content/homepage) ( UNCITRAL), established by the General Assembly in 1966, is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade and commercial law. The UNCITRAL RCAP was established in 2012 in Incheon Metropolitan City, with the generous support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, to execute the UNCITRAL mandate of furthering the progressive harmonization and modernization of international trade and commercial law in the region.

[UNCITRAL RCAP](https://uncitral.un.org/en/TA/regionalcentre_asia_pacific) closely collaborates with the Ministry of Justice and conducts trade law reform and capacity-building activities within the Republic of Korea and the Asia-Pacific on substantive private law rules governing cross-border commercial transactions, such as the international sale and transport of goods, electronic commerce, public procurement and infrastructure development, security interests, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), insolvency of enterprises, and commercial dispute settlement through arbitration and mediation, thereby promoting innovation and supporting digital transformation via the rule of law in commerce aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO ITPO) Korea**. The ITPO Republic of Korea was established in 1987. Its mandate is to promote outward investment and technology from the Republic of Korea to developing countries and countries in transition and provide new business opportunities for the Korean private industrial sector, especially small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in line with Government’s priorities.

**UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence.** The UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and Pacific (CoE) is a joint project between [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)](https://www.unodc.org/) and [Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)](http://kostat.go.kr/portal/eng/index.action). The CoE was established in February 2019, and is based in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The CoE is a regional innovation hub for the exchange of knowledge, experience, and information between stakeholders involved in national crime statistics systems including, national statistics offices, law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, prisons, relevant line ministries and other relevant external entities in academia, NGOs and civil society for a collaborative approach to capacity building in this important field.

**United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)** is part of the [Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG)](http://publicadministration.un.org/) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Its principal mission is to strengthen the public governance capacities of developing Member States in Asia and the Pacific and beyond to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[UNPOG](http://www.unpog.org/) was established in June 2006 to promote efficient, participatory and transparent governance. In response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the mandate of UNPOG has been extended to the end of 2030. During the past decade, with support from the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) of the Government of the Republic of Korea, UNPOG has effectively contributed to the strengthening of public administration in developing Member States with a focus on Asia and the Pacific.

**The World Food Programme (WFP) Technology Division (TEC).** The World Food Programme (WFP) Technology Division (TEC) runs the IT services, digital enablement and data management strategy and operations of the WFP, connecting WFP with our beneficiaries, donors and partners. TEC also leads on behalf of the UN, the Emergency Telecommuncations Cluster, establishing connectivity and communications services in the world’s most challenging emergencies and natural disasters.

1. **Thematic Focus**

**Background**

With the critical role of digital technologies in connecting people and delivering essential public services, including health care, education, and social services during the COVID-19 crisis, the pandemic has become the new driver for innovation and digital transformation. As highlighted in the UN E-Government Survey 2020, digital technologies have enabled governments to make rapid policy decisions based on real-time data and analytics and deploy evidence-based services to those who need them most.[[1]](#footnote-1) Thus, many countries are advancing their digital transformation strategies for preparing for the “Next Normal” in the post-COVID-19 era with an exponential demand for digital services and so-called “non-contact-based industries”, such as distant education, telemedicine, e-business and working from home. Promoting innovation and digital transformation is ever more important, as now less than a decade is left to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030 while confronting the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic and building back better and climage change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also significantly promoted digital cooperation between the government and businesses and people. Governments as well as international organizations including UN agencies have been exploring approaches and strategies to facilitate innovation and digital transformation at the individual, organizational, institutional, and societal levels while taking initiatives to strengthen digital skills and capacities to bridge the digital divide and ensure digital inclusion. The UN Secretary-General Report “Our Common Agenda” emphasizes the importance of digital inclusivity for ensuring leaving no one behind and highlights universal access to the Internet as a human right. Further investing in innovation and digital transformation will reshape our way of working, helping us to reach more people in need and better serve them.[[2]](#footnote-2) To make the United Nations more effective, we need to develop new capabilities with digital solutions that promote agility, integration and cohesion across the system.

**Thematic Areas**

The panel discussion will focus on:

i) *Effective approaches and strategies to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of Member States to leverage digital technologies for sustainable development.*

The invited panelist from the Ministry of Science and ICT(MSIT) of the Republic of Korea will introduce the digital new deal policy and its plan to provide necessary policy and technical support to developing countries in emulating similar policies.

ii) *Promoting innovation and supporting digital transformation via the rule of law in commerce aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.*

The invited panlist from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) of the Republic of Korea will elaborate on how MOJ has collaborated with UNCITRAL RCAP to foster a legally enabling framework for trade and investment within the Republic of Korea and the Asia-Pacific region that fosters innovation, for example, on MSME formation, e-commerce and digital trade, access to credit, and dispute resolution.

iii) *The general startup ecosystem in Korea and UNIDO's intervention to support Korean startups' globalization.*

UNIDO introduced a new approach to make the Fourth Industrial Revolution work for all, resting on four pillars: innovation, digital infrastructure, digital skills, and digital cooperation and partnerships. UNIDO is driving towards mainstreaming a digital, gender-responsive, sustainable transformation and the upscaling of digital capabilities in developing countries. UNIDO ITPO Korea found that the Startups have become one of the key players who bring innvation and digital transformation to the society, and therefore, we are focusing on the support for Korean starups’ global business. UNIDO will introduce overall startup ecosytem in Korea and our intervention to promote startups’ overseas expansion.

The invited CEO of the startup as a panelist will elaborate how digitalization and innovation are accelerated in the private sector.

iv) *New opportunity for developing Crime statistics*

There have been major changes in our daily lives, such as telecommuting, OTT media service consumption, and the increase in the digital platform industry. Therefore, many changes and innovations will be needed in statistical data collection and analysis for supporting evidence-based policy making. Likewise, it seems necessary to innovate for applying to new trend in data collection environment of crime statistics. UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence plans to continue technical support and research activities to improve crime statistics in the Asia and Pacific region and share innovative cases in the future.

v) *Digital data governance for digital transformation*

The COVID-19 has accelerated the pace of digital transformation and the rapid digitalisation presents the opportunity for the society to rethink how we can make wise decisions for sustainability. Particularly, Governments are trying to better harness big data and analytics and AI for predictive analysis to address emerging issues such as climate risks before they fully unfold. Digital data governance, which encompasses these key elements such as the institutional arrangements, legal framework, process, technology platforms and partnership, holds the key to the success of digital transformation. In reality, there exists a big gap in data governance in terms of the referential value of data (*Hitachi Vantara, 2018*). Effective digital data governance framework requires: a) setting institutional arrangements for coordination, coherence and collaboration across government institutions including designating chief data officer or data ombudsman for setting national strategy and overall coordination; b) legal framework for addressing privacy and protection of personal information; c) governing process for data sharing, data opening and data analysis; d) standardized data platform for data storage and access to ensure public trust and support policy decision making; e) effective partnership with private sector, civil society and people for creating an enabling data ecosystem.

UNPOG has been making its endeavors to support the digital transformation capacity development of member states by developing the Training Toolkits on Digital Government Transformation Capability and Digital Data Governance, organizing training events on digital data governance and digital transformation, and organizing webinars on digital transformation for promoting global partnership.

The Vice President of National Information Society Agency (NIA) of the Republic of Korea will introduce the national strategy for advancing innovation and digital transformation with focus on digital new deal.

vi) *Leveraging innovation for combatting hunger*

The World Food Programme (WFP) has embraced innovation and thought leadership since its first airlift in 1962. The WFP builds partnerships that leverage the best technology and know-how from all sectors, to help it efforts towards zero hunger. High-tech solutions help WFP work more efficiently, addressing the needs of millions. Blockchain is used to manage disbursements of cash-based assistance to people on the move. Iris scanning and fingerprint biometrics are used to verify the identity of people entitled to receive WFP assistance. Drones are deployed to carry out aerial remote sensing to assess post-disaster damage. Data and technology are serving as a backbone of, and enabler for, WFP and the humanitarian community’s response to global emergencies and investment mid- and longer-term humanitarian capacity to deal with increasing level of food insecurity globally. WFP wishes to partner with the ROK Government and private companies to further strengthen WFP’s digital data and technology capability, which also has far-reaching benefits for the larger humanitarian community.

**Draft Agenda**

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| **Time**(GMT+9) | **Agenda** |
| **I. Opening**  |
| **13:00 – 13:03** | **Introduction by the Moderator**: Mr. Kiyoug Ko, Head of APCICT/ESCAP  |
| **II. Overview Presentations and panel discussion** |
| **13:03 – 13:35** | * **Presentation by the six co-organizers**
* Mr. Robert de Jesus, Programme officer, APCICT/ESCAP
* Ms. Athita Komindr, Head, UNCITRAL RCAP
* Mr. Hyundong Cho, Head of UNIDO ITPO Korea
* Ms. Hyun Jung Park, Coordinator, UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence
* Mr. Keping Yao, Sr. Governance and Public Admin. Expert, UNPOG
* Mr. Pierre Guillaume Wielezynski, Chief, Digital Transformation Services, WFP TEC
 |
| **III. Facilitated Roundtable Discussion**  |
| **13:35 – 14:05** | * **Roundtable Discussion with the Panelists facilitated by the Moderator**
* Ms. EOM Ji Hyun, Director, Multilateral Cooperation Division, Ministry of Science, Republic of Korea
* Mr. Junghyun PARK, Director for International Legal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea
* Mr. Youngduk Kim, CEO/Executive Director, D.Camp(Banks Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs)
* Ms. Jonghee Choi, Deputy director, Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)
* Mr. Kang-Tak Oh, Vice President, NIA, Republic of Korea
* Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea (TBC for WFP)
 |
| **IV. Q&A with Audience** |
| **14:05 – 14:12** | * **Q&A to address the questions from the audience**
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| **V. Closing** |
| **14:12 – 14:15** | * **Closing and Wrap-up**

Ms. Athita Komindr, Head, UNCITRAL RCAP |

**Contact**

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1. UN DESA (2020). UN E-Government Survey 2020, p. 215. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. United Nations (2021). The Report of Secretary-General “Our Common Agenda”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)