

## Webinar 6 on Leaving No One Behind

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

### Background

The concept of leaving no one behind is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, where it serves as a guiding principle for global efforts towards achieving sustainable development by 2030. In recent years, digital technologies have helped to confront the COVID-19 threat and keep people connected. Digital and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, are dramatically changing the world and offer huge potential for progress for people and planet in the future.

But communities and individuals are being left behind. They are facing tremendous technological challenges, with almost half of the world's population having no access to the Internet. The poorest and most vulnerable, particularly in developing countries, lack access to digital technology and other critical life-changing technologies. Science, technology and innovation are perpetuating and deepening divides and patterns of discrimination and inequality within and between countries. Issues such as artificial intelligence, data-aggregation technologies and virtual reality can bring new economic, environmental, social, and governance opportunities, but at the same time increase and re-define the groups that are left behind.

This webinar will examine some of the elements of leaving no one behind and innovative solutions that have used digital technologies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Bridging the digital divide is a critical priority for ensuring that no one is left behind, including the development of affordable technology, skills and availability of productive services. Digital inclusion requires collaboration and cooperation across government and private sector organizations. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is needed to drive digital inclusion initiatives that ensure equitable access to digital technologies and opportunities for all citizens, leaving no one behind.

Leaving no one behind is also one of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, which were developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by ECOSOC in 2018. The webinar will also examine some of the strategies to operationalize the principle of leaving no one behind as articulated by CEPA in its principles of effective governance for sustainable development.

### Objectives

- Enhanced knowledge and capacity among participants to design, implement, and evaluate effective digital inclusion strategies and programmes.



- Strengthened partnerships and collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to advance digital inclusion agendas.
- Commitment to action and concrete steps to prioritize digital inclusion as a policy objective and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age.
- Innovation and the adoption of emerging technologies to address barriers to digital inclusion and create new opportunities for marginalized populations

## Guiding questions

1. What are the challenges and barriers to ensure that no one is left behind, including in digital inclusion?
2. What are some good practices and policy initiatives needed to ensure that digital technologies are accessible and affordable?
3. How can governments foster a whole-of-society approach to empower marginalized groups to participate in digital decision-making processes?
4. How can the strategies for the principle of leaving no one behind, as expressed in the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, support digital inclusion?

