



SDGs LEARNING

2024 HLPF Concept Note
Virtual Side Event
Strengthening Trust in Digitalization and
Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals
Date: 09 July 2024; Time: 1:15 – 2:30 pm (EDT)

Future of health and education sectors is digital, in each and every country, rich and poor alike. In view of the scale of today’s global challenges and the great potential of science, technology and innovation to deliver responses, it is essential to mobilize financial and knowledge resources from governments, businesses, academia and civil societies. It is necessary to accelerate and achieve all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Both public and private sectors play an important role in financing, research, and development. There is need for a balanced strategy that leverages the strengths and weaknesses of both.

In order to democratize digitalization and its benefits for public and social value, Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC) and its associates believe that a dedicated place is needed in the United Nations to develop and refine appropriate norms, policies and pilots; promote future-ready human capabilities; and mobilize financing for public innovation ecosystems. Openness in science is an essential component of the scientific process. When Open-science, artificial intelligence and big data management meet the social reality of human cooperation and governance, it becomes more sustainable, and help to close digital divide.

We must implement comprehensive and inclusive policies, change our way of thinking, and prioritize efforts to eliminate poverty and bridge the digital divide. It is crucial for governments to integrate social, economic, and environmental policies to promote social justice. If we wish to leave no one behind, we must ensure that we give voice and decent-work to all.

An institutional home in the form of a One-UN Joint Program – that fully builds on existing UN system work with expertise – could give important impetus to a digital transformation pathway for a sustainable, just and equal future. WHEC’s capacity building efforts and targets in the pursuit of a **One-UN Program on Digitalization and Sustainability**, in support of developing countries, with special focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are:

1. Public Innovation infrastructure in developing countries doubled by 2030;
2. 50% value from the digital economy accrues to the bottom 50% nationally and globally by 2030;
3. Data and digital commons nationally and globally have appropriate guardrails; and market dynamics in the digital economy and society are in alignment with a bold vision for our common futures.

The objectives of this Side Event are:

1. To track global digital cooperation - Need for an ethical, and transformative framework for generative artificial intelligence (AI) that is not extractive, exploitive, centralized and corporatized, but embodying values of a humane and transformative paradigm based on democratic and distributive integrity.
2. To track on innovation and development – A dedicated, multilateral hub – linked to regional and national nodes and mechanisms.
3. Technical and policy capabilities for future-ready innovation ecosystems – training policy makers on an ongoing basis.
4. Lessons learned from the shortcomings of the technology access for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
5. The financing track for innovation and frontier technology and science impetus.

Advocacy & Communication / Additional Information

¹ Written Statement of WHEC; published by 23rd Session of the Committee on Public Administration (CEPA); **Achieving Education- and Health-for-All; Agenda item 6: Principles of effective governance for sustainable development.**
Available @ [WHEC input_23rd CEPA_rev1.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

² Building Sustainable Partnerships, through **WHEC’s e-Learning, e-Health, and e-Government Initiative: Improving Global Partnerships for Education and Health | High-Level Political Forum 2022 (un.org)** available @ <https://hlpf.un.org/2022/programme/improving-global-partnerships-for-education-and-health> will offer a way forward. While obligations to promote the rights of women and children are protected by international conventions, difficulties in moral obligation into practice still abound.

³ It is indeed our pleasure to submit to you the Side Event on the margins of 62nd CSocD session, and its summary published by UNSDN (United Nations Social Development Network); title: **Towards Education And Health-for-All: Core Enabler of The UN 2030 Agenda.**
<https://social.desa.un.org/sdn/towards-education-and-health-for-all>

⁴ Honorable mention in **UN Document: E/HLPF/2023/6; # 102; page 16.**
“Side Event provided significant opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to participate in the Forum.”
<https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/STI%20Forum%202023--Note%20by%20the%20Secretariat.pdf>
Women’s Health and Education Center’s (WHEC’s) STI 2023 Side Event title:
Open Science Initiatives to Transform Health and Education Systems
Details available @ <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/sti.php3>

⁵ 9th Multistakeholder Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum; 9 – 10 May 2024
Science-Policy Brief; Harnessing the Power of Digital Innovation; SDG 16
Title: **Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Considerations in Neurotechnology**
[Luthra Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Considerations in Neurotechnology.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

Speakers / Expert Opinions / Presentations from:

WHEC: Member UN DESA | Sustainable Development;
World Health Organization (WHO);
Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Geneva, Switzerland;
United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
Carnegie Mellon University (USA and Africa);
University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA);
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (USA)
Children's Hospital, LA, California; and
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), USA

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<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/rita-un.jpg>

