

- **Session X: Bridging the Digital Gap for Transition to Greener Economy**

Moderator: Deputy Permanent Representative Mrs. Aysegul Sahinoglu Yerdes (Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the WTO)

Panellists:

Antonia Carzaniga (WTO-TSD)

Sait Akman (TEPAV)

Yasmin Ismail (CUTS-Geneva)

An Expert on Green Technology (TBD)

1- Full title of the session. In case your proposal is selected, this title will be reflected in the printed and online versions of the programme

**"Bridging the Digital Gap for Transition to a Greener Economy"**

2- To which subtheme is your session most closely related

**iii) digitalisation as a tool for the greening of supply chains**

3- Explain how your session relates to the theme of this year's Public Forum and provide a brief description of the session, including the objective(s) and relevant questions that will be addressed.

**As one of the themes of this year's Public Forum is about digitalization and its impact on environment we wanted to touch upon the digitalization gap in developing countries to better understand how it effects efforts of developing countries to improve environment. The session therefore will focus on the relationship between digital transformation in developing countries and its impact on their fight for a greener economy.**

**In this framework, the session will be capturing the responses to the questions below:**

- 1. What kind of digital technologies provide solutions for improving environment?**
- 2. What are the regulatory and policy options provided by developed countries in terms benefiting from digital transformation for greener economy?**
- 3. What kind of needs and challenges developing countries have in terms of establishing digital capabilities for maximising the benefits of digitalization? And within this context, why improving the digitalization in developing countries is important in their transition to a greener economy?**
- 4. What should governments of developing countries do to bridge the digital gap and how these countries achieve transition to a greener economy through these efforts?**
- 5. What are the positive externalities for developed countries with respect to increasing digital capabilities of developing countries and their faster transition to green economy?**

6. How can international cooperation, in particular WTO, help to close the digital divide for a greener economy, including through the role of services enabling infrastructure?

4-Provide an abstract of your session. An abstract summarizes your proposed session. If selected this abstract will be part of the public programme

**Benefiting from artificial intelligence and big data, transition to paperless trading, increasing digital jobs, decreasing transport costs through distant working, learning and even health treatment all are examples of digital transformation aspects that help improving environmental conditions and transition to green transformation.**

**However, not all countries can benefit from the positive impacts of digital transformation equally. This is in particular true for developing countries as they experience a huge digital gap with the developed countries.**

**It is apparent that developing countries that bridge this digital divide will be better set to compete in today's increasingly green economy.**

**The foreseen session in this year's Public Forum is intended to open up a discussion on the benefits of digital transformation, the digital gap that developing countries experience and how can the bridging of this gap help efforts for the transition of developing countries to a greener economy.**