



**Chief Executives Board
for Coordination**

CEB/2018/HLCM/ICT/19

11 December, 2018

**Digital and Technology Network
Terms of Reference for the Technology Innovation Group**

The DTN establishes sub-groups to support professional development, provide a forum for inter-agency collaboration and to advance the role of new technologies, innovations and partnerships. Each sub-group is expected to establish and share a programme of activities that further a specific aim or interest of the DTN.

General

On 24 October 2018, the DTN approved the creation of the sub-group; Technology Innovation Group. In support of the activities and interests of the DTN, the mission of the Technology Innovation Group is to bring together strategic ICT leaders of the UN system as a formal group to assist the DTN in overseeing and monitoring execution of the Network's strategic direction in relation to technology innovation. The group will advise the Digital Technology Network on system-wide approaches to leverage advanced, emerging and frontier technologies in innovation.

As Lead Agency, UN OICT is responsible for:

- Member management and the organization of events;
- Timely delivery of agreed Objectives;
- Regular reporting to the DTN;

Participating agencies include: Members of the DTN are de-facto members of the Technology Innovation Group and can nominate a subject matter expert as alternate.

Topics to be explored and analysed:

- Relevant SDG goals/targets/indicators: As an enabler, the use of technology innovations is a critical enabler for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the broader mandates of the member organisations of the DTN.
- Key technologies under review: Innovation and frontier technologies; eg: distributed ledger technologies (blockchain), machine learning and artificial intelligence, BOTs, sensor and internet of things, image and facial recognition etc.
- Geographic scope: Global

Governance

Each sub-group has one Chair and one co-Chair:

- Mr. Salem Avan, Director, Global Services Division, United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
- Ms. Enrica Porcari, Chief Information Officer, World Food Programme (WFP)

The position of Chair is filled by the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology.

The position of Co-Chair rotates every 2 years and is currently filled by WFP.

Proposed changes to the chairmanship require approval of the DTN.

Steering Group

The Steering Group is the sub-Group's decision-making body. It comprises the Chair, the co-Chair and CEB Secretariat *[Other organisations to be added following circulation]*.

Aims

- Support the implementation of organisational mandates through the focused use of technology innovation;
- Increase effectiveness and efficiency through technology innovation;
- Establish coherence and synergy in technology innovation related work being undertaken across the United Nations system;

Objectives

- Identify and analyse technology innovation topics of common interest and which would benefit from a system wide approach.
- Support the implementations of technology innovations across the DTN ensuring that technology is aligned with the respective mandates of the DTN organisations while maintaining a technology foundation.
- Support sharing of knowledge and experiences in the area of technology innovation in order to enable organizations to benefit from best practices.
- Provide updates to the DTN on emerging technology innovation trends and issues and make recommendations to the DTN on global strategic responses;
- Monitor the execution of the DTN Technology Innovation agenda, reviewing timely reports regarding progress against strategic technology initiatives, innovation and operations;
- Make partnerships opportunities with private, public sector and academic institutions that support technology innovation available to the DTN;
- Receive reports and consider recommendations from Innovation groups with a view to increase harmonization in technology innovation.
- The Technology Innovation Group will report to the DTN, identifying any matters within its remit in respect of which it considers that action or improvement is needed, and making recommendations as to the steps to be taken.
- Assist the DTN in the identification of risks resulting from new business models, technologies, processes, products and concepts and make recommendations to the DTN on global strategic responses
- Engage with leading vendors of that support innovation in the areas of technology and data.
- Collaborate on evaluation of new & proposed technologies for suitability in the the wide range of operating environments of the member organisations of the DTN;

In pursuit of these objectives, the following outputs are also anticipated:

- Identification of a common approach to innovation for the Member organisations of the DTN
- Establishment of innovation methodologies
- Collaborative work on frontier and innovation technologies
- Presentation of scalable and portable technologies to the DTN
- Whitepapers on frontier and innovation technologies specifically related to the work of the member organisations of the DTN.
- Production of communications collateral to support advocacy of frontier and technology innovation.

Meetings

Sub-group members commit to meeting every 2 months. While face-to-face meetings may be most effective at the group's kick-off, thereafter, sessions are expected to be held virtually.

Reporting

The sub-group's Chair will provide the DTN with a brief one-page report when an update is requested. The DTN will determine any alternative (or additional) reporting arrangements for each sub-group.