

Digital Inclusion of Older Persons: Harnessing digital technologies to promote the inclusion and well-being of older persons

Tuesday 11 August 2020
14:00-15:00 CEST / 8:00-9:00 EST
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3hKJKPV>

Background and Objectives

Highlighting the importance of older persons, the [World Summit on the Information Society Forum](#) in 2020, for the first time, has dedicated a special track to older persons and ICTs. Technological advances are becoming entrenched in many aspects of our societies and hold the potential to create opportunities towards an inclusive and sustainable development and provide tools to surmount the challenges faced by many to fully participate in the development process. However, where access to ICTs is limited and not inclusive, it can intensify existing inequalities and even create new ones. Both the opportunities and challenges intrinsic to technological progress have been illustrated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Available evidence shows that older persons are often among those that do not benefit fully from the potential of ICTs. This session will explore access and inclusion of older persons in technology, discuss the digital divide in this group identifying their main vulnerabilities, reasons and the impact that such divide has on older persons' participation in society, and provide some examples of successful efforts to promote access and inclusion of older persons.

The event also serves as a springboard to the [fifty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development](#) to be held in February 2021, where the priority theme is “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: The role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”.

Opening remarks

Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, DESA

Panel Discussion

Moderated by: Amine Lamrabat, Associate Public Information Officer, DISD/DESA

- Alison Bryant, Senior Vice President, AARP Research and Lead for Technology Work
- [Anupam Sibal](#), Group Director, Medical Services, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, India (tbc)
- Heidrun Mollenkopf, German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations
- Michael Hodin, CEO of the Global Coalition on Aging
- Osarieme Omokaro, User Experience Researcher, Google