



**Virtual High-level Thematic Debate on the Impact of Rapid
Technological Change on the Sustainable Development Goals and
Targets**

Talking points

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- I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this important high-level debate.
- Dear Fabrizio I would also like to recognize, once again, the leadership of the Secretary-General António Guterres and his team, on the work done for bringing us today this *“Road Map for Digital Cooperation”*.
- Technology has played a fundamental role in our civilization’s history.
- It has contributed to shape the future, added value to the transformation of society, and simplified our life. Now information is available at any moment, but not at any place.
- The unprecedented speed of social transformation is allowing us to go beyond our own limits. This feature should be used to address and solve the major problems of the contemporary world and to serve for future generations.
- Colombia recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the importance of access to connectivity and digital tools.



- At the same time, it has exposed the pre-existing deep inequalities, especially for the most vulnerable. The access to internet is one of the best examples and have to keep working on it.

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- As defined in the aforementioned “Road Map”, we consider that connect, respect, and protect are key areas to ensure that no one is left behind in the challenging circumstances.
- The digital era is advancing faster than public policies and national and international law.
- For this reason, we need to assure that citizens are at the center, and human rights are protected. In this sense, the expansion of connectivity must ensure world-wide education on digital skills, and more important child online safety.
- The OECD report “*Going Digital*”, that was presented last year in my country, has recognized our positive results within the framework of the fourth industrial revolution.
- In that regard, let me mention two examples:
 - We signed the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.
 - We inaugurated in 2019 the first Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution for Latin America, an initiative of the World Economic Forum (WEF) to develop 4.0 projects.
- To summarize:



- Technological change and SDGs require determination as well as an invigorated international cooperation framework.
- Colombia believes that digital cooperation is the key to boost sustainable development, economic growth, and social welfare.
- Science has the potential to revolutionize our lives, yet we should always remember that human spirit frames our responses.
- As the President of Microsoft stated this morning, technology has to serve the world.
- I would like to conclude recalling Ray Kurzweil, a world-renowned inventor and futurist, who has affirmed with great clarity:

“Despite the clear predominance of nonbiological intelligence by the mid-2040s, ours will still be a human civilization. We will transcend biology, but not our humanity.”

Thank you.