

Expert Group Meeting

**Sustainable Economic Transformation for SDG attainment in North and Central Asia**

22-23 September 2020 | Virtual meeting

**Meeting Report**

A. Introduction

The Expert Group Meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams on 22-23 September 2020. The meeting consisted of three thematic sessions which discussed the working papers prepared by the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA). The three working papers and objectives of each session are as below. Next actions for the working papers were also suggested and the updated papers are expected to complement discussions at the 2020 Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Economic Forum to be held in November 2020.

**(i) SDG Drivers' Framework for North and Central Asia**

The SDG Drivers Framework for North and Central Asia aims to support countries in the region to identify potential drivers that can accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The framework consists of a toolbox of methodologies to map out potential drivers and the components which enable these drivers and helps to prioritize sustainable development outcomes in North and Central Asia. The expert group provided feedback on the conceptual framework proposed and review the tools and methodologies suggested.

**(ii) Sustainable Agriculture Transformation in North and Central Asia**

The paper on Sustainable Agriculture Transformation examines the linkages between drivers of agriculture transformation and selected SDGs in North and Central Asia. Based on the results of the empirical analysis the paper provides policy recommendations for agriculture transformation tailored to the subregion. The expert group evaluated the empirical strategy and the underlying conceptual framework, as well as suggested policy recommendations aiming at transforming the sector towards sustainability and inclusivity.

**(iii) Realizing Digital Potential in North and Central Asia**

The paper on Realizing Digital Potential highlighted the role of various stakeholders in the digital transformation process in North and Central Asia and underscored the importance of digitalization for sustainable economic transformation. The expert group validated the paper and suggested relevant regional cooperation strategies to realize digital potential in the region.

The session was attended by 27 participants – 12 female, 15 male – and 11 attendees from SONCA (full list of participants is enclosed in the Annex 1).

53% of the meeting participants completed the post-event assessment survey. Based on the post-event assessment, participants rated the session favorably (maximum rating of 5) – 3.7 for relevance, 4.5 for effectiveness, and 4.7 for efficiency. Almost all statements received a rating of above 4. Participants also commented that the results achieved (in or likely to be achieved) through this meeting include knowledge sharing and the improvement of the working papers. Additional comments and suggestions include to encourage greater engagement from participants discussions and for consultants to study ESCAP materials for further iterations of the working papers.

## B. Substantive discussions and outcomes

The presentations made during the session highlighted the following.

### (i) **SDG Drivers’ Framework for North and Central Asia**

- a. SDG progress in North and Central Asia (NCA) region is not sufficient  
The SDG system is comprehensive, complex, and interlinked, it is necessary to find critical factors (drivers) that can help countries implement proper policy interventions. However, there is no standardized methodology for selecting SDG drivers and when the 2030 Agenda started data collection and availability were limited. Nowadays, many of the NCA countries face major challenges in achieving SDGs. The framework will enable governments and policy makers to identify, assess and evaluate actions necessary to accelerate progress towards 2030 Agenda: by step-by-step approach, top-down approach, drivers identification process, and checklist method.
- b. Areas to be improved further as identified in the presentation include:
  - How to move from the potential solution to the viable factor that is a set of policy actions?
  - The transformation of the “objective tree” to the “driver tree” should be better explained.
  - The term “output” should be better aligned with the term “driver” as part of driver quantitative dimensions.

### (ii) **Sustainable Agriculture Transformation in North and Central Asia**

- a. Role of agriculture transformation  
Agriculture transformation can be a potential driver for sustainable development in North and Central Asia (NCA). A large share of the population lives in rural areas and is employed in the agriculture sector. The sector exhibits low levels of productivity and thus bears the potential to improve the life quality of many if the productivity levels increases.
- b. Agriculture transformation and the 2030 Agenda  
In order to achieve sustainable and inclusive development in the subregion, rural development is indispensable. A large share of the population lives in rural areas and

engages in agriculture, while the sector does not contribute substantially to overall economic growth. The government plays a key role in enhancing agriculture transformation. The main recommendations are diversification of agriculture production, the facilitation of agriculture trade and openness, the integration of digital technology and innovative solutions and the improvement of water productivity and water use efficiency. In the light of COVID-19 containment, it is important to improve regional cooperation and to facilitate supply chain resilience.

**(iii) Realizing Digital Potential in North and Central Asia**

**a. Promises of digital technologies**

Industrial production can be reshaped by technological advancements. This will also have effects on employability and social well-being of the population. Urban agglomerations are drivers of the digital economy. The potential effects of digital transformation on manufacturing are the acceleration of business cycles, data as new crucial production input, zero marginal costs of digital products, servitization of manufacturing. The challenges of digital transformation on employment are that it puts low-skilled jobs in danger in the long-run and might enhance digital divides based on gender, geographical location, and age.

**b. Digital transformation in North and Central Asia**

In NCA the share of mobile internet subscriptions rose throughout the past two decades in all NCA countries, but slowest in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The share of ICT products in exports remained stagnant in any countries, while it exhibits volatile spikes in Armenia and Kazakhstan and incremental growth in Russia and Georgia. In Russia, already almost 30% of firms use cloud computing and the share of Russian organizations with access to broadband rose steadily in the past decade.

**c. Recommendations**

The authors advocate for strengthening public-private partnership in the field of digital economy, investment into academia-industry collaboration, redesign of tax regulations and public procurement, implement trainings programs, subsidize education, design user-friendly digital public services, implement international statistical standards.

During the discussions, experts emphasized the following points in each session.

**(i) SDG Drivers' Framework for North and Central Asia**

Several experts underlined the potential oversight regarding the outcome mapping exercise as it counts how many times the sustainable goals are mentioned in strategic documents. However, countries release a lot of strategic documents, some are national, regional, local, and sectoral in nature. Additionally, specific recognition of SDGs in the strategic documents do not effectively represent governments' commitment to implementing national SDG target. A clear strategy has to be chosen and clarification needs to be made in this regard to prevent any confusion and oversight.

There were also vigorous discussions regarding the complementary nature of the expert opinion method and the holistic models suggested. It was reiterated that these two methods need to come together as the model is a theoretical tool that can benefit from stakeholder feedback and review. There are cases that the results obtained from modelling efforts may not reflect the actual reality and can be different from country priorities due to data quality and availability.

The paper addresses one important challenge in terms of the integration issue, to bring environmental and social dimensions into decision making. Another challenge would be to deal with the trade-offs. The problem tree is useful tool for project formulation but may not be suitable for dealing with complex issues like sustainability development and the trade-off tools can be strengthened. It was also pointed out that the time horizon of sustainable development must be specified, and one may incorporate medium to long term time horizons in the analysis.

The point on budgeting was brought up by several experts. It was pointed out that many policy and strategic documents are actually not budgeted, and the money allocation is not foreseen. One has to make sure these SDG targets and drivers are closely linked with national budget. There is a lack of financial resources in NCA countries and a disproportional dependence on external finances which are highly volatile and not nationally committed. The experts emphasized the importance of taking into account strategies with action plans and concrete measures that will be implemented. The involvement of the private sector for investments and complementary initiatives must be considered.

**(ii) Sustainable Agriculture Transformation in North and Central Asia**

The variable used to measure technology was raised by several discussants. Experts advocated for the use of a variable that resembles the quality of technology rather than its quantity. The poor quality of the machinery used in the post-Soviet space was mentioned and a FAO study revealed that approximately 80% of agricultural machinery used in Kyrgyzstan is outdated. On the subject of variables used, it was also noted that despite the problems in data availability and quality, the results still generally reflect the reality and situation in the subregion. Experts also proposed new variables that could be included in the conceptual framework including farm size, market orientation policies, share of extractive industries on GDP, government spending on agriculture, financing resources (like microfinance for smallholders) and diversification of the market.

The second stage of the analysis needs further explanation and justification through testing the validity of the instrument used. Furthermore, discussions regarding linking agriculture transformation and sustainable development included suggestions to ascertain the effects of residuals given that the timeframe can be separated into two periods and this analysis should also keep in mind that the pathway between agriculture transformation and certain sustainable development variables such as poverty and economic growth can be long.

With regards to the interpretation of results, it was highlighted that the analysis was based only on approximately 80 observations and thus a conclusion about causality and effect is difficult to make. A possible explanation given for the results for water productivity is that the trade-off between water use and machinery may hold accountable for this negative relationship since machinery is expensive for agriculture producers to make efficient use of water. The experts also underscored that the current recommendations are too general and have to be linked closer to the results and the context of the subregion. It was also advised to incorporate the COVID-19 perspectives into the recommendations made.

Regarding COVID-19 and its impact on agriculture, experts underscored that it depends on the countries' dependence on imports or exports and the development level of the economy. Challenges include access to safe, nutritious food at affordable prices and the vulnerability of the employees across the food system when the system gets disrupted.

### **(iii) Realizing Digital Potential in North and Central Asia**

With regards to the role of the government to facilitate digital transformation, it was suggested to look into regulatory sandboxes that allow for new innovations to be tested in real-life situations within a controlled context provided by the government. Lessons can be learned from other countries, like Singapore, on how they uptake new technologies and make it part of the economy. Additionally, it was also shared that there is a comprehensive UN e-government index which details what should be measured and how. It was recommended to look into case studies of Georgia and Kazakhstan in this regard given their initiatives in this area.

On possible entry points for digital transformation, finance, e-commerce and agriculture were briefly discussed. Central Asia is heavily dependent on remittances, and fees are usually very high when residents transfer money to family members and friends. Digitalization of these services provides immense opportunities to cutoff the middleman, decrease fees, improve exchange rates, and also changes the dynamics of who receives the money. Experts also emphasized the role that e-commerce can play for economic transformation in the subregion as it can help companies open up markets that they can serve with little cost. It is also a good opportunity to tap into the potential of e-commerce as people use e-commerce platforms more frequently during the pandemic. It was noted that digital agriculture may be difficult to realize because the region lacks robust technology infrastructure for this. Besides, design of a business model based on unstructured data can be challenging for companies.

Increased regional cooperation has highlighted by many of the experts as a key recommendation to realize digital potential in the subregion. Increase exchange of data, enhance cross-country digital activities and division of labor in terms of digital skills across the countries of the region – for instance, some country can focus on artificial intelligence and other can leverage on the strong manufacturing sectors – can encourage and facilitate a more robust digital ecosystem in the subregion. This can also promote a higher diversity among Internet providers and enable smarter allocation of limited resources.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges arose in the pausing of programs, in the slow adoption of the educational system to online learning. The pandemic also underscored the lack of e-governance and has made people more vulnerable to potential cyber threats. The experts mention that the pandemic has brought opportunities as well as barriers for countries to participate in projects through digital platforms.

All working papers are proposed to be updated based on the outcomes of the meeting discussions. The updated papers are expected to complement discussions at the 2020 SPECA Economic Forum which all experts will be issued an invitation to participate. Additional follow up meetings with experts may be arranged to discuss potential collaboration on these topics.

## **Annex 1. Final list of participants**

### Session 1: SDG Drivers Framework for North and Central Asia

#### **Dinara Assaubayeva** (moderator)

Dinara Assaubayeva is a research assistant at the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). She attained BSc in Agricultural Business Management and postgraduate diploma in Business, Economics and Management. Major areas of interest include economic analysis, research and data analysis. Dinara has experience working both for quasi-state companies as Analytical research center for agricultural policy LTD, National Management Holding “KazAgro” JSC, as well as for international organizations as FAO and private consultancy firm Whiteshield Partners LTD.

#### **Rafkat Hasanov** (presenter)

Rafkat Hasanov is a graduate of Williams College (2002), where he majored in Development Economics. He also graduated from Novosibirsk State University (1985), where he majored in Economic Cybernetics. Mr Hasanov worked in the republic’s government bodies for nine years, serving as a Deputy Minister of Finance and the Head of the Economic Policy Department at the Office of the President of Kyrgyzstan (the latter is equivalent to the position of the Advisor to the President), and later returning to applied economic research. His scholarly interests include fiscal sector reform, tax legislation, public finance (including gender budgeting), macroeconomic modeling and revenue forecasting, investment promotion and deregulation policies.

#### **Elena Danilova-Cross**

Elena Danilova-Cross is a programme specialist on poverty and inequality at UNDP. Her main areas of expertise include (i) design and implementation of regional research and programmes on regional trends in poverty, inequality, and vulnerability, (ii) measuring and monitoring multidimensional poverty, social inclusion, inequality, and sustainable human development, including in SDGs and national development strategies, and (iii) HDR quality assurance and forward-looking assessments of the human development reporting system. Ms. Danilova Cross has over eight years of professional experience in mainstreaming human development and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into policy practice, codifying human development through trainings and academic teaching as well as knowledge management support.

#### **Hitomi Rankine**

Hitomi Rankine has over 15 years of experience in policy advocacy, research and technical cooperation, focusing on the themes of sustainable development and green growth. She has worked with the UN in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and in Asia and the Pacific and has an academic background in environmental management and natural sciences.

#### **Naylin Oo**

Naylin Oo is an Economic Affairs Officer of the Countries with Special Needs Section of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He provides substantive support to ESCAP’s work on assisting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States through development research and capacity building activities. He also recently worked as an ESCAP’s Regional Advisor on ASEAN to provide advisory services and coordination for the



ASEAN-UN Partnership. Before joining ESCAP, he worked at the United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ) in New York. He holds a Ph.D. in Development Administration from the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) of Thailand and an MBA in Management and a BSc. in Computer Science from the City University of New York (CUNY), USA.

#### **Oliver Paddison**

Oliver Paddison is the Chief of the Countries with Special Needs Section at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This section monitors progress in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS and provides capacity-building support for policymakers to help these countries overcome their development challenges. Prior to joining ESCAP, Mr. Paddison worked for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York (DESA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Mr. Paddison holds a Ph.D. and MA in Economics from the University of Louvain, Belgium, and a BSc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

#### **Savia Hasanova**

Savia Hasanova is an executive director of “The Investment Round Table”, a research institute in Kyrgyzstan. During the past ten years, she has joined the national expert teams in drafting MDGs progress report in Kyrgyzstan, National voluntary presentation, National Human Development Report. She has also been working on SMEs development issues, including competitiveness of SMEs, enhancement of their integration into regional and global value chains, women’s entrepreneurship development, financial inclusion, and regulation in Central Asia. Savia is a graduate of the Humboldt University in Berlin (2013), from which she holds Master of Science degree in Economics.

#### **Shukhrat Mirzoev**

Shukhrat Mirzoev is a development economist with 16 years of professional consulting experience in Central Asia. He specializes in public sector and governance reforms, including public finance management, growth accounting, public-private dialogue and business environment. Shuhtrat has previously worked as an economist for the World Bank and DFID where he led a multi-million portfolio of programs in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. He is a Rumsfeld Fellow and a triple alumnus of British Council's Chevening and Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation programs. Shuhtrat is also an Independent Board member in OJSC 'Alif Bank' with operations in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and a contributor to FCO's Wilton Park dialogue on policy issues. He holds a PhD in Economics from Rutgers University, NJ (USA), an MSc with Distinction in International Strategy and Economics from the University of St Andrews (UK) and a Diploma in Economics from the Technological University of Tajikistan.

#### **Yusuke Tateno**

Yusuke Tateno is an Economic Affairs Officer of the Countries with Special Needs Section of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He undertakes development policy research and manages technical cooperation projects to support the implementation of the global programmes of action for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Before joining ESCAP, he worked at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Chile and the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. He holds a PhD and MA in economic from Cornell University and a BA in economics from Beloit College, USA.



## Session 2: Sustainable Agriculture Transformation in North and Central Asia

### **Li Yutong** (moderator)

Li Yutong is the Head of the Center for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). At the Center, Yutong advocates for the adoption of technologies that blend traditional knowledge and modern science which will have a positive impact on the region's capacity to answer to food demand, social dynamics and environmental concerns.

### **Patricia Wong Bi Yi** (presenter)

Patricia Wong is an Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). At the subregional office, Patricia conducts and coordinates research related to economic transformation, digital transformation and sustainable development in the region. She has a background in international economics and has experiences in program management, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, investment promotion and international trade advisory.

### **Antonio Scognamillo**

Antonio Scognamillo is an Econometric Analysis Specialist and work for the FAO Economic and Policy Analysis of Climate Change (EPIC Team). Antonio has a PhD in Development Economics and worked as a research fellow in the Department of Economics and Statistics at the University of Salerno. His research interests include climate-smart agriculture, natural capital, inequality and poverty, and nutrition.

### **Kamiljon Akramov**

Kamiljon Akrimov is a Senior Research Fellow at the Development Strategy & Governance Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC. His research focuses on governance and development policy issues in Central Asia and other developing countries using applied econometric analysis.

### **Nodir Djanibekov**

Nodir Djanibekov is a Research Associate in the Department of Agriculture Policy at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO). Prior to joining IAMO, he was a researcher in the German-Uzbek development research project on the restructuring of land and water use in Uzbekistan. He obtained his PhD at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany.

### **Sergiy Zorya**

Sergiy Zorya is the Lead Agricultural Economist in Europe & Central Asia Region for the World Bank. His research focuses agriculture development and poverty reduction and covers many developing countries and different regions. He is currently based in Tashkent where he is involved in the agri-food sector program in the region.

### **Oliver Paddison**

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the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS and provides capacity-building support for policymakers to help these countries overcome their development challenges. Mr. Paddison holds a Ph.D. and MA in Economics from the University of Louvain, Belgium.

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#### **Yusuke Tateno**

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#### **Maria del Mar Polo**

Maria del Mar Polo is an Agricultural Economist for the Investment Centre of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). She joined the FAO in 2008 and worked for the Investment Centre division on a broad variety of tasks, covering both operational and upstream work, including topics such as linking producers to markets, value chains, food security and safety, climate change, landscape and territorial development and research and extension. She has supported investments' design, implementation and completion of projects financed by the World Bank, IFAD and IDB in several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Central Asia. Her main technical expertise includes economic and financial analysis, agribusiness development and market access, sectoral studies and policy work and monitoring and evaluation.

### Session 3: Realizing Digital Potential in North and Central Asia

#### **Anna-Maria Chkoniya** (moderator)

Anna-Maria Chkoniya is a Coordinator at the Technical Assistance Fund at Eurasian Development Bank. She also used to publish her blog on the Russian International Affairs Council's (RIAC) website. Her focus is on economic aspects of the BRICS group and its involvement in the economic development of other developing countries.

#### **Dmitry Plekhanov** (presenter)

Dmitry Plekhanov is a consultant at the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA), ESCAP. Working in a close contact with global firms, Dmitry studies specific mechanisms for formulation,

implementation, and evaluation of digital transformation strategies. Dmitry is a research associate and a doctoral student at the Chair of Production and Operations Management (POM) at ETH Zürich.

#### **Aida Karazhanova**

Aida Karazhanova is an economic affairs officer at the UN ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok. Aida is currently with the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division promoting ICT and Development, in particular, through the development of the subregional broadband networks and corridors in Central Asia as part of the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS).

#### **Aziza Umarova**

Aziza Umarova is the CEO at SmartGov consulting firm dealing with public sector reform. For a decade, Aziza worked with United Nations Development Programme as the Advisor on Public Sector Innovation at the UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore and she managed UNDP's governance portfolio in Uzbekistan. Aziza was a Chevening Fellow, completing her masters in internal relations at the University of St. Andrews.

#### **Lena Kuhn**

Lena Kuhn is a research associate at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO). Her research and inputs target on SDG 9, foremost target 9B with a focus on digital transformation, SDG 10 with a focus on inclusive growth and rural development, and SDG 12. Lena holds a PhD degree from the Faculty of Law and Economics of Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg for an analysis of the anti-poverty effect of income transfer in rural China.

#### **Michal Podolski**

Michal Podolski is an associate economic affairs officer at the UN ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok. He is currently with the Innovation and Technology Section of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division. Michal used to be with the Global Economic Monitoring Branch, United Nations Headquarters in New York and works on macroeconomic modelling and forecasting (GDP, inflation, other macro variables).

#### **Natalia Mochu**

Natalia Mochu is the director at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office for CIS. Previously, she worked with ICANN as Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager and the Radio Research and Development Institute in Moscow, specializing in Internet-related public-policy issues and international cooperation.

#### **Talant Sultanov**

Talant Sultanov is a digital development specialist at the World Bank and the co-founder of the Internet Society-Kyrgyz Chapter. Previously, he served as an advisor to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, where he coordinated the work of the national digital transformation programme Taza Koom. He holds an MA in International Finance from Columbia University and a BA in International Relations from San Francisco State University.



Overall Participation from the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Nikolay Pomoschnikov, Officer-in-Charge

Elvira Mynbayeva, Programme Officer

Natalja Wehmer, Economic Affairs Officer

Patricia Wong Bi Yi, Associate Economic Affairs Officer

Dinara Azhigaliyeva, Junior Professional Officer

Ainur Dyussyubekova, Administrative Assistant

Dinara Assaubayeva, Research Assistant

Rauan Zainov, Team Assistant

Athina Anastasiadou

Cheng Jiayue

Margaux Maurel

## Annex 2. Programme

The Expert Group Meeting has 3 separate thematic sessions. Times are stated in Almaty time (GMT+6).

| Day/Time                       | Session  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>22 September 2020 (Tue)</b> |  |
| 09.30 – 11:30                  | <p>Session 1: SDG Drivers Framework for North and Central Asia</p> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, SONCA</i></li> </ul> <p>Tour de table to introduce experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Moderator: Dinara Assaubayeva, Research Assistant, SONCA</i></li> </ul> <p>Presentation of working paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presenter: Rafkat Hasanov, Consultant, SONCA</i></li> </ul> <p>Discussion of working paper</p> <p>Conclusion</p>   |
| 14.00 – 16:00                  | <p>Session 2: Sustainable Agriculture Transformation in North and Central Asia</p> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, SONCA</i></li> </ul> <p>Tour de table to introduce experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Moderator: Li Yutong, Head of Center for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization (CSAM)</i></li> </ul> <p>Presentation of working paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presenter: Patricia Wong, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, SONCA</i></li> </ul> <p>Discussion of working paper</p> <p>Conclusion</p> |
| <b>23 September 2020 (Tue)</b> |  |
| 14:00 – 16:00                  | <p>Session 3: Realizing Digital Potential in North and Central Asia</p> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, SONCA</i></li> </ul> <p>Tour de table to introduce experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Moderator: Anna-Maria Chkoniya, Eurasian Development Bank</i></li> </ul> <p>Presentation of working paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presenter: Dmitry Plekhanov, Consultant</i></li> </ul> <p>Discussion of working paper</p> <p>Conclusion</p>  |