



Technological Realignment

## Digital Divides – Preventing rising inequalities in the digital age

### T20 Task Force:

TF4 – Digital Transformation

### Speakers:

#### Panelists:

- **Maria Chiara Carrozza**, Lead Co-Chair T20 TF 4 - Digital Transformation; Professor of Industrial Bioengineering, BioRobotics Institute of Scuola Superiore, Sant'Anna
- **Sabina Dewan**, President and Executive Director, JustJobs Network
- **Harald Kayser**, Chairman, PwC Europe
- **Syed Munir Khasru**, Co-Chair T20 TF 4 - Digital Transformation; Chairman, The Institute for Policy Advocacy and Governance

#### Moderator:

- **Stefanie Söhnchen**, Vice President Digital Strategy, FleishmanHillard Germany

### Session description:

Digital divides take many different forms. Digital infrastructure and the skills to make use of digital technologies are not equally distributed across the globe, hence creating a divide with regard the opportunities to actually make use of digital technologies. The COVID-19 pandemic and the necessity to learn and work from home has highlighted the divide even more. But digitalization itself also creates other divides: Missing regulation of platforms, while offering opportunities for remote workers to participate in global value chains, creates a divide between workers in regular and atypical (platform) employment. Artificial Intelligence, algorithms based on data collected by data aggregators, can filter the information one receives and hence contribute to polarization of opinions. In short, digitalization can aggravate inequalities substantially. Either because digitalization leaves some people without access behind, or because it systematically discriminates certain groups.

Given the importance of digital technology in today's world and to tap its potential to foster development and progress, we must remove obstacles to benefit from digitalization and prevent inequalities arising from it. This session addresses different digital divides and policies to narrow them.



## THE WORLD POLICY FORUM

### Objectives:

Outline the dimensions of the digital divide: developed countries vs. less developed countries, skills gaps, gaps in access, etc.

Describe inequalities that the digital economy and technical progress creates or exacerbates.

Explain how shocks, such as a pandemic, impact groups differently depending on digital access and skills.

Develop recommendations to the G20 for how digital divides can be bridged.

Explain necessary policies that enable a fruitful future of work for everyone; with emphasis on the differences between the developed and less developed world.