Call for Contributions

Who: The Task Force on Digital Financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is issuing this Call for Contributions from individuals, governments, industry, academic/research groups, the technical community, non-governmental, and international organizations.

Why: The Sustainable Development Goals currently face an estimated annual financing shortfall of $2.5 trillion. This gap must be closed if the SDGs are to be achieved by the 2030 target date; the digital revolution currently transforming the world's financing systems holds potential to be part of the solution. The Task Force now seeks insightful and innovative contributions to incorporate into our report of recommendations to be presented to the Secretary-General and other world leaders.

What: The Task Force's field of inquiry is uniquely situated at the intersection of three major issues: **sustainable development**, the **financial ecosystem**, and the **digital revolution**. It is therefore important that contributions consider the nexus between all three: digitalization, finance, and sustainability (see definitions below).

The key questions to be considered are:

- What is the *current experience* in harnessing the digitalization of finance in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs?
- What are the *high-impact opportunities*—now and in the future—for digital financing of the SDGs?
- What are the *barriers and risks*, and how might those best be overcome?
- *Who needs to do what*—including within the United Nations—to overcome the risks and barriers, and to seize the opportunities, to put the digitalization of finance to work for the SDGs?

Because this is a new field of inquiry with limited data, there are no right or wrong answers; the Task Force is looking for informed insights and substantiated ideas. Contributors are welcome to consider any individual or group of SDGs, or cross-cutting issues that impact SDG financing. Special attention will be given to contributions linked to the six SDG-related themes chosen for by the Task Force for investigation, namely:

- Theme 1: Climate Change
- Theme 2: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Theme 3: Gender Equality
- Theme 4: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Theme 5: Migrants and Refugees
- Theme 6: Empowering Citizens

More information on these themes and more can be found in the Task Force's Framework Document available on our website.

How:

Short Contributions may be opinions, observations, or ideas. These may be submitted to the Task Force's Secretariat by web form. *(800 word limit)*

Longer Contributions provide an in-depth consideration of one or more areas within the Task Force's field of inquiry. These longer contributions may be original (written expressly in response to this Call for Contributions) or may have been previously published elsewhere. These may also be submitted by web form or by email to dftf.contributions@uncdf.org . *(6,000 world limit, or ten pages single spaced, in either PDF or MS Word format)*

We also welcome other media (e.g., infographics, motion graphics, video, PowerPoint, etc.) via web form or to dftf.contributions@uncdf.org

When: Contributions made by 30 April 2019 will be considered for inclusion in the Task Force's Interim Report to the Secretary-General. Contributors of selected papers may be contacted by **15 May 2019** to develop a final paper or presentation, if required, that may be showcased during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019.

By submitting a contribution, you are authorizing the Task Force Secretariat to publish your submission on its website and to use part or all of it in the final report. Any reservation to the authorization must be clearly stated. The Task Force Secretariat reserves the right not to make public any submission, including those that include hate speech or defamatory attacks against individuals, groups, organizations, or countries.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

TERM	DESCRIPTION
DIGITAL	Involving or relating to the use of computer technology.
DIGITIZATION	The process of changing from analog to digital form
Digital Finance	Financial services delivered through digital processes and infrastructure.
Digitization	The process of changing from analog to digital form
Digitalization	Generally refers to how different political, social and economic domains are restructured around the broad use of digital technologies, often leading to new business models, services of employment as well as in interaction and engagement

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
TASK FORCE ON DIGITAL FINANCING
OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Term	Definition
Digitization of Finance	The impact of conversion from analog to digital technologies on financial functions, i.e. back office automation, transaction processing, improving "the plumbing" of financial service functions, resulting from digitization.
Digitalization of Finance	Systemic changes to the financial ecosystem due to digital technologies i.e., disintermediation of the banking and capital market sectors, shifting role of regulators due to cross-border transactions.
Digital Transformation	Digital transformation is the application of digital technologies to fundamentally impact all aspects of business and society.
Financial Ecosystem	A network of players (i.e., intermediaries, regulators, money managers, insurers, fintech, risk evaluators, etc.) that interact and provide services in the form of borrowing, lending, insurance, investment and payments and others.
Fintech or "financial technology"	Computer programs and other technology used to support or enable banking and financial services, traditionally referring to the technology of back-end work of financial institutions, and more recently referring to a fast-growing sector that applies technology to improve financial activities. Technologies under consideration by the Task Force include, but are not limited to artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing, online and mobile platforms, Big Data and/or the Internet of Things.
Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and encompasses society, environment, culture and economy (United Nations 1987 Bruntland Commission Report)