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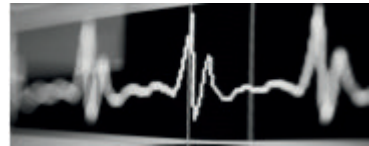
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The Outlook

Economic ([jump to](#)).

Trade in information technology gets attention as countries look to review implementation of the Information Technology Agreement following Chinese proposal to enhance its functioning and relevance. [Read more](#)

Copyright experts consider draft treaty on broadcasting organizations, as well as proposals to strengthen rights for creatives and copyright in the digital and AI era. [Read more](#)

Trade and development experts consider knowledge base and implications of key aspects of the energy transition, focusing on critical minerals and sustainable fuel for maritime transport. [Read more](#)

Intellectual property links to development: member states discuss specific projects to enhance this link in developing countries. [Read more](#)

A thrilling journey through blockchain wonders and tech innovations, all geared towards turbocharging sustainable development. [Read more](#)

Standards and Regulatory ([jump to](#)).

Week-long series of gatherings on regulatory cooperation and standardization policies is bound to produce worthwhile policy and assessment. [Read more](#)

Transporting dangerous goods? The 1957 UN treaty has a say, and experts discuss its status and related issues. [Read more](#)

Discover key updates on safety as countries shape the future of road-user protection and vehicle technology. [Read more](#)

Gain valuable insights into the progress of transport data harmonization and its impact on policy and infrastructure planning as countries' transport statisticians meet. [Read more](#)

Learn about the critical regulatory changes and technological advancements in automotive lighting from the latest experts' meeting on lighting and light-signalling session. [Read more](#)

Communications and Digital ([jump to](#)).

Telecommunications experts attempt to advance discussion on global telecommunications standards. [Read more](#)

Industry leaders convene a meeting to propel conversations forward regarding standards in fixed-satellite, mobile-satellite, broadcasting-satellite and radiodetermination-satellite systems and networks. [Read more](#)

Discover what spectrum experts are focused on as they hold a series of meetings. [Read more](#)

Key advisors meet to discuss the performance and availability of a range of satellite services. [Read more](#)

Health ([jump to](#)).

My Health, My Right: World Health Day champions the universal right to quality health services amid global health threats. [Read more](#)

Water and health - two international buzz words meet to consider their interaction, new experts to join and the program's future. [Read more](#)

Critical updates and advancements in emergency preparedness and response chart the course for a safer, more resilient future, setting a new benchmark in global health innovation. [Read more](#)

Global warriors against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria converge for talking strategies and collaborations. [Read more](#)

A global push to defeat meningitis culminates in a meeting with interdisciplinary experts to fulfill this international mission. [Read more](#)

Pandemic accord negotiators re-convene in a last attempt to close gaps in the text before it goes to principals for some difficult decision making. [Read more](#)

Environment and Sustainability ([jump to](#)).

What are rules without monitoring and assessment? Experts look to increase assessment frequency and expand environmental information sharing. [Read more](#)

A week focused on a key objective: How can we ensure the sustainability of resource management? [Read more](#)

Trade and development officials discuss the issue of illicit trade and waste, and its impact on sustainability efforts and the environment. [Read more](#)

Social ([jump to](#)).

Working towards the inclusion of new technologies, including AI, in radio and digital storytelling. [Read more](#)

Labour experts explore the impact of climate change on health and safety in the workplace. [Read more](#)

Science and Technology ([jump to](#)).

Do science and technology work for development? Experts discuss compelling data developments and the role of global cooperation in

science, technology and innovation. [Read more](#)

Youth and Sports ([jump to](#))

Youth leaders meet to provide political courage and push forward momentum to look beyond wealth as an indicator of well-being for local and global communities. [Read more](#)

Humanitarian and Human Rights ([jump to](#))

Human rights experts end the longest session of the Human Rights Council ever with a number of friction points still unresolved and eventual release of the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine report. [Read more](#)

Various forms of racial discrimination still exist around the world as an international watchdog attempts to continue its mission to eliminate them, this time focusing on Albania, Mauritius, Mexico, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova and San Marino. [Read more](#)

Questions? As you read the below, please do not hesitate to [contact one of the authors](#) for more information.

Economic

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA Committee) [meets](#) on April 11. The committee holds regular meetings twice a year to review developments relating to implementation of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). The main functions of the ITA Committee are reviewing the status of implementation of the ITA, reviewing and expanding product coverage, considering divergences in IT product classification, encouraging new participation to the ITA and providing an opportunity to consult on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade in IT products. Past regular meetings have addressed divergences in classification for certain items. On March 5, the delegation of China circulated a [proposal](#) to enhance the functioning and relevance of ITA. The proposal suggests an annual symposium to share information and views on recent developments in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, discuss benefits of joining the Agreements and encourage more members to participate in the Agreements.

The 45th session of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) standing committee on Copyright and Related Concerns [meets](#) from April 15-19. The agenda includes a discussion of a [draft treaty](#) on Broadcasting Organizations. A few of the elements of the draft text have been agreed, and the document is open for amendments. Further discussion items include proposals relating to analysis of [copyright related to the digital environment](#), resale rights, [strengthening the protection of theater directors' rights](#), public lending rights and [rights for audiovisual authors](#). Documents for the meeting also include a [proposal for an information session](#) on generative artificial intelligence (AI) and copyright.

The 14th session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Commission takes place from April 22-26. This meeting considers reports of expert meetings on commodities and development; trade, services and development; enhancing the environment for inclusive and sustainable development; and transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation. The meeting also includes discussion of intergovernmental group of experts reports on competition law and policy and consumer protection law and policy. Later items on the agenda are discussion on trade and development implications of key aspects of the energy transition. The commission is particularly focused on critical minerals and sustainable fuel for maritime transport. The commission will discuss the challenges raised by increasing demand for critical energy transition minerals and propose policy options to achieve energy transition, industrialization, responsible resource management and sustainable, inclusive economic growth for developing countries. Discussion will also consider sustainable fuels in the energy transition of maritime transport.

From April 29 to May 3, the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Committee on Development an Intellectual Property (CDIP) will convene for their thirty-second session. WIPO is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 member states. It is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy and information. CDIP was established in 2007 to develop a program for implementing the 45 Development Agenda recommendations and discuss intellectual property- and development-related issues. The upcoming session will consider and report upon the implementation of Development Agenda recommendations and discuss potential WIPO technical assistance in required areas. According to WIPO's report on CDIP's implementation of the Development Agenda recommendations, "WIPO was fully engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within its mandate."

The UNCTAD Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, at its fourteenth session, meeting April 29 to May 3, provides a platform for member states and stakeholders to engage in discussions on investment, enterprise, technology and their impact on sustainable development. It highlights investment facilitation for sustainable development through transparent regulations, streamlined procedures and digital tools, and reviews best practices to support the Sustainable Development Goals. The session will explore the potential of blockchain technologies to accelerate sustainable development, addressing the challenges and capacity-building needs of developing countries.

Standards and Regulatory



From April 2-5, several subgroups and initiatives of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) are convening for a week-long forum. WP.6 promotes regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, aiming to reduce technical barriers to trade, efficiently manage risk and promote sustainable development in all dimensions, including gender equality, climate and environmental protection and adaptation to new technologies.

Within the week, the Working Party's Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) is hosting a conference on risk management and green digital transformation. The Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards (ToS-GRS) is holding a conference to consider gender in relation to green digital transformation. The WP.6 is holding a meeting for the Education on Standardization (START-Ed) Initiative. The Advisory Group on Market

Surveillance (MARS) is holding a conference considering how evolution in technology may change the way that market surveillance and associated regulatory procedures are conducted. The ad hoc team of specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START Team) meets to review their active and future projects. Finally, the Harmonizing Regulatory Requirements on Pipeline Security for Hydrogen Conference with WP.6's Hydrogen Task Force (HTF) brings together the principal actors on the transport of hydrogen via pipelines to exchange views on product requirements and their conformity assessment processes.

On April 4, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods convenes to discuss the transport of dangerous goods. The working party discusses the *Agreement of 30 September 1957 concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)*, its status, proposals for amendments to annexes A and B and related issues. The aim of the working party is to ensure there is a regulatory infrastructure designed to transport dangerous goods safely and securely, and to certify that regulations are proportionate and implemented in the United Kingdom in a way that helps to improve trade and economic growth.

The UNECE hosts its 127th session of the Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG) from April 15-19. This session's agenda covers a range of topics, including new measures for the protection of road users and the advancement of vehicle automation. Key discussions include updates on external projections, foot controls, speedometers, odometers and the structural integrity of buses, alongside the consideration of agricultural vehicle couplings and gas-fueled vehicle standards. In addition, the meeting delves into regulations surrounding antitheft devices, alarm systems, fire resistance of interior materials and introduce Event Data Recorders for incident analysis and vehicle safety accountability.

The UNECE hosts its 75th session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics from April 24-26. This meeting aims to advance the collection, harmonization and dissemination of transport statistics across UNECE member states, focusing on the monitoring of transport-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and exploring innovations in statistical methodologies. Key topics on the agenda include the strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport, electric vehicle charging infrastructure data collection and methodological developments in capturing data on new mobility, active modes and cycling infrastructure. Additionally, the session will address traffic censuses, the statistical activities of member states and international organizations and the dissemination of transport statistics.

The UNECE hosts its 90th session of the Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signaling, on April 29 to May 3. The session explores advancements and regulatory developments in vehicle lighting and light-signaling, with a particular focus on the simplification of existing UN Regulations, updates on light source specifications and installation regulations across different vehicle categories. The session also delves into the evolution of UN Global Technical Regulations and their application to emerging technologies, including the discussion of electromagnetic compatibility and the integration of autonomous vehicle signaling requirements.

The International Telecommunication Union's telecommunications standardization sector ([ITU-T](#)), which focuses on the various fields of international telecommunications, holds a workshop to advance the discussion about industry engagement through exchanging views and gathering input from members and nonmembers. The workshop will explore metrics to quantify and qualify engagement, brainstorm the ITU-T value proposition; and review trends in standardization processes of particular interest to industry. Interested stakeholders can register [here](#) for this April 19 event.

As the global space race continues, ITU Study Group 4 ([SG4](#)) holds a meeting on April 23, in which they discuss pertinent issues that help define the standards to govern the competition. This meeting is the first of three to be held this year, and stakeholders and member states alike watch these developments closely. Interested parties can register [here](#).

The ITU's Working Party 4C ([WP 4C](#)), which is a group that primarily focuses on efficient orbit and spectrum utilization for mobile satellite spectrum services (MSS), and the radiodetermination satellite service (RDSS), holds a series of meetings from April 24-30. With the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) examining foreign satellite use, these conversations on spectrum allocation may play a role in guiding the Commission through their investigation. Interested parties can register [here](#).

The ITU's Working Party 4B ([WP4B](#)) meets from April 29 to May 3 and discusses the studies of Internet Protocol (IP)-related system aspects and performance. It also discusses the new and revised Recommendations and Reports on IP over satellite to meet the growing need for satellite links to carry IP traffic. Interested parties can register [here](#).

Health

The right to health of millions is increasingly being threatened as diseases, disasters, conflicts and the climate crisis continue globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) Council on the Economics of Health for All found that at least 140 countries recognize health as a human right in their constitution, yet few countries are passing laws to ensure populations are entitled to access health services. To address these challenges, the theme for [World Health Day 2024](#), April 7, is "My health, my right," to champion everyone's right to access quality health services, education, safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition, quality housing, decent working and environmental conditions and freedom from discrimination.

The [14th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health](#) takes place on April 16-17. This meeting welcomes two new Parties to the group, North Macedonia and Uzbekistan, who joined the Protocol on Water and Health following the sixth session in November 2022. [Items of discussion](#) include numerous sessions on water sanitation and disease prevention, climate

change resilience and long-term vision and goals for the Protocol on Water and Health. Additionally, the Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties will present the draft long-term vision and strategy for implementing the Protocol.

The [Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response](#) meets April 17-18. The meeting focuses on strengthening and overseeing the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, including prevention, preparedness, response, resilience and updates on major ongoing health emergencies. It also reviews the implementation of recommendations by the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, report from the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board secretariat, and discusses standard operating procedures for extraordinary meetings.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria invites participants to the [51st Board Meeting](#), taking place from April 22-24. This assembly marks a significant opportunity for collaboration and discussion on the ongoing battle against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

For the first time, a multilateral organization hosts a high-level meeting to defeat meningitis. As part of the [global road map](#) set out by the [WHO](#) in 2021, on April 26, the [WHO is organizing a meeting](#) with politicians, patients, Paralympic champions and others to approach meningitis with an interdisciplinary approach. Meningitis is one of the [foremost global public health concerns](#) due to its debilitating, and even fatal, effects including lifelong disabilities, economic consequences and disastrous outbreaks. However, [meningitis is preventable through vaccines](#)—WHO’s roadmap sees widespread vaccine dissemination, rapid diagnosis, disease surveillance, support for those affected and advocacy as strongholds in its fight against meningitis. One can expect a thorough discussion of potential solutions through a multitude of approaches.

With World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) holding its “last” [pandemic negotiations](#) session at the end of March, on April 29, it reconvenes in attempts to reconcile differences. This is really the last effort ahead of ministers and senior officials gather at the World Health Assembly ([WHA](#)) at the end of May. Negotiators, discussing the latest [draft text](#), face some difficult gaps to close, in particular on intellectual property, and on the trade-off between pathogen sharing and access to benefits. The negotiators are likely to find some agreements, but with some differences remaining either for their principals to resolve, or for these to continue under negotiations of the new Conference of Parties (COP) to be set up by the Pandemic Agreement.

Environment and Sustainability



The [UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment](#) holds its 26th session on April 18-19. The Working Group addresses the gaps that were identified in the previous pan-European environmental assessment and work to develop a regular environmental assessment. The secretariat presents a [draft concept of an eighth pan-European environmental assessment](#), and an outline for the [revised guidelines](#) on

environmental monitoring and reporting. The Working Group plans to streamline environmental reporting to support policymaking. There will be short presentations on environmental monitoring progress at a national level, following the sharing of information internationally.

Resource management leaders, experts and stakeholders gather on April 22-26, to discuss the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development during [UNECE Resource Management Week 2024](#), including the 15th session of the Expert Group on Resource Management ([EGRM-15](#)). Based on the theme of “Ensuring the sustainability of resource management”, stakeholders determine how to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of these resources and reflect on responsible management. This meeting also focuses on the [United Nations Framework Classification for Resources \(UNFC\)](#) and the [United Nations Resource Management System \(UNRMS\)](#) and their central role in global resource management.

A [UNCTAD special session](#) of the Trade and Development Commission, on April 25, explores the issue of illicit trade and waste. Illicit trade in waste has repercussions for the sustainable development agenda, environmental well-being, human health, and sustainable production and consumption practices. The session aims to discuss the challenges caused by illegal trade in waste and explore how trade and better border and domestic governance can provide solutions that mitigate this problem. Case studies from technical assistance projects under the UNCTAD-FCDO Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) program on used lead-acid batteries and trade of second-hand clothes will support the session.


Social



While the last edition of the [European Broadcasting Union \(EBU\)](#) Media & Assembly Summit highlighted challenges and opportunities, [this next session](#), on April 24-25, focuses on creating memorable stories. Radio brings important stories into our lives, creates rituals around different moments of the day and provides reliable guidance for making sense of a changing world. Storytelling is at the heart of the radio experience and can be a powerful force for change. New parameters such as technology and generative artificial intelligence (AI) play a key role, opening possibilities that were not part of our experience before. Understanding and apprehending where this will take us is the aim of this panel of specialists.

Every April 28, the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) commemorates [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#), focusing on a topical theme. Clearly, some sectors and occupations are more dangerous than others. For this reason, the ILO is placing particular emphasis on [protecting workers in hazardous conditions](#). Changing weather conditions have a significant impact on the world of work, and in particular on the health and safety of workers. These occupational hazards, exacerbated by climate change, are the focus of this summit.

Science and Technology



From April 15-19, the Economic and Social Council's ([ECOSOC](#)) Commission on Science and Technology for Development ([CSTD](#)) convenes to assess data for development and global cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) development. The CSTD serves as a platform for strategic planning, sharing best practices, offering foresight on critical STI trends across various sectors of the economy, environment and society, and highlighting emerging and disruptive technologies. During this session, a high-level round table explores the role of STI in alleviating poverty amid multiple crises and facilitating the delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions. Conversations center on the challenges encountered at national, regional and international levels, alongside potential solutions to address them. Additionally, discussions cover the advancements in implementing and following up on the outcomes of the [World Summit on the Information Society](#).

Youth and Sports



Recognizing the financial state of the world, the Sustainable Development Goals Lab hosts an [intergenerational conversation to include youth](#) perspectives in the discussion of looking at the financial stability of the world beyond GDP. 630 students submitted essays to be considered to speak in Geneva on April 17, out of which five are selected to speak alongside the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. This dialogue continues on the line of the October event, “Rethinking Economic Systems for Long-term Sustainable Development.”


Humanitarian & Human Rights



On April 1, the Human Rights Council enters its final week of its 55th session, marking the most prolonged period that the council has consecutively been in session. The session has three annual events: [a full-day meeting on the rights of the child](#), an interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities [and a high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming](#). As the council enters into the last week, it focuses on Ukraine, following the release of the Commission Of Inquiry on Ukraine report. Religion has been a key dossier of this session. The EU led a resolution on freedom of religion and belief, and the OIC led another resolution on combatting religious intolerance. Push by some Council members to reopen language on the latter has not materialized and thus the session reaches some success on this dossier.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ([CERD](#)) hosts the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination from April 8-26. The committee consists of 18 members and will examine the reports of six States: Albania, Mauritius, Mexico, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova and San Marino. The Committee welcomes representatives from national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to submit country-specific information on States being considered by the Committee. Following the convention, the Committee develops

concluding observations that outline positive aspects, principal subjects or concerns, and the Committee's recommendation on how to address challenges faced by the State.



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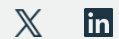


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