

Agenda

Can cyber tech be resilient and green?

EC MEDICI Framework

Cybersecurity special track

Can cyber technology be resilient and green?

There are some key events that have characterised the recent period one of these is the so-called digital transformation considered the natural evolution of the current society in the light of a pervasive technology like digital technology. Digital technology is intertwined with almost all the life sectors. Since the dawn of digital technology, the number of application and solutions based on such technology had a surprising rate of growth. Nowadays there is no field of human knowledge that doesn't take advantage or is based on digital: communication, education, government, health, energy, mobility, etc... We are increasing leaving the analog, face to face, paper-based world to enter the intangible digital mediated one. At the same time, society already faced several relevant cyber infrastructure malfunctions and attacks due to hackers, some targeting Governmental or Law Enforcement agencies and Institutions, some targeting critical infrastructures, others targeting big companies. Nowadays we are surrounded by "critical infrastructures" managed by cyber components that, in case of attacks, may create minor or mayor impacts on our daily life.

The actual trend is to transfer to the digital domain as much as possible any "traditional" process and document, so in a glimpse government procedures and citizens documents and data will flow in the format of bit streams, sometimes, under the pressure of critical events this process wasn't designed to ensure security. Consequently, the more we become digitalised, the more we are vulnerable to hackers and hybrid threats. Of course, the overall scenario includes many other aspects and "shades".

In the "analogue" world we had different pipelines and "channels" to perform, thanks to different tools and means, our activities, in the cyber world the whole activity depends on a single "pillar": cyber technology.

The pervasiveness of cyber technology, the internet and the quick deployment of emerging number crunching applications is emphasizing energy consumption, at the same time the rapid pace of innovation in the field of consumers' devices produces significant amount of waste to be recycled or disposed.

As a consequence, can cyber technology be considered green and resilient?

Session 161	
Monday, 13 March 2023	
09:00-09:45 (UTC+01:00)	
Room 14, CICC, 2nd Floor	
Cybersecurity	
Thematic Workshop	

Session Recording



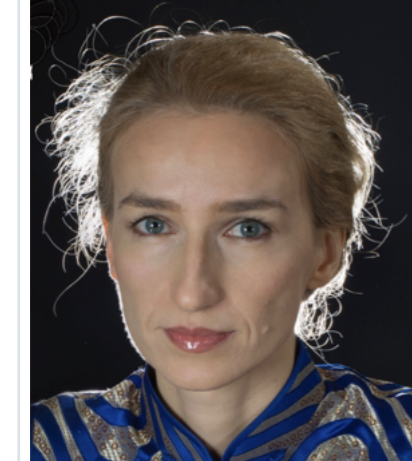
Alfredo M Ronchi
Professor, General Secretary EC MEDICI Framework
 Italia
Moderator

Alfredo M. Ronchi - professor at Politecnico di Milano (Engineering Faculty), Expert/advisor in e-Services, Head of the JRC S2D2 (Safety, Security, Defence, Disaster Recovery and Management) Politecnico di Milano, General Secretary of the EC-MEDICI Framework of Cooperation, delegate at UNESCO IFAP and active member of the WSIS since the establishment (2003-). He is member WSA Grand Jury and President of eContentAward Italy, member of the Scientific Committee of Global Forum (F-USA), Sacred World Foundation (New Delhi), Fondazione Nuove Comunicazioni (Italy).

Mr Ronchi is member of the following Boards of Directors: Global Forum, World Summit Award, European Youth Award, European Education New Society Association (ENSA), Fondazione Italiana Nuove Comunicazioni. Member of the Keio University NoE. Member of the Advisory Board of the School of Law under the aegis of GD Goenka University (New Delhi, India). Ronchi is appointed as an expert by: European Commission (EC), Council of Europe (CoE), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Italian Association of Banks (ABI), National Research Council (CNR), National and international project coordinator.

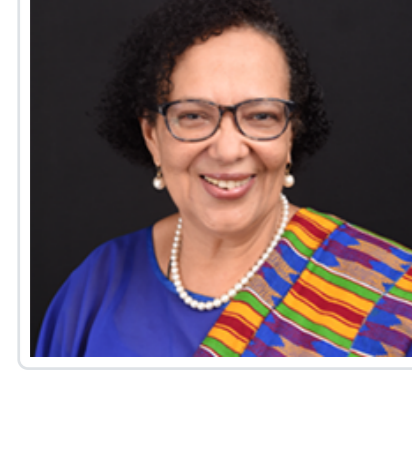
As Secretary of EC MEDICI Framework Ronchi promoted and coordinated, among the others, the following initiatives: "On culture in a world-wide Information Society" (1999), "Long-term preservation of digital content" (1999-2007), "Digital preservation of Intangible Heritage" (2005), "Fostering the "Culture" of cybersecurity" (2015), "e-Citizens: being human in the digital age" (2019). He cooperated as organizer or programme chair in W3C, ACM, IEEE, ITU-WSIS conferences; since more than thirty-five years he organizes and manages international conferences and workshops.

Author/contributor of more than 400 papers and various books on: e-Culture, e-Government, e-Safety & Security, and e-Services.



Alève Mine
Advisor
 The OneGoal Initiative for Governance, Swiss

Alève Mine is at the origin of the study of recursive risk and the founder of the OneGoal Initiative for Governance, which just launched its Qaucus programme, and of the Zurich AR/VR Meetup, which was identified as a "key Swiss player" on the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institut's extended reality map. Alève holds a M. Sc. from the EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) in microengineering (robots, nanotech, chips, sensors, materials, lasers, signal processing, computing, production lines, etc.) as well as a finance diploma from the St. Galler Management Institut (valuation, analysis), worked worldwide in the arts and is an ITU-T laureate. Alève is the author of "Storytelling Automation Principles".



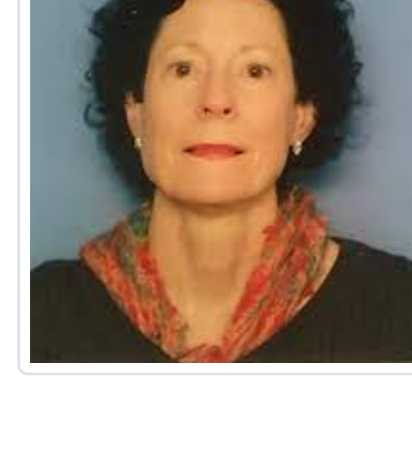
Dorothy Gordon
Technology activist and development specialist
 WSABoard member, Board member UNESCO-IITE

Dorothy K. Gordon is a Ghanaian technology activist and development specialist. She was the founding director general of the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE).[1] She left AITI-KACE in 2016. She is former board member of Creative Commons and currently serves on its advisory council. She also serves on the board of Linux Professional Institute.

Currently she remains actively involved at Board or Jury level on a number of global initiatives working on defining a better technology mediated future. She is a board member and expert for the World Summit Awards.[9][10] She also serves on the board of directors of the Linux Professional Institute. She works on gender and technology with Chatham House and as Chair for the Working group on Information Literacy UNESCO/IFAP. She is also an Advisory council member Creative Commons Global and for kasahorow[11] an NGO that gives African language speakers around the world the freedom to express themselves in their own languages in the digital age.

She serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Cyber Policy as well as the International Journal of Gender Science and Technology. She is a long term Council Member of the Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa. She is also Chair of Literacy Bridge Ghana, which works to save lives and improve livelihoods of impoverished families through comprehensive programmes that provide on-demand access to locally relevant knowledge.

Madam Dorothy was at the just ended World Summit Awards Grand Jury in Ghana and spoke as the WSA Expert in Ghana. The event was held from November 3, 2018 to November 7, 2018.



Lynn Thiesmeyer
Senior Researcher, SFC Research Institute, Keio University
 Keio University, Japan

Dr. Lynn Thiesmeyer specializes in Asian sustainable development with a focus on Upper Mekong regional and rural development, including environmental and climate change migration and slow-onset disasters. She is Professor Emerita and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Information at Keio University, Japan's oldest academic university, where she has been a professor since 1995. She has worked as an advisor and co-researcher with APEC (the Asia-Pacific Economic Commission), with the United Nations Development

Program, UNESCO, the World Bank Gateway for Gender and Development, and the MEDICI Framework of the European Commission, and she was a Research Advisor to the Mekong Institute of Thailand. She has also been a lecturer for the United Nations Global Seminars in Japan and at the Graduate Program of Health Social Sciences of Mahidol University of Thailand. Her publications include Human Insecurity in East Asia (co-edited, 2009), Informal and Illegal Movement in the Upper Greater Mekong Subregion (2010), articles on environmental policy in ASEAN, and book chapters on security, spatial politics, and socio-economic and ecological impacts of development projects in rural areas of the Upper Mekong. In 2017 she received the Keio University Award for Career Research Achievement on Socio-economic impacts of Regional Development Projects in Southeast Asia.

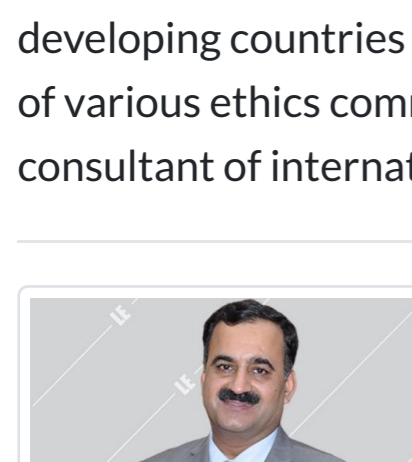


Christoph Stueckelberger
President
 Globethics.net Foundation, Swiss

Christoph Stueckelberger (born 1951) is Founder, was Executive Director (2008-2016) and is President (since July 2016) of the global network on ethics "Globethics.net Foundation", based in Geneva/Switzerland and with ten offices on four continents. He is Executive Director of Geneva Agape Foundation in Geneva, mainly with partners in China. He is Prof. (em.) at the University of Basel, Distinguished Professor at the Technical University MEPhI in Moscow, Visiting Professor at GOU University in Enugu/Nigeria and at Kingdom Business College in Beijing/China. He got his doctor honoris causa (Dr. h.c.) from the UPC University in Kinshasa/DR Congo for his long-term engagement in Africa.

His main fields of research are economic/business ethics, trade ethics, finance ethics, political ethics, development ethics, environmental ethics and philanthropy. He published as author and editor many books and hundreds of articles on applied ethics, among others "Ethics in Higher Education" (eds. With Divya Singh, 2016), "Responsible Leadership" and four volumes "Global Ethics Applied (1500 pages), all downloadable for free.

He was Director of the Swiss Development Organisation "Bread for all" (14 years); Director of the Institute for Theology and Ethics of the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (4 Years); Editor-in- chief of a large Magazine (8 Years); Founder and President of Transparency International Switzerland; Member of the Commission for International Cooperation of the Swiss Government (14 years) and President of its sub-commission on WTO for several years; Member of the Swiss Ethics Committee on Non-human Biotechnology of the Swiss Government (9 years); Member and President of the Council of the Swiss Import Promotion Programme SIPPO to support imports from developing countries; President of the international microfinance institution ECLOF working in 30 developing countries (9 years); Founding President of the Swiss Association Church and Environment OeKU; member and consultant of various ethics committees of very large and small Banks (international, Switzerland, Germany, China) and a Sovereign Wealth Fund; consultant of international companies; member of Boards of academic Ethics Centers.



Pavan Duggal
Advocate, Supreme Court of India
 Head, Pavan Duggal Associates, India

Dr. Pavan Duggal, is the Founder & Chairman of International Commission on Cyber Security Law. He is also the President of Cyberlaws. Net and has been working in the pioneering area of Cyber Law, Cyber Security Law & Mobile Law. Pavan is also heading the Artificial Intelligence Law Hub and Blockchain Law Epicentre. He is the Founder-cum-Honorary Chancellor of CyberLaw University. Dr. Pavan Duggal is also the Conference Director of the International Conference on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity, being world's only authoritative Conference on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity. In addition, Dr. Duggal has also conducted various Round Tables on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity over the last couple of years. He has also organized various Thematic Workshops at the previously held ITU WSIS Forums.

Topics

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cultural Diversity
- Cybersecurity
- Digital Divide
- Digital Economy
- Digital Inclusion
- Digital Transformation
- Education
- Environment
- Ethics
- Infrastructure
- Machine Learning
- Media
- Smart Cities

WSIS Action Lines

 WSIS ACTION LINE 1 PROMOTION OF ICTs FOR DEVELOPMENT	 WSIS ACTION LINE 2 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE	 WSIS ACTION LINE 3 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE	 WSIS ACTION LINE 4 CAPACITY BUILDING
 WSIS ACTION LINE 5 BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY IN THE USE OF ICTs	 WSIS ACTION LINE 6 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	 WSIS ACTION LINE 7 GOVERNANCE	 WSIS ACTION LINE 8 BUSINESS
 WSIS ACTION LINE 9 HEALTH	 WSIS ACTION LINE 10 CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND LOCAL CONTENT	 WSIS ACTION LINE 11 MEDIA	 WSIS ACTION LINE 12 ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The workshop will consider all the different impacts and fragilities related to digital transition. Taking adequately into account: ethics, privacy, human rights, freedom of expression and information, access to information and digital infrastructure, sustainability, environment and human ecosystem, cultural enjoyment continuity, cybersecurity, cyber-world resilience, need to improve capacity and establish a culture of security.

Sustainable Development Goals

The WSIS Action Lines and UN SDGs are interrelated the discussion topics will carefully consider the enlisted goal, with specific relation to goal 4, goal 7, goal 8, goal 9, goal 12, and goal 16.

Documents

- [Session_161_Outcome_Document_-_Can_cyber_tech_nology_be_resilient_and_green.pdf](#)
- [Digital entrapment: tangible and intangible impact](#)
- [The digital transformation "new normal"](#)

Links

The present session has close links with UNSCO IFAP reports, Cyber Ethics reports, Cyber Defence reports.





**WSIS
FORUM 2023**

13-17 March 2023

Virtual Workshops in April & May

WSIS Forum 2023

Outcome Document

(draft as of 31 July 2023)

*WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the
achievement of the SDGs*

Disclaimer

Please note the WSIS Forum 2023 Outcome Document is a compilation of the outcomes of the sessions (Thematic Workshops, Country Workshops, Action Line Facilitation Meetings, High-Level Policy Sessions, and many more) submitted to the WSIS Secretariat by the organizations responsible for their respective sessions. ITU does not hold any responsibility for the outcomes provided by the organizers of the sessions for the WSIS Forum 2023.

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WSIS FORUM 2023: INTRODUCTION

The annual World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum is a global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-facilitators and more than 30 UN agencies. The Forum provides an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, while identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships, taking into account the evolving information and knowledge societies.

The WSIS Forum 2023 hybrid week was held from **13 to 17 March** in Geneva, Switzerland, and brought together experts, policymakers, and diverse stakeholders from around the world to discuss information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development. This year's Forum theme is WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating The Forum hybrid week welcomed over **2,700 participants** attending both on-site and remotely, from 150 countries worldwide. The Forum gathered more than **150 high-level representatives** of the wider WSIS stakeholder community, including Ministers and Deputies, Ambassadors; and leaders from the private sector, academia and civil society.

This year's Forum hybrid week had several innovative session formats and featured around **250 sessions**, including open space talks, thematic workshops, country workshops, WSIS Action Lines Facilitation Meetings, knowledge cafes, WSIS Prizes, high-level track sessions, and many more. The stakeholders appreciated the new innovative formats, which fostered more participatory and collaborative exchanges with engaging dialogues.

The WSIS Forum 2023 continued with virtual workshops from April to May 2023. These workshops brought together a cumulative total of 5,000 participants (*livestreams and session recordings on Zoom and Facebook*). The event featured 50 virtual workshops and showcased the expertise of over 200 speakers.

The WSIS Forum 2023 saw a significant milestone, as the first female Chairperson, **H.E. Dr. Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Minister of Digital Transformation, Republic of Slovenia**, chairing the WSIS Forum 2023. Summarizing the high-level track, the Chairperson highlighted that "international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement are the key, therefore, processes as WSIS are an immense contribution. They bring us together to meet and build meaningful partnership. And they are of immense help on our way towards achieving sustainable development goals".

The concrete outcomes of WSIS Forum 2023 will enable stakeholders to strengthen implementation of WSIS Action Lines and the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes. Some of the highlights and key outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2023 are the following:

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The WSIS Forum 2023 featured **high-level keynote speeches from global leaders**, including the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, who emphasized the importance of the Forum to build a free and fair information society for all people, everywhere; his video message is [available here](#).
- **30+ exhibitions** spaces showcased ICTs for sustainable development. The exhibitors displayed a wide range of technologies and innovative solutions addressing global development issues. The WSIS Forum 2023 partners also exhibited their projects and initiatives. The exhibition spaces also featured

virtual reality tools that provided participants with different immersive experiences, such as to explore the reality of the indigenous people of the Amazon, to explore the enigmatic world of M.K.Čiurlionis paintings from Lithuania, and to explore the XR Olympics. The exhibitors came from governments, civil society, private sectors, technical community, academia, youth, and the international organisations. The WSIS Forum 2023 photo contests winners and finalists photos enriched the exhibition space and the venue.

- The [United Nations Group on the Information Society \(UNGIS\)](#) reiterated its commitment to the WSIS process and WSIS Action Lines implementation as well as to strengthen the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes. UNGIS members discussed the preparation of an action plan to leverage the profile of UNGIS and to contribute to other global processes on digital for development issues. Contributions in a video format by the UN Heads of UN Agencies are available on [WSIS Process YouTube channel](#).
- The announcement of the **WSIS Prizes 2023**, as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking, took place during the Forum with **18 winners and 72 champions** celebrated globally for their efforts in implementing WSIS Action Lines and advancing the SDGs. In addition, the winning entries of the [WSIS Forum Photo Contest 2023](#) were unveiled, depicting how ICTs are playing a vital, enabling role on the road to achieve the SDGs.
- **Announcement and awards of the WSIS Special Prizes and Activities have also contributed to the overall celebration of ICTs and its economic, social, cultural, and environmental impact around the world:**
 - 4 WSIS Forum 2023 [Hackathon winners](#): Digital GovHack: Advancing the Digital Economy by Leveraging Emerging Technologies. The WSIS Forum 2023 was jointly organised by ITU, WSIS, and Digital Government Authority of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
 - 1 winner of the [WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize](#).
 - 1 winner, 5 finalists of the [WSIS Digital Service Design Prize 2023](#).
 - Launch of the [WSIS x Generation Connect Youth Prize](#).
- Networking tool: **600 participants** used networking tool **imeetyou@wsis** for networking with onsite participants - LinkedIn.
- The **Ministerial roundtable** at the WSIS Forum 2023 (13-17 March), benefited from the presence and contributions of 40 Ministers/Deputies. In an innovative format with 3 breakout rooms chaired by Ministers (Gambia, Philippines, UAE), 3 topics were discussed:
 - ICTs rescuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs
 - World Summit Information Society Ministerial Contribution to the Global Digital Compact Consultations
 - Exploring the Potential of Space for all as a Driver of Sustainable Development

The Ministerial roundtable of WSIS Forum 2023 concluded with the following:

- They emphasized that harnessing the power of digital will be vital to rescuing the SDGs. ICTs are a powerful tool that should be fully leveraged towards this goal. The WSIS process provides an existing and well-functioning framework for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.
- They invited all stakeholders to harness the power of digital and leverage the alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, as well as the SDG Digital Day to accelerate the achievement the SDGs.
- They recognized that discussions on Our Common Agenda and especially its Global Digital Compact are complementary to the WSIS Framework. Therefore, they invited all stakeholders to leverage the learnings of the implementation of the WSIS Framework and related process in their deliberations of Our Common Agenda.

- They recognized the enormous potential that Space holds in global efforts to connect the unconnected and beyond. Thus, they invited all stakeholders to work together to ensure that Space is leveraged in a safe and sustainable manner.
- The WSIS Forum 2023 **Ambassadors roundtable** discussion took place on 13 March 2023, featuring approximately 50 Ambassadors to UN in Geneva, where they deliberated on the following topics:
 - Leveraging the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the need to bring about an inclusive, prosperous, sustainable, safe and trusted digital future for all;
 - Meaningful communication and Geneva community's role in effective implementation of UN Processes;
 - WSIS+20 review process and the future of WSIS beyond 2025 – identifying emerging trends, challenges and opportunities for implementing the WSIS Action Lines;
 - WSIS+20 review and the Global Digital Compact (GDC)
 - GDC discussions could consider ongoing multistakeholder discussions on WSIS+20. The WSIS Action Lines are particularly important as they capture emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges in the digital world beyond 2025. WSIS Forum will continue to play an important role in digitalization;
 - Global Digital Compact process must reflect the needs of developing countries to create more equitable prosperity and reduce structural inequalities. Questions on the GDC process, including its linkages with the Summit of the Future, were raised. Mexico informed that during the GDC discussions in Mexico, the imperative of closing the digital divides was discussed to produce tangible elements to be included in the future Global Digital Compact to be adopted at the Summit of the Future in 2024;
 - To avoid duplication, the WSIS+20, Global Digital Compact, and Summit of the Future should be synergized. Some highlighted strengthening the role and contribution of the Geneva community towards can contribute to Global Digital Compact discussions with Sweden, Rwanda, and the UN Tech Envoy. WSIS+20 is important to achieve the common goal of connecting humanity.
- The WSIS Forum 2023 provided a platform for **multistakeholder consultations on the WSIS+20 review**. The discussions reflected on the achievements of the WSIS process in the past 20 years, its future direction, and its interconnection with other global processes, including the Global Digital Compact. Despite the progress made in the past 20 years of the WSIS process, there are still many complex challenges to overcome. It is paramount to maintain the momentum towards a digital future that is inclusive and sustainable, with technology serving the needs of everyone, leaving no one behind. All stakeholders are invited to contribute to the WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event in Geneva, from 27 to 31 May 2024, and its upcoming open consultation process, which aims to ensure wide participation in and broad ownership of the Forum. The Forum continues to collect input from stakeholders on emerging trends, challenges and opportunities on WSIS Action Lines for 20 years of their implementation and beyond.
- The WSIS Forum 2023 also provided a platform for **multistakeholder discussions on the Global Digital Compact**. The co-facilitators of the GDC, H.E. Mr. Claver Gatete, Ambassador of Rwanda, and H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Ambassador of Sweden, were present at the WSIS Forum and had the opportunity to interact and listen to the views of multistakeholders on the future on GDC and the importance of the WSIS process beyond 2025. Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, was also present at the Forum.
- For its second edition, the [Mayors track](#) at the WSIS Forum 2023, co-organized by ITU and Geneva Cities Hub, provided an opportunity to discuss how smart cities are the drivers of innovative sustainable development and enablers to respond to challenges related to climate change and achievement of the SDGs. Mayors presented concrete projects and local achievements on scalable and replicable good practices of digital solutions for climate change adaptation and energy transition. They also interacted during a multistakeholder [High-Level Dialogue](#) engaging with High-Level

representatives from the private sector, UN organizations and the civil society on ways to accelerate digital transformation and building more resilient cities.

- Along with the Forum and High-Level Track sessions, the WSIS Forum 2023 also featured a variety of [social events](#) that provide on-site participants with opportunities to network and engage in an informal setting.
- Permanent Mission of India organised **Yoga: wellbeing and mindfulness sessions** with professional instructors during the WSIS Forum 2023, which provided on-site participants with breathing exercises to relax and unwind from the busy Forum schedule as well as to improve the mindfulness.
- The virtual component of the WSIS Forum 2023 expanded the Forum's outreach, enabling active engagement, learning, and knowledge sharing for participants globally in a digital environment.
- ITU piloted a new application called WORDLY that provides AI Interpretation, captioning and translation during the accessibility sessions at the WSIS Forum 2023 virtual workshops. This is a cloud based solution that provides these services in more than 25 languages, including the six official languages of the UN.
- The daily video highlights and interviews are [available here](#). For the WSIS Forum 2023 pictures and photos, please [see here](#).

OUTCOMES:

- Documents:
 - [WSIS Forum 2023: Outcome Document](#)
 - [WSIS Forum 2023 High-Level Track Outcomes and Executive Brief](#)
 - [WSIS Stocktaking Report 2023](#)
 - [WSIS Stocktaking Success Stories 2023](#)
 - [WSIS Forum 2023 and SDG Matrix](#)
 - [WSIS Forum 2023 Report WSIS Action Lines: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels](#)
- The Forum also provided opportunities for stakeholders to fostering new partnerships and collaborations among different stakeholders, promoting knowledge-sharing and collective action towards digital cooperation.
- [#WSIS](#) was the 6th trending hashtag on Twitter in Switzerland during the High-Level segment.
- The WSIS Forum 2023 highlighted innovative ICT solutions and best practices from around the world, showcasing the potential of digital technologies to drive sustainable development and social progress.

IMPACT:

- The WSIS Forum 2023 contributed to advancing the global digital agenda and promoting the use of ICTs for sustainable development, through the multistakeholder approach, fostering dialogue and meaningful discussions around key ICT-related issues and trends.
- The WSIS Forum 2023 provided an open, crowdsourced, and inclusive platform for building networks and partnerships, facilitating the exchange of ideas, best practices and experiences, and promoting collective action towards achieving global goals.
- The Forum demonstrated a strong commitment and active participation from stakeholders across all sectors, including governments, private sector, technical communities, civil society, and academia to the shared vision of the WSIS. The engagement and contributions of these stakeholders were critical in shaping the discussions and outcomes of the Forum and in driving progress towards achieving the WSIS and SDG goals.
- The Forum proved the WSIS process and the WSIS Action Lines to be a good example of a well-functioning framework for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and this global platform

continues to evolve reflecting the scope, pace, complexity, and impact of today's digital transformation.

- UN WSIS Action Line Facilitators, ILO, ITC, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNDESA, UNESCO, UNEP, UPU, WHO, WMO, and UPU assessed the contribution of the Action Lines since 2003 and discussed the challenges and opportunities.

The WSIS Forum 2023 has been successful, thanks to the commitment and generous support of our partners:

- Platinum partner: United Arab Emirates
- Gold Plus partner: Saudi Arabia
- Partners for Specific Activities: Japan, Huawei, IEEE
- Contributing Partners: Bahrain, Rwanda, Switzerland, United Kingdom, ICANN, ISOC
- Supporting partners: The General Delegation of Wallonia-Brussels, Belgium; Global Coalition On Aging; IFIP; Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

All stakeholders are invited to participate and contribute actively to the **WSIS Forum 2024**, which will be branded as WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event, scheduled to take place from **27 to 31 May 2024** in Geneva, Switzerland.

OPEN CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Open Consultation Process of the WSIS Forum aims at ensuring the participatory and inclusive spirit of the gathering. It actively engages governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and intergovernmental organizations in the preparatory process ensuring multi-stakeholder participation and constant evolution of the Forum.

ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP invited all WSIS stakeholders to contribute to the Open Consultation Process on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format of the WSIS Forum 2023. The invitation letter is available here: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Files/ocp/WF23OCP0INV-en.pdf>

The annual WSIS Forum Open Consultation Process was appreciated by the stakeholders as a platform that provides an equal opportunity to participate in building the Agenda and Programme of the Forum.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2023 was structured in five phases as follows:

Phase I: Virtual Launch of the Open Consultation Process

The virtual launch of the open consultations took place on **Wednesday 7 September 2022, 13:00–14:00 CEST**. Stakeholders were invited to participate remotely through the remote participation facilities.

Open calls for the WSIS Forum 2023 were announced. More information available here: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Home/Consultations>

[Presentation](#)

Phase II: First Physical Meeting

The 1st Meeting of the open consultations took place on **Wednesday 30 November 2022, 10:00–11:15 CET (12:00-13:15 EAT)** during IGF 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Remote participation facilities were made available for this meeting.

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

Phase III: Second Physical Meeting & Special WSIS Forum 2022 Chairman Session

The 2nd Meeting of the open consultations & Special WSIS Forum 2022 Chairman Session took place on **Friday 27 January 2023, 14:00 to 15:00 CET**. Remote participation facilities were made available for this meeting.

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

Phase IV: Deadline for Submissions of Official Contributors and Binding Requests for Workshops 1 February 2023

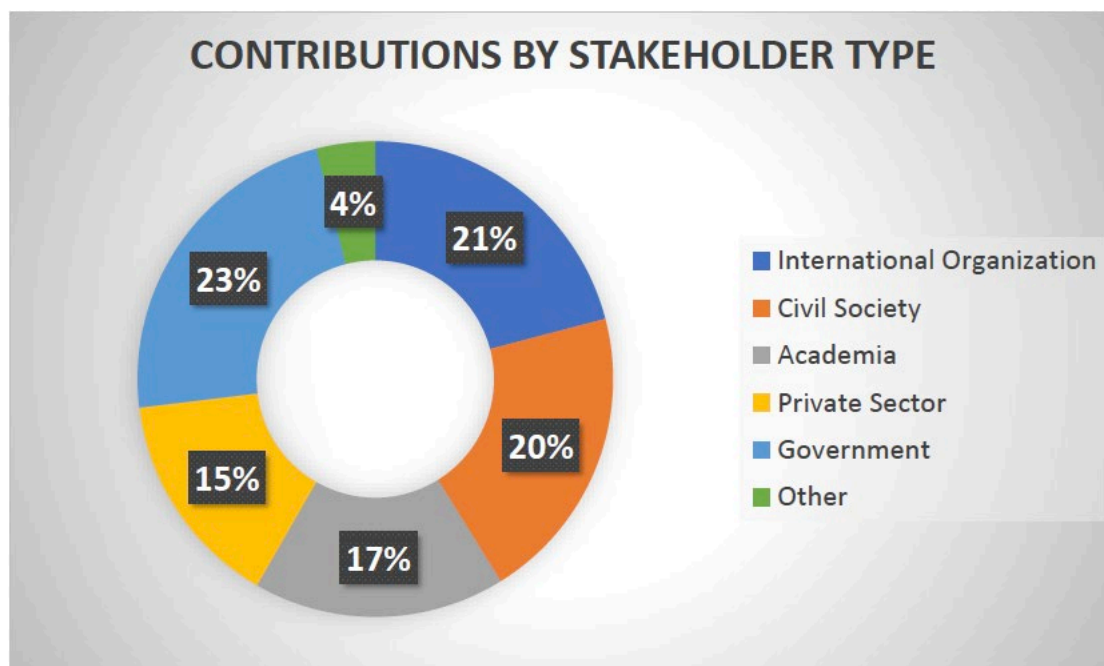
Phase V: Third meeting

The 3rd meeting of the open consultations took place on **Monday 13 February 2023, 14:00 to 15:00 CET**. Remote participation facilities were made available for this meeting.

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

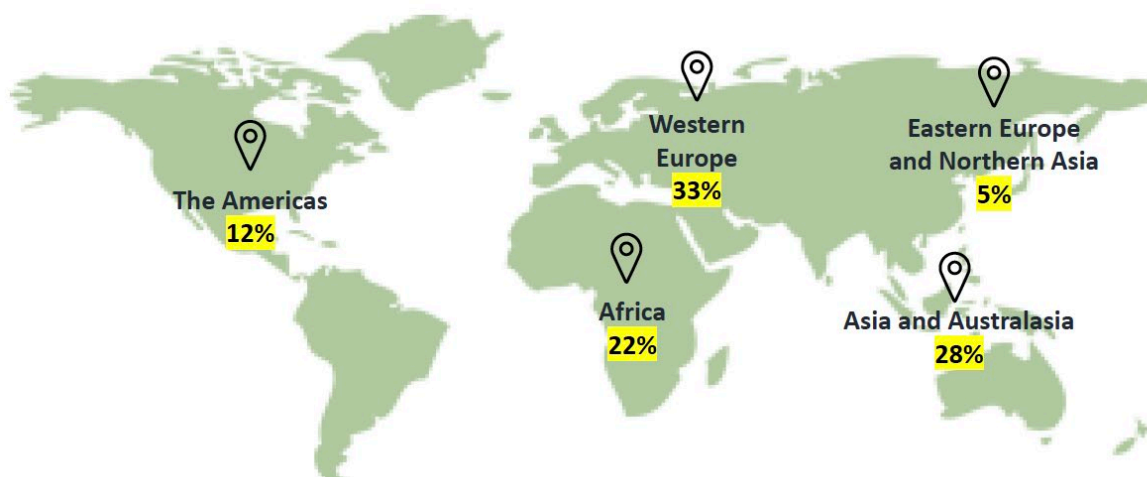
Please see below the submissions by Stakeholder Type:



Please note that the agenda of the WSIS Forum includes the engagement of more than 32 United Nations (UN) Agencies, including UN Regional Commissions.

The statistics represent the submissions and suggestions received through the Open Consultation Process of the WSIS Forum 2023.

Please see below the submissions by regions:



PARTICIPATION AT THE WSIS FORUM 2023



WSIS FORUM 2023 IN NUMBERS


WSIS ACTION LINES FOR BUILDING BACK BETTER AND
ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

13-17 March 2023



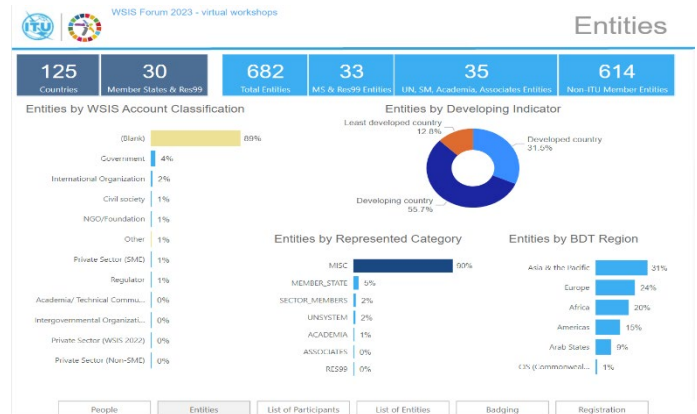
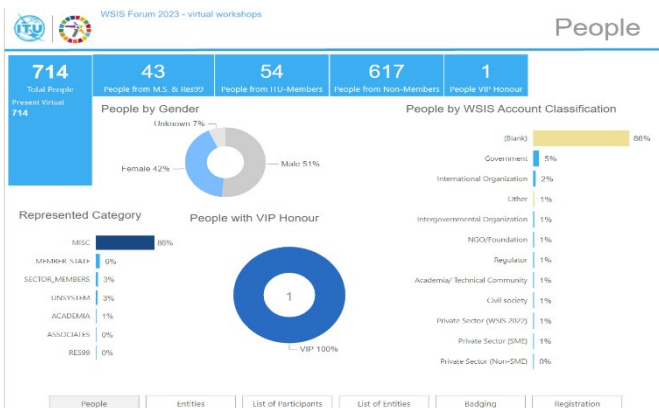
2,700+

On-Site and Remote
Participants



600+

Participants using
iMeetYou@WSIS
Networking Tool



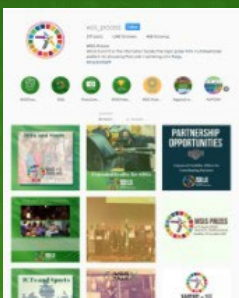
SOCIAL MEDIA AT THE WSIS FORUM 2023

The WSIS Forum is a widely followed event by all WSIS stakeholders, using different media including the social ones. The WSIS Process accounts on multiple platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. #WSIS was the 6th trending hashtag on Twitter in Switzerland during the High-Level segment.



Social Media channels

Follow #WSIS and stay up to date with our latest news across our different social media channels



OPENING SEGMENT

WSIS Forum 2023 Opening Segment

The WSIS Forum is a multistakeholder platform to coordinate implementation activities, exchange information and knowledge, showcase innovation, share best practices, and foster partnerships to ensure ICTs remain a key enabler in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under this year's theme, “WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs”, the WSIS Forum continues to highlight the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The WSIS process is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is highly dependent on ICTs for its implementation.

The Opening Segment consisted of opening statements from the WSIS Forum 2023 co-organizers, UN partners, sponsors, and representatives of stakeholders engaged in the WSIS Process.

The opening segment of the WSIS Forum 2023 was structured as follows:

- **09:00-10:00 Opening Ceremony**
- **10:00-10:15 Appointment of Chairperson**
- **10:15–11:15 Digital Cooperation and partnerships for inclusive sustainable development**
- **11:15-12:15 High-Level Strategic Dialogue: WSIS+20 and the future of WSIS beyond 2025**

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES

High-Level Dialogue: Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Citizen centric digital service design WSIS Digital Service Design Prize (ITU)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/298>

Organization: ITU

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Summary of Session: High-Level Dialogue: Digital Governance and Capacity Building

UNESCO

15 March 2023, 11:00-12:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/396>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Importance of digital competencies (technical and soft): This includes the competencies mentioned in the AI and Digital Transformation Competencies for Civil Servants framework published by UNESCO, such as strategic foresight, data-driven decision making and the awareness and development of legal, regulatory and ethical frameworks. This also includes the attitudes mentioned in the framework, such as trust, adaptability, curiosity, creativity, experimentation, that support the development of the more technical competencies.
- Needs of capacity building at all levels, including at the municipal level where officials implement digital programmes. Having civil servants equipped with digital competencies at all levels ensures that the whole workflow is informed by a digitally-aware and holistic perspective.
- Addressing digital divides, including gender and North-South disparities. As a mitigation measure one of the speakers suggested to run policy hackathons that brings minds together to improve capacities, policies while addressing the digital divide.
- The crucial role of leaders in promoting digital culture and mindset and investing in the capacity building of their staff, particularly in the public sector. This leads to compounding effects where digital competencies and attitudes that support the development of digital competencies are reinforced, over time and with practice.
- Emphasizing the importance of a multistakeholder approach. Within government, a multistakeholder approach enables regulators, policymakers and implementers to collaborate effectively. On a regional or international level, it can allow the pooling of resources across borders to address cost and capacity issues.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The emerging trends include:

- A focus on digital capacity building at all levels of policymakers
- A renewed focus by the leadership in organisations to develop digital competencies for themselves and for their teams
- A reliance on multistakeholder approaches to leverage on the competencies, skills and knowledge of multiple stakeholder groups for the common good
- Given the emerging trends, the WSIS+20 review can serve as a framework to close digital divides, build digital capacities, reinforce multistakeholderism and further harness digital transformation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- By gathering the global community to tackle challenges of digital transformation in line with the UN General Assembly's Overall Review and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the WSIS+20 review is an opportunity for experts of ICTs for sustainable development to access tools to strengthen their alignment with the UN SG's roadmap of digital cooperation and Global Digital Compact for the completion of the SDGs.
- Thus, UNESCO aims to continue building synergies with the WSIS community to deepen digital collaboration and sustainable development through the ROAM principles and WSIS+20 review.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- More than 100 participants attended the meeting at WSIS and an additional 74 participants attended the session in a hybrid format to learn about digital capacity building.
- Launch of the Dynamic Coalition for Digital Capacity Building – an informal network of leaders and experts from around the world to share good practices on digital capacity building. With interest to join from representatives from Slovenia, Estonia and Law Tech Africa, we continue to enrich the conversations on digital capacity building and addressing of digital governance challenges.
- Speakers agreed that digital capacity building is of prime importance, additionally, it goes beyond the development of technical skills to include the competencies and attitudes that promote digital transformation at a team-, organizational-, and country-level.
- There is a need for more collaboration across different stakeholder groups to promote the holistic, smooth and sustainable digital transformation of any organization. There is also a need for more transnational and trans-organizational collaboration to leverage on each group's unique strengths and capacities for the good of all.

- In response to the strong demand expressed at this session, UNESCO commits to continue advocating for the digital capacity building of its stakeholders in more countries, particularly in the Global South, to contribute to formulating responses for the WSIS Actions Line 3 on Access, Line 9 on media, Line 10 on Ethics and Line 11 on international cooperation.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- UNESCO continues to intervene at the national, regional and international level, in the area of digital capacity building for policymakers and judicial operators, with a focus on Africa.
- UNESCO plans to facilitate three digital capacity regional trainings – one with partners in the Africa-Asia Policymaker Network in March 2023, one with judicial operators based in Africa with Smart Africa in mid-2023, and other Kenyan AI Forum in June 2023.
- UNESCO is organizing an international digital capacity building training with the AI for Good Alliance in May 2023.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Digital capacity building for policymakers and judicial operators and interventions on the opportunities, challenges and solutions on the use of AI on the Rule of Law. These should also include interventions on priorities such as closing the digital divide between the global North and the global South and between men, women and gender minorities.

High-Level Dialogue: How New Technologies Can Foster Digital Inclusion: A Multistakeholder Input to the Global Digital Compact (German Federal Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Office of the UN Secretary-Generals Envoy on Technology, the Government of Mexico and ITU)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/399>

Organization: German Federal Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Office of the UN Secretary-Generals Envoy on Technology, the Government of Mexico and ITU

Date: Wednesday, 15 March 2023

High-Level Dialogue on the Implementation of the UNESCO Open Educational Resources (OER) Recommendation (UNESCO)

Summary of Session: High-Level Dialogue on the Implementation of the UNESCO Open Educational Resources (OER) Recommendation (UNESCO)

UNESCO

Wednesday, 15 March 2023 15.00-16.30 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/398>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- In the development of open digital platforms, focus must be on the development of a people-centered, inclusive and development focused information society where everyone can create, access, use, and share information and knowledge, in line with the objectives of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER. Accessibility must guide all design decisions, teaching must be interactive, media fit for purpose, promote gender equality, the learner must be at the center, and the learner may be a teacher.
- The OER Recommendation is the essential instrument that can catalyze this organization that we have in terms of collaborating and strengthening access to information as a public good as well as strengthening and advancing the right to education and digital skills around the world which is the foundation on which Knowledge Societies rest. Inclusive Knowledge societies should aim not just to create knowledge, but to pass it on.
- This normative instrument is relevant to the theme of WSIS 2023: WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs as it has the potential to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities within and across countries), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).
- To solve the most fundamental problems globally, including solutions to achieve SDGs, knowledge must be open. OER can support lifelong learning, and skills training at low cost and with high impact.
- OER is vital for those in vulnerable situations, for this reason, it is important that OER materials are put together, bearing in mind issues of privacy, not showing information that is less inclusive, less helpful. This is also relevant when designing OER platforms, it is important to ensure that responsible data protection policies apply the same way that

libraries look to apply responsible data protection for their users: minimizing data collection, being clear about what you are collecting, really offering users a transparent and meaningful choice when using OER platforms

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Emerging trends include the extended use of platforms for curating, finding and sharing learning resources and the related need to ensure that these resources are effectively openly licensed.
- Further emerging trends include the use of ChatGPT, Metaverse, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality use for learning and teaching
- Challenges include privacy issues, ensuring that data collection and use is in line with the highest standards of privacy to protect users and developers of materials. This is particularly important as OER is an effective tool for ensuring knowledge sharing and learning opportunities for vulnerable groups. Security embedded throughout the process for creation Ethical conduct in terms of content provision and permissible usage must be clear to all users
- Opportunities include the possibility to ensure learning and knowledge sharing for low cost with very large reach to support the effective development of inclusive knowledge societies.
- Opportunities also include the possibility to use OER to support lifelong learning at scale in order to support the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- Key achievements: identification of best practices in the use of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER to support lifelong learning with a focus on platforms for learning.
- Agreement on the importance of ensuring the highest level of privacy measures for data and cyber security when using OER
- Agreement on the key role of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER for supporting the effective development and use of platforms, and the importance of OER on these platforms.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- The importance of leveraging the UNESCO Recommendation on OER 2019 to guide Governments through the crucial digital ecosystems needed for the establishment and maintenance of free, high quality open educational resources and platforms
- This would necessitate a multistakeholder approach bringing together collaborative links between Governments, institutions (e.g. educational, cultural – including libraries) and civil society with a view to supporting the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030 by fostering lifelong learning.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Use of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER to support the building of inclusive Knowledge Societies

High level Dialogue: Accelerating Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Digital Development (ITU/South Africa Mission)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/395>

Organization: ITU/South Africa Mission

Date: Wednesday, 15 March 2023

Summary of Session: Setting Standards for Sustainable Development: Adopting a rights-based approach to technical standard setting

ITU

16 March 2023

[Session 368](#) - Setting Standards for Sustainable Development: Adopting a rights-based approach to technical standard setting

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Importance of integrating human rights considerations into technical standards setting
- Need for inclusive, transparent, and human-centered processes in creating technical standards.
- Importance of interdisciplinary expertise in shaping the future of technology.
- Need for closer collaboration between technical standards and human rights communities.
- Importance of increasing representation of civil society voices, including from the Global South.
- Progress made by standard-setting organizations towards making their processes more inclusive and inviting.
- Need to actively work towards better integrating human rights within technical setting processes.
- Role of technical standards in shaping technology and markets.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Increased awareness about human rights within standard-setting organizations and their members.
- Recognition of the interplay between different factors in standards development.
- Importance of replicating collaboration models used for artificial intelligence and potentially applying them to human rights as well.
- Need for smart regulations and legislation to guide the development of technical standards.

- Importance of stakeholder engagement and balanced representation in technical standard-setting processes.
- Capacity building, collaboration and partnerships, funding and support, and stakeholder participation and input can support the integration of human rights into technical standards.
- Inclusion of more diverse stakeholders in the standards development process is crucial.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- IEC initiatives that are addressing human rights concerns, including the development of AI standards that prioritize fairness, creating gender-responsive standards, and promoting access to energy as a basic human right.
- ISO's Social Responsibility Standards have been in place for over 10 years, with a specific clause on human rights included in ISO 26000.
- ISO is currently working on standards related to food loss and waste, gender equality, occupational health and safety, sustainable production and consumption, and modern slavery and human trafficking.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Foster inclusion and engage with all voices in technical standard-setting processes.
- Provide capacity building, collaboration and partnerships, funding and support, and stakeholder participation and input to support the integration of human rights into technical standards.
- Develop smart regulations and legislation to guide the development of technical standards.
- Recognize the interplay between different factors in standards development.
- Replicate collaboration models used for artificial intelligence and potentially apply them to human rights as well.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- The role of technical standards in shaping technology and markets
- Inclusive, transparent, and human-centered processes for creating technical standards
- Importance of interdisciplinary expertise in shaping the future of technology
- Integration of human rights considerations into technical standards setting
- Collaboration between technical standards and human rights communities

- Representation of civil society voices, including from the Global South, in technical standard-setting processes
- Smart regulations and legislation to guide the development of technical standards
- Importance of stakeholder engagement and balanced representation in technical standard-setting processes

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SESSIONS

<u>HLPS 1: Bridging Digital Divides</u>	<u>HLPS 2: Enabling Environment</u>	<u>HLPS 3: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs</u>
<p>HLTF: Ms. Meni Anastasiadou, Digital Policy Advisor, ICC</p> <p>WALF: Bilel Jamoussi, Chief, Study Groups Department, Standardization Bureau, ITU</p>	<p>HLTF: Ms. Anja Jeanette Haga, Policy Manager, Access Partnership</p> <p>WALF: Stephen Bereaux, Deputy Director, BDT, ITU</p>	<p>HLTF: Karen Mulberry, Senior Manager, Public Affairs, IEEE</p> <p>WALF: Mr. Preetam Maloor, Head of Emerging Technology Division, ITU</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gabon: H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre Doukaga Kassa, Minister, Ministry of Digital Economy 2. Kenya (Republic of): H.E. Mr. Eliud Owalo, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy 3. Video: Argentine Republic: H.E. Ms. Micaela Sanchez Malcolm, Secretary, Secretariat of Public Innovation 4. Switzerland (Confederation of): Mr. Bernard Maissen, Director General, Federal Office of Communications [Media] 5. Remote: Colombia (Republic of): Mr. Nicolás Silva, Executive Director, Comisión de Regulación de Comunicaciones 6. Poland (Republic of): Dr. Jacek Oko, President of the Office of Electronic Communications, UKE 7. Remote: Mexico: Ms. Rebeca Escobar, Head of Studies Center, IFT 8. Eli Lilly & Company, Ms. Phyllis Barkman Ferrell, Global Head, External Engagement, Alzheimer's Disease and Neurodegeneration 9. Stockholm University: Dr. Caroline Wamala Larsson, Associate Professor, Director of SPIDER 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Somalia (Federal Republic of): H.E. Mr. Jama Hassan Khalif, Minister, Ministry of Communications and Technology 2. United States of America: Mr. Stephan A. Lang, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Communications & Information Policy, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy 3. Remote: Uruguay (Eastern Republic of): Dr. Mercedes Aramendia Aramendia Falco, Presidenta de Directorio de URSEC, Unidad Reguladora de Servicios de Comunicaciones -URSEC 4. Zimbabwe (Republic of): Dr. Gift Kallisto Machengete, Director General, Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe 5. Georgia: Ms. Ekaterine Imedadze, Commissioner, Georgian National Communications Commission 6. Remote: IEEE: Mr. Thomas Coughlin, 2023 IEEE President Elect 7. Remote: ICC: Mr. Andrew Wilson, Global Policy Director 8. Remote: ISOC: Ms. Sally Wentworth, Managing Director 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gambia (Republic of the): H.E. Mr. Ousman A. Bah, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Information & Communications Infrastructure 2. Nigeria: Dr Femi, Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy of Nigeria 3. Thailand: H.E. Mr. Chaiwut Thanakamanusorn, Minister, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand 4. Tunisia: H.E. Dr. Nizar Ben Néji, Minister, Ministry of communication technologies 5. United Arab Emirates: Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cybersecurity for the UAE Government 6. Zimbabwe (Republic of): H.E. Dr. Jenfan Muswere, Minister, Ministry of ICT, Postal and Courier Services 7. France: H.E. Mr. Henri Verdier, Ambassador for Digital Affairs, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs 8. EDDS: Dr. Velislava Hillman, Founder and CEO 9. CYBERPEACE INSTITUTE: Mr. Stéphane Duguin, CEO 10. eWorldwide Group: Prof. Salma Abbasi, Chairperson and CEO 11. Remote: South School on Internet Governance SSIG: Dr. Olga Cavalli, Director

<p><u>HLPS 4: Inclusiveness – Access to Information And Knowledge For All / Bridging Digital Divides</u></p> <p>HLTF: Dr. Alessandro Caforio, Doctor of Psychology, UNINETTUNO</p> <p>WALF: Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slovenia: H.E. Dr. Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Minister, Ministry of Digital Transformation 2. Poland (Republic of): H.E. Mr. Pawel Lewandowski, Undersecretary of State for digital affairs, Chancellery of the Prime Minister 3. Remote: Türkiye: Mr. Omer Fatih Sayan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure 4. Nigeria: Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, Director General/Chief Executive Officer, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) 5. Remote: Costa Rica: Eng. Gilbert Camacho Mora, Council Member, Superintendence of Telecommunications 6. Remote: Peru: Mr. Rafael Eduardo Muenta Schwarz, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Organismo Supervisor de Inversión Privada en Telecomunicaciones 7. Qatar (State of): Ms. Mashael Al Hammadi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of Government Information Technology Affairs, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 8. Open Health Network: Ms. Tatyana Kanzaveli, CEO 9. Remote: BNNRC: Mr. AHM Bazlur Rahman, CEO 	<p><u>HLPS 5: Bridging Digital Divides</u></p> <p>HLTF: Mr. Pierre Mirlesse, Smart City Consultant, Managing Director, Partner360.net</p> <p>WALF: Mr. Jaroslaw K. PONDER, Head of Europe Office, ITU</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burundi (Republic of): H.E. Ms. Léocadie NDACAYISABA, Minister, Ministère de la Communication des Technologies de l'information et des Médias 2. Timor-Leste: H.E. Mr. Jose Agostinho da Silva, Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications 3. South Africa (Republic of): H.E. Mr. Phillemon Mapulane, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies 4. Dominican Republic: Dr. Nelson de Jesús Arroyo Perdomo, Presidente del Consejo Directivo, Instituto Dominicano de las Telecomunicaciones (INDOTEL) 5. Malaysia: Ms. Bawani Selvaratnam, Chief Development Officer, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission 6. Remote: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Mr. Drasko Milinovic, Director General, Communications Regulatory Agency 7. Remote: Brazil (Federative Republic of): Mr. Carlos Manuel Baigorri, President, National Telecommunication Agency – Anatel 8. [Spanish]Remote: Mexico: Ms. Carlos Gorostiza, General Director, the Undersecretariat of Transport 9. GESDA: Mr. Alexandre Fasel, Swiss Special Representative for Science and Diplomacy 10. Remote: Intel Corporation: Ms. Jayne Stancavage, Vice President, Policy and Regulatory Affairs 	<p><u>HLPS 6: Digital Economy and Trade / Financing for ICT</u></p> <p>HLTF: Mr. Antonio Luque, Professor of Electronics Engineering, University of Seville</p> <p>WALF: Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head of the E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comoros: H.E. Mr. Kamalidini Souef, Ministre, Ministère des Postes, des Télécommunications et de l'Economie Numérique 2. Zambia (Republic of): Mr. FELIX C. MUTATI, Minister, Ministry of Technology and Science 3. Remote: Armenia: H.E. Mr. Robert Khachatryan, Minister, Ministry of High-Tech Industry 4. Remote: Bahrain (Kingdom of): H.E. Mr. Mohamed bin Thamer Al Kaabi, Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication 5. Remote: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: H.E. Mr. Paul Scully MP, Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) 6. India (Republic of): Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India 7. Lithuania (Republic of): Ms. Jūratė Šovienė, Chair of the Council, Communications Regulatory Authority 8. People Centered Internet: Ms. Mei Lin Fung: Chair and Co-Founder
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<p><u>HLPS 7: Ethical Dimensions of Information and Knowledge Societies / Bridging Digital Divides</u></p> <p>HLTF: Dr. Caterina M. Berbenni-Rehm, Founder & CEO, PROMIS@Service:</p> <p>WALF: Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remote: Cambodia (Kingdom of) : H.E. Sok Puthyuth, Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications 2. Portugal: Mr. João Cadete Matos, Chairman, ANACOM 3. Remote: Pakistan: Aisha Humera, Additional Secretary, Ministry of IT & Telecom of Pakistan 4. Organisation internationale de la Francophonie: Mr. Henri Monceau, DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL AND ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT 5. International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP): Ms. Moira de Roche, Vice President 6. Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative (GeSI): Mr. Luis Neves, CEO and Managing Director 7. EC MEDICI Framework: Prof. Alfredo Ronchi, Secretary General 8. University of Brighton: Dr. Karamjit S Gill, Professor Emeritus 	<p><u>HLPS 8: WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda / Climate Change</u></p> <p>HLTF: Prof. Abdulkarim Oloyede, Associate Professor Department of Telecommunication Science, University of Ilorin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tanzania (United Republic of): H.E. Eng. Kundo Andrea Mathew (MP), Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology. 2. Romania: Ms. Maria Manuela Catrina, Undersecretary of State, Deputy Director, National Cyber Security Directorate 3. Sweden: Mr. Dan Sjoblom, Director General, Swedish Post and Telecom Authority 4. Estonia (Republic of): H.E. Dr. Nele Leosk, Ambassador-at-Large for Digital Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 5. Huawei: Dr. Cao Hui, Head Of Strategy & Policy, Huawei Eu Public Affairs And Communication Office 6. 4QT: Eng. Marc Vetter, Co-Founder, President of the Board and CEO 7. International Commission on Cyber Security law: Dr. PAVAN DUGGAL, Chairman 8. The UN Brief : Ms. Maya Plentz, Director 	<p><u>HLPS 9: ICT Applications And Services / Climate Change</u></p> <p>HLTF: Dr. Evelyne A. Tauchnitz, Senior Researcher and Lecturer, Institute of Social Ethics ISE, the University of Lucerne, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UAE : Ms. Mubaraka Ibrahim, Acting Chief Information Officer, Emirates Health Services 2. Remote: Indonesia (Republic of): Dr. Ismail Ismail, Director General of Resource Management and Equipment of Post and Informatics, Ministry Communication and Informatics 3. Mauritius: Mr Dick Christophe NG SUI WA, Chairperson, Information and Technologies Authority 4. Iran: Mr. Emamyman, Adviser to the Minister of ICT, Ministry of ICT 5. State of Palestine (*): Ms. Rania Jaber Naser, General Director of Tech Innovation Center and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology 6. Ukraine: Mr. Slava Banik, Head of eServices Development, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine 7. Telefónica SA: Ms. Laura Fernández, Head of Sustainable Finance 8. Association of India: Mr. NK Goyal, President 9. World Summit Awards: Prof. Peter A. Bruck, Chairperson
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HLPS 10: Bridging Digital Divides

HLTF: Ms. Claire Somerville, Medical anthropologist, lecturer, executive director of the Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute

WALF: Sulyna Abdullah, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General's Office, ITU

1. **Philippines (Republic of the):** H.E. Mr. Ivan John Uy, Secretary, The Department of Information and Communications Technology
2. **Lithuania (Republic of):** Ms. Eglė Markevičiūtė, Vice-Minister, Ministry of the Economy and Innovation
3. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:** Mr. Apollo Knights, Director, National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
4. **Malawi:** Andrew Nyirenda, Director of Economic Regulations, Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority
5. **Germany:** Dr. Irina Soeffky, Director National, European and International Digital Policy, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport
6. **Basic Internet Foundation:** Prof. Josef Noll, Secretary General
7. **The OneGoal Initiative for Governance, Zurich AR/VR Meetup:** Ms. Alève Mine, Founder

Remote: African Tech Unicorn: Ms. Thoko Miya, CEO

HLPS 11: Knowledge Societies, Capacity Building And E-Learning

HLTF: Dr. Liberato C. Bautista, President, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)

WALF: Mr. Paul Donohoe, Digital Economy and Trade Coordinator, UPU

1. **Cuba:** Eng. Wilfredo Gonzalez Vidal, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications of Cuba
2. **Guinea (Republic of):** H.E. Mr. Ousmane Gaoual DIALLO, Minister, Ministère des Postes, des Télécommunications et de l'Économie
3. **Remote: Mauritius:** H.E. Mr. Deepak Balgobin, Minister, Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation of Mauritius
4. **Cyprus (Republic of):** H.E. Dr. Stelios Himonas, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy
5. **Iran:** H.E. Mohammad Javad Zarif Khansari, Vice Minister, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
6. **Remote: Russian Federation:** Mr. Oguriaev Dmitrii, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation
7. **Remote: Türkiye:** Mr. Ömer Abdullah Karagözoğlu, President, Information and Communication Technologies Authority
8. **UNIDO:** Mr. Zou Ciyong, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development
9. **OpenUK: Ms. Amanda Brock**

MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

Session page: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/354>

The **Ministerial roundtable** took place on 15 March 2023 and benefited from the presence and contributions of 40 Ministers/Deputies. In an innovative format with 3 breakout rooms chaired by Ministers (Gambia, Philippines, UAE), 3 topics were discussed:

- ICTs rescuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs
- World Summit Information Society Ministerial Contribution to the Global Digital Compact Consultations
- Exploring the Potential of Space for all as a Driver of Sustainable Development

The Ministerial roundtable of WSIS Forum 2023 concluded with the following:

- They emphasized that harnessing the power of digital will be vital to rescuing the SDGs. ICTs are a powerful tool that should be fully leveraged towards this goal. The WSIS process provides an existing and well-functioning framework for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.
- They invited all stakeholders to harness the power of digital and leverage the alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, as well as the SDG Digital Day to accelerate the achievement the SDGs.
- They recognized that discussions on Our Common Agenda and especially its Global Digital Compact are complementary to the WSIS Framework. Therefore, they invited all stakeholders to leverage the learnings of the implementation of the WSIS Framework and related process in their deliberations of Our Common Agenda.
- They recognized the enormous potential that Space holds in global efforts to connect the unconnected and beyond. Thus, they invited all stakeholders to work together to ensure that Space is leveraged in a safe and sustainable manner.

COUNTRY SESSIONS

ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs special track: Strengthening the collaboration of digital literacy for disabilities (Indonesia)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/181>

Organization: Indonesia

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

The UAE's Digital Journey: From Digital Identity to City SuperApps and Beyond
(United Arab Emirates – Platinum Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/270>

Organization: United Arab Emirates

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Leveraging new technologies and innovation to accelerate the progress towards achieving the SDGs (Saudi Arabia – Gold Plus Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/293>

Organization: Saudi Arabia

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

The future of education: building a digital resilience (Délégation générale Wallonie-Bruxelles à Genève - Mission permanente de Belgique – Supporting Partner)

Summary of Session: The future of education: building a digital resilience

Délégation générale Wallonie-Bruxelles à Genève - Mission permanente de Belgique

13 March 2023 – 15.30-16.30

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/281>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- A resilient education system should adapt quickly to technological change; it should be though beyond the typical 5-year political mandates, it should have at its core an element of equity and sustainability, and it should show that equipment/hardware, is necessary but totally insufficient (must also have technical support and pedagogical trainings);
- OER (Open Educational Resources) are at the core of a resilient educational system that takes digital transformation seriously.
- By 2023, we hope that digital tools and digital as a subject will be naturally included in the act of teaching.
- By 2023 we hope that primary and secondary schools can be connected in networks like universities, to enable exchanges between teachers and learners beyond social and territorial divides (urban/rural schools for instance).
- There is a lot of educational material online that has been made available in a plethora of languages, but there is a lack of discoverability.
- The future of native language through online learning is a crucial question.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- A challenge in the implementation of WSIS action lines is the multiplicity of fora on digital issues in the UN system.
- Likewise, another challenge is the multiplicity of workshops within the WSIS forum, which deal with similar themes and could be merged, if time and linkages were provided to workshop organisers. Therefore, an opportunity to better implement WSIS action lines would be to provide incentives to organisers to merge their workshops if they have similar proposals in their OCP. Sufficient time should be provided to do so.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- New links have emerged between partner organisations in this workshop (UNESCO, Francophonie, Wallonie-Belgium and Rwanda);
- Information about technical cooperation and funding from the Francophonie for projects to develop digital skills has been directly given by the donors to interested participants (programme D-CLIC, Francophonie, supported by the West African development Bank).

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Further promote the WSIS Forum as a place to discuss development digital issues for francophone countries.
- Further promote multilingualism within WSIS for meaningful participation of a truly diverse audience.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Native languages on Internet: meaningful access considering contents in native languages and their discoverability.
- Persistent digital divide in different contexts: North-South; urban/rural; young/old; men/women.
- Presentations of all the UN forums on digital and their differences or redundancies in view of improving the implementation of the SDGs.

Bahrain (Bahrain – Contributing Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/305>

Organization: Bahrain

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

AI-powered Open Educational Resources (OER) for ambitious and transformative action to achieve gender equality and quality education (Slovenia)

Summary of Session: AI-powered Open Educational Resources (OER) for ambitious and transformative action to achieve gender equality and quality education

Slovenia

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 10:00–10:45

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/188>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Challenges and opportunities of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all with the support of the ICT;
- challenges and opportunities in strengthening digital literacy and skills for women and girls;
- potential of Open Educational Resources for inclusive and accessible (digital) education;
- potential of AI solutions to support the no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution of educational open educational resources;
- contribution of responsible use of human-centric and human rights-based information and communication technologies (ICT), including artificial intelligence, to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Agreement on future cooperation and exchange of good practices between Slovenia, Zambia, Tanzania and South Africa in the field of inclusive and accessible education of girls, connectivity of schools, digital competences and skills, cooperation between public and private sector and academia.
- Offer of International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO to support the 4 countries in development of AI-supported solutions for gender equality and quality education.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Exploring common points of interests of collaboration between the countries on concrete projects (such as Slovenia's DigitALL – more women in ICT, South African SA Connect, Tanzania's Access Fund).
- Capitalizing on ITU's initiatives (such as GIGA Initiative, Girls in ICT Day, EQUALS partnership).

- Collaboration with International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO (on initiatives such as Global Network of AI Excellence Centers in AI and Sustainable Development and X5Gon).

Empowering Sustainable Healthcare: Innovations in ICT for a Greener, Healthier Future (United Arab Emirates – Platinum Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/460>

Organization: United Arab Emirates

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

GovStack CIO Digital Leaders Forum (Germany, Estonia, ITU and the Digital Impact Alliance)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/199>

Organization: Germany, Estonia, ITU and the Digital Impact Alliance

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

The UK support to digital development in developing and emerging countries
(United Kingdom – Contributing Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/206>

Organization: United Kingdom

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Harnessing emerging technologies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Role of Government (Rwanda - Contributing Partner)

Summary of Session: Harnessing emerging technologies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Role of Government

RWANDA

16th March 2023, 16:30-17:30 (UTC+01:00T)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/208>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

The session focused on:

- The vital role of governments in promoting the use of emerging technologies to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Examining the current state of government policies related to emerging technologies, and their impact on sustainable development,
- Identifying the key challenges faced by governments in promoting the adoption of emerging technologies for the achievement of the SDGs, and
- Exploring best practices for government approaches that support the responsible and inclusive use of emerging technologies for sustainable development.
- The session provided recommendations for future government policies that can support the integration of emerging technologies into sustainable development strategies.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

Emerging Trends:

- Increasing importance of digital transformation: With the rapid pace of technological advancements, digital transformation has become a critical element for social and economic development. The WSIS Action Lines will need to address the growing demand for digitalization across different sectors.
- Growing need for cybersecurity: As the world becomes more connected, cybersecurity threats have increased, and protecting sensitive information has become a top priority. The WSIS Action Lines need to address the cybersecurity challenges that come with the use of ICTs.
- The rise of 5G technology: The implementation of 5G networks has begun to take shape, and it is expected to have a significant impact on how people and businesses connect and communicate. The WSIS Action Lines need to adapt to the changes brought about by 5G technology.

Challenges:

- The digital divide: Despite the progress made over the past two decades, there is still a significant digital divide between developed and developing countries. Bridging this gap remains a challenge that the WSIS Action Lines must address.
- Privacy concerns: The increasing use of ICTs has raised concerns about privacy and data protection. Addressing these concerns is crucial in ensuring that the benefits of ICTs are not overshadowed by privacy breaches.
- Access to affordable and reliable ICT infrastructure: Access to affordable and reliable ICT infrastructure remains a challenge in many developing countries. The WSIS Action Lines need to prioritize efforts to expand access to ICT infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Achievements:

- Increased access to the internet: The WSIS Action Lines have played a crucial role in increasing access to the internet, particularly in developing countries. As of 2021, more than half of the world's population has access to the internet.
- Improved digital literacy: The WSIS Action Lines have also contributed to improving digital literacy, particularly among vulnerable populations. This has enabled individuals to take advantage of the opportunities presented by ICTs.
- Increased e-commerce and digital trade: The WSIS Action Lines have contributed to the growth of e-commerce and digital trade, which have become important drivers of economic growth and development.

Opportunities:

- Leveraging emerging technologies: The WSIS Action Lines can leverage emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the internet of things (IoT), and blockchain to drive social and economic development.
- Enhancing collaboration: The WSIS Action Lines provide an opportunity for collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia, to drive the implementation of WSIS goals and objectives.
- Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The WSIS Action Lines can contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs, particularly SDG 9, which seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Exploiting emerging technologies means inclusive, collaborative and evidence-based policies to build digital platforms and new services. Government commitment is critical and political will is the driving force to promote the responsible and inclusive use of emerging technologies for sustainable development, through:
 - Developing coherent policies
 - Fostering partnerships and innovation while managing risks
 - Prioritize public safety and privacy
 - Promote capacity building

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- For the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event), several thematic aspects could be included to address the latest challenges and opportunities in the field of information and communication technologies. These may include the impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain on society, the importance of digital inclusivity and access to technology for all, the role of data privacy and cybersecurity in a connected world, the need for international collaboration and regulation in the digital space, and the potential of technology for achieving sustainable development goals. Additionally, issues such as digital literacy, e-governance, and digital entrepreneurship could also be explored to facilitate the advancement of a digital society.

Summary of Session: Strengthening Africa's voices in global digital policy processes

DiploFoundation and Permanent Missions on Djibouti, Kenya and Namibia

13 March 2023 - 11:00 - 11:45 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/332>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Many African countries, as well as regional and continental organisations, have put in place a wide range of strategies and policies to advance digital transformation. So the policy frameworks are there, outlining goals and priorities. But more needs to be done to ensure that these goals and priorities are advanced at an international level – through, for instance, engagement in digital governance processes.
- There is a need for strengthened cooperation – within the continent and with international partners – to implement digital transformation strategies. African actors would benefit from talking to and working with each other more. And international partners need to have a better understanding of the continent's needs; for instance, connectivity in itself does not equal meaningful access, and issues of affordability and skills also need to be tackled as part of digital inclusion initiatives.
- One challenge ahead is how to synchronise the need to address immediate issues (e.g. ensuring meaningful access) with the need not to be left behind when it comes to cutting-edge technologies, to avoid even bigger digital divides. At the same time, African countries should resist 'the temptation of the technological race': 'Make sure we know where we are, understand where we want to go, and identify the tools needed to go there. Also prioritise and build capacities.'
- No African country can follow all digital governance processes alone. Cooperation and coordination, including through defining and following a common agenda, could help ensure that African voices are better represented in international debates. Leveraging the expertise of various national actors – private entities, civil society – when it comes to international engagement is also something governments should pay more attention to.
- Diplomats need to be equipped with the proposer skills and tools to advance their countries' interests and priorities. Building and developing capacities should focus not only on individuals, but also on institutions as a whole, so that processes and mechanisms are put in place to ensure sustainability in terms of engagement in international processes.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- *not discussed during the session*

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Presentation of the study '*Stronger digital voices from Africa: Building African digital foreign policy and diplomacy*'. The study analyses the participation of African countries in global policy-making fora discussing digital policy issues. Moreover, the study also provides a snapshot of Africa's digital diplomacy by examining the holistic representation of national and continental interests in the digital realm. The study was conducted by DiploFoundation with the support of Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- The session co-organisers are planning to work together on shaping a framework that would support Geneva-based missions of developing countries in following and participating in digital policy processes happening in Geneva and in other relevant multilateral fora.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Digital rights of future generations

Qatar to host large scale events - ITU PP 2026 and highlight its ICT potential (Qatar)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/328>

Organization: Qatar

Date: Friday, 17 March 2023

WSIS ACTION LINE FACILITATION MEETINGS

ALFM: WSIS Action Lines ALFM C2: Infrastructure and WSIS Action Line C5: Cybersecurity: The Next Frontier: Let's talk Digital Resilience - Cyber and Space (ITU)

Summary of Session: The Next Frontier: Let's talk Digital Resilience - Cyber and Space

ITU

13 March 2023

[Session 306— The Next Frontier: Let's talk Digital Resilience - Cyber and Space | WSIS Forum 2023 \(itu.int\)](#)

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Importance of digital infrastructure availability and avoiding single points of failure in the physical layer.
- Satellite connectivity becoming increasingly important with the shift towards multi-technological systems.
- Resilience strategies for critical infrastructure protection, global commerce protection, and national security measures.
- Challenges with increasing vulnerabilities to cyber attacks and failure as the number of satellites and their different uses increase.
- Future potential for new innovations in space and the role of stakeholders in promoting peaceful use and interconnectivity.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Implementation of WSIS Action Lines to date.
- Emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the space industry.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- New innovations in satellite architecture and power to achieve sustainable development goals and global access to commodities.
- Public-private sharing and adopted regulation on satellites and threat modeling for potential new scenarios with different actors to increase resilience.

- Growth in participation in the space economy and potential for space industry in areas such as insurance, finance, tech, and energy mining.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Maximizing resilience in space through path diversities, maximizing spectrums, and prevention measures against unmodulated interfering carriers and pirate carriers.
- Promoting interconnectivity using spectrum and optical technologies and a mix of private-public collaboration in communication efforts.
- Identifying gaps between governments and considering different scenarios for the future of space.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Emerging technologies and innovations in the space industry and their potential impact on achieving sustainable development goals.
- The role of stakeholders in promoting peaceful use and interconnectivity in space.
- Challenges and strategies for increasing space resilience and addressing vulnerabilities to cyber attacks and failure.

ALFM: WSIS Action Line C7: e-Employment: Towards decent work in the digital economy for forcibly displaced youth (ILO)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/272>

Organization: ILO

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

ALFM WSIS Action Line C7: e-Business: “Enabling women in eBusiness”
(UPU/ITC/UNCTAD)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/296>

Organization: UPU/ITC/UNCTAD

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

ALFM: WSIS Action Line C3: Access to information: The policy guidelines for the development and promotion of the right to information (UNESCO)

Summary of Session: WSIS Action Line C3: Access to information: UNESCO Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information 2022

UNESCO

13 March 2023 15:30 – 16:30

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/250>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The new version of the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information is an important tool to assist Member States in not only adopting Access to Information Laws, but to implement Access to Information laws in a comprehensive way.
- In assuring the right to information, it is important to adhere to governance principles of independence and transparency of oversight bodies to assure the implementation of Access to Information Laws.
- In rolling out the guidelines, it is important to assure an inclusive approach so that vulnerable groups can exercise their right in an inclusive citizen centric approach.
- The right to information is an important prerequisite for the private sector and the civil society to operate in an environment of trust and increased efficiency of the public sector.
- In assuring the right to information a robust information management system needs to be in place to retrieve information and respond to information requests.
- The private sector may be interested to contribute towards the roll-out of the guidelines by embarking on digital skills development initiatives that enable citizens to access proactive released information and formulate information requests online.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- In view of the changing digital ecosystem, it was important to update the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information to account for recent trends related to the development and strengthening of the right of information through legal and policy frameworks and the application of new technologies in the field of Access to Information.

- The data collected by UNESCO on SDG 16.10.2 provide important trends in implementing Access to Information laws and this permit a better alignment of the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information with realities in Member States.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Launch of the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information to be used in Member States to assist in the implementation of Access to Information Laws.
- Advocacy for skills and resources for the implementation of Access to Information laws.
- Support by the private sector in the policy development realm by providing technical expertise for establishing a policy environment for the right to information.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Piloting the guidelines in Senegal to support the advocacy for an Access to Information Law in the country.
- Involving law libraries to make public information available to the public.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Civil and political rights as the basis of inclusive societies.
- Free flow of data as a critical enabler of digital transformation, innovation, economic growth and social benefits.

Summary of Session: WSIS Action Lines C7: e-Learning: Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER)

UNESCO

Thursday, 16 March 2023 9:00-10:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/190>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- How the 2019 UNESCO OER Recommendation can be used as a theoretical foundation/conceptual framework for public digital ecosystems/platforms and its five action areas
- The necessary conditions to foster the development of national, multinational and global OER platforms that are open and publicly funded at systems level?
- The identification key capacities of stakeholders needed from successful platforms: deeper knowledge of educational potential of OERs; technical expertise in open licensing; policy integration; platform maintenance and content curation; programme planning and oversight
- Examples of existing best practices in the development and use of OER platforms and their development
- Presentation of a UN initiative on public platforms for learning being launched which includes a focus on OER

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- OER are recognized as powerful solutions for transforming education, since they enable the expansion of access to quality, innovative, free, accessible, educational resources in different languages, for teachers and learners.
- Platforms for learning need to include multistakeholder collaboration and include a focus on inclusiveness and accessibility
- A systems or institutional approach is needed for the development of portals, in a manner which is contextualized and relevant to user needs

- International cooperation in the creation of content, capacity, infrastructure) is of great value, in the context of OER, where knowledge is created and shared openly.
- The UNESCO Recommendation on OER provides a key guidance tool for all stakeholders in the development of inclusive, accessible quality platforms for learning.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Identification of the characteristics of inclusive and accessible OER platforms: high quality and multilingual content, designed for accessibility and a readily available framework for quality and standards alignment’.
- Core features of platforms from best practices: user-friendly navigation, a safe creation and updating process, accessibility, use of subject matter experts, an established ethical code of conduct and clear permission to use as well as good stewardship for OER platform. This includes content and tools designed for interoperability, widely shared, refined, translated metadata, secure and noncommercial data for learners, Adherence to ISO Standards and GDPR compliance and collaboration to enable adaptation and relevance to different contexts and relevance. Resources are allocated and policies adopted that support an institutional or system approach
- Outcomes of a study on the state-of – art of national platforms for education undertaken by UNICEF
- Agreement on the key role of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER for supporting the effective development and use of platforms, and the importance of OER on these platforms

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- The importance of leveraging the UNESCO Recommendation on OER 2019 to guide Governments through the crucial digital ecosystems needed for the establishment and maintenance of free, high quality open educational resources and platforms
- Need for a multistakeholder approach bringing together collaborative links between Governments, institutions (e.g. educational, cultural – including libraries) and civil society with a view to supporting the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030 by fostering lifelong learning.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Use of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER to support the building of inclusive Knowledge Societies

ALFM: WSIS Action Lines C1: Public governance, C7: e-Government, C11: International cooperation: Future of e-government assessment in the era of AI: Opportunities and Challenges (UN DESA)

Summary of Session: Future of e-government assessment in the era of AI: Opportunities and Challenges

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

16 March 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/192>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Issues raised around the methodology of the United Nations E-Government Survey by stakeholders included how to capture e-government services that are jointly developed by public and private sector, how we measure inefficiencies in government i.e. they invest so much on digitalization but these services are not used, how to measure Artificial Intelligence based services, how we can measure incorrect data governments may have, how to measure privacy efforts, how to include immersive technologies. Some participants also raised that mobile broadband is more relevant for them than the traditional board. It is also added that the more important thing than the ranking is what to do to improve the e-government development in that country. There were also concerns about capturing AI development in a country by just assessing the portal as unit of study.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The upcoming WSIS+20 review will be conducted by the General Assembly in 2025. This will also be the IGF's 20 year review.
- As the headquarters-based Secretariat Department, DESA is mandated to provide and coordinate secretariat support services to the GA High-level events, including WSIS+20.
- We are of course, very mindful that the WSIS+20 process will be a whole of the-UN-system effort, and will be multilateral and multistakeholder, so DESA is fully committed to work closely with UN entities and stakeholder groups.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- The United Nations E-Government Survey, as the only global tool covering 193 UN Member States, have tremendous effect in raising awareness of e-government at national and city levels
- The extension of e-government assessment to local and city levels "To foster e-government development serving peace and sustainability and allowing humans and the planet to flourish sustainably and guaranteeing that human rights are respected not only offline but also online and in the digital sphere and in the domain of data-based systems (an alternative term for so-called "AI") requires the following concrete measures: 1. human rights-based data-based systems (HRBDS): Human rights-based data-based systems (HRBDS) means that human rights serve as the basis of digital transformation and data-based systems. 2. an International Data-Based Systems Agency (IDA): An International Data-Based Systems Agency (IDA) needs to be established at the UN as a platform for technical cooperation in the field of e-government development as well as for digital transformation and data-based systems fostering human rights, safety, security, and peaceful uses of data-based systems as well as a global supervisory and monitoring institution and regulatory authority in the area of digital transformation and data-based systems." suggested by Prof. Peter Kirchsclaeger, Ethics-Professor, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Continue to update the UN E-Government methodology with insights from the session
- Continue to increase the coverage of e-government assessment into cities

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- The role of e-government in achieving the 2030 Agenda
- Linking WSIS Forum 2024 with Global Digital Compact (GDC) themes could be strategic

Summary of Session: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity, and Local Content Promotion

UNESCO

16 March 2023 (9:15-10:15)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/193>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

The definition of cultural diversity differs from one person to the other. As a result, there was a large variety in the themes that were addressed on (i) what actions had been undertaken under line C8, (ii) what the current issues are for cultural diversity in the information society, and (iii) what issues should be prioritized by the participants from government, civil society, and academia.

While there was a plethora of actions undertaken and priorities discussed in furthering the Action Line C8, all 20+ physical participants to this session agreed with the following:

- Linguistic and cultural diversity is essential for humankind. The digital environment currently does not exploit all opportunities to reach more linguistic and cultural diversity.
- On this above point, reference was made to the mono-linguistic and centralized *status quo* of the internet at present, as the governance of internet is concentrated and sits with a small number of tech companies.
- Access to culture in the digital environment is fundamental in the participation in cultural life and can in turn result in more cultural diversity.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

Over the course of the discussion the importance of *access* to cultural expressions in the digital environment was underlined. The following challenges were identified:

- Lack of infrastructure which impedes populations to the access cultural expressions in the digital environment.
- Monolingual set up of the internet, implying a certain level of English and/or another language in the Latin alphabet to access the digital environment. An example that was given, were the efforts to mainstream the use of internationalized domain names.
- Lack of digital skills for people to access culture, and for creatives to access and generate digital content. This challenge is especially pertinent for under-represented populations, such as indigenous populations.

- Within the digital environment, the governance is concentrated and sits with a small number of tech companies. An example are the digital platforms that offer audio-visual content in their libraries, following their criteria.

The following achievements and opportunities were identified:

- The ongoing efforts in the digitization of collections, making these more accessible to a larger public.
- Open access to culture through the revision of the current copyrights system was addressed. While recognizing that not all cultural expressions should be accessed easily (without remuneration), there are opportunities in the heritage sector to digitize collections. Openness could, in those contexts lead to more cultural diversity.
- Additionally, the importance of digital capacity building and specifically on relevant digital platforms was emphasized. In line with this point, the contextualization of digital platforms to the local reality was also seen as a possible entry point to increase access to culture.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

Initiatives shared by civil society:

- The pandemic demonstrated great innovativeness in giving digital access to cultural collections. Moreover, there have been initiatives to promote and develop skills for digitization and digital preservation, such as by the Digital Preservation Coalition and the International Internet Preservation Consortium.
- The establishment of a working group on **Ethics of Open Sharing** by Creative Commons.

Initiatives shared by national governments:

- Facing major regulators of video on-demand services, South Africa created a draft **White Paper on Audio and Audiovisual Content Services Policy Framework**.
- Tanzania set up a **local content fund** that aims at contributing to cultural diversity in the digital environment.

Initiatives shared by international organizations:

- •The adoption of the **MONDIACULT Ministerial Declaration** has given new momentum to underline the essential role of cultural diversity to humankind. The adoption provided an impetus to declare culture “a global public good”. Hence, culture is a good that is non-rivalrous and non-exclusive. It also means that all stakeholders should take steps in order to make culture as inclusive as possible, as culture’s benefits are global, and concern all people in the present and in the future.

- UNESCO is leading the **International Decade of Indigenous Languages**. The Decade aims to raise awareness about the critical situation of Indigenous languages around the world and mobilize stakeholders for immediate safeguarding actions. In December 2022, a high-level celebration initiated the decade, during which a panel discussion on access to information and culture in the digital environment was organized.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Sharing experiences on actions related to capacity building efforts to make culture more accessible should receive attention, while recognizing the differences in linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Hence, contextualization of platforms and subsequent capacity building efforts, to the local context might be necessary.
- In line with the MONDIACULT declaration, culture should be streamlined in other policies/SDGs. The SDGs framework recognizes the interlinks among the goals. This could also be applied to WSIS action lines, with a view to achieving WSIS' _common vision, desire and commitment to build a people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and cultural content.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

The largest thematic aspect that was discussed was access to cultural expression in the digital environment, notably (i) access to the digital environment to generate content as a creator, and (ii) access to the digital environment to consume culture. On the first point, fair remuneration of the artists was underlined as a thematic aspect. On the second point, capacity building efforts on accessing digital platforms as well as decentralizing the governance of internet were put forward as themes worth discussing.

**Summary of Session: Interactive Session: Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment on
Next generation regulation for sustainable digital transformation**

organized by ITU

Thursday 16 March 14:00–15:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/224>

Key Issues discussed

- The session focused on the application of right digital policies, the regulatory and economic incentives to ensure deployment of sustainable digital infrastructure in rural and isolated areas, and at the same time to promote use and adoption.
- Change is needed in the ICT policy and regulation frameworks to create an inclusive and conducive enabling environment, therefore there is a need for strategies and regulation that bridge silos and break through insularity. We need to develop a common language, based on consultation and evidence; we need to reframe and operationalize policy agendas, and we need to skill up, and up again.
- To enhance ICT sustainable infrastructure deployment, especially in rural and remote areas, close collaboration with network operators is very important. In Mexico, the Federal telecommunication Institute (IFT) has developed regulatory guidelines for infrastructure sharing together with a national geo referenced database on active and passive infrastructure, in order to promote competition among operators and better use and share of available infrastructure.
- There is a need to align policies and regulations for infrastructure rollouts, in order to facilitate doing business and promote investment in the ICT sector. In Nigeria, the National Communication Commission (NCC) is offering pioneering incentives which include fiscal relieves, facilitation of authorizations procedures to enable infrastructure deployment for emerging technologies, including rural and isolated areas.
- ICT National regulatory authorities (NRAs) have to accommodate to the ever-changing digital environment. In this context in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Space and Technology Commission (CST) has developed a state-of-the art set of regulations for

Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN). The NTN regulations aim to provide communication services using cutting edge wireless technologies and enable the wide spread of NTN technologies.

- To encourage deployment of ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas, ITU developed the [ITU Business Planning for Infrastructure Development Toolkit](#) and training, to put in place the right technical and financial arrangements using sustainable business planning tools to attract investment. This toolkit addresses established networks, 5G and fibre.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date

- In the framework of the work done in the Telecommunication Development Sector, ITU has been the lead facilitator of WSIS Action Line C6 on Enabling Environment since the beginning of the WSIS implementation and follow-up process, in particular in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Goal 9 on Industry, innovation and infrastructure and Goal 11 on Sustainable cities and communities.
- Over the years, ITU has been providing a platform to discuss measures and solutions such as fostering open access to international fiber, affordable access for sustainable development, connectivity during and in the post COVID digital world, and more.
- The work done by ITU on collaborative regulation focuses on the interplay between [ICT markets and regulation and the innovative regulatory tools and processes](#) at hand to support Membership and stakeholders to further enable digital transformation.
- In terms of key opportunities, challenges and emerging trends, based on the outputs from the Action Line C6 facilitation meetings, one of the main challenges of collaborative regulation at national and regional level is to break across silos, to bring together the expertise and the enforcement needed to level the playing field across sectors and borders.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments

- It was the occasion to launch the fourth edition of the [ITU Global Digital Regulatory Outlook 2023](#) which examines the latest trends, tensions, and possible solutions and strategies leveraging from the [country reviews](#), that regulators and policy-makers have today at hand.
- [The Global Symposium for Regulators \(GSR-23\)](#) to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 5 to 8 June 2023 under the theme, *Regulation for a sustainable digital future* was announced. Participants were also informed about the *GSR-23 Consultation on regulatory and economic incentives for an inclusive sustainable digital future* to stimulate the deployment of sustainable digital infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved.

Actionable plan

- In the framework of ITU activities, the application of the unified framework for assessing the state of readiness of national ICT policy, legal and governance frameworks for digital transformation based on the tried-and-tested [G5 Benchmark and the ICT Regulatory Tracker](#) is being implemented.

ALFM: WSIS Action Line C7: e-Agriculture (FAO)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/378>

Organization: FAO

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

ALFM: WSIS Action Line C10: Ethics: Moving from Principles to Practice in Governing AI Using The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI (UNESCO)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/237>

Organization: UNESCO

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Summary of Session: Digital platform regulation

Organizer: UNESCO

Friday March 17th at 09:15-10:15

ALFM: WSIS Action Line C9: Media

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/316>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The internet and social media have empowered societies with enormous opportunities for people to communicate, engage, and learn. The digital world holds potential for marginalized communities, democratizing spaces for communication and opportunities to have diverse voices engage with one another, to be heard and seen. However, these have been gradually eroded over recent decades.

However, the governance and culture on platforms are rules informed by dominant cultural norms putting people against each other, bringing out their fears, anger and hate.

- Meanwhile, across the world, governments are introducing laws to regulate content. UNESCO is therefore developing its new Guidelines on digital platform regulation, prioritizing inclusion, and encouraging the empowerment of users to access and make decisions about their content engagement. The aim of the Guidelines is to support the development and implementation of regulatory processes that guarantee freedom of expression and access to information.
- The session aimed to take advantage of the WSIS multistakeholder community to consult and analyze the 2.0 draft of the Guidelines to hear their views on some important questions such as the multistakeholder approach of the guidelines, the level of detail and granularity, the scope of the guidelines, and the actions that should be taken in order to make sure that the guidelines could be use in different contexts and realities and were future proofed.
- The main take aways of the session are the following:
 - When pursuing regulation for digital platforms there is a need to be clear about what is that we want to achieve and how is that we will achieve it. Once the objective is well set, there is a need to identify with clarity who would be the stakeholders / companies in the scope.
 - Setting a standard base on human rights principles requires reminding everyone those principles and include them as a preamble so every stakeholder involve abides to them.

- There is an increase necessity to bring to the table the different companies and to find ways where they can engage with the different stakeholders in the different countries they operate.
- When it comes to regulating digital platforms, It is very important to find a correct balance between been to detailed (this can happen related to transparency considerations) or leave some flexibility for the operation (for instance in the case of content moderation).
- Regulating digital platforms requires a look at the advertising market.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- UNESCO sees the development of the Guidelines as contributing to the WSIS action Lines as well as the implementation of the proposals set out in “Our Common Agenda”. This includes the preparation of the UN Summit of the Future to be held in September 2024, and namely the development of the Global Digital Compact. UNESCO is also working with DGC to help steer the development of the Code of Conduct for Information on Digital Platforms, and we are pleased to participate in the working group for that process.
- Great challenges remain in the way technology companies and specifically digital platforms companies are involved in these processes and engage with the broader multistakeholder community. As they become more powerful, they also leave these spaces to lower-level officers or simply abandon them. WSIS is the perfect space to bring together the full stack of companies that have something to say and do in fighting the most important issues that are affecting the media and the full exercise of human rights in the digital ecosystem.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The session allowed UNESCO to gain further feedback and specific inputs for the next draft of the Guidelines for regulating digital platforms: a multistakeholder approach for safeguarding freedom of expression and information. The inputs gathered during this session will be consider in the 3.0 draft of the document and in the next stage of the consultation process.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Regulation of digital platforms (the evolution and the impact on human rights)

ALFM: WSIS Action Line C7: e-Health: The role of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025 in strengthening country's autonomy in fast tracking UHC and the health related SDGs (WHO/ITU)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/334>

Organization: WHO/ITU

Date: Friday, 17 March 2023

Summary of Session: Post truth on Open Data, Disinformation and Climate Change: Can Technology help?

UNESCO

Friday, 17 March 2023 10:30 – 11:30

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/333>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- In today's digital world, data has become one of the most valuable assets for individuals, organizations, and societies. The amount of data that is being generated is increasing exponentially, and it has become crucial to understand the importance of data and how it can benefit the humanity in various ways.
- Climate change is also intrinsically linked to the availability of quality data and – emphatically put, the presentation thereof, as accurate and reliable information is essential for understanding the problem and developing effective responses.
- The use of open data has emerged as a powerful tool in addressing climate change, enabling greater transparency, and facilitating collaborations across sectors. However, open data can also be susceptible to disinformation, leading to harmful consequences for climate action.
- The quality and availability of climate data can vary widely depending on the region and the type of data being collected. Even when data is collected, often the way data is presented ensues several structural and procedural fallacies. These can result in significant gaps in our understanding of climate change, making it more difficult to develop effective policies and strategies to mitigate and adapt to its effects.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Big data analytics is a growing trend in the field of e-Science. With the growing amount of data generated by scientific experiments and simulations, advanced analytics tools are required to process and analyze this data. Large datasets are analyzed using machine learning algorithms, artificial intelligence, and other data-driven techniques to uncover new insights.

- Cloud computing is becoming an integral part of e-Science. It facilitates collaboration and data sharing by allowing scientists to access and share data and applications from anywhere in the world. Cloud computing provides researchers with on-demand access to computing resources, enabling them to scale up or down as needed.
- Open science is a movement that encourages open access to research data, publications, and software. Open science aims to make scientific research more transparent, collaborative, and accessible, enabling researchers from diverse disciplines and backgrounds to collaborate and build upon one another's findings.
- The prevalence of interdisciplinary research in e-Science is increasing. Scientists from diverse fields, including physics, biology, and computer science, are collaborating to solve complex scientific problems requiring a multidisciplinary approach. This trend is producing new discoveries in numerous fields, including medicine, climate science, and materials science.
- Cyberinfrastructure and interconnected processes are emerging. Cyberinfrastructure consists of high-performance computing, data storage and management systems, scientific instruments, and network infrastructure. Cyberinfrastructure is advancing, allowing scientists to conduct simulations and experiments that were previously impossible.
- As the use of sensors are becoming an integral part of all scientific experiments, scientific e-waste can soon become a major environmental nuisance.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) and data-driven disinformation have a close relationship because ICTs are typically the platforms and tools used to disseminate disinformation.
- In the modern digital age, disinformation campaigns have become more prevalent due to the availability of information online. By disseminating incorrect or deceptive information, these campaigns intend to sway public opinion or affect behavior.
- ICTs such as social media, search engines, and messaging applications are frequently used as the primary distribution channels for disinformation. On these platforms, disinformation can spread rapidly and widely, reaching a large audience with minimal effort.
- Through the use of data analytics and targeting tools on these platforms, disinformation campaigns can be modified to target specific groups or individuals, thereby increasing their efficacy.

- Preventing misinformation based on data requires robust data governance and control of ICTs. By promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible data use, we can prevent the misuse of these technologies to disseminate false information and harm society.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- **Develop fact-checking tools:** Fact-checking tools can verify the veracity of climate change-related information. These tools use artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to identify false claims and misinformation, thereby preventing its spread.
- **Create monitoring tool for social media:** Social media platforms can utilize AI-based algorithms to monitor climate-related posts and comments and identify false claims and disinformation. These platforms can then take the necessary measures, such as flagging the content, removing it, or limiting its reach.
- **Use citizen journalism to address climate change disinformation:** Citizen journalism can help promote accurate climate change information. Platforms that permit users to submit their own stories and experiences can aid in the dissemination of accurate information and the promotion of climate change awareness.
- **Create new platforms for collaboration and partnerships:** Collaboration between technology companies, governments, and civil society organizations can aid in the development of effective responses to climate change misinformation. The strengths and expertise of each stakeholder can be leveraged through partnerships to develop and implement effective solutions.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- It may be useful to organize at least a session by combining the e-environment and e-science together.

ALFM: WSIS Action Line C4: Understanding AI powered learning: Implications for developing countries (ITU, ITC-ILO)

**Summary of Session - WSIS Action Line C4: Understanding AI powered learning: Implications for developing countries
ITU/ITC-ILO**

Monday, 17 April 2023, 13:00 – 14:00 (UTC+2)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/468>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to bring about transformational change, especially in the education sector. AI-enabled technologies are reshuffling the education paradigm and can reshape the future of skills development.
- New digital learning and collaboration solutions, such as Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR), are expanding the outreach and impact of learning programs. They also provide new resources for learning specialists, curriculum designers, and trainers.
- Connectivity and digital inclusion remain persistent challenges as AI-enabled tools are likely to widen the existing digital skills gap.
- Limited AI-related research and development, along with the lack of common understanding of AI concepts among the public (referred to as "conceptual confusion"), represent significant barriers.
- The gradual integration of Artificial Intelligence into the education ecosystem may come at the expense of the social dimension of learning and lead to a lack of human interaction. Additionally, the reliability of learning content may be compromised.
- There is a growing importance of green skills and jobs and the interconnectedness between AI and sustainability.
- The International Community has a critical role in mitigating some of the challenges posed by AI by providing technical assistance to member states in developing AI-related policies and regulations and strengthening data governance frameworks.
- Data-driven evidence-based decision making is essential and requires a long-term structural approach.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- AI is being integrated into learning management systems to create powerful digital ecosystems that incorporate data and provide personalized learning experiences tailored to each student's learning style, thereby increasing the pace of learning.
- By 2030, it is expected that 40 per cent of existing jobs will be lost to automation, while 24 million new jobs will be created worldwide.
- Emerging technologies such as AI, Big Data, and Blockchain bring opportunities to accelerate the achievement of the UN SDGs. However, they are also likely to generate more inequalities.
- The lack of human interaction and the social dimension of learning poses a challenge in deploying AI-enabled solutions and services for digital skills development.
- Reliability issues may arise due to software development since AI-driven systems cannot fully replace the role of an educator.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- ITC-ILO will launch an AI gameboard showcasing a wide range of AI-related terminologies and concepts, including Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Intelligence, Autonomous Intelligence, and more. The organization will also organize AI labs to increase AI literacy and make these terms more accessible to learners.
- ITC-ILO is investing in predictive analytics for AI to create more personalized learning paths and experiences for learners.
- ITU will continue to support its member states in designing, developing, and deploying AI-enabled systems in a safe, trustworthy, and inclusive manner that respects human rights.
- In line with its new resolution on AI, ITU will continue its research, information sharing, and capacity development activities on AI to foster an enabling ecosystem for the development of AI technologies for development.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Democratize access to AI: There is a need to clarify the implications of AI for learning to non-specialists. This will help make AI more accessible to a wider audience.
- Foster an exploratory use of AI in all its facets and standards through a constant and iterative dialogue between relevant stakeholders, such as experts, policymakers, educators, and learners.
- Explore strategies that can be used to eliminate AI bias and think strategically about transparent data collection and privacy.
- Move towards a co-creative programmatic approach to inform contextualized practices, strengthen learner-instructor relations, and improve instructional design.
- Invest in multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation frameworks where the private sector provides the technologies while the public sector ensures political buy-in and users' readiness.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

The WSIS Forum 2024 could include sessions on AI for Good and sustainable development, with a focus on inclusive education and training for AI development. The programme could also cover themes such as bridging the digital skills gap through policy support and regulation; as well as open the dialogue on how emerging technologies for education can be incorporated into national digital skills strategies.

ALFM: WSIS ALFM C7: e-Environment: Harmonization of E-waste Data and Statistics (ITU, UNEP)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/491>

Organization: ITU, UNEP

Date: Tuesday, 2 May 2023

WSIS Action Lines Facilitators Meeting: WSIS+20 Multistakeholder Consultation Process

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/342>

Organization: WSIS

Date: Friday, 17 March 2023

THEMATIC SESSIONS

Use of technologies to improve health care in underserved communities around the world (Open Health Network)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/169>

Organization: Open Health Network

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

ICTs and Clean Technologies for Climate Change special track: ICTs for smart and sustainable cities - Sustainable energy in uncertain times, helped by ICT (Partner360)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/172>

Organization: Partner360

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Supporting the transition to a stronger, greener, and sustainable future through standards and best practices (IEEE – Partner for Specific Activities)

Summary of Session: *Supporting the Transition to a Stronger, Greener, and Sustainable Future through Standards and Best Practices*

What are Standards Developers and Users Doing Today to Address Sustainability and Climate Change

IEEE

13 March 2023, 09:15-10:15 CET

<https://standards.ieee.org/events/wsis/wsis-forum-2023-agenda/>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- There is a technological transformation underway that inspires pioneering opportunities and encourages evolutionary innovation. Global standards leverage these advancements using the application of ethical design criteria for products and services and take into consideration the need to consider today's challenges in support of a globally sustainable and resilient future. In short, they provide a way forward in sustainable development.
- The panel covered how technological innovations and the application of ethical design principles based on recognized international standards and best practices can be used to address the challenges being faced by stakeholders as they look to implement policies and recommend approaches that support a sustainable and resilient environment to meet the SDGs and address the challenges posed by the changing climate.
- It discussed best practices and standards for addressing sustainability, environmental stewardship, and climate change challenges through a pragmatic lens – bringing into the discussion 2 IEEE Working Groups: IEEE standard P7800™ for Addressing Sustainability, Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Challenges in Professional Practice, and IEEE P7010.1™ on Environmental Social Governance (ESG) and Social Development Goal (SDG) Action Implementation and Advancing Corporate Social Responsibility, as the framework for an open and interactive discussion. It will include a focus on how stakeholders can leverage and use resources and communities to help hasten achievement of the SDGs in an environment when more than ever breakthroughs on collaboration, collective action, communication, governance, and business model reforms are needed to be aligned with technologically sound solutions and innovations that can be adopted and practically deployed.

- The workshop discussed what resources, best practices and standards need to be developed and the work already underway, as well as the gaps in individual and collective modalities to address the environment, sustainable development and climate change issues, and what is needed to close them.
- It also looked at considerations needing to be taken into account when developing practical best practices and standards, and what individuals can do in addition to or alongside corporations and organisations, and the impact this can have.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

In line with WSIS Action Line 6 - Enabling Environment and WSIS Action Line 7 - E-Environment, the discussants highlighted challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the sustainable development goals, including knowledge gaps - when, e.g. studying technical solutions for the deep ocean, a lack of data and a policy framework concerning the sustainability of oceans and streams - and a lack of capacity and capability in organizations in translating goals into actions and adopting technology with new innovation and ethical designs.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

The discussants agreed that when considering technology for the future, the following elements are critical to implement:

- Taking a wider systems approach; especially considering and respecting the potential impact of the application and wide use of the technology on people, the environment, the value chain, and resources
- Consideration of the technology user's perspective fostering safe and responsible use of technology
- The transition to a more sustainable use of resource usage in technology implementation, deployment and use.
- Standards should include "sustainability by design" from the out-set - not as an afterthought

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

The discussants agreed on the following actionable plan to move forward:

- Building sustainability and circular economy considerations into standards to be considered by the users of such standards and the developers of applications
- Using sustainability indicators and accountability models
- Regulatory action

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Given that the global response to the UN Secretary General's short survey leading up to the UN75 celebration was that the environment is the number one priority issue to be addressed, Action Line 20: Addressing e-environment issues and challenges, developing Green IT and using ICTs to mitigate climate change, would be a strong candidate for a discussion. Specifically, how can we design for a smaller footprint? With our data storage and processing needs, the topic of greener ways to code could be addressed, for instance. A discussion of digital building blocks for eGovernance could be another topic. This would cover Action Line 21: Recognizing the importance of maintaining open ICT standards development processes for innovation in the ICT sector as key enablers for an inclusive information society.

Responsible AI governance and the challenges of general purpose AI (EY)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/262>

Organization: EY

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Summary Session: Robotics & The Medical Internet of Things (MIoT)

Organized by: United Nations Internet Governance Forum

Monday, 13 March 2023 10:00–10:45

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/257>

Key Issues discussed (5–8 bullet points)

- **What robot applications in healthcare are you aware of?**
 - First care
 - Medicine administration
 - Psychological treatment
 - Emotional support robots
 - Physical Rehabilitation
 - Smart room hospitals
 - Surgery
 - GP booking
- **What does Robotics and the Medical Internet of things mean to you?**
 - It's means easier connection with patients
 - The connexion between the generated data for medical devices, eg. Glucose in blood and the interaction with other devices
 - Free hospital staff from standardized, repetitive tasks
 - It means that you can use robots to undertake some procedures in the medical cycle
 - Connected medical devices
 - Detecting health issue from various parts of the body using various sensors
 - Home-based healthcare, healthcare services delivery cost saving
 - Remote care
 - Integration of different devices
 - Monitoring and data collection
 - faster delivery of medical services
 - Interoperability
- **What are the benefits associated with Robotics in MIoT?**
 - Widespread care of patients, more attention, lower costs
 - They improve efficiency and cut down on costs of wages since robots can replace humans
 - Timely interventions
 - Improve the doctor patient relationship

- Easier access to patients and real time data processing
 - 24-hour service delivery
 - More robots less people
 - The AI benefit in machine learning and analysis.
 - Increased accessibility
 - Efficiency improvements, costs reduction, designed to give attention to the environment
 - The benefit is the treatment of citizens in difficult areas (where there are not medical institutions) through the remote guidance of robotics & citizens by internet.
 - Increased precision
 - Medical error reduction
- **What are the risks associated with robotics in MIoT?**
 - Cybersecurity threats and attacks, safety
 - Hacking data, cyber-attacks on robotics & e-data
 - Data protection and security
 - The rebellion of the machines
 - Liability
 - In accurate tests some times don't get the actual disease and human intervention is needed!
 - Privacy issue encase data will not be used as intended
 - Privacy issues, data leak
 - Machine programming bias
 - Digital insecurity manufacturing/developing
 - Reduced empathy with the patient
 - Poor training to the doctor and patients on how to use this sort of technology
 - Ethical, social, and regulatory challenges, e.g. technological or digital divide, inequality and disruption, Misuse of data and information, concerns regarding autonomy (elderly)
 - De-humanized healthcare
 - Increased costs for similar results
 - Human interaction is always better than robotics
 - Human agency

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5–8 bullets)

- New technological innovations must be embraced to achieve success for the UN SDGs and the WSIS Action Lines with care for human agency and the environment.

- The need for public education, to ease acceptance and security of new technologies, is time sensitive.
- Knowledge sharing to the rural, marginalized and culturally specific level is critical.
- Collaboration of technologically advanced countries, with developing countries, for capacity building is essential, to leave no one behind and attain meaningful accessibility to technologies for All.
- It is important to integrate diversity for inclusion of all abilities of all peoples.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3–5 bullet points))

DC DDHT is developing a paper on the topic of robots within the healthcare ecosystem and the medical internet of things. This WSIS engagement will support the public inputs to this paper.

The paper will explore the following topics:

1. Opportunities and benefits
2. Gaps and recommended solutions
3. Emerging issues
4. Risks and harms of the technology.

This paper is expected to be presented at the IGF 2023 Annual Meetings in Japan.

Actionable plan (2–5 points)

- DC DDHT will host public engagement events to build content for the DC paper.
- The DC will assess the public sentiment for robots in the public space.
- Recommendations on the use of robotics will be developed.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Deep dive into the use of robotics for attainment of the United Nations SDGs & WSIS Action Lines.
- Robots can be autonomous or connected to the internet, what are the difference use case scenarios?
- What skills, ethics, and public information training, is required for public engagement with robots?
- What are the risks, harms, opportunities, and benefits of using robots in the public space?

The Rise of the Machines: Will AI Destroy Your Job? (World XR)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/254>

Organization: World XR

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Summary of Session: Intellectual Property (IP) in a brave new virtual world

World Intellectual Property Organization

March 13th 11:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/263>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The session provided an overview of WIPO's recent and planned activities relating to the use of intellectual property (IP) in virtual worlds, including in the metaverse and video gaming.
- The session discussed examples of how different tools and mechanisms can be deployed by a range of stakeholders to resolve IP disputes in virtual spaces.
- The session discussed the WIPO project on Videogame Development: A Quest for IP, and shared the objectives and time line for the project.
- It examined Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms as a mean to resolve disputes related to IP matters in the digital environment and the specific benefits of the WIPO specialized and tailored ADR services, including arbitration, mediation, and expert determination.
- The session also informed about the IP and Frontier Technologies conversation on the Metaverse and encouraged WSIS stakeholders to get involved.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Virtual spaces such as the metaverse and videogames are increasingly gaining in importance and provide a unique opportunity for the international community to enhance multi-stakeholder engagement across various WSIS action lines.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The session provided insights and relevant information on the important role international organizations like WIPO are playing in promoting ICTs for development.
- The session highlighted the opportunities of using IP as a tool for development and inclusive growth in the digital environment by highlighting the WIPO project on videogame development which aims to help videogame developers' level up their IP and for their business.
- The session provided information about ADR mechanisms as a mean to resolve disputes related to IP matters in the digital environment, as well as highlighted the benefits of the WIPO specialized and tailored ADR services, including arbitration, and mediation, and expert determination.
- The session provided an opportunity to announce the WIPO IP and Frontier Technologies conversation on the Metaverse.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Bring IP to the grassroots and help innovators and creators on the ground to use IP to bring their ideas to the market.
- Continue developing initiatives oriented towards bringing IP closer to non-experts, business owners, entrepreneurs, researchers, artists, designers and creators so as to acquire practical IP skills which can be used as part of their toolkit for success.
- Continue providing guidance on the complexity Member States may face when considering innovation related questions, including on how digital technologies and solutions supported by IP could play a key role in building a greener, fairer, healthier and more resilient world.
- Continue providing and fostering a global multi stakeholder forum to discuss IP issues around frontier technologies, including AI, and the digital economy.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- WSIS Forum 2024 could provide a thematic session to share experiences of other international organizations, including WIPO, on multi-stakeholder and public/private partnerships to advance development goals. In particular, a session that allows to deliver information on how IP can be used as a tool for development in the digital and information society.

Summary of Session: What is Web3 and how can it further the SDGs?

UNITAR and Berexia

Monday 13 March 2023, 11:15am – 12:15pm

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/363>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Building blocks of Web3 – overview of AI, big data, blockchain
- Applications of AI and Blockchain in addressing the SDGs
- Practical examples: how Web3 is improving financial inclusion, waste management, water purity tracking and financial transparency
- The adoption of a “problem-solving-first” approach to tech innovation
- Practical examples: blockchain role in social impact tracking, reducing deforestation, carbon footprint and preventing illegal fishing.
- Smart cities and their benefits for the SDGs
- How international organizations can ensure ethical and beneficial Web3 development, and Berexia’s current role in facilitating the achievement of the SDGs

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Blockchain technology has evolved enormously, as has our understanding of its potential. The world is changing in subtle but important ways; this generation cares deeply about impact. They understand that *any acceptable version of the future will need some sort of infrastructure to protect us from monopolies and corruptible authorities.*
- Current blockchain implementations go beyond business efficiency, entering the social sector and expanding the horizons of both. Although digital solutions, blockchain included, still present application challenges and face scepticism. A deeper understanding of individuals’ needs (as well as their active involvement), wider technological literacy and access, and better integration are still required. *But, blockchain and related solutions can bring added value if developed with a defined vision, such as those outlined by the SDGs and WSIS Action Lines.*

- The best innovation reaches impact by changing apparently unrelated industries: climate change, supply chain, finance, charity, to name a few.
- Blockchain-based tools have the opportunity to transform existing systems, making them more *accessible and inclusive for unprivileged and unbanked individuals and communities*.
- While blockchains have the potential to introduce disruptive forms of innovation that take organisations forward into a new era of connected digitization, they do not replace well-balanced governance nor considered policy intervention. Blockchains will probably not replace banks or governments – but it will encourage them to change.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- UNITAR signed a strategic partnership with BEREXIA in order to explore the possibilities of Blockchain based solutions supporting the achievement of the SDGs.
- UNITAR is currently exploring NFTs as a fundraising tool for a Fellowship Program benefiting LDC candidates for the Master Programmes developed jointly with the University for Peace.
- Berexia are exploring initiatives of their own to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Exploring further partnerships and collaborations to further the WSIS Action Lines, in line with the SDGs
- Continuing to foster new technologies to benefit society, the planet and the economy.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- To include discussion around the moral and ethical aspects of AI and new technologies, such as blockchain, NFTs, and big data. This could include how these technologies can be harnessed for the good of society, and how concerns and scepticism surrounding their use can be reduced through their secure application.

Maximising recycling with data driven decisions to enable smart cities (XWorks Tech)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/292>

Organization: XWorks Tech

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Cybersecurity special track: A sustainable capacity building strategy for least developing countries (LDCs) & developing countries to address cyber & digital risks (Welchman Keen)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/274>

Organization: XWorks Tech

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Digital payments: empowering communities and knowledge economy-UPI applications promote digital financial inclusion in India (ADA Lovelace Software Private Limited)

Summary of Session: Digital Payments: Empowering Communities and Knowledge Economy-UPI applications Promote Digital Financial Inclusion.

Artificial Intelligence and Digital Financial Services

Ada Lovelace Software Private Limited, INDIA

March 17 and 2.00 PM CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/362>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Digital financial services lower the cost and increase the security of sending, paying and receiving money.
- Digital Payments and UPI has showcased one of the classical examples in the creation of digital assets
- UPI demonstrated a great impact during the Covid-19 pandemic, a cashless and contactless transactions.
- In the Indian subcontinent consumers from a layman to Tech savvy has adopted and shown great affinity towards Digital Technology.
- We highlighted how digital payments offer immediate benefits for both senders and receivers in developing economies.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
- Innovation from all sectors can make a difference, and especially ICTs can make big chances in the Digital financial Services of women, older people and marginalized.
- Policy makers must make sure that regulations allow these technologies to scale as quick as possible.
- Digital Financial Inclusion, Digital Literacy, Digital Divide can be improved.
- There is a greater scope to narrow the gap between younger and older people in digital tools.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- Fruitful Discussion of Partnerships for knowledge exchange and bilateral with Latvia academy of Sciences, Riga Latvia.
- Empowering Women Cybersecurity -Initial Talks with Indian Universities and Swiss cyber security, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Few Individual entities from Germany, China have given good impression of Dialogues for collaboration.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Markets Explore for our product and services which we launched during last WSIS.
- We have started communication with UAE.
- Dominican Republic.
- Also, with Qatar market exploration for our products.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs for Older Persons should Continue.
- We are seeking markets for our products, we are WSIS prize Winners or Runners.
- We need your full assistance communicating to different countries.

Summary of Session: GovTech 4 Impact: Executive experience sharing on digital public service development in Europe

International Telecommunication Union

13 March 2023 | 15:00–15:45 (UTC+01:00)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/366>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

Three main issues discussed, and conclusions emerged from the discussion are reflected in takeaway messages provided by the speakers:

- “To achieve progress, prioritize connectivity, data, and interoperability. But don't just rely on your own solutions - like Estonia, be open to sharing, learning, and reusing from others. Our recent development comes from reusing some parts of the "Diia app" from Ukraine in our own mobile application. So, I encourage everyone to explore and embrace this approach.” - H.E. Dr Nele LEOSK, Ambassador-at-Large for Digital Affairs, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia
- “Technology can play a vital role in shaping a better democracy. The French Déclaration des Droits de l’Homme et du Citoyen recognizes every citizen’s right to express opinions and to contribute to the elaboration of laws. However, the lack of literacy, distance, and synchronization tools made it more difficult to fully exercise these rights. Today, we have a great access to knowledge, and we are more connected than ever. We must find new ways to organize and govern ourselves for a better and more inclusive democracy.” - H.E. Mr Henri VERDIER, Ambassador for Digital Affairs, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- “As representatives of our countries, it is our responsibility to actively incorporate innovation and technology into our government processes. By doing so, we can streamline and simplify these processes for the benefit of our citizens and the public.” - Ms Olga TUMURUC, Head of Moldova E-Governance Agency, Moldova
- “Don't underestimate the importance of building a strong digital back-end. It will enable you to create a resilient and scalable digital public services ecosystem.” - Mr Maksym SHKILOV, Adviser to the Vice-prime-minister - Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, Ukraine
- “Digital transformation is no longer an option - it's a necessity for us all, regardless of where we come from. With a growing population, we all share the common goal of providing better services for our citizens, and digital transformation is key to achieving that.” - H.E. Ms Meirav EILON SHAHAR, Ambassador and Permanent Representative,

Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

- “Digital transformation is a powerful tool that can help us achieve the SDGs, but its success hinges on collaboration and partnerships. By working together, we can develop and deploy GovTech solutions that address the complex challenges faced by societies around the world. To scale the impact of these initiatives across Europe and beyond, European countries are joining forces through initiatives like GovStack. By pooling resources and expertise, we can accelerate progress towards a more sustainable future for all.” - Mr Jaroslaw K. PONDER, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, ITU

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

N/A

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Overall, the session highlighted the transformative potential of GovTech solutions in promoting sustainable development, improving public service delivery, and enhancing citizen participation and engagement.
- Session attendees were introduced to the ITU's initiatives to promote digital transformation in countries throughout Europe and beyond, with a particular emphasis on the GovStack approach.
- Best practices and lessons learned were shared by the high-level government representatives of Estonia, France, Israel, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- The session emphasized the need for responsible and ethical deployment of emerging technologies, ensuring digital inclusion and accessibility, and protecting citizen rights and privacy in the design and deployment of GovTech solutions.
- Finally, the session called for increased collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders to develop and deploy effective GovTech solutions that address the complex challenges facing societies around the world.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Strengthen collaboration between ITU and countries in the region to accelerate public sector transformation, increase engagement in ITU initiatives like GovStack, and explore opportunities for joint projects and initiatives.
- Facilitate the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships within and beyond the region, bringing together governments, private sector, civil society, and academia to collaboratively design and deploy effective GovTech solutions for pressing societal challenges, such as climate change and social inequality.

- Expand efforts to disseminate best practices and lessons learned by digital transformation leaders from the region to other countries and regions seeking to implement GovTech solutions.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Government Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development: This theme can focus on the transformative potential of ICTs in enabling governments to tackle key global challenges such as climate change, poverty reduction, and social inequality, while promoting transparency and accountability. The discussion could explore how digital transformation can facilitate the development of innovative solutions that improve access to basic services, reduce inequalities, and enhance citizen participation in decision-making processes. Additionally, it could highlight the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and capacity-building initiatives to enable governments to effectively leverage ICTs in advancing sustainable development goals.

Technology for Democracy: Lessons learnt and the way forward for technology for democracy and human rights (1st Segment): Fireside Chat on Way Forward for Technology for Democracy and Human rights (UNDP)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/370>

Organization: UNDP

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Technology for Democracy: Lessons learnt and the way forward for technology for democracy and human rights (2nd Segment): Multi-stakeholder panel discussion on technology to strengthen democracy and rights-based, inclusive governance for sustainable development (UNDP)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/372>

Organization: UNDP

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Summary of Session: Data Ethics and the Ethics of Digital and Emerging Technologies – Building Trust, Serving Humanity

Globethics

16:00-16:45, Monday, 13 March 2023

[WSIS Forum 2023: Data Ethics and the Ethics of Digital and Emerging Technologies – ITU Video Portal / https://www.globethics.net/events/wsis-forum-2023 / https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/203](https://www.globethics.net/events/wsis-forum-2023/)

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Almost every day we can discover in the media, how communication technology is constituting much more than a deep paradigm shift, disruptive challenges in social practices and education. The question of banning access to ChatGPT, a popular new software, which generates text on any subject in response to a query, for example, which is becoming gradually a mainstream temptation (see: New South Wales and Queensland public schools in Australia). Only a few months after the world discovers this new information technology, the immediate concerns articulated by many is not only justified, but also becomes a spin, underlining the urgency of unbiased reflections and competency on the matter.
- One of the ways to constructively address this challenge could consist creating an international civil society framework of surveillance, of ethical mentoring of individuals and institutions, holding regular international meetings which serve at assessing the quality of the monitoring and of the social needs for any given emerging digital technology. By preventing the possible black spots and risks associated with emerging digital tech, we meet at WSIS, once a year, a moment, which is sufficient, - provided the very fast development of the phenomenon and concern about the everyday consequences of the massive use of emerging technologies, - only under condition of serious work done on the long run. Globethics Foundation decided on Jan. 2023 to take two steps forward:

- As international non for profit foundation with ECOSOC status and international centers worldwide focusing on ethics the need to focus on emerging technologies has been distinctively recognized in the clear refocusing our new Strategy 2023-2027. Globethics as an international non-governmental organization, working for ethical leadership through its academic and public engagement, made the decision through our highest constituencies for the coming years to work on emerging technologies. Registered in Geneva, Switzerland, it is an independent, not-for-profit foundation, with an international Board of Trustees, and centers around the world. In having a range of concrete research programs and international and interdisciplinary publications on emerging technologies, Globethics aspires to integrate all most innovative ways of dealing with ethical wisdoms of cultural, religious, philosophical and humanist inspiration in order to weave through them, but also through their differences, bridges between worldviews on ethical issues.
- Since many years but in particular our joint 2013 Declaration on Ethics in the Information Society, the groundwork done in 2018 on cyber ethics and the development of our online library collection on cyber ethics freely accessible and downloadable worldwide: (Access: <https://repository.globethics.net/handle/20.500.12424/31>), Globethics succeeded in turn first in 2022 and 2023 to release two further original research works. Edited by Dr. Erin Green, Divya Singh and Roland Chia, AI ethics and Education (see: <https://www.globethics.net/education-ethics-series>) and the newest Data Ethics, edited by Christoph Stückelbeger and Pavan Duggal (see: <https://www.globethics.net/global-series>) demonstrate ten years of constant efforts in following the evolution of digital communication technologies and their impact of the human social life and education.
- The current 2023 meeting at WSIS has shown the importance of pursuing our mission and work on ethics and the emerging information technologies, bringing on board cutting edge research from all continents, all cultures and religious-spiritual-philosophical beliefs and worldviews, with serious scientific grounding and also inspiring poetical existential meaning for our concrete conditions of living in our communities and ways of life.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Globethics's Strategy launch on 5 April 2023 is aiming at reaffirming our serious efforts on monitoring the impact of information and emerging technologies on educational quality, economic prosperity, political atmosphere and quality of life. The event will be conducted in a simultaneous manner across all our regional centers, showing the coordination of our efforts and contextualization of our resources.
- The Globethics Journal of Ethics in Higher Education, launched in 2022 as a biannual, open access digital journal, has been positioned as a scholarly platform for international and cross-cultural exchange and high-profile academic contributions, also in languages other than English, on cutting-edge ethical issues pertaining to the higher education sector. The scope of the journal is to bring to the fore a diverse and engaging scholarly discourse also on the emerging ethical preoccupations around the increasing use of Internet-based technologies and integrity-based research at all levels of academia.
- The vision of ethical leadership for a just, inclusive and sustainable world is at the core of the Globethics strategy 2023-2027.
- The specialised Globethics e-library with its more than 75 collections, more than 150 journals, and 3.6 million curated publications provides video tutorials on the use of our open access resources (+Globethics's own publications series and standalone publications).
- Globethics is also an accredited provider of online and blended learning, offering through its [Academy](#) quality open and executive course programmes, *inter alia*, on Cyberethics, Responsible Leadership, Ethics in Higher Education for Teaching Professionals, and Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development.
- In April 2023, Globethics will launch the second volume of its [Research Ethics Series](#), realized in collaboration with the Institute of Research and Action on Fraud and Plagiarism in the Academia (IRAFPA), based in Geneva, which is a pole of excellency on information risks in higher education, with its 18'000 subscribers, and yearly workshops and trainings, see:

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

Among the key outcomes from research work done on *Data Ethics*, our researchers have pointed out:

- The need to train and institutionalise data ethics officers (see Enrico Panai, <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276012>);
- The new type of criminal harms and wrongs related to the exponentially increasing (mis)use of the metaverse engendering consequently new types of legal protection measures, see Divya Singh: Sexual Assault in the Metaverse: Caveat Universitates (“Universities Beware”), <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276067>);
- Satellites and Sea Cables: The Ownership of Data Carriers and Geo-political Implications by A.I Prakash, <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276065>;
- African value and a new and better intelligence in global AI inclusion discourse as normative ethics perspective, a study by A. Gwagwa, E. Kazim & A. Hilliard, <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276016>
- Complementary key findings in this volume can be consulted and downloaded free of charge: <https://www.globethics.net/data-ethics>

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Globethics Publications follows a publication plan of 20 to 30 publications on ethics per year, among which a large number is on ethical issues related to emerging digital technologies.
- Over the past 3 years we gathered PhD theses from Nigeria on media ethics and we are closely collaborating with teachers and researchers from the Department of Mass Communication, on the African continent and plan many new research and publication projects for the years to come.
- As 2022 outcomes see: Dr. Peter Eshioke Egielewa, see his article in JEHE 1(2022), <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3378>; the author is releasing in 2023 new research on mass media ethics in the Nigerian context.

- Globethics also running a project on ethics excellence in higher education as assessment exercise. Discover about it in the following article: Making Ethics Effective in Higher Education in Africa and Beyond, by N. Balgobin, <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3391>,
- Under the title: Empowering Partnership: Ethics in Context, by C. Housel, H. Makinda, S. Ackah (et al.), <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3392> Globethics staff members present the crucial importance ethics networks and partnerships in context.
- The analysis by Globethics Managing editor on “Ambivalence, creative investment, publishing and development”, I. Haaz, <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3380> helps to address critically some of the difficulties in running an international publishing house, in the 21st century, concerned by both quality work and fair access to service for authors from the majority world.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- **Globethics** is committed to its thematic priorities, i.e. ethical standards in higher education; sustainability and environmental justice; ethics of digital and emerging technologies; inclusive peace and responsible governance. These thematic areas might constitute valid suggestions for consideration related to the WSIS Forum 2024.

Summary of Session: HACK THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

World Summit Awards-WSA

16:00-16:45

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/331>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- What Digital Divides do people experience in their respective regions
- Digital Divides appear in terms of access, content, gender, participation
- WSA is a global UN WSIS based initiative, recognizing and promoting digital solutions narrowing digital divides and contributing to the achievement of the UN SDGs
- Diverse and multi-lingual digital content applications contribute to the transformation to a knowledge society

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Digital tech monopoly and their effects on democracies
- AI and knowledge society

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- WSA WSIS policy statement: https://wsa-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/HL-Policy-Statement-Peter-A.-Bruck_WSIS-Forum-2023.pdf

International conference on digital transformation of education: road towards SDG 4 (CMAI Association of India)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/184>

Organization: CMAI Association of India

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Capacity Building and Enabling Environments for Meaningful Access in Indigenous and Rural Communities (ITU-D Digital Inclusion, Rhizomatica Communications and Association for Progressive Communications (APC))

Summary of Session: Capacity Building and Enabling Environments for Meaningful Access in Indigenous and Rural Communities

Organizer: ITU-D Digital Inclusion, Rhizomatica Communications and Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Thursday, 16 March 2023 / 09:15–10:15 (UTC+01:00)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/383>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The importance of capacity building as part of the elements of an enabling environment is key, especially in rural and indigenous communities where infrastructure does not exist as in urban contexts.
- Technical and technological training must be linked to the real needs of the communities and their ways of sharing knowledge; this is the only way to achieve a comprehensive learning process.
- Complementary connectivity solutions, where communities manage and create their networks, are those that prove to be sustainable over time, for which training is an essential enabling factor.
- To achieve a comprehensive training ecosystem for rural and indigenous communities in the Global South requires collaboration among various stakeholders.
- Training programmes such as the one for technical promoters in Latin America coordinated by the ITU or the National Schools of Community Networks are experiences that can be a starting point for replicating successful capacity-building models in rural and indigenous communities.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- There has been an important change in the focus on access rather than connectivity as a goal. However, it is necessary to better understand what we mean by access and what elements must be strengthened for it to be meaningful.
- There is an increasing willingness to look at complementary access solutions in communities as viable initiatives to reduce the digital divide, but greater efforts are

needed to generate enabling environments that favor their replicability and consolidation.

- It is important to look at the access and content creation strategies developed in indigenous communities; these other ways of approaching technologies and relating them to their ways of life and territories can help us to imagine a future with a better scenario in the digital era.
- It is necessary to more actively promote capacity-building processes that go beyond the use of certain technologies, as this allows people to take charge of their own telecommunications and communication projects.
- It is important to focus on the accessibility and universal design of technologies. In indigenous and rural communities, in addition to the gaps they face due to their general characteristics, the existence of other barriers such as gender, age, disability or educational level must also be considered. Access barriers become harder in these contexts and a comprehensive approach is needed to solve these problems.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- A new edition of the Training Programme for ICT Network Managers in Indigenous and Rural Communities in Latin America 2023, coordinated by ITU and partner organizations, will be held.
- There will be continuity to the National Schools of Community Networks in two ways: replicating the model in other countries and strengthening capacities for those who have participated in this first edition of the Schools.
- The launching of the Learning Repository for Community Networks was announced: <https://cnlearning.apc.org/>

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Generate partnerships between ITU and civil society organizations for the creation of capacity building programmes for indigenous and rural communities. For example, through the creation of hybrid programmes in Asia-Pacific and Africa, based on the one being developed in Latin America. Or the articulation with processes such as the Digital Transformation Centers.
- Creation of an online course for the curricular design of training programmes in community contexts, based on the systematization of the experience of the National Schools of Community Networks in order to replicate the model in other countries.

- Give continuity to the possibilities of concrete articulation that emerged from the session with key stakeholders, such as governments, regulators and academia.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- To better understand the needs of unconnected populations, it is necessary to involve them directly in high-level discussions, which will allow a better understanding of their communication needs and enabling environments to provide solutions. On the one hand, it is suggested for the WSIS Forum 2024 the direct inclusion of people from indigenous and rural communities who have developed complementary access solutions in their territories. On the other hand, it is necessary for the voices of Indigenous Peoples to be heard not only in the special sessions on them, but also in other spaces where other elements of the WSIS lines of action are discussed.

Driving corporate action on digital inclusion: Ranking 200 most influential tech companies (World Benchmarking Alliance)

Summary of Session: Driving Corporate Action on Digital Inclusion: Ranking 200 most influential tech companies

World Benchmarking Alliance

16 March 10am CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/194>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Corporate accountability on digital inclusion
- Multi-stakeholder collaborations for digital inclusion
- Protection of human rights on the internet
- Ethics in Artificial Intelligence

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The Covid-19 exposed the wide digital divide and the need for multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance digital inclusion

- Billions of people remain unconnected to the internet, limiting them from accessing opportunities that digital connectivity provides
- WSIS Process provides stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss and take action on the critical issues and emerging trends that threaten inclusive access to digital technologies for all
- Stakeholders must move with speed, be accountable and take action to ensure digital inclusion for everyone in society

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- WBA to continue working with various digital sector stakeholders to push for corporate accountability on digital inclusion
- WBA encourages stakeholders to use the published Digital Inclusion Benchmark data in advocacy activities to influence positive digital transformation
- WBA invites digital sector stakeholders to support the joint draft submission to the UN Global Digital compact on four topics: Connect all people to the internet; Apply human rights online; Regulation of Artificial Intelligence; protection of data

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- WBA to continue working with stakeholders through the Collective Impact coalition for Digital Inclusion to ensure corporate responsibility and drive digital transformation
- WBA to continue engaging with digital sector players in raising awareness on digital inclusion issues highlighted by the Digital Inclusion Benchmark

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (One paragraph)

- Corporate responsibility on digital inclusion
- Regulation of Artificial Intelligence

Introduction to the Trustless Computing Certification Body and Seevik Net Initiative (Trustless Computing Association)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/171>

Organization: Trustless Computing Association

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Applying Internet Universality ROAM-X framework for WSIS+20 review and Global Digital Compact (UNESCO)

Summary of Session: Applying Internet Universality ROAM-X framework for WSIS+20 review and Global Digital Compact

Organizer: UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) and Regional Center for Studies on the Development of the Information Society (Cetic.br)

Thursday, 16 March 2023. 10h00 – 12h00am

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/197>

Key Issues discussed

- What follow up actions have been taken or should be taken following the ROAM-X assessments at national level to support the implementation of WSIS+20 review and Global Digital Impact?
- What are lessons learned and good practice to share in experimenting with a multi-stakeholder approach?
- What relevance of ROAM do speakers perceive at global level?
- How should ROAM-X indicators be revised and updated so as to address the evolving digital ecosystem, WSIS +20 review and Global digital compact?

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date

- In the past few years, COVID-19 has become a challenge for the implementation of more human-rights based and inclusive Internet policies in areas such as meaningful access, equity etc. (WSIS Action lines C.3 and C.10).
- The pandemic has also impacted the role of journalism and media (WSIS Action lines C.9) with disinformation becoming a major threat in the current digital age.
- 15 years of WSIS implementation has advanced a human rights-based approach and humanistic framework to guide the ICTs development and digital transformation.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments

- The ROAM-X framework promotes values for a connecting society that are aligning with the Global Digital Compact: its multistakeholder approach is not only crucial for the

completion of the voluntary national assessment but also for the development of the GDC as a global digital cooperation instrument.

- The unique strength of the indicators lays in its comprehensive and holistic approach as well as its multistakeholder approach, which was outlined by several global experts of the ROAM-X indicators. This approach allows various stakeholders to engage in policy reforms that secure digital cooperation and transformation at regional, national and global levels.
- The update of the indicators was discussed for the framework to reflect emerging digital trends and challenges including climate, energies and environment, fostering green digital transformation and meaningful connectivity.

Actionable plan

- Build capacity for more Member States to apply ROAM-X framework to assess national Internet development
- Update ROAM-X framework to adapt to the rapid technological development

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event)

- Open data and privacy during AI and digital development
- Environment: What is the Internet contribution to climate change? How can actors in Internet Governance make a concrete change in implementing concrete policies for change such as reducing their carbon footprint or adopting green computing?
- Disinformation and misinformation
- E-health: How to prevent e-health from infringing privacy rights?
- Cross-cutting issues: How to improve the protection of women and children's rights online? How to promote gender equality on the Internet and the media?

Universities have a vital role in shaping the future of the society (University of Oslo)

Summary of Session: The Role of Universities in Shaping the Future of the Society

University of Oslo

16Mar2023, 1100-1145 h CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/369>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The Role of Universities in contributing to equity, collective knowledge, identification of problems and implementations of societal needs
- Digital- and Energy-Equity, visibly especially in the rural-/urban-, as well as the gender divide in access to basic services
- The needs in rural Africa, with underserved rural schools, requirements for low cost servers and contextualized content
- The cost aspects of the digital transformation, especially the operational expenditures (OPEX) as costs of airtime for connecting schools and communities
- Community contribution as key for contextualized knowledge on health, education, and rights
- Local knowledge to address the global challenges and identify solutions for the communities

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The Global Challenges such as Climate Crisis, Digital Divide, Resource Depletion and Economic crisis needs Universities to create the long-term perspective, identify the problems and contribute with an independent contribution to implementation (WSIS Action lines)
- The honorable activities of GIGA by ITU & UNICEF in school connectivity is an excellent starting point to establish Community Learning & Living Labs (CL3), to reach out to those being left aside in formal education systems, have an entry point to governmental services, and achieve digital competency (WSIS Action lines ...)
- WSIS beyond 2025 needs Universities as independent institutions to identify problems and create the long term perspective in answering the societal needs and create impact (WSIS Action lines ...)

- From Policy to Action: WSIS beyond 2025 needs to foster the change through best praxis policies, actions and implementations besides the amazing work on networking and high-level policy agreements (WSIS Action lines)
- “Connect the Future”: The building blocks for societal empowerment, energy, information and access to information need to be made available for every single human being. Focus needs to be on the LDCs, identifying the specific challenges and contributing with solutions for the disadvantaged people (WSIS Action lines ...)

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The University Alliance between The Guild, 21 research intensive universities in Europe, and ARUA, the African Research Universities Alliance encompassing 16 African Universities, committed to the knowledge exchange to achieve equity, by implementing cross-continental clusters on digital, energy, anti-microbiological resistance (AMR) and other topics
- Universities are continuing Regional Competence Centres (RCCs) for connectivity and digital empowerment. An example is the School Connectivity of 300 schools through the RCCs at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Dar es Salaam Technology Institute (DIT) and Arusha Technical College, contributing to the University- and Multi-Stakeholder alliance for School Connectivity: <https://www.udsm.ac.tz/web/index.php/news/udsm-coict-to-connect-300-secondary-schools-to-the-internet>
- Universities contribute to contextualized and local content to support the decentralized knowledge hubs at regional schools and Community Learning & Living Labs (CL3). Schools and CL3s are the entry point for access to information and local knowledge, preservation of cultural heritage, and involvement centres for community health and digital transformation.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Through the Regional Competence Centres (RCCs), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are the drivers for connectivity and knowledge transfer, connecting 300 schools in Tanzania by end of 2023, achieving a total of more than 400 connected schools in rural Africa.
- On 13Jun2023 Universities of Europe and Africa will join in Addis to establish the cross-continental clusters on digital, energy, anti-microbiological resistance (AMR) and other topics.
- Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) are committed to the knowledge exchange including Master- and PhD-topics, exchange of researchers and identification of topics for long-term research addressing the societal- and global challenges.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) are committed to the “Public Responsibility for and of Higher Education”. The independence, addressed through institutional autonomy, and academic freedom & integrity, is fostered by high-quality and scientifically proven data, methods and algorithms. HEIs suggest that WSIS Forum 2024

- Fosters the availability on reliable data-sets for high-quality research on digital-, energy- and health-equity;
- Address the Roles of Universities in the Multi-Stakeholder approach to address the long-term problems and achieve the SDGs; and
- Prepares the path from policies and recommendations to actions, including (i) the inter-continental knowledge exchange, (ii) clusters for inter-continental research, and (iii) Regional Competence Centres (RCCs) for actionable activities

Making the most of quantum computers, inclusively and openly, to reach the SDGs (Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA))

Summary of Session: Making the most of quantum computers, inclusively and openly, to accelerate the SDGs and beyond

Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator GESDA

16 March 2023 11h-11:45h

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/205>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Quantum Tech will create profound changes to society, changing entire industries and sectors. The session's panelists converged around the need to anticipate these developments to understand its multi-faceted impacts, e.g. social, ethical, developmental and to socialize its potential benefits changing the current paradigm.
- The quantum pursuit and related investments are fractured. Scattered technology and policy approaches have led to a focus on a few technologies, in a handful of countries, and in the hands of a limited number of incumbents, all this among geopolitical tensions.
- The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator Foundation (GESDA) Diplomacy Forum Chair, underscored that humanity must use the upcoming 10 years (i.e. the timeframe by which quantum computers will mature for real-life applications) to prepare for equal and inclusive use of this powerful technological capability, and with a view to prevent the enlargement of the digital divide. This is also where multilateral actors come into play and can contribute considerably through anticipatory science diplomacy efforts.
- Fellow diplomatic representatives, delved into the contours of a global governance initiative to address these issues, GESDA's Open Quantum Institute (OQI), a proposal developed by leaders in science, diplomacy, business and civil society, an initiative that their countries have actively supported.
- The OQI is envisioned to act as an "honest broker" between the R&D, the quantum technology providers and the SDG's and the post-2030 Agenda. The main driver would be to anticipate the readiness of all stakeholders to embrace the power of quantum computing once at full maturity.
- Concrete examples for the SDG agenda were offered, referring to the production of fertilizers, a very important industry, and how the inclusive use of quantum technologies to produce better and more sustainable fertilizers will avoid counter-productive competition. On the other hand, it was underlined that developing economies must engage in quantum technologies uses-cases development at an earlier stage, bringing all of society to the conversation and changing the current paradigm of concentration of power.

- Views from the business sector reflected on the responsible development of the technology, and how it is in the industry sector best interest to meaningfully engage in multi-actor initiatives like the OQI, to jointly identify positive and inclusive governance frameworks. Academic and civil society representatives concurred around the value of inclusive and action-oriented dialogue, to ensure quantum technologies benefit a majority of present and future generations.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- WSIS Action Lines must respond to the rapid pace of technological development and promote the importance of working together with policy-makers, scientists, industry and civil society partners to align the development of emerging technologies, including quantum technologies to real-life and impactful uses cases, contributing to tackling major humanity's challenges and preventing the widening of the digital divide.
- The WSIS Action Lines would also benefit from including Anticipatory Science Diplomacy approaches that are transversal to all emerging technologies, including digital. The anticipatory dimension embeds the inter-generational "lens", framing sustainability also from the perspective of young people and future generations for longer-term positive impact. GESDA Open Quantum Institute's proposal, aims to ensure that emerging technologies such as quantum computing are further advanced and used in alignment with the SDGs in this critical decade of action, as well as beyond 2030.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The panel generated an interactive exchange on matters such as the development of disruptive technologies as a reflection of society's values.
- It stimulated the debate around uses cases of quantum technologies for food-security, sustainable energy-transition, dual-use nature of the technology (cryptography, standards, etc.), the digital divide, the concept of openness, the transparent development of roadmaps and governance frameworks, the accountable application of the resources, the need to educate the scientists developing the quantum algorithms and all stakeholders to better understand societal needs and positive impact approaches.
- GESDA's Open Quantum Institute (OQI) was perceived as an important initiative in ensuring quantum technologies leaves no one behind.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- To continue collaborating in the OQI's multistakeholder platform to include all voices and perspectives as we aim to anticipate scientific and technological developments and its implications, including for better global governance and the acceleration of the SDGs.
- To expand the network of collaboration to underrepresented regions, backgrounds, sectors, intergenerational views, etc. and keep reporting on its progress.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

To address the rapid pace of scientific and technological breakthroughs and its impacts on human beings, society and the planet, through anticipatory science diplomacy approaches, enabling more accurate and fit-for-purpose decision-making and policy development.

The use of digital tools that facilitate effective intergenerational relationships (CSEND)

Summary of Session: The use of digital tools that facilitate effective intergenerational relationships

Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development

16th March 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/220>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Need to re-imagine the intergenerational relations due to demographic change and the emergence of ageing societies around the world, especially in light of the fact that by 2050 one out of five persons will be older than the age of 65.
- Contributing to reduction of youth unemployment and the integration of the young people into the job market and their successful start of their career in enterprises and organisations.
- Mechanisms to achieve mutually beneficial collaboration in developing digital competence for the benefit of young and senior employees between generations to achieve healthy and active ageing for different communities.
- The entrenched digital divide continues to prevent millions of people (old and young) from participation in the job market for younger people to enter the job market and for senior people who want to work past retirement to re-enter the job market.
- Solutions need to be developed in regard to social computing applications for learning, working, communicating, and information exchange in addition to socializing and development of social networks to support personal development and economic engagement.
- Ways and means to mitigate existing disparities (physical and/or competences) through the use of digital tools in promoting intergenerational partnerships at the *workplace* for mutual support and learning.
- Increasing promotion and use of workplace intergenerational collaboration through effective use of ISO 25550:2022 General Requirements and Guidelines for Inclusive Workforce.

- The challenges of youth employment around the world.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

The rapid digitalization of major urban centres will be useful to cope with the fact that 70% of the world population (estimated to be 8.5 billion) will be residing in large urban centers by 2050. Digital tools will be part of the everyday experiences for all especially in the urban territory and the rural areas connected to these urban centres for transactions and for the delivery of public services and private goods alike. Without sufficient mastery of the digital literacy and competence, today's youth will not be able to engage in better rewarded work in the future. Therefore, the digital divide in many countries will produce a "poverty trap" in the coming decade when artificial intelligence will replace many of the more routine type of work which do not require human sensitivity (relational intelligence) and judgment (critical thinking).

The age 65 and older generation will increasingly be participating in the labour market for various reasons, such as financial insecurity or desire for meaningful work. This trend has continued for the last 20 years and is projected to increase significantly. Yet, evidence based on existing research, labour force participation is shown to be very much affected by the educational level and gender of the older job seekers.

The following WSIS Action Lines can be better achieved due to collaborative intergenerational relations. Different generations may bring different "assets" to the interaction through mutual learning and through a coaching relationship. This relationship needs to be facilitated within the work organization as well as in the community at large. The action lines can be achieved through purposeful digital and social tools that are made available to promote effective intergenerational collaborations are:

- WSIS Action Line 3 Access to Information and Knowledge.
- WSIS Action Line 4 Capacity Building
- WSIS Action Line 5 Building Capacity and Confidence in Using ICTs
- WSIS Action Line 7, E-Learning, E-Health, E-Employment

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

The audience supported continued deliberation within the context of WSIS on this topic. Future discussion on the impact of deepening deployment of digital tools in the society and the arrival of generative AI such ChatGPA could shade more light on how social relations will be affected by such technological advancement and need to be “co-designed” to reflect the needs and aspirations of different generations in different contexts.

Some key questions will be explored in future debates include :

- Could digital tools enhance intergenerational collaboration at the workplace and communities? If so, how?
- What are the necessary conditions to support such digitally based intergenerational collaboration and working together in the workplace and in the communities?
- Is the workplace the right social setting for natural experimentation of meaningful and innovative intergenerational collaboration?

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Liaise with other like-minded interest groups within WSIS to expend engagement of WSIS community to this emerging work item in view of the demographic reversal where people of age 65 and over will outnumber younger persons of age 15 and below by 2050. To get the intergenerational relations right will lay the foundation for maintaining social cohesion and economic sustainability. Both demands will take human ingenuity beyond AI substitution and its vulnerability to falsehood and untruth due to its self-referential looping, as researchers have already found out.
- Reach out to the larger scientific and technology communities outside of WSIS for conversation and partnerships in order to advance policy and research insights and discussions. These conversations can also broaden the participation in the WSIS process from the other communities of interest.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- In view of the pending demographic disruption by 2050, it is important to discuss how future digital development needs to address the following quadruple challenges or deficits simultaneously through intergenerational collaboration. They are: economic, social, environmental and governance. Intergenerational partnerships will bring experiences, lived knowledge and critical reflection to bear and help the younger generations avoid opportunistic traps and short-term oriented life styles. Such partnerships are essential in co-creating the algorithm with a framework structure that can be self-correcting and self-critical. For AI to be a powerful support to the human endeavour rather than replacement, AI needs to reflect the total learning of human history and offer critical analysis of the data it reviewed with rigor that meets scientific requirements.

In this line of thinking, intergenerational collaboration is more than interactions between different age groups. It is about collaboration between the elder groups who have knowledge and wisdom that acquired over time with the early generations of ChatGPT and other first generation AIs. It is hoped that the narcissistic tendency of the early Metaverse can be corrected.

The thematic aspects of our topic of intergenerational collaborations through digital social tools needs to be kept and broadened and question should be added: how can intergenerational collaboration be achieved so that AI 4.0 can be a true helper in complex systemic problem solving.

Enabling digitization for people, planet and prosperity - a business perspective
(International Chamber of Commerce)

Summary of Session: Enabling digitization for people, planet and prosperity - a business perspective

International Chamber of Commerce

16 March 2023, 14:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/336>

Key Issues discussed

The session offered an overview of best practices and lessons learnt from business, addressing how investments in digitization work for people, planet and prosperity. It showcased the efforts made to leverage the value of meaningful connectivity to facilitate inclusive development and address the gender digital divide. It shed light on the opportunities brought by digital services towards climate action, and it addressed the means of closing the connectivity and usage gap in rural areas, and the efforts made in helping companies accelerate their digital transformation and reach a sustainable business model. Throughout their interventions, participants called for holistic policy-making that considers economic, technical, socio-cultural, and overarching governance factors and is based on multistakeholder partnerships and input.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

The workshop highlighted key recommendations for policymaking that move forward the implementation of WSIS Action Lines for development, while identifying key priority areas, including: *Promotion of ICTs for development, Enabling environment, Capacity building*. Across these identified areas of priority, the workshop delved into case studies showcasing business efforts with social, environmental and economic objectives, while highlighting the need to reinforce multistakeholder partnerships that maximize the benefit of digital technologies. Furthermore, the session also addressed the challenges in bridging digital skills gaps, and the efforts made by business in supporting digital literacy and capacity building.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

For people: The interventions highlighted that solutions in digital transformation will thrive through cross-sectoral partnerships and multistakeholder collaboration, focusing on three elements: connectivity and access, applications and services, and skills, to use the Internet safely and productively. For example, the session showcased learnings from Microsoft's Airband Initiative, working towards connecting 20 million people in Africa by the end of 2025.

For planet: As a crucial component for the acceleration of sustainable development, the session presented the developments of research projects to support climate change adaptation and mitigation. The approach to drive digital transformation and green transition is two-fold: it requires cooperation in standardization of ICT sectors, and the collaboration to reap the benefits brought by ICT services in the economy. The session presented initiatives led by Orange in smart agriculture and smart buildings, as well as Ericsson's work in advancing accuracy of production processes and reducing waste through 5G enabling 27 million euros of savings annually.

For prosperity: The session drew input from ongoing projects focusing on digital literacy for SMEs, youth, women, progressing through initiatives such as Grow with Google, as well as connecting people in rural areas, facilitated through cross-sector partnerships, and bringing "everyone on the table" to close the digital divide, as showcased in Telefonica's Internet Para Todos, offering mobile broadband to unconnected rural populations in Peru.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

The speakers echoed a holistic approach in deploying meaningful connectivity, through establishing partnerships.

The interventions called for scaling-up investments in private, public or cross-sector partnerships, by creating an enabling environment.

The session also highlighted the importance of supporting SMEs with cutting edge solutions to boost the productivity and digitization of their services.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

WSIS Forum 2024 should keep seeking in-depth discussions on deploying multistakeholder partnerships to spread connectivity and meaningful access to Internet and ICTs and how this contributes to bridging divides and closing gaps. The WSIS Forum mandate refers to taking stock of the progress made on the WSIS Action Lines. Thus discussions should gather more in depth multistakeholder conversations on the lesson learnt and progresses at advancing the Action Lines.

Generative AI and the information society: How IT professionals can ensure that generative AI supports the information society (IFIP – Supporting Partner)

Summary of Session: Generative AI and the Information Society

How IT professionals can ensure that Generative AI supports the Information Society

IFIP IP3

16 March 2023 14:00 to 15:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/222>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Real life applications and demonstrations of Generative AI
- The importance of the Prompt provided to ChatGPT and how this should be formulated
- Using ChatGPT for digital education
- Microsoft's Bing AI in action
- The legal, copyright, and IP implications

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Emerging technologies support AL C3, because access to information and knowledge is becoming easier. However, there is still work to be done to ensure all the world's people have access. Organisations like IFIP can assist, but ultimately this requires political will from every country's leaders. That is the challenge. The technology is there – its about making it available and affordable.
- AL C4 – we must find ways to empower users to exploit Generative AI, in a responsible, effective, and productive way.
- AL C7 – Generative AI has the power to enhance e-learning, providing the ability to create learning resources quickly and effectively. This must be explored along with how we can empower learners to use the technology to gain knowledge and skills
- AL C10 – Ethical decision making must be built into every step of a development life-cycle for any technology, and AI must be used responsibly. We must acknowledge that AI is built into mobile devices so most people use it every day – this has a greater potential to harm the average person than “big” AI technologies.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- IFIP IP3 will investigate the development of frameworks and best practices for Generative AI. This will include ethical and IP issues.
- IFIP is committed to working with UNESCO as Open Education Resources are built out. Specifically, we will consult on how Generative AI products can be used to develop the resources.
- IFIP will review the IFIP Code of Ethics to ensure that it is in line with the UNESCO AI Ethics

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Review IFIP Code of Ethics
- Develop good practice guidelines for Generative AI

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Generative AI with its immense possibilities has been on everyone's mind during WSIS Forum 2023. This should be a thematic aspect for 2024 – with specific emphasis on how this can support achievement of the SDGs.

ICT indicators for monitoring international goals and targets (Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development)

Summary of the Session: ICT Indicators for monitoring international goals and targets

Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development Steering Committee: ITU, UNDESA, UNCTAD)

16 March 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/216>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The session provided an overview of the data availability of the current core list of ICT indicators defined by the Partnership and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2022, and discussed whether the list and their methodologies, are sufficient to answer current and future policy making needs. The session also addressed capacity building needs of countries and other challenges faced, such as lack of resources to conduct surveys, to produce official ICT statistics.
- The UN SG's Tech Envoy in his opening remarks highlighted a few priority areas for future work on digital statistics for development:
 - i) the need for capacity development efforts especially in developing countries in measuring progress via indicators,
 - ii) bridging the gap between the statistical community and the holders of new data sources such as big data and AI, since they are currently working in silos
 - iii) investing in improving the timeliness of indicators through the production of near-realtime data,
 - iv) using common data models for comparability across regions and for quality and reliable indicators, and
 - v) urgently identifying follow-up indicators to measure progress in development goals and for the upcoming Global Digital Compact, while acknowledging that we may be measuring a moving target.
- The UN SG's Tech Envoy stated that this session may not be as glamorous as others during the WSIS Forum, but it is surely one of the most important, since data is crucial for decision making. On the role of indicators to assess progress towards international goals and targets, he noted that "we must measure what we treasure".

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Much progress has been made by several countries in collecting ICT indicators. However, there are still many countries that do not collect enough of the core indicators as a baseline. For example, statistics from developing countries on ICT use by businesses are still scarce.
- The main challenges for many statistical offices in developing countries remain the lack of resources and continued capacity building.
- In addition, it is difficult for official statistics to keep up with, and measure, the evolving nature of the ICT landscape, with AI and other emerging and disruptive technologies increasingly present in the practice of organizations, governments, and individuals.
- There is an opportunity for official statistics to incorporate new data sources such as big data to produce more timely data in order to monitor ICT adoption of countries and inform policies to leverage ICTs for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.
- The private sector can help address the measurement challenge by developing collaboration in data sharing with entities responsible for official statistics.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The panel highlighted the importance of having more timely and disaggregated data to inform public policy, and common data models to ensure comparability between countries.
- There was also an acknowledgement of the existence of significant gaps in data, but also in resources and skills, between developing and developed countries, with LDCs lagging the furthest behind. Existing initiatives to bridge those gaps include the development of toolkits to aid the data collection from countries, as well as online tools to facilitate the reporting of existing data. However, more effort is needed in this area.
- UN agencies present in the meeting reaffirmed their commitment to their efforts of reviewing the existing list of core ICT indicators.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development will continue to regularly discuss ways to help countries increase availability of data for the core indicators, as well as to raise awareness of the importance of ICT statistics to guide policy aimed at achieving international goals and targets.

- The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development will continue to disseminate methodological guidance and technical material on ICT statistics, online and through capacity building activities. Responses:
- Finally, the Partnership will continue to update the list of core indicators and its methodological guidance to reflect the evolution of international goals and targets, emerging needs such as measuring the use of ICT for post-pandemic recovery, and the potential to leverage the changing data landscape (including privately held data) to inform official statistics.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- The role of ICT indicators in achieving the 2030 Agenda
- Strategic links between the WSIS Forum 2024 and the Global Digital Compact (GDC): the role of monitoring and indicators

Multistakeholder Partnership to Empower Digital Literacy Initiatives (ICT WATCH / SIBERKREASI)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/335>

Organization: ICT Watch/SIBERKREASI

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Localizing Digital Transformation in Ukraine: Use of innovative technologies in bridging the urban-rural divide (Swiss-Ukrainian eGovernance for Accountability and Participation Program, INNOVABRIDGE Foundation, East Europe Foundation)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/268>

Organization: Swiss-Ukrainian eGovernance for Accountability and Participation Program, INNOVABRIDGE Foundation, East Europe Foundation

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Accelerating digital development in Europe and Central Asia: On our way to Agenda 2030 (ITU)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/233>

Organization: ITU, with the contribution of the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Summary of Session: The importance of meaningful access to information

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

16 March 2023, 16:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/380>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Progress towards achieving universal connectivity has not been matched by progress in other areas which are relevant for achieving meaningful access to information, in particular gender equality, skills, and broader freedoms and rights, as demonstrated by the Development and Access to Information Regional Dashboards 2023
- While the internet has huge potential to support the open government agenda, this has not yet been realised on the ground.
- In response, we need both more proactive disclosure and investment in open government by governments, but also investment in the infrastructure by which people can access this data, and the awareness, skills and confidence to use it
- Similarly, the internet has enabled open access and open science, as well as offering valuable tools for search. However, we have not yet managed to lift copyright-related barriers, or ensure possibilities to work across underlying data.
- Strategies for making a reality of open science, in line with the UNESCO Recommendation, are needed, including support for open access infrastructures as digital public goods
- Even where people are connected, the commercial logic of the internet and focus on more 'profitable' groups and uses risks leading many excluded.
- There needs to be space and support for public/community interest internet uses, supported by the values of libraries.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Access to information continues to be an essential area of focus, given how closely this is intertwined with the potential of the internet to deliver positive change. However, a focus on purely technical or sectoral concerns means that we do not think sufficiently in

the round about what is needed to ensure that everyone has the practical possibility, skills, knowledge, rights and confidence to make the most of it.

- We have achieved much (although have much to do) on connectivity, but investments in this will be under-realised unless we accompany them with similar work to promote full an equal access. In all areas touched on by the WSIS Action Lines, we need to think about what reforms are needed in order to make sure that the internet delivers properly by enabling meaningful access to information (C3, but also C6, C7 and C8). It is not enough to look only at more 'conventional' digital/internet regulatory tools, but rather to think about the interaction between different types of action, in a similar way as has been done in looking at interlinkages between the SDGs.
- Following on from this, one area of focus should be on how we can ensure that an 'offer' (both of connectivity, and of content online, such as open government data and information) can meet a 'demand' from citizens. We would argue that a well-supported library sector can play a major role, acting as a portal to such information, including through skills provision and raising awareness of opportunities.
- Another area would be to encourage an approach to scientific information that prioritises access, putting an end to the default position where research is paywalled in order to cover costs of publication and dissemination, as well as developing means of ensuring that the underlying data or annotations in publications can also be shared, in order to deliver on truly open science.
- An additional example is in the way in which minority groups can find themselves on the internet, and the threat posed to this by models that place profitability first and foremost. While it is of course welcome that the internet supports and drives economic growth, this should still leave space for indigenous communities, for example, to develop and share their own content and ideas. The non-profit/community interest approach taken by libraries to information management could provide an inspiration here.
- Particularly precious is the internet's ability to be the core infrastructure for a genuine knowledge commons, building on the very positive emphasis on the public domain in the original action lines (C3). We need to think about overall internet governance in terms of how to build a space where information can be created, shared and applied in the public interest, and with respect for the needs of individuals and communities. There is an opportunity to think hard about how we can build such a public domain/knowledge commons.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The session provided the opportunity for the first public presentation of data from the Development and Access to Information Regional Dashboards, which will be further promoted in subsequent SDG-related events this year.
- The session is a first step in efforts to update IFLA's own Internet Manifesto in order to develop a positive vision of the internet libraries want and can help to build. This process will run over the coming.
- IFLA will continue to seek out examples that build understanding of how the 'access gap' is holding back progress in the different areas covered by the WSIS Action Points, in order to provide further input into any future review.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- IFLA will engage the global library community in a process of updating the IFLA Internet Manifesto, with a view to deriving both helpful recommendations for any future review
- IFLA will work with the global library community to assess where there are 'access gaps' – i.e. where despite advances in connectivity, people are not able to access the information they need for development
- The Technology and Social Change Group will prepare briefings and publications allowing for more extensive engagement with the Development and Access to Information Regional Dashboards, in order to facilitate work with these

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

A cross-cutting look from the perspective of different sectors (in particular those highlighted in the WSIS Action Lines and linked to the SDGs) of how well the internet is doing in delivering on progress in these areas. We would, of course, also suggest that if post offices are included in high-level segments, it would be valuable also to bring in a library perspective, given their deep and extensive global role in supporting inclusive and meaningful internet access and use.

Summary of Session: Leveraging the power of sports for children's online safety

ITU, Child Online Protection

16.03.2023 – 15:15h – 16:15h CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/247>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Risks and potential harm for children online
- International and national efforts to protect and empower children online
- Safeguarding challenges in sports building a continuum between the online and offline environment
- Opportunities of sports for children's rights and wellbeing
- How to leverage on the outreach and impact of sports on children's lives for increased online safety awareness and digital skills development
- Concrete actions being taken to combine both realms

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Despite the many efforts on child online protection, these are often happening in silos and not enough opportunities to reach children, including those living in rural areas, without leaving no child behind.
- Sports can be an important channel for social change and the opportunities are numerous to increase safety and rights education for children in sports.
- ICTs and Sports as a cross-sectoral approach bear many opportunities for the realization of the SDGs and I believe it should be further explored and remain an integral part of WSIS+20 and beyond 2025.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- ITU Policy Brief on Child Online Protection in Sports
- FiFa safeguarding trainings include online risks and harm for children.
- Agreement to collaborate further under the ITU COP in Sports initiative

Summary of Session: AI for Good

International Telecommunication Union

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 15:15–16:15 (UTC+01:00)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/310>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Release the 2022 United Nations Activities on Artificial Intelligence Report
- AI for Good Global Summit – ITU
- AI and related activities across the IAEA – IAEA
- AI and related activities across the World Bank Group – World Bank Group

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- AI-based decision-making has already penetrated into almost all spheres of human life, from content recommendation and healthcare to predictive policing and autonomous driving, deeply affecting everyone, anywhere, anytime. The discriminative impact of AI-based decision-making on certain population groups has been already observed in a variety of cases leading to an ever-increasing public concern about the impact of AI in our lives. Policymakers and computer scientists have increasingly embarked upon a quest for “trustworthy AI”. After the publication of numerous ethical frameworks and strategies concerning AI, we will gradually enter a phase of proposals for legal regulations of AI.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- The 2022 United Nations Activities on Artificial Intelligence Report published

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Update the related webpages of AI for Good based on the 2022 United Nation Activities on Artificial Intelligence Report.
- Optimize the update and data collection process for the 2023 AI compendium.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- To consider the significant inflection point for generative AI as a result of recent breakthroughs in this field, including potential benefits, risks and implications. To feed into a series of discussions on new technologies and frontier issues that affect the UN and require rapid adaptation.

Summary of Session: Artificial Intelligence for Climate Change in Africa

Hosted by Digital Coalition

Thursday, 16th March at 16:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/338>

Key issues discussed:

- Africa is the least contributing to the greenhouse effect while having the lowest carbon print and yet it is the most affected by Climate Change
- Thanks to AI, it is possible to significantly impact the SDGs with the ability to predict and anticipate events
- Computational thinking and Machine Learning offered by AI promotes sequential and orderly problem solving. These mechanisms can be used to address the Climate Change issues in Africa
- African youth must be made aware of the challenges of AI and digital tools
- Climate Change has an impact on the entire population in various areas, from food security to agriculture, health etc
- The use of AI could improve production conditions: finding the least polluting materials, ensure that IA technologies developed are designed for Africa, making supply chains less polluting.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date

- Rise of AI and how it is disrupting the workplace
- Need to have a strong AI policy to foster Equity, keep Diversity and inclusion in the Work environment
- Africa is the least contributing to the greenhouse effect while having the lowest carbon print and yet it is the most affected by Climate Change. Thanks to AI, it is possible to significantly impact the SDGs with the ability to predict and anticipate events. Computational thinking and Machine Learning offered by AI promotes sequential and orderly problem solving. These mechanisms can be used to address the Climate Change issues in Africa. Climate Change has an impact on the entire population in various areas, from food security to agriculture, health etc
- The use of AI could improve production conditions: finding the least polluting materials, ensure that IA technologies developed are designed for Africa, making supply chains less polluting. African youth must be made aware of the challenges of AI and digital tools

- The WSIS +20 and WSIS beyond 2025 offer the opportunity to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- **ACHIEVEMENT:** Many actions have been carried out in close connection with this workshop theme. Indeed, a competition "IA Challenges" was launched across 13 African countries. The objective was to present the state of AI in each country through a video made by students. The videos are available on Youtube via the link: <https://youtu.be/W810z3mdLCI>
- **AGREEMENT:** Digital Coalition will support the African Telecommunications Union in the definition of African Public Policy on AI issues
- **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Digital Coalition will work on building the AI system for Climate change through a database of African indigenous Knowledge. In addition, AI (AI as a new economy) a process for simulating human intelligence will be incorporated into our various programs.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- It will be necessary to see to what extent traditional African knowledge and data collected by AI can be combined to create a global system for the most accurate predictions.
- It is essential to use Machine Learning to enhance technical systems
- An OpenAI Database for Climate change will be built as a free resource across the continent

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

The WSIS Forum 2024 should include topics related to green technologies and **highlighting the indigenous knowledge in Africa and other regions**. Responding to environmental challenges is becoming increasingly crucial. In addition, it is critical to advocate for the reduction of toxic waste in Africa.

Implementing digital technology in education. What are the risks and benefits?
(Oxford Internet Institute)

Summary of Session: Implementing digital technology in education. What are the risks and benefits?

Oxford Internet Institute

16.03.2023 4pm

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/389>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Risks and benefits of using digital technology in education were discussed from the tech sector, academia and country-comparative perspective.
- It was emphasized that the learning takes place in different cultural, political, and socio-economic contexts. The local specificities must not be ignored when implementing technologies.
- It is important to have the users (students, teachers, parents, schools) at the core, when developing EdTech, and to involve users as producers.
- Much EdTech are produced by actors in the Global North, who may not be familiar with the context in the Global South, however their products are used also in the Global South.
- While technology has potential to provide access to high quality pedagogical content to a large population, data privacy and algorithmic biases were identified as one of the major issues.
- These issues can be alleviated when EdTech are designed as public good rather than having commercial goals as the priority.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Improving education access and quality has been a goal of the WSIS Action Lines. While this is a crucial effort, there are new emerging challenges that should be considered.
- One of the challenges is that most EdTech are produced by global players, who may not be familiar with the local needs. EdTech producers and designers may not share similar socio-economic, cultural, and political backgrounds with the users, which impedes effective usage of EdTech. Hence, it is crucial that EdTech have a user-centric approach (bottom up rather than top down).
- Another issue is that with the large-scale rollout of EdTech, there is a structural shift in power. Increasingly it is the EdTech companies determine the metrics, the dashboards

to measure students' and teachers' performances – in other words, EdTech companies are increasingly determining 'what counts' and what has value. Yet, educational values should be determined democratically, depending on the local needs.

- As most EdTech are provided by for profit companies, there is an increasing commercialization of education, which may not be aligned with the public values.
- Further, the public sector increasingly depends on the services provided by private companies, and there has been an increasing hollowing out of the public service system.
- Lastly, we need to discuss about who owns and controls the vast amount of data produced by students and teachers (EdTech users), and how is the data being used.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Different stakeholders in EdTech have different perspectives, values, interests, and agenda, it is therefore important to have these interests aligned. However, different stakeholders have largely remained in their own silos and echo chambers. This session has invited three speakers and brought together EdTech sector, represented by Google, large international organisation, represented by OECD, and academia, represented by Oxford University, enabling exchange between three major stakeholder groups, breaking the silos. The audience also comes from a diverse range of sectors.
- This session has offered the opportunity for the speakers as well as the audience to connect and to understand each other's perspectives. There has been already follow ups with five academics, two EdTech companies, three government/international organisations, and two thinktanks.
- The Google and OECD representatives reported the takeaways from the session to their organisations, shaping the future visions.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Maintaining and further strengthening the connections between different stakeholders. I have already planned a visit to the OECD in May 2023 to discuss further steps and share academic findings with the OECD.
- I will expand the current EdTech usage index (Shi and Stephany 2022), which tracks the usages of EdTech since 2019 in the UK, to a global usage index. The index will be shared with colleagues in academia and in relevant sectors.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- While developing technology is important, we need to get away from technology deterministic thinking. Social problems may not always be solvable with technology, because often the issues arise due to structural problems. While technology may

alleviate certain aspects, ultimately it depends on how a society is structured. While technology can be used to increase social equality, implementing technology in a highly stratified society with low social mobility, it may increase the social divide. Hence, my suggestion for the WSIS 2024 is to discuss the structural problems while also considering low tech 'solutions'.

Summary of Session: Digital Environment System Coalition Walk (Session 403): Experiencing digital environment interactions in the "place" of Geneva

Organized by: Royal Holloway, University of London, on behalf of DESC

16 March 2023; 16.00-18.30

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/403>

See also: <https://ict4d2004.files.wordpress.com/2023/03/desc-sessions-wsis-2023.pdf>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

This walk provided an opportunity for participants to share their own research and practice relating to the interactions between digital tech and the environment, and also to discuss the positive and negative impacts of digital tech on the biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and lithosphere, as well as a specific session on YouthDESC. In essence, individual participants brought the group to a halt at locations that they felt were most appropriate for them along the walk and shared information about themselves and their research/practice, and we also stopped at five pre-planned locations to discuss each of the main themes as a group. Moderators of each main stop sought to encourage the participants to highlight three positive and three native interactions between digital tech and the environment.

- *Parc Mon Repos* - the biosphere (led by Paul Spiesberger). Issues discussed included the positives of being able to share nature through digital images, use of remote sensed imagery to monitor the biosphere, and the use of digital tech to enhance agricultural production. Negatives included digital pollution of plants and green spaces, potentially adverse effects on human health (including mental health), and increased urban exploitation of rural environments through digital tech.
- *Poste Filial* – YouthDESC (led by Tasfia Rahman). This began with a visit inside the building to discover the ways through which it is now necessary to use virtual/digital systems to post a physical/real card. We also recognized the important links between postal communication in the past and digital communication at present. The Instagram account of @YouthDESC was discussed, alongside the pros and cons of different social media platforms for engaging youth
- *Pont des Bergues* - the hydrosphere (led by Ahmed Imran). It was recognised that unlike the biosphere and lithosphere, the impact of digital tech on the hydrosphere is less immediately visible. However, negatives include the impact of deep sea mining for rare earth minerals, and the heating of water in cooling systems. The use of water warmed by the heat produced by servers was, though, also seen as a benefit.
- *Ile Rousseau* - the atmosphere (led by Zumana Imran). Beneath the feet of the philosopher Rousseau, our thoughts turned to the atmosphere above us, and focused on the positives

of the use of satellites for monitoring environmental change and enabling communication in isolated places, whilst also recognizing the harms of treating outer space as we used to treat the oceans (global commons), the impact on dark space, and space junk. It was also recognised that different cultures have differing views about the environment, and we must engage with indigenous communities.

- *Auditoire de Calvin* - the lithosphere (led by Tim Unwin). As dusk came upon us, few people remained to walk up the steps to the Cathedral and Auditoire de Calvin, but we nevertheless discussed the impact of mining for minerals used in digital tech, the impact of waste especially in landfill, and also the potential benefits in land management.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

All participants agreed on the importance of developing a holistic cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach to understanding the environmental impacts (both positive and negative) of digital tech on the environment as proposed by DESC (<https://ict4d.org.uk/desc/>). WSIS provides an excellent forum where these issues can be discussed because it engages many UN agencies and governments, along with researchers, civil society organisations and companies (although few of the latter were present).

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

These discussions fed directly into the discussion at Session 204 the following day (see separate report). However, they also did much to enhance the DESC network, help build specific research/practice collaborations, and reinforce the practical commitments of participants to influence global understanding and policy making relating to these issues.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

The discussions have already fed directly into DESC's emerging framework, and will help ensure a more nuanced approach to DESC's pledges to the ITU-led Partner2Connect over the coming months. We will report back to the WSIS Annual Forum in 2024.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Developing a comprehensive and holistic framework to understanding interactions between the physical environment and digital tech upon which sound policies at global and national scales can be implemented is essential for the survival of the human species. This would be an important HL theme for WSIS 2024



Closing the digital divide—how capacity building can help communities build sustainable Internet Infrastructure (ISOC – Contributing Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/408>

Organization: ISOC

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Giga: Defining and Financing Meaningful School Connectivity (Giga (ITU and UNICEF), Government of Switzerland and Government of Spain)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/407>

Organization: Giga (ITU and UNICEF), Government of Switzerland and Government of Spain

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance - Power Session (ITU)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/394>

Organization: ITU

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Governance and Regulation of Education Technologies: How to ensure EdTech serve in children's best interests? (EDDS)

Summary of Session: Governance and Regulation of Education Technologies: How to ensure EdTech serve in children's best interests?

Education Data Digital Safeguards (EDDS)

23 March 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/391>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- This session focused on calling for the setting up of robust governance and regulating the rapid digitization of education at national levels and considering national, cultural needs.
- Leeway is given to private businesses to become the central infrastructures and means to education globally. This requires thorough oversight, clear rules, and standards to ensure quality education that respects local cultures, values, the individual and the collective. The data extraction and algorithmic capacities of EdTech are a cause for concern and **governments must turn to these by developing the right tools and regulatory mechanisms for oversight.**
- EDDS presented its treatise for governance and regulatory mechanism of oversight of the EdTech sector, with several criteria including **Evidence building** with the education community actively participating; **Dedicated executive authoritative body** protects education's sovereignty; **Consensus across key stakeholders around standards, protocols, and rules**; And importantly a **commitment to the tech sector itself**.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date

- The biggest challenges will be to strike a balance between the private sector permeating the educational systems of societies globally and what is needed for children and their education.
- Algorithmic decision-making and personalized education are speculative promises that bear little evidence and work counter to child development and cognitive science (e.g., what is the health cost to plug a child into a device for 8 hours a day just because an app promises the child will learn mathematics?)
- **Projects such as GIGA and the Platform Gateway Initiatives can risk developing neocolonialist set-ups** whereby digital 'pipelines' are created that control access and type of information while at the same time those who own these systems, can have total control over populations through their capabilities to extract granular data about individuals. This issue demands strict standards, protocols, and proper governance.

- **The environmental cost of connecting** all educational institutions globally to the internet; providing technologies and gadgetry; enabling data extraction and computation

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- EDDS launched its governance and auditing system which can be proposed to governments globally.
- We attempted to engage with Dr. Jelassi, UNESCO and GIGA however we have not received a response yet. It will be an opportunity to sit with supranational organizations and projects such as them to ensure that there is proper oversight, evaluation, and support for all the EdTech companies included in these two projects.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Engage with ITU on the GIGA project and with UNICEF on the Platform Gateway project to propose governance, evaluation, and benchmarking around any EdTech or Big Tech organizations they work with for those projects. **-> any help from WSIS organizers in facilitating this is welcome.**
 - Set up a follow-up event with multi-stakeholder voices, especially representatives from LDCs to identify their concerns (which are already reflected above).
- Develop further evidence base around what products work (which is what EDDS works on with other partner organizations) and showcase the assessment and evaluation framework plus the evidence base at the next WSIS forum.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Rapid digitization defines educational priorities today. And while digital technologies give hope for convivial futures, today's reality and practices highlight risks that must be addressed with urgency – from normalizing surveillance to cybersecurity risks that can harm children, to automating inequalities, to harming the environment from the growing computational power expected for digitizing every aspect of human life. **WSIS Forum 2024 should consider debating alternative forms of governance such as digital gateways or platformisation of education as public utilities or P2P networks whereby private commercial power is avoided;** or licensing regimes whereby high-quality products are allowed to mediate children's education.

The Charter for Digital Public Goods (The Digital Impact Alliance and DPGA)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/313>

Organization: The Digital Impact Alliance and DPGA

Date: Friday, 17 March 2023

Summary of Session: EQUALS-EU: Europe’s Regional Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age
ITU

Friday 17 March 2023 9:15-10:15

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/387>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The panel discussed unexpected findings from the research activities of the EQUALS-EU project (<https://equals-eu.org>), an initiative funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.
- When an online survey distributed to 22 countries within and beyond the EU was translated into local languages, challenges emerged in the translation of key terms and concepts related to gender equality. For example, that in some languages, there is no direct translation for the word *gender*.
- Lead by Assoc. Prof Caroline Wamala- Larsson, the panel discussed this issue and its implications for policy development and other contexts in which non-English speaking nations may be translating local language into English (and vice versa), perhaps in applications to secure international funding with mandatory gender equity criteria.
- Assoc. Prof. Wamala went on to introduce the online lexicon being developed from the project findings to provide translations for 10 core terms emerging from the EQUALS-EU project.
- Tamara Dancheva from the GSMA presented the work of the EQUALS Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age and how the EQUALS EU project fits within the EQUALS network.
- Related to language, systemic barriers to women’s inclusion in digital tech were discussed: that innovation development infrastructure is framed within competitive activities and language (hackathon, innovation boot camp) which is intimidating to women who respond to more inclusive and collaborative environments (for example ideation workshop). It was discussed that barriers such as this prevent women from participating and advancing in careers in ICT and STEM.
- A further talking point was the need to not only provide access to digital tech but to build capacity in young women to become designers, developers and leaders in the tech industry, such that they contribute to the creation of the digital technology they use.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

Further to the points outlined in the previous section, EQUALS-EU suggests:

WSIS Action Line – C3: Access to information and knowledge

- There remain large gaps between infrastructure coverage and usage, so allowing more access to innovation spaces for women and minority groups so women contribute to their digital futures is urgent.
- There is a need for more secure mobile infrastructure as mobile devices dominate access to the internet- this is important for more inclusive approaches as EQUALS-EU works with women and minorities so they contribute to content development.
- Opening up the innovation economy to minority groups so they contribute to building and creating digital solutions, hence the STEM movement requires more resources.

WSIS Action Line – C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

- The gender gap in usage is shrinking but remains significant in the global south where, 30% women have connectivity in relation to 70% men – EQUALS-EU's hackathon and innovation camp events were multicultural in their representation.
- Social biases in AI prevail, examples abound on how AI unjustly profiles various minority groups – again with more women and minorities in the innovation spaces, they can contribute with more inclusive algorithms
- The platform economy is encouraging more local content production, contributing to relevance and use of mobile apps. There are a number of app development initiatives from the hackathon and innovation camp winners.
- Less than 7 years away from realizing Agenda 2030, the sense of urgency for digital uptake is growing- especially seen as a pathway to realizing many SDG targets. More inclusive innovation spaces such as EQUALS-EU's work, will contribute to some of the SDG targets.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

As a result of the discussions at this session, several collaboration opportunities were identified with COURSERA and the Digital Coalition which intervened during the talks and approached the panellists afterwards.

Actionable plan

As a next step a call is to be set up with COURSERA and the Digital Coalition as to explore how they can support with converting the EQUALS-EU summer school curriculum into self-paced learning modules as well as support with the dissemination of the content among relevant audiences and beneficiaries.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event)

- Gender Transformative Digital Skills Education
- Bridging the Gender Gap in Social Innovation/Building Inclusive Innovation Ecosystems

Internet Governance Forum 2023 (United Nations Internet Governance Forum Secretariat)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/323>

Organization: United Nations Internet Governance Forum Secretariat

Date: Friday, 17 March 2023

Digital inclusion and social security services: Key challenges and lessons learned
(UNU-EGOV/ISSA)

Summary of Session: Digital inclusion and social security services: Key challenges and lessons learned

International Social Security Association (ISSA) and United Nation University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV)

17 March 2023, 10:00 – 10:45 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/384>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The panel and participants discussed the key challenges and solutions identified by social security institutions globally, not least with respect to the cases (evidence) of the project more [project](#) background and [context \(video, 2:53, in English\)](#) and this finding (available in [English, French, Spanish and German](#)). The workshop will discuss potential improvement areas for social security plus any lessons learned applicable in the public sector at large. The audience highlighted a number of examples from both the African and Latin American context.
- The key barriers to equitable access to social security services in a digital world, both in terms of accessibility, skills and capacities was outlined and discussed in plenary and with the participants.
- Link between the potential actions of social security institutions improve digital inclusion and the public sector at large was covered, not least the link between social security objectives and actions taken by e.g. telecommunication regulators to ensure affordable and reliable access by all, or educational authorities to ensure digital skills.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- General consensus that technology has both a positive impact on service delivery incl cost efficiency, effectiveness, access but can also exclude and deepening existing socio-economic divides if not applied appropriately.
- Challenges identified in the study with respect to digital inclusion in social security includes: Continued need for affordable and reliable access to the internet and devices (even if global users have jumped from some 47% to 66% of global population between 2021 and 2022),

improved digital skills and critical analysis, further focus by authorities to lower the barrier to services not least online (e.g. language use, design, user-centricity).

- Trends within social security organisations to address the digital divide includes simplified communication and design, administrative burden reduction and technology as an enabler of innovation.
- Trends also validated by audience as relevant to help improve digital inclusion in service delivery (from their experiences).

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Active engagement of 34 participants (18 online and 16 present excluding panel and WSIS staff), representing Africa, the America's, Asia and Europe.
- Validation of key digital inclusion and service access challenges and potential solutions in social security by a non-social security audience representing the public and private sectors, civil society and international organisations.
- Validation of the potential applicability of solutions identified in social security in other public sector service areas.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Incorporate project and WSIS workshop input and conclusion into ISSA's triennium working programme 2023-2025 on innovation, particularly with respect to communication guidelines, quality and design standards.
- Present and consult WSIS Forum audience on future recommendations to social security entities with respect to technology enabled innovation, communication and design standards for improved digital inclusion (both ISSA and UNU-EGOV initiatives in 2023-2025 period).
- Present experiences from the ISSA triennium on innovation in social security at WSIS 2024.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Public sector innovation as a tool to increase inclusion (leaving no one behind).

What migrants want: digital tech, inequality and migration (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Summary of Session: What migrants want: Digital tech, inequality and migration

Royal Holloway, University of London

17th March 2023, 11-11.45am

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/329>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The session critically examined ‘what migrants want’ in relation to the use of digital technologies as opposed to the numerous apps that are supposedly designed for them. Building on our ongoing research (see <https://ict4d.org.uk/technology-inequality-and-migration/>), we explored how co-design with migrants can help ensure digital interventions that can usefully address migrant-defined inequalities. Digital technologies are both a lifeline and an increasing source of concern for migrants around the world. While these technologies can help address the many inequalities migrants face, they can also exacerbate such inequalities and create new ones.
- The session, which aligned with SDG10 and WSIS Action Lines C3, C4, C5, C7(iii, iv,v), C8 and C10, was structured around our digital interventions from [Nepal](#) and [South Africa](#) using a series of short-form videos ‘created by migrants for migrants’ as a framing device for the discussion. The discussion highlighted many inequalities faced by migrants and how digital tech can meaningfully address them as well as how digital tech can support personal life choices, offer networking opportunities, and become a peer-to-peer learning tool.
- The discussions centred around the need to do no harm through digital tech, the importance of safe, secure, and wise use of digital tech by migrants, the critical importance of digital capacity for migrants so that they can share their experiences and insights with other migrants and the need for international and local organisations to recognise the limits to the use of digital tech by migrants against a context of pervasive digital illiteracy.
- The overarching theme was the need for all actors at the interface of digital tech and migration to be mindful of the need to ensure the safe, secure, and wise use of digital tech by migrants.
- Prof G Hari Harindranath led the session with Prof Tim Unwin and Dr Maria Rosa Lorini while Bryce Hartley from GSMA (online) and Julien Varlin from ILO Geneva served as discussants. The highly interactive hybrid session was attended by several senior government officials and representatives from international organisations, CSOs and tech companies as well as researchers.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Despite increasing evidence of the challenges to the beneficial use of digital tech by migrants, actors such as tech companies, international and local organisations continue to design technologies aimed at migrants without due regard to their unintended consequences. International organisations and fora such as WSIS who are at the forefront of digital inclusion must recognise not just the opportunities offered by digital tech for migrants but also the risks and disbenefits associated with them. This is especially important given the pervasive structural inequalities and limited digital capabilities that characterise many migrant contexts.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- Excellent sharing of insights on digital tech and migration from international organisations, regulators, researchers, and civil society organisations attending the hybrid workshop.
- Conversations with ILO and IOM in Geneva on pathways to impact for our work on digital tech, inequality, and migration.
- Commitment to return to WSIS with international partner organisations to present the impacts of our research and practice at WSIS 20-24.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- We plan to return to WSIS next year to engage in a follow up conversation with international organisations, tech companies and researchers on the effects of digital tech on the inequalities facing migrants.
- We are following up with international organisations, tech companies and others with whom we engaged during WSIS to discuss potential collaboration opportunities.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Digital tech and migration: Digital tech and migration are inextricably linked. While there are many benefits of digital tech for migrants there is increasing evidence of digital harms that exacerbate inequalities faced by migrants. It is important that WSIS addresses this important issue that affects the most marginalized people on the move.

Enhancing Digital Trust for a Sustainable, Connected, Intelligent World (SAMENA Leaders' Summit, Huawei – Partner for Specific Activities)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/535>

Organization: SAMENA Leaders' Summit, Huawei

Date: Monday, 15 May 2023

VIRTUAL SESSIONS

Tuk Gwet: Fixing the Digital Future for Societies Excluded by Language (Kamusi Project International)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/278>

Organization: Kamusi Project International

Date: Monday, 3 April 2023

Evolution of digital literacy and Future of EdTech for employers and employees (AIS)

Summary of Session: "Evolution of Digital Literacy and Future of EdTech for Employers and Employees"

AIS : Advanced Info Service Plc.

11 April 2023 11:00-12:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/202>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

The session titled "**Evolution of Digital Literacy and Future of EdTech for Employers and Employees**" presented by AIS Academy at the WSIS Forum discussed the role of EdTech in enhancing digital literacy and contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- The session at the WSIS Forum discussed the role of EdTech in enhancing digital literacy and contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The session highlighted best practices in using EdTech to enhance the skills and knowledge of employees and how this contributes to building a resilient and sustainable workforce.
- The session announced partnerships and opened up opportunities for new partners to join an ecosystem of organizations committed to building a sustainable and resilient workforce.
- The discussion included emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date.
- The session aimed to create an actionable plan for organizations to enhance digital literacy and workforce development through EdTech, and to advocate for policies and regulations that promote the use of EdTech for these purposes.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- We believed that the rise of digital skills and literacy as essential components of the 21st century workforce.
Challenges
- The digital divide persists, with significant disparities in access to digital technologies and services between developed and developing countries, as well as between urban and rural areas within countries.
- Cybersecurity threats are becoming more sophisticated, and there is a need to strengthen digital trust and resilience to ensure safe and secure online transactions and communication.

Achievements:

- The WSIS Forum has served as a platform for global dialogue and cooperation on ICT-related issues, bringing together stakeholders from governments, civil society, and the private sector.
- WSIS Action Lines have helped to guide policy and investment decisions in the ICT sector, promoting sustainable and inclusive development.
- The development of innovative ICT solutions has helped to improve access to education, healthcare, and other essential services, particularly in developing countries.

Opportunities:

- The rise of e-learning and other digital education platforms can help to bridge the skills gap and provide lifelong learning opportunities.
- The focus on digital inclusion can help to ensure that everyone has access to the benefits of the digital age, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The session aimed to share best practices in using EdTech to enhance digital literacy and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also aimed to announce partnerships and open up opportunities for new partners to join an ecosystem of organizations committed to building a sustainable and resilient workforce. The session concluded with an actionable plan for implementing the WSIS Action towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025.

Key content:


- Overview of the evolution of digital literacy and its importance for employers and employees
- Role of EdTech in enhancing digital literacy and contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Best practices in using EdTech to enhance the skills and knowledge of employees
- Showcase of AIS Academy's LearnDi and ReadDi platforms
- Announcement of partnerships and open opportunities for new partners to join an ecosystem committed to building a resilient and sustainable workforce

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Create a platform for organizations to share best practices in using EdTech for digital literacy and workforce development, promoting global collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Establish partnerships with universities and vocational schools to provide students with access to digital learning platforms and upskilling opportunities, creating a pipeline of skilled workers for the future.
- Conduct training programs for educators to enhance their digital literacy and proficiency in using EdTech tools, ensuring that they can effectively deliver digital education to students.

- Develop mobile-friendly learning platforms that cater to employees with limited access to computers or those who are always on-the-go, increasing access to learning opportunities.
- Advocate for policies and regulations that promote the use of EdTech for workforce development and digital literacy, partnering with government agencies and industry associations to create awareness and support for the cause.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Building a resilient and sustainable workforce through digital literacy and EdTech
 - Best practices in using digital learning platforms for upskilling and reskilling employees
 - Addressing the digital divide and promoting digital inclusion through EdTech
 - The future of work and the impact of EdTech on job creation and workforce development
 - Promoting global collaboration and knowledge sharing in EdTech for sustainable development
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From school connectivity to community empowerment - the role of governments, universities, MNOs and CSOs (African Child Projects/ Basic Internet Foundation)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/466>

Organization: African Child Projects/ Basic Internet Foundation

Date: Thursday, 13 April 2023

Value of Earth observations and geospatial technologies for climate action and measuring the SDGs (World Geospatial Industry Council)

Summary of Session: Value of Earth Observation and Geospatial Technologies for Climate Action and Measuring the SDGs

World Geospatial Industry Council

April 18, 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/471>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Geospatial technology and Earth observation (EO) data are vital for addressing climate change and achieving the SDGs.
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are crucial in optimizing efforts to tackle these challenges.
- The commercial sector plays a significant role in utilizing advanced data capabilities to address SDG-related issues.
- WGIC members and other organizations contribute to SDG implementation through activities such as mapping vulnerable populations, disaster management, and climate adaptation.
- Open and broad availability of geospatial data is important for informed decision-making.
- Discussions on data dissemination tools, platforms, and mechanisms, including web services and standard formats, enable access to geospatial data and applications.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

A key trend is the growing importance of PPPs and collaboration among stakeholders, including the commercial sector, in effectively addressing social, environmental, and economic challenges. Partnerships have played a crucial role in leveraging geospatial technology and integrating it with the capabilities of the commercial sector to achieve the SDGs, mitigate climate change, and improve disaster management. Additionally, efforts have been focused on ensuring access to information and knowledge, promoting capacity building and education,

enhancing confidence and security in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) use, creating an enabling environment, and leveraging ICT applications across various sectors. These actions aim to drive digital inclusion, combat illiteracy, address cybersecurity threats, foster entrepreneurship, and catalyze digital transformation in healthcare, agriculture, and government services. By capitalizing on these emerging trends and opportunities, the WSIS Action Lines have the potential to impact global development significantly.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- PPPs were emphasized as crucial for addressing climate change and achieving the SDGs. The need for policies promoting stronger PPPs and integrating commercial sector capabilities was highlighted.
- WGIC member companies (e.g., Planet, Bentley Systems, Esri) presented their companies' efforts to tackle these challenges. For example, Planet showcased two instances where their data was effectively utilized (e.g., tracking economic activity in Kenya and Ethiopia and monitoring forest health in the Czech Republic). Esri presented their efforts focused on the SDG data alliance by mentioning two projects: Digital Earth Africa and a climate assessment tool developed in partnership with the US Government.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- *Foster public-private partnerships (PPPs):* Governments should establish policies and incentives that promote stronger PPPs, allowing for the integration of commercial sector capabilities.
- *Improve accessibility of geospatial data:* Make geospatial data broadly and openly available to individuals and organizations.
- *Utilize geospatial technology for monitoring and decision-making:* Leverage geospatial technologies, including EO and digital twin technology, to monitor and assess critical areas.
- *Support SDG data alliance and country-specific initiatives:* Engage in partnerships, like the SDG data alliance, to support countries in developing their SDG data hubs.
- *Promote the use of geospatial data for social and environmental impact:* Encourage organizations and policymakers to utilize geospatial data for addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) could revolve around the following areas:

- *Geospatial Data for SDGs*: Showcase how geospatial data and analysis can aid in tracking progress toward sustainable land use, protecting biodiversity, planning for disaster management, and supporting poverty alleviation programs.
- *PPPs for Geospatial Solutions*: Discuss policies and strategies that promote stronger collaboration between the public and private sectors.
- *Open Access and Data Dissemination*: Explore ways to enhance data sharing, collaboration, and utilization for the benefit of society.
- *Geospatial Technology for Infrastructure Sustainability*: Showcase the role of geospatial data in achieving sustainable, resilient, and reliable infrastructure solutions.

Approaches to build accessible environments and fuel digital inclusion (Internet Society of China)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/474>

Organization: Internet Society of China

Date: Monday, 24 April 2023

The role freelancing and SMEs in bridging digital divide (Iran University of Science and Technology - Research Center for ICT Strategic and International Studies)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/478>

Organization: Iran University of Science and Technology - Research Center for ICT Strategic and International Studies

Date: Tuesday, 25 April 2023

Summary of Session: Tech Hubs in Africa post-Covid International Trade Centre

2-3 pm CET, Wednesday 26 April 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/481>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The shift by Tech hubs from physical events, trainings, and other beneficiary support activities to a fully online/virtual model during Covid-19 means that there is more hybrid now than ever before. The reach of tech hubs has increased dramatically: where the Innovation Village used to be limited to Kampala's ecosystem, it has now access to entrepreneurs across the country. Carbon13 can identify climate tech founders outside of the UK. Afrilabs members offer hybrid acceleration programmes.
- 5 major Business/Revenue models of tech hubs were identified and discussed; Grantees, Networkers, Consultancy, Revenue sharing and the builders: We discussed the most and least resilient of these models, building on ITC's research on the topic: <https://intracen.org/resources/publications/tech-hubs-in-africa-supporting-start-ups-second-edition>
- The need for tech hubs to take on a more specialised approach: Carbon13 for instance only onboarders founders that have the ambition to "achieve our minimum target of emissions mitigation potential of 10 million tonnes of CO2e per year when at scale". Resources are better aligned around a specific purpose; in the case of startups; sectors and maturity levels could be considered by tech hubs to tailor relevant support.

- New services that have since been established by the different tech hubs and how their beneficiaries have responded to these services.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- ❖ **Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive information society**
 - Affordability remains a challenge: The cost of devices such as smartphones is still very high in Africa and as a result, fewer people are transacting online.
 - Broadband network infrastructure is still not accessible to everyone: Low bandwidth and the slow internet speed in Africa negatively affects online business transactions.
 - Remote and marginalized areas remain underserved: These continue to be left out and most support programmes set up in major cities – ITC is working with secondary cities in beneficiary countries to better support small businesses.
 - Investment is still hard to get by: It is still a gap within the startup tech ecosystem. Most African startups are generally underfunded leading to their collapse.
 - Digital inclusion means a third of the world population remains unconnected: The digital divide continues to leave many behind. The unconnected in Africa are the majority.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- ITC's most recent research/report on Tech Hubs in Africa was discussed and will soon be published and distributed.
- Commitment from the different hub Managers to continue innovating in the way they are supporting small businesses and startups for more efficiency.
- Hub managers also committed to more establishing more partnerships and collaborations between Africa and the EU.
- Hub managers agreed to specialize more in their support programs for startups while also diversifying their revenue streams.
- Introduce more channels of engagement for tech hubs. The Innovation village in Uganda has established both online and offline communities of beneficiaries: Agent networks have been put in place to cater to both communities.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- None

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- ❖ Not related to the topic: Organizers of the different sessions and topics need access to attendee registrations info to better mobilize participants.
- ❖ The current registration system is cumbersome and results in lower attendance.

Universal Acceptance (UA) as a driver in access to the Internet and support for digital inclusion (ICANN – Contributing Partner, UNESCO)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/485>

Organization: ICANN, UNESCO

Date: Thursday, 27 April 2023

Digital Governance and Open Data (ICT Research Institute)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/490>

Organization: ICT Research Institute

Date: Tuesday, 2 May 2023

Local ICTs Platforms: Challenges and Opportunities (Information Technology Organization of Iran & Iran University of Science and Technology)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/492>

Organization: Information Technology Organization of Iran & Iran University of Science and Technology

Date: Wednesday, 3 May 2023

Cyber Drill (National Cybersecurity Authority Saudi Arabia (NCA) / ITU)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/438>

Organization: National Cybersecurity Authority Saudi Arabia (NCA) / ITU

Date: Wednesday, 3 May 2023

Working together to sustain our future: what space has to offer and how we protect it (Space Park Leicester | University of Leicester (UK) & DePaul University (US))

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/311>

Organization: Space Park Leicester | University of Leicester (UK) & DePaul University (US)

Date: Thursday, 4 May 2023

AI in local government (United Nations University -EGOV/UN Habitat)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/534>

Organization: United Nations University -EGOV/UN Habitat

Date: Friday, 5 May 2023

Lasers in Space! Can Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellites Close the Digital Divide?
(Internet Society – Contributing Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/496>

Organization: ISOC

Date: Friday, 5 May 2023

Futuremakers Programme: Supporting the resilience of MSMEs and entrepreneurs after the Covid-19 pandemic (Habitat Association)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/498>

Organization: Habitat Association

Date: Monday, 8 May 2023

Digital Financial Services and Economic Empowerment of Women (ADA Lovelace Software Private Limited.)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/500>

Organization: ADA Lovelace Software Private Limited

Date: Tuesday, 9 May 2023

Incentivising Tech Companies for Actions in Narrowing Digital Divide: Learnings and Opportunities Forward (World Benchmarking Alliance)

Summary of Session: Incentivising Tech Companies for Actions in Narrowing Digital Divide: Learnings and Opportunities forward

World Benchmarking Alliance

10 May 2023, 12:00 -13:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/501>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The COVID-19 pandemic could be seen as a blessing in disguise for digital transformation worldwide as it allows key actors to push forward digital inclusion due to the urgency.
- However, we see that digital transformation is not without challenges, eSafety pointed out unintended consequences for digitalization: cyberbullying, online child safety risk, data privacy breach, terrorism, and pornography were among the complaints they received.
- There is no one size fits all to address these unintended consequences, every actor should play their part to build an enabling environment that allows digital inclusion acceleration.
- ICT Watch pointed out the importance of digital transformation should go beyond infrastructure work but also digital literacy, realizing from a large country like Indonesia with 17.000 islands, 300+ ethnicities, 700& local languages.
- Kabel pointed out the importance of democratizing access to employment through skills development for new job roles that emerge during the pandemic.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Key actors are still working in silo when approaching digital transformation agenda.
- Commitment to digital inclusion needed from national governments to incentivize tech companies for action.

- Less funding opportunities to build a trustworthy digital ecosystem from the netizen perspective.
- Skills mismatch between existing young talents to perform in tech roles.
- There is need to increase commitment from tech companies to provide skilling opportunities for young underserved groups.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- WBA to continue working with various digital sector stakeholders to push for corporate accountability on digital inclusion
- WBA encourages stakeholders to use the published Digital Inclusion Benchmark data in advocacy activities to influence positive digital transformation
- WBA invites digital sector stakeholders to support the joint draft submission to the UN Global Digital compact on four topics: Connect all people to the internet; Apply human rights online; Regulation of Artificial Intelligence; protection of data

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- WBA to continue working with stakeholders through the Collective Impact coalition for Digital Inclusion to ensure corporate responsibility and drive digital transformation
- WBA to continue engaging with digital sector players in raising awareness on digital inclusion issues highlighted by the Digital Inclusion Benchmark

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Corporate responsibility on digital inclusion
- Regulation of Artificial Intelligence

Cibervoluntarios: Building a tech volunteering network, the challenge of digital inclusion to promote participation and guarantee citizen digital sovereignty (Fundación Cibervoluntarios)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/532>

Organization: Fundación Cibervoluntarios

Date: Thursday, 18 May 2023

Protecting the Internet through measurements and internet resilience index
(Internet Society – Contributing Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/507>

Organization: ISOC

Date: Thursday, 18 May 2023

Coalition for Digital Africa and initiatives to strengthen the Internet Infrastructure in Africa (ICANN – Contributing Partner)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/317>

Organization: ICANN

Date: Friday, 19 May 2023

ITU-T Study Group 15 Workshop - Importance of International Standards for the Deployment of Fibre Optic Broadband Network Infrastructure - Part Session 1 (ITU-T Study Group 15)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/513>

Organization: ITU-T Study Group 15

Date: Monday, 22 May 2023

**Summary of Session:
Embracing Biodiversity – How the ICT sector can go beyond COP 15**

ITU

Monday, 22 May 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/515>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Speakers highlighted that it is critical to ensure materials are sourced from mines or companies adhering to best practices and regulatory standards that incorporate environmental criteria.
- The session emphasized improving traceability is critical for making informed and actionable decisions in supply chain sourcing.
- Speakers stressed that ICTs are part of the solution in protecting biodiversity. There is a significant opportunity for conserving nature with technology through the preservation of biodiversity and managing natural resources sustainably.
- The session also highlighted ICTs and digital technologies such as IoT, artificial intelligence and digital twin are helping monitor biodiversity through remote sensor networks, data gathering and management to promote the conservation of biodiversity.
- Speakers also addressed that ICTs and digital technologies can be used to beyond the goals set out by COP 15 through the support of international standards.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- WSIS Action Line 6: Enabling environment
 - To ensure the widespread adoption and effective use of ICTs for social and economic development, it is important to understand the role of biodiversity and how digital technologies can be leveraged to drive decision-making,

collaboration and awareness – all of which can contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity with the help of ICTs.

- WSIS Action Line 7: ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life
 - There is significant potential of ICT applications in promoting efforts, environmental sustainability, and biodiversity management.
 - This can be achieved through international standards that supports and enhances our understanding of ecosystems, promote conservation practices and addresses the challenges facing biodiversity in a rapidly changing world.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The ICT sector has agreed to measure and monitor its impact on biodiversity.
- There is a general consensus to continue developing standards, benchmarks and guidelines to help the ICT sector evaluate its impact on biodiversity.
- The ICT sector is dedicated to preserving biodiversity and exploring the potential of digital technologies as a part of the solution.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- There is a need to provide a standardized biodiversity footprint score for a company or portfolio of companies.
- In order to improve the management effectiveness of protected areas and use appropriate technical solutions to meet challenges.
- There is a need to develop a unique “benchmarking tools” that use digital technology to track progress and improvement of protected areas and use digital technology to better monitor and assess.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- The upcoming WSIS Forums should prioritize a more thorough exploration of biodiversity as a central theme. The impact of the ICT sector on biodiversity is substantial, considering its high energy consumption and utilization of natural resources.

Consequently, it becomes imperative for the industry to acknowledge its responsibility and actively strive to minimize its environmental impact. ICTs and digital technologies possess both opportunities and challenges when it comes to biodiversity. Therefore, it is crucial to evaluate the direct and indirect effects of ICT solutions on biodiversity in order to comprehend their overall influence.

ITU-T Study Group 15 Workshop: Importance of international standards for the deployment of fibre optic broadband network infrastructure – PART SESSION 2 (ITU-T Study Group 15)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/516>

Organization: ITU-T Study Group 15

Date: Tuesday, 23 May 2023

ITU-T Study Group 15 Workshop: Importance of international standards for the deployment of fibre optic broadband network infrastructure – PART SESSION 3 (ITU-T Study Group 15)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/518>

Organization: ITU-T Study Group 15

Date: Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Latin America and the Caribbean Marketplace Explorer (International Trade Centre & Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/520>

Organization: ITC, ECLAC

Date: Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Biskaabiiyaang: The Indigenous Metaverse (UniVirtual (formerly Chant Newall Development Group))

Summary of Session:

Biskaabiiyaang: The Indigenous Metaverse – Gamifying Indigenous Knowledge to create a path towards Healing and Reconciliation through the Metaverse

Organizers:

UniVirtual, USA
Nokiiwin Tribal Council, Canada

Date and Time:

Thursday, 25 May 2023, 12:00–13:00 (UTC+02:00)

Session Link:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/511>

Key Issues discussed:

- Why Indigenous presence in the metaverse is essential.
- Sharing priorities identified by Indigenous communities for the creation of an inclusive metaverse that incorporates Indigenous culture, language, and Knowledge.
- Discussion topic: How can we decolonize the metaverse?
- Discussion topic: How can we start building networks of trust, friendship, and mutual respect with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities building the metaverse together?
- The process of translating Indigenous teachings into metaverse game mechanics.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date:

- A challenge in the development of the metaverse is ensuring Indigenous peoples are not misrepresented or excluded. It is essential that Indigenous peoples have access to information concerning their communities and that the process of online archival is inclusive.
- There is a great opportunity for emerging platforms to work with Indigenous community groups and develop relationships built on trust, friendship, and mutual respect when building these inclusive online spaces.
- Achieving cultural continuity and digital empowerment of community Elders should be a priority for groups involved in metaverse creation, particularly when archiving Indigenous Knowledge, culture, and language.
- When implementing inclusive online spaces, there should be a prioritized capacity for Indigenous employment and training in the creative technologies industry.

- E-learning has the potential to teach endangered languages (such as Anishinaabemowin) to wide audiences, engage learners, and connect culturally diverse individuals across the world.
- It is essential that those creating virtual learning involving Indigenous worldviews undertake cultural competency training to ensure digital content is created through this cultural lens.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments):

- Our session at WSIS Forum 2023 allowed Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants to learn what Indigenous community groups have defined as priorities for the early days of metaverse construction.
- Through sharing community values and teachings, (Ojibway, Cree, and Haudenosaunee), we were able to engage participants with an Indigenous perspective on building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous professionals involved in metaverse development.
- Participants from Indigenous communities outside Canada reached out to discuss how what we have learned can help their endangered language thrive!
- We remain committed to openly sharing our unprecedented process of creating an Indigenous metaverse that is built by and in support of Indigenous communities.

Actionable plan:

- We will widely share the recording of our session within the Anishinaabe community and with Elders who could not attend as live virtual participants. The information presented is integral for community members to understand when part of the archival process. Presenting at WSIS also shows community members who are cautious of online spaces that Indigenous involvement in the metaverse is valued.
- Based on feedback, questions, and response from the session, we will ensure that our materials can be adapted for other languages and diverse groups.
- We will continue to share our process so others can implement best practices when involving Indigenous communities in metaverse development.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event):

- It would be valuable if WSIS Forum 2024 continued to include and host Indigenous teams, sessions, and projects. This ensures cultural diversity in topics and content discussed. It is also important that Indigenous worldviews are heard to reduce inequalities and move forward with global Indigenous resurgence.

**Summary of Session: The Transformative Potential of Data for Learning
Session Outcome Document**

ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

26 May 2023 @ 14h00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/525>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- What equitable, safe, effective use of learner data look likes
- Real-life examples about how data use can improve educational experiences
- Ethical implications of using education data and the safeguards needed to protect learners
- Capacity building to support data literacy and digital skills of all education stakeholders
- Barriers to using learner data and how to overcome them through multistakeholder cooperation

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Action Line 3: Access to Information and Knowledge
 - At present, there is a stark digital divide that engenders a data divide across and within countries. This divide prevents equal access to digital education data, which threatens to further widen global educational inequities, minimizing the ability to make data-informed decisions to improve teaching and learning experiences.
- Action Line 4: Capacity Building
 - Data literacy is increasingly vital in a world where fact and fiction are not always easy to distinguish; therefore, investing in the data skills of all education stakeholders – from basic technical understandings to ethical use of data for learning – is fundamental.
- Action Line 6: Enabling Environment
 - As data collection and use continue to expand and transform, adaptable policies and regulations are needed to address the ever-growing ethical implications of sharing learner data. Globalized safeguards are needed to ensure that education systems and learners are not compromised or taken advantage of through the use of their data.
- Action Line 8: Cultural Diversity and Identity

- The digital divide exacerbates the lack of available data in underserved regions, limiting understanding of distinct cultures, languages and digital capacities. This data, which provides cultural insights and opportunities for exchange is critical to developing informed and inclusive digital education systems.
- Action Line 13: Digital solidarity agenda
 - Multistakeholder cooperation is fundamental for creating sustainable and inclusive digital education systems. All education stakeholders must be brought to the table to ensure the safe and equitable use of learner data.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Publication of the final report “The Transformative Potential of Data for Learning” by the Broadband Commission Working Group in September 2023
 - Including a “Resource Pack” for education stakeholders
- Linking the Data for Learning outputs and expertise with other multistakeholder coalitions around data-informed digital education transformation, such as the UNESCO-led Digital Transformation Collaborative

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Continue Working Group discussions in preparation for the report launch Fall 2023
- Event summary article on the Broadband Commission website and included in the newsletter
- Meet at SDG Digital Day, on the sidelines of UNGA, to continue the discussion
- Include this topic in upcoming events such as the AlforGood Summit

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- The impact of the Global Digital Compact on data collection, rights, and transparency
- How data and other emerging technologies will impact global digital education systems

Sustainable Batteries - The building blocks of a circular economy (ITU and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention)

Summary of Session: Sustainable Batteries - The building blocks of a circular economy

ITU and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

Friday, 26 May 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/494>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The session highlighted that the Global demand for batteries is increasing, driven largely by the imperative to reduce climate change through electrification, increased connectivity and the broader energy transition.
- The session provided an overview of the importance of international standards for a circular battery value chain and the environmentally sound management of waste lead acid batteries, lithium-ion batteries and other batteries used in ICTs.
- Speakers mentioned that standards have the power to set the best environmental practices and available technologies for collection, reuse, recycling and final disposal of batteries, but require a collective effort from all stakeholders to be applied in real cases.
- Speakers highlighted international standards such as ITU-T L.1035 “Sustainable management of batteries”, and ITU-T L.1220 “Innovative energy storage technology for stationary use”, presenting criteria for the selection of batteries for the ICT infrastructure, considering the design, life-span and recyclability, among others.
- Speakers introduced that the environmentally sound management of batteries requires a complex set of regulatory and enforcement measures, Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) schemes, adoption of environment and health standards at work, but also awareness raising and communication campaigns, education and involvement of all actors, including the informal sector.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- **WSIS Action Line 2: Information and Communication Infrastructure**
 - Speakers highlighted that to ensure the widespread adoption of sustainable batteries, the ICT infrastructure must be in place to support such services. With the correct ICT infrastructure in place, sustainable battery technologies can contribute to environmental sustainability, energy efficiency and the overall goal of achievement a more sustainable digital ecosystem.
- **WSIS Action Line 6: Enabling Environments**
 - Speakers emphasized the need to improve the social, economic and environmental benefits of batteries.
 - There is significant opportunity for the ICT sector to support the implementation of international standards to foster sustainable battery management.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The ICT sector has agreed that in order to transition towards a digital and circular economy, there is a significant need for a sustainable management of batteries.
- There is a general consensus for the development and implementation of international standards to support the sustainable management of batteries. And to support circular economy efforts as a whole.
- The ICT Sector is dedicated to further improving battery design, prolonging their lifespan, improving their recyclability and preventing the dumping of waste batteries can lower their overall energy consumption, reduce exposure of humans and the environment to hazardous substances, as well as reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- In order to shift towards a circular economy there is a need for a preventing approach, where the life of batteries can be prolonged and the hazardous substances are reduced or eliminated in the design, is a key objective.
- There is a need for environmentally sound batteries recycling to avoid exposure to lead as well to support a transition to a zero net carbon economy, reducing pollution and mitigating climate change.

SPECIAL TRACKS

ICTS AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIAL TRACK

ICTs and Clean Technologies for Climate Change special track: Interactive, Immersive and Accessible Storytelling: Raising environmental awareness in the classroom (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Summary of Session: Interactive, Immersive and Accessible Storytelling

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

13 March 2023, 10:00–10:45

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/260>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Media Accessibility
- Education
- Co-creation
- Immersive environments
- Engagement

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Metaverse: education, interaction, accessibility, sustainability
- Fairness, inclusion, and freedom of choice in official communications
- Examples of successful collaborations: WSIS legacies
- Successful integration of AI in education
- XR in training for all

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Contacts with Brazil and Malawi to share the platform
- Contact with a Green Film Festival in Switzerland to bring the idea and app

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- To suggest ITU FG-MV to organize a WSIS Metaverse, bringing the ideas of: democracy, fairness, inclusion, etc.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Environmental issues have come to the forefront of public consciousness as extreme weather events increase in frequency and governments scramble to curb the worst effects of climate crisis. Up until now, the carbon emissions generated by the media accessibility sector has been largely overlooked. Nevertheless, understanding how certain media accessibility tools or practices affect the environment is far from clear.

How we might better understand the environmental impact while there is an increasing reliance on technology that consumes vast amounts of energy. Education is the answer, and by examples is the way to learn.

Perhaps designing an accessible and sustainable metaverse will help us in real life.

Co creating a collaborative WSIS metaverse, will be a great exercise.

ICTs and Clean Technologies for Climate Change special track: The international standard Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and the UN action plan on early warnings for all (Alert-Hub Org CIC (Community Interest Company))

Summary of Session: The International Standard Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and the UN Action Plan on Early Warnings for All

Alert-Hub.Org CIC

Data and Time of Workshop: 13 March 3:45pm

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/286>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)
- CAP Editor Freeware
- CAP Alert Hubs
- The Call to Action on Emergency Alerting
- The 'UN Early Warnings for All' Action Plan

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Much more needs to be done in developing countries with regard to: Promotion of ICTs for development (Action Line C1); Information and communication infrastructure (Action Line C2); Access to information and knowledge (Action Line C3); Capacity building (Action Line C4); and, Realizing the benefits of e government (Action Line C7).
- All societies need to ramp up efforts for Building confidence and security in use of ICTs (Action Line C5). This is especially worrisome for public alerting of emergencies because of their high profile and their potential vulnerability to malicious disruption and disinformation.
- Progress has been quite good with regard to the CAP-based emergency alerting infrastructure leveraging ICTs as an Enabling environment (Action Line C6). However, there is a certain tension between the centralized, proprietary approaches common among social media platforms and the inherently decentralized, protocols-based approach used in the CAP architecture. This tension should be cautionary for governments in satisfying their legal and policy requirements with regard to public alerting records.

- It is heartening to see that many international institutions are aware of aspects of emergency alerting that focus on assuring that messages are understandable and actionable, and that focus on how to improve service to underserved segments of society. These aspects touch on WSIS Action Line C8, Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content, and WSIS Action Line C10, Ethical dimensions of the Information Society.
- It is also heartening to see the growing awareness of CAP-enabled public alerting among news media, including "new media" as well as traditional broadcast radio and television. However, much remains to be done in this area, so we should say that WSIS Action Line C9, Media, is a work in progress.
- Cooperation at the international and regional levels (Action Line C11) has been good with regard to emergency alerting for particular hazard types such as severe weather. However, such cooperation is notably lacking for many other hazard types. This is very evident in the international Register of Alerting Authorities which lists nearly all of the world's national meteorological and hydrological services, but very few of the world's national emergency management services.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- **This Workshop itself did not have any tangible outcomes.**

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Although this Workshop did not produce an actionable plan, participation in WSIS Forum 2023 led to [this online consultation](#) to provide input to the Global Digital Compact: Timely warning of life-critical emergencies is essential to public communication services.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

My suggested theme for the WSIS Forum 2024 is: "ICTs in the UN Action Plan on Early Warnings for All". Given the primary role of governments in official public alerting and the gap in CAP uptake by developing countries, my suggested theme links to WSIS Action Lines: C1, The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; and C7, ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life—E government. There are also strong linkages to WSIS Action Lines: C2, Information and communication infrastructure; C3, Access to information and knowledge; and C4, Capacity building. Also, because public alerting of emergencies deals with life-critical information and is a potential target for malicious disruption and disinformation, my suggested theme links to WSIS Action Line C5, Building confidence and security in use of ICTs.

Summary of Session: CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW TO PROMOTE DRR

(Disaster Risk Reduction)

Proposed by UNDRR in collaboration with ABU, ITU & Eurovisioni

16:00 -16:45 CET Monday 13 March 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/302>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Sendai framework agreement for DRR is the general reference for all DRR actions across the world and now will have to go under its MTR Mid Term Review, where improvements and new approaches could be introduced;
- There is a general trend to try to unify (or at least) to harmonize policies and strategies for the actions aiming to tackle climate change impact and DRR. Most of the disasters in the world, in fact, are linked or directly provoked by Climate Change. So the action plans for DRR and to tackle Climate Change are more and more integrated or -at least- coordinated;
- One aspect where there is an urgent need to coordinate and to harmonize is in the field of data collection and data re-use. Learning through what has happened it's crucial to improve resilience and resistance. Unfortunately, at the moment very often data are collected in different ways from different sources and cannot be used properly for all purposes. In this sense one of the priority of the coordination between DRR strategies and Climate Change actions would be exactly to harmonize data collection across the various fields, in order to work on common and shared sets of data for both purposes : DRR and Climate Change;
- The work done by ITU-T (ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector) is also conducting work on DRR, which will prove to be crucial in order to facilitate harmonization of available data for different types of disasters. Without reliable and agreed shared data, for instance, it is impossible to imagine A.I. applications to deal with natural hazards and disasters.

- ITU/WMO/UNEP Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management (FG-AI4NDM) was established to explore the role of AI and other frontier technologies in assisting with data collection and handling, improving modelling across spatiotemporal scales, and providing effective communication in the advent of a disaster.
- In this sense the Early warnings for All initiative (co-led by WMO and UNDRR, and to which ITU is a lead implementing partner¹) to extend the coverage of multi-hazard, inclusive early warning systems to all countries of the world, it is a fundamental step and UNDRR, WBU and ITU fully support it;
- Last but not least, UNDRR announced that its campaign “Media saving lives” has inaugurated on March 1st it’s third phase, with another 25 countries across 4 regions (Asia Pacific, Africa and Arab region) where journalists and media professionals will be trained to correctly cover situation of Disasters and will also be trained to provide accurate and reliable information received from official sources, directly to the citizens in need, wherever they are and through all possible means and tools. An accurate and finalized approach to the use of the spectrum to reach all and every citizen of the world, will become one of the priority in the months to come.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The panel welcomed the wise and timely decision of WSIS organizers to introduce and strength a new action line specifically dedicated to CC and DRR, because both these issues are becoming a more and more relevant issue for all citizens of the world.
- Cooperation among the various action lines of WSIS and its various actors would be more then welcomed, because only through a transversal approach will be possible to arrive to effective solutions to the problems treated in the sessions.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

¹ ITU leads the Pillar on “Warning Dissemination and Communication”.

- UNDRR announced the launch of the phase 3 of the “Media saving lives” activity (that will last till the summer 2023) and the imminent revision of the Sendai Framework Action Plan through the next MTR (Mid Term Review) expected to take place in May in UN NY.
- Three deliverables have been finalized by FG-AI4NDM which are anticipated to form the basis for international standards within the domain of natural disaster management, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to foster resilience among communities.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Priority one: establish common criteria and requirements for data collection in the field of DRR and CC
- Establish clear and common rules for the usage of these data for public interest;
- Promote the adoption of EWS early warning systems across the globe, with a special attention to the fact that these systems need to include in their mode of functioning the direct reach of the population at risk everywhere in the world, through all technical means, including traditional media (TV and radio) that still remain the most followed media, able to reach all kind of populations.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- A special attention needs to be paid to the interactions between WSIS action lines. The fight against climate change and disasters cannot be a single action line, but -by definition- needs to be transversal. Unidimensional actions will not work to tackle issues that are so complex and transversal.
- A.I. applications to these fields, based on common shared and carefully selected data, could be a very promising tool and the WSIS could be the best environment where this interaction could be discussed in detail.

ICTs and Clean Technologies for Climate Change special track: Reimagining the interface between digital tech and the physical environment (DESC/UNESCO Chair in ICT4D, Royal Holloway, University of London)

Summary of Session: Reimagining the Interface between Digital Tech and the Physical Environment (Session 204)

Royal Holloway, University of London, on behalf of DESC

17 March 2023; 10.00-10.50

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/204>

See also: <https://ict4d2004.files.wordpress.com/2023/03/desc-sessions-wsis-2023.pdf>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

This session was convened by DESC (the Digital Environment System Coalition - Secretariat provided by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D at Royal Holloway, University of London), in association with [INIT](#) (the Inter-Islamic Network on IT), the [WWRF](#) (Wireless World Research Forum), [ICT4D.AT](#), and [RC-DISC](#) (the Research Cluster for Digital Inequality and Social Change at the University of Canberra). It built on the outcomes of [Session 403](#) the previous day, which was a walk through Geneva to discuss the interactions between the physical environment and digital technologies.

The session had three main aims:

- to share an updated overview of DESC's emerging model that challenges much existing work being undertaken on digital tech and climate change;
- to provide an update on its ongoing activities since WSIS 2022; and
- to do this in a lively and interactive way.

It was structured as follows:

- Introduction to DESC, highlighting the need to adopt a holistic approach focusing on the interaction between digital technologies and the totality of the physical environment (including the lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere – see diagram below) rather than just climate change. Indeed, a focus primarily on human-induced climate change is likely to lead to seriously adverse impacts on other dimensions of the physical environment.
- Summaries of the key points of discussion explored during the DESC walk ([WSIS Session 403](#)) the previous day, presented by the five discussion moderators (including the YouthDESC session).
- Highlights of two examples from the activities of DESC's Working Groups emphasizing why these issues matter:

- The indigenous DESC Working Group (Poline Bala's slides were presented by Tim Unwin). This highlighted that indigenous peoples are insufficiently represented at events such as WSIS, and that they can contribute significantly to new ways of addressing the interface between digital tech and the physical environment
- A [video presentation](#) by James Crabbe on the importance of omics for informing policy on deep sea mining.
- This was followed by an introduction to the toolkit being developed by DESC for all those who have pledged to the ITU-led Partner2Connect initiative to enable them to consider and address the environmental impact of their proposed interventions.
- The final element was a lively discussion around the issues raised, that included new commitments from participants to explore collaboration on implementing the DESC toolkit

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

Participants agreed that the DESC framework provides a useful way of developing a holistic cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach to understanding the environmental impacts (both positive and negative) of digital tech on the environment (<https://ict4d.org.uk/desc/>). WSIS provides an excellent forum where these issues can be discussed because it engages many UN agencies and governments, along with researchers, civil society organisations and companies (although few of the latter were present). Such issues are insufficiently addressed explicitly in the WSIS Action Lines, although are implicit in many of them. They are also directly relevant to many of the SDGs

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

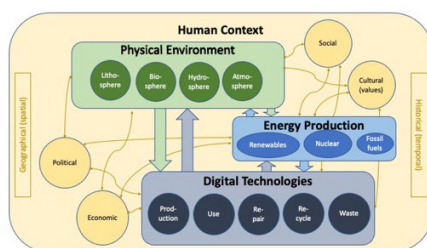
- Confirmation that the DESC provides a useful way of conceptualizing the intersections between digital tech and the environment that goes well beyond the current dominant focus on climate change and e-waste.
- Agreement to continue to work together to develop this framework and use it to shape policy

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- The discussions have already fed directly into DESC's emerging framework, and will help ensure a more nuanced approach to DESC's pledges to the ITU-led Partner2Connect initiative over the coming months.
- xWe will report back to the WSIS Annual Forum in 2024, and seek to gain further traction for the initiative and its approach.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Developing a comprehensive and holistic framework to understanding interactions between the physical environment and digital tech upon which sound policies at global and national scales can be implemented is essential for the survival of the human species. This would be an important HL theme for WSIS 2024



The DESC Conceptual Framework

Summary of Session: Enabling the Net Zero Transition – Harnessing ICT solutions to reduce GHG emissions

Organized by: International Telecommunication Union

17 March 2023, from 1100 to 1145 – Room 11+12

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/241>

Key Issues discussed (5–8 bullet points)

- The session emphasized the importance of efficiency in the ICT sector and how ICTs can help reduce GHG emissions in other sectors.
- International standards such as Recommendation ITU-T L.1470 “Greenhouse gas emissions trajectories for the information and communication technology sector compatible with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement” demands a 45 per cent reduction of the ICT sector carbon footprint between 2020 and 2030, with reductions continuing towards Net Zero and ITU-T L.1471 “Guidance and criteria for information and communication technology organizations on setting Net Zero targets and strategies” defines the criteria for targets towards Net Zero, achieving Net Zero around 2040–2050 for the ICT sector.
- Speakers urged countries to collaborate with the ICT sector to promote efficiency and reduced GHG emissions when regulating emissions.
- It was highlighted by India that its 2018 National Digital communication policy prioritizes green technology and sustainable development. Moreover, at COP 27, India committed itself to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement by 2070. India also aims to produce affordable green energy through domestic production and innovation within a decade.
- The session showcased how companies like Orange are committed to achieving Net Zero emissions through international standards like ITU-T L.1470. They are using digital solutions such as IoT, 5G, AI, and Edge Computing to reduce emissions in smart water management, metering, waste management and tracking.
- The session also highlighted, through a presentation from the World Bank, how digital technologies could enhance resilience and support countries in implementing mitigation and adaptation provisions. They can optimize energy efficiency and processes in sectors like agriculture, transportation, energy and urban planning. However, the session cautioned that digital technologies are not silver bullets and that there is an ongoing need to consider rebound effects, emissions tracking methodologies, adoption barriers and bridging the digital divide.
- Speakers stressed the importance of collecting data on the ICT sector's enablement aspects to reduce GHG emissions. International standards like ITU-T L.1480 can help

assess the emissions of various ICT solutions such as virtual meetings, and provide a basis for more rigorous assessments and foster transparency.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5–8 bullets)

- Capacity Building (C4): Speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring that everyone is equipped with the necessary tools and skills to benefit from ICTs.
 - In order to successfully green ICTs, it is essential to implement policies and programmes and encourage local communities to reduce the digital divide.
- Enabling Environment (C6): Speakers emphasized the need to maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of digital technology and ICT solutions, while minimizing any side effects.
 - There is a significant opportunity for governments and countries to support the implementation of international standards to foster transparent policy and regulatory frameworks to reduce GHG emissions through digital technologies.
- International and regional cooperation (C11): Speakers raised the need for international cooperation among all stakeholders to bridge the digital divide while reducing GHG emissions. In this regard, ITU-T has worked jointly with GSMA, GESI and SBTi, and with guidance from IEA, to develop the decarbonization trajectory of the sector (Recommendation ITU-T L.1470). ITU-T has also developed the Net Zero guidance (Recommendation ITU-T L.1471) to define the Net Zero criteria for ICT companies.
 - Countries play a critical role in support the adoption of ICTs and digital technologies that are adjusted to meet the needs of low and middle-income nations.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3–5 bullet points))

- The ICT sector has agreed to reduce carbon emissions and undertake mitigation activities.
- There is a general consensus to adopt international standards like ITU-T L.1480 to evaluate the impact of ICT solutions on GHG emissions of other sectors, while reducing the sector's own footprint in line with Recommendations ITU-T L.1470 and ITU-T L.1471. ITU-T L.1470 demands a 45 per cent reduction of the ICT sector carbon footprint between 2020 and 2030, with reductions continuing towards Net Zero around 2040–2050.
- The ICT sector is dedicated to preserving biodiversity and exploring the potential of digital technologies as a part of the solution.

Actionable plan (2–5 points)

- To green the ICT sector effectively and make the best use of its solutions, there is a need for policy and regulation, monitoring reporting, research and innovation and capacity building.
- To support GHG emission reduction efforts in the ICT sector and beyond cities, countries and industries must implement international standards.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

It is recommended that biodiversity as a thematic aspect should be explored in more detail in upcoming WSIS Forums. The ICT sector impacts biodiversity significantly as it consumes vast amounts of energy and natural resources. Therefore, the industry must take responsibility and work towards reducing its environmental footprint. The double-edged sword aspects of ICTs and digital technologies mean that they can affect biodiversity positively and negatively. It is essential to assess both ICT solutions' direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity to understand their overall effect.

Another important thematic is to explore how countries could work to maximize the positive effects of ICT on global carbon emissions, while suppressing any negative effects, including the rebound effect.

Summary of Session:

IT in Disaster Risk Reduction (ITDRR)

International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)

Thursday, 20 April 2023, 13:00–14:00 (UTC+02:00)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/487>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The Great Kanto Earthquake hit the Tokyo area in Japan a hundred years ago: 90 percents of the fatalities were by the fire after the earthquake. Now the more complex disaster situations we have due to climate changes, the more we need to respond to subsequent disasters as well as social consequences which are often not visible enough for the people to be aware of.
- Such social consequences could be addressed as "social disasters" that continue to affect vulnerable populations long after the immediate crisis: according to Marcos Borges, they refer to situations that have significant negative impacts on social structures, relationships, and human wellbeing. Besides the loss of lives and properties, Social Disasters may cause the displacement of communities and the breakdown of social institutions, which result in social and psychological distress, trauma, and long-term effects on human lives.
- According to Julie Dugdale, models and simulations of socio-technical systems lack realistic focus on the human element, in particular, human behaviours: they look at what people are supposed to do rather than what they actually do. Human behaviour can influence our survival in a disaster so that incorporating realistic behaviours can help decision makers to make plans.
- Kenny Meesters as an academic and a disaster responder working for information management in many disaster situations including the recent one in Turkey: he suggested that we would require to foster the future generation for humanitarian.

- Raimundo José de Araújo Macêdo introduced a new IFIP Task Force on Climate Changes and Digital Technology. The issue is how one could apply technologies to cope with climate changes.
- Besides Social Disaster, cultural diversity is an important aspect to be considered in the localisation of responses throughout all phases of the disaster management cycle, including response, recovery, mitigation, and prevention. For example, evacuation might be facilitated by leveraging local attitudes and persuasion.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- As indicated in our session page, all the action lines are related to disaster management. On the other hand, while security is clearly stated in “C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs,” safety and risk are not indicated so yet. Moreover, this time we came to the issue of Social Disaster issues which could be scattered in all the action lines as well.
- Cultural issues are diverse and need to be looked at carefully in disaster management strategies and policies. (C2 and C8)
- Climate changes certainly affected on disaster management in terms of reported disasters, fatalities, total affected and economic losses. (C2 C3 C4 C9 and C11)
- A long-term response would depend on a government in that region/country; presumably we can help them by providing a global scheme for fostering the future generation for response with information and communication technologies. (C4)
- Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)
- Social disaster has been recognized as important with long-term response; moreover, we need to look into realistic human behaviour and cultural diversity for disaster response and management.
- Climate changes have brought more extreme and frequent disasters and disaster response and management need to prepare for those risks. Moreover, social disaster aspects need to be taken into account for a long-term response.

- A global scheme for fostering the future generation for disaster response has been suggested to help disaster response. Cultural diversity, realistic human behaviour and social disaster issues could be incorporated in future.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

Further exploration of social disasters could be undertaken in the ITDRR thematic workshop or any other relevant opportunity at WSIS2024.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Social Disaster that continue to affect vulnerable populations for long even after the immediate crisis has passed could be looked at in the WSIS Forum 2024.

ICTS AND OLDER PERSONS SPECIAL TRACK

ICTs and Older Persons special track: How to take care of your elderly parents when you are living far from them? Showcase of the best ICTs innovation (HiNounou)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/245>

Organization: HiNounou

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

ICTs and Older Persons special track: How Tech is Defining Medical Innovation and Integrated Care (Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA))

Summary of Session: How Tech is Defining Medical Innovation and Integrated Care

Global Coalition on Aging

Monday, May 8, 14:00-15:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/526>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Digital health is a driver for transformation in healthy aging and in health system resilience
- Digital technology speeds up innovation in medicines and in researching treatments – technology brings about innovation sooner
- ICT's optimize care for older people through telemedicine, wearables, connected assistants and robotics
- Technology helps to bring precision to efforts to locate, communicate and deliver treatments
- Digital technology can work to achieve a person-centric health care and personalized medicines
- Need to allow for a health care ecosystem where responsible analytics are shared and protected, and within which the people in the system can talk to each other to achieve the maximum health goals

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- See that Digital Health is a channel for Mainstreaming ICTs (Action Line #1)
- See that Telemedicine is a channel for achieving access to information and knowledge (Action Line #3) and Capacity Building (#4)

- See ICTs can bring benefits in all aspects of life especially in terms of E-Health and E-Science.
- Further, see that the challenges of the separations in terms of care, information and payment systems of health systems are area that needs to be further integrated in order to achieve maximum benefits for populations and their health. This present state of the ecosystem will further delay the ability to connect the scientific and research centers with ICTs. (#12)

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Prioritize creative innovation through public and private partnerships with data that can cross borders
- Agreement that digital health should be required in medical school as it will be essential to your career in medicine.
- Heighten awareness of the critical role that technology plays in health, healthcare, home care, age-friendly environments and financial services.
- Renew commitment toward collaboration and partnerships between private and public sector

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Continue to raise these issues and concerns with our members and within our meetings and research with international bodies and organizations
- Increase efforts to bring the voices, and needs, of older people to development phases of all efforts
- Commitment to support advances in digital health while maintaining healthcare that is person-centric

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Continuation of the ICTs and Older persons track
- Look to include a wider perspective on this issue with panels that focus on the need to think about these ideas and concepts as a life course focus.

Summary of Session: Smart Homes Matter

Global Coalition on Aging

Tuesday, May 9, 14:00-15:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/528>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Smart Homes have the capability to do a lot of things specially to contribute to better health but important to development the technology in collaboration with care professionals
- Technology needs to be accessible and integrated throughout their health ecosystem – their “circle of care”.
- Super-aging societies, like Japan, are challenged to maintain healthiness and happiness of their older populations and tech is the key to making brighter aging societies.
- Generative AI will change healthcare, age tech and smart homes
- Remote monitoring needs to meet the patient and clinician where they are in terms of bandwidth access and work flow accommodations
- The home can be a barrier to aging but technology can enable healthier aging through monitoring, robotics, autonomous vehicles and ride-sharing and other technologies.
- Education, digital literacy, can be a huge barrier to technology usage
- Costs that are borne by the patient, in terms of high deductibles, are a barrier to technology’s impact
- Need to build good technology systems that people trust so to enable the flow of data
- In the future, health will be managed in the home and hospitals will be for procedures
- Look to the technology currently in the homes to leverage for expanded use such as monitoring heart rate and respiratory rate

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- See that Technology developed for the Home is a channel for Mainstreaming ICTs (Action Line #1)
- See that learning about technology for the home is a channel for achieving access to information and knowledge (Action Line #3) and Capacity Building (#4)
- See ICTs can bring benefits in all aspects of life especially in terms of E-Health and E-Science.
- Further, see that the challenges of accessibility of ICT's in the home, due to lack of infrastructure and education, will deny the same populations that are in the greatest need, the ability to connect to the medical help through ICTs. (#12)

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Look to reducing the barriers to care in the home
- Commitment to support advances in digital health while maintaining healthcare that is person-centric
- Increase efforts to bring the voices, and needs, of older people to development phases of all efforts

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Continue to raise these issues and concerns with our members and within our meetings and research with international bodies and organizations
- Looking to build a compendium of products and services for the home for reference.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Continuation of the ICTs and Older persons track
- Look to include a wider perspective on this issue with panels that focus on the need to think about these ideas and concepts as a life course focus and to bring in a younger cohort to promote education and awareness.

ICTs and Older Persons special track: The Age Tech Revolution – The Investment Opportunity (Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA))

Summary of Session: The Age-Tech Revolution – The Investment Opportunity

Global Coalition on Aging

Wednesday, May 10, 14:00-15:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/529>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Need for investment in end-to-end solutions and not just single point solutions
- Covid-19 sparked entrepreneurial efforts in the age-tech arena as needs and issues were exposed
- There isn't a future where digital is not a part of healthcare but it must not be intrusive
- Financial services companies are now seen as tech companies delivering services with a special focus on families
- Biggest barrier is the consumer's sentiment toward aging and lacking the desire to engage in the topic. Need to normalize the discussion of age for all age groups
- Need to bring together entrepreneurs and investors – to teach science at business schools
- Governments need to support interventions to make society more age-friendly

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- See that Digital Health is a channel for Mainstreaming ICTs (Action Line #1) and that the role of Governments can be enormous in providing investment for infrastructure.
- See that Telemedicine is a channel for achieving access to information and knowledge (Action Line #3) and Capacity Building (#4). There is a need to teach about tech in medical schools
- See ICT's can bring benefits in all aspects of life especially in terms of E-Health and E-Science.

- Further, see that the challenges of security and protection from a governmental perspective may slow down the progress toward achieving maximum benefits for populations and their health. (#12)

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Need to normalize the talk about aging. Remove the fear and embrace the stage of life.
- Renew commitment toward collaboration and partnerships between private and public sector

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Continue to raise these issues and concerns with our members and within our meetings and research with international bodies and organizations
- Commitment to support advances in digital health while maintaining healthcare that is person-centric

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Continuation of the ICTs and Older persons track
- Look to include a wider perspective on this issue with panels that focus on the need to think about these ideas and concepts as a life course focus – especially when it comes to changing attitudes.

ICTs and Older Persons special track: Equity and Technology Across the Lifecourse
- Readjusting Ageist Attitudes (Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA))

Summary of Session: Equity and Technology Across the Lifecourse- Readjusting Ageist Attitudes

Global Coalition on Aging

Thursday, May 11, 14:00-15:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/530>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Ageism continues to be rampant across the globe
- Need to encourage messages from and images of real older people and include older people throughout daily life
- Self-negligence is a form of elder abuse and women are unequally burdened.
- Women over 50 are deemed irrelevant but technology can provide a tool to dispel those views
- Digital solutions can provide a sense of control when facing the challenges of a diagnosis.
- The narrative about aging needs to change to effect change

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- See that Combatting Ageism is a channel for Mainstreaming ICTs (Action Line #1)
- See that providing education and support to older persons so that they can use technology will secure their digital inclusion (#2) and Capacity Building (#4)
- See ICTs can bring benefits in all aspects of life especially in terms of E-Health and E-Science.
- See that denouncing and changing harmful images of older persons in the media is important for combatting ageism. (#9)

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- Work toward changing the harmful views of older people that isolate and support prejudices
- Call for more education, at all ages, on aging and technology, especially at the university and medical school level
- Aim to normalize the discussion of aging for all ages

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Continue to raise these issues and concerns with our members and within our meetings and research with international bodies and organizations
- Continue to raise this issue in support of the work of the UN's Decade of Healthy Ageing

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Continuation of the ICTs and Older persons track
- Look to include a wider perspective on this issue with panels that focus on the need to think about these ideas and concepts as a life course focus. Especially important to change views of younger generations for the benefit of all.

ICTs and Older Persons special track: Creating the New Urban Infrastructure that Supports Healthy Aging (Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA))

Summary of Session: Creating the New Urban Infrastructure that Supports Healthy Aging

Global Coalition on Aging

Friday, May 12, 14:00-15:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/531>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Must engage older people in planning, designing and implementation age-friendly environments
- Important to bring together the in-home care workforce and the exterior life in the environments
- Technology has a role in closing gaps to health and immunization accessibility
- Technology can help identify misinformation
- Responsible digitalization is a challenge and digital systems must be more human focused
- Age-friendly cities are successful people are included and technology can help to create those connections

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- See that building smart and age-friendly environments is a channel for Mainstreaming ICTs (Action Line #1)
- See that Building Infrastructure is essential for an inclusive society (#2)
- See that providing education and support to older persons so that they can use technology will secure their Capacity Building (#4)
- See that building age-friendly environments can contribute to achieving the WSIS targets in Action Line #12 of connecting educational institutions, research centers and providing wider access to all

- The challenge to these environments is the further education of the population and the investment levels of local and national governments.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Continue to support technology and development in age-friendly environments that are responsible
- Renewed commitment toward collaboration and partnerships between private and public sector
- Continue to support the use of ICTs in environments that are person-centric

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Continue to raise these issues and concerns with our members and within our meetings and research with international bodies and organizations
- Continue to raise this issue in support of the work of the UN's Decade of Healthy Ageing

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Continuation of the ICTs and Older persons track
- Look to include a wider perspective on this issue with panels that focus on the need to think about these ideas and concepts as a life course focus.

Cybersecurity special track: Can cyber tech be resilient and green? (EC MEDICI Framework)

Summary of Session: Can cyber technology be resilient and green?

EC MEDICI Framework

Monday 13 March – 9:00 – 9:45 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/161>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- DT and “new normal”
- The “reverse pyramid” of DT relies on a single pillar
- Digital fragility, resilience
- Digital monopolies, top-down control
- Nation states and “platform states”
- Digital ecosystem sustainability
- Electronic waste disposal
- Energy consumption

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Increasing lack of resilience of the global digital ecosystem: key factors, DT transfers data and procedures from physical / analog world to intangible digital world the whole infrastructure relies on cyber tech subject to malfunctions and hackers, many times no plan B.
- The acceleration of DT due to the pandemic increased risks: key factors, power and information asymmetries, digital divides, need for capacity-building to bolster the weakest links in global cyber security.
- Governments and public authorities have less control on digital revolution than in case of previous “revolutions”: Key factors, strategic role played by few supranational digital

tycoons/platforms often operating in a regulatory grey zone and without “public” competitors.

- The hierarchical structure of cyber domain originally thought as open and continuum without borders is turning into a patchwork of cyber-sovereignty islands. Once DT is completed, human rights could be subject to risks.
- To what extent can “cyber” be considered green: Key factors, increasing innovation pace of digital devices creates a waste disposal problem, to keep the network running and high-level number crunching processed operating a relevant amount of energy is required.
- To what extent do we want to give up human rights to embrace innovation? The need to find a proper balance between humanities and technologies is omnipresent. The WSIS can play a key role in this process.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

Panellists and some contributors from the floor agreed to start a cooperation on the following points:

- The need to approach the transition process at systemic level having humans and the preservation of their rights in the centre.
- The need to embrace an ethical approach in codesigning new technologies and their use.

The need to purposefully deploy tools from resilience theory including purposeful adoption of innovative and improvisational, open, holistic, collaborative, bottom-up design thinking. We need to move from the defensive to the preventive.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Contribute to establish a multidisciplinary, multistakeholder think tank that will foresee potential impact on society due to cyber technologies.
- Extend the cooperation network started as an outcome of this workshop.
- Contribute to create an active network on digital skills capacity-building.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Building resilience from the grassroots at national and regional levels through digital capacity building, tools, and techniques.

- Prepare a “plan B” or even “C” in case of any “malfunction” of the cyber “environment” (procedures, data, etc).
- Adoption of IUI ROAM X principles for closer monitoring of WSIS Action Lines.

Cybersecurity special track: Building Cyber resilience in the humanitarian and development sectors (Cyberpeace Institute)

Session outcome: building cyber resilience in the humanitarian and development sectors.

Cyberpeace institute

Monday 13 March, 11:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/337>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Cyber threats landscape for the NGOs in the Humanitarian and Development sectors (NGOs). Example of cyber-attacks include Funds raised to provide medical care are being stolen; Humanitarian actors are targeted for surveillance; Data of survivors of violence are sold online; Disinformation operations sow distrust about humanitarian NGOs.
- Challenges for NGO and the disruption of aid delivery. There is an urgent need to build NGO resilience against cyberattacks.
- Recommendations from the workshop guiding questions: What pre-incident and incident response actions and measures could be taken? How to strengthen the digital ecosystem?
 - Raise awareness on cyber threats.
 - Equip staff with skills and knowledge related to cyber security through in-person training, simulation exercises, demonstrations.
 - Promote technical measures such as Multifactor Authentication, cyber hygiene, restricting access to websites, cybersecurity certification.
 - Risk assessment, prevention and response plan
 - Collaboration between the National CSIRTs is the most effective way for incident-crisis communication.
 - NGOs need dedicated funding to cybersecurity practices –governments support?
 - Institutionalize cybersecurity in the humanitarian sector (such as what's done with critical infrastructure)
 - Increase cooperation with private sector on training issues.
 - Improve legal and policy framework (these should be linked to liability modeling and risk-based approach)

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

Advancing digital inclusion while safeguarding the security and integrity of people's worldwide, is clearly an opportunity for WSIS. However greater and sustained action is needed as cyberattacks are growing in scale and frequency and the societal structures needed to foster the SDGs will be the victims. Cyber "insecurity" is impacting at the same time human security, economic stability and development potential more broadly. Recognising and facilitating the inclusion of cybersecurity capacity building with other development objectives is crucial.

- Advocate for respect and development of policies, laws and norms strengthening the protection of humanitarian actors.
- Strengthen understanding and capacity of various stakeholders from the international development and International Geneva diplomatic community to implement a Safe Digital Humanitarian space through presentations/briefings.
- Raise donors' awareness on the importance of prioritizing humanitarian cybersecurity.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Introduction of and presentation of key achievements of the [CyberPeace Builders](#): an operational hands-on corporate volunteering connecting cybersecurity experts to humanitarian NGOs: over 110 NGOs protecting people in 120 countries; +300 missions and over 700 hours of cybersecurity support; +350 Volunteers provided by 30 different partner corporations.
- Sharing the announcement of the [Humanitarian Cybersecurity Center](#) launched on 27 February 2023 by the CyberPeace Institute and that provides free expert support and practical assistance to NGOs in the humanitarian and development sectors, tailored to their needs, and available anywhere in the world.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Outcomes of the workshop will help reinforce existing mechanisms of the CyberPeace Builders to help strengthen the resilience of NGOs
- Pilot the design of relevant humanitarian cybersecurity tools, products and services that are vital to strengthen the resilience of all actors involved in humanitarian and human rights efforts. These will be effective through the Humanitarian Cybersecurity Center

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Technical and normative framework to strengthen the protection of humanitarian actors
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development: partnerships to build cyber resilience and security for vulnerable communities
- Ethical dimensions the Information Society: Surveillance technology and impact on human rights

Cybersecurity special track: Cybersecurity at the center of digital transformation in Africa (UN ECA)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/446>

Organization: UN ECA

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Cybersecurity special track: Evolution of social engineering & phishing (Swiss-CyberSecurity)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/291>

Organization: Swiss- CyberSecurity

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Cybersecurity special track: Cybersecurity and resilience (South School on Internet Governance)

Summary of Session: Cybersecurity and resilience Development of cyber capacities in the emerging economies South School on Internet Governance - SSIG

May 25, 2023 – 12 hs UTC – 14 hs CEST

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/521>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The importance to strengthen cyber capacity and expertise globally through international collaboration and cooperation.
- The challenge for developing economies to put cyber security and the importance of cyber resilience as a top (or very important) priority.
- The impact of audiovisual content piracy is a threat to cybersecurity and focused awareness and capacity building must be promoted to avoid attacks.
- There are new and unique cybersecurity challenges faced in terms of cybersecurity, data protection regulations, compliance, and the use of emerging technologies such as AI and IoT.
- The concept of "Critical infrastructure" has different meanings in each country, and its definition must be carefully evaluated the national level with focus in strengthening the international cooperation.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation are all critical for achieving sustainable development, promoting economic growth, and creating a better future for all.

- Resilient infrastructure is essential for ensuring that people have access to critical services, such as healthcare, education, and emergency response, especially during times of crisis or disaster. It also helps to build economic resilience, which can help communities recover from shocks and promote long-term growth.
- Sustainable industrialization helps to create jobs, drive economic growth, and promote technological innovation, while also reducing the negative impacts of industrial activity on the environment and society. It also helps to promote social equity and reduce poverty by creating opportunities for people to participate in the economy.
- Innovation is essential for driving progress and solving complex problems. It helps to create new products and services, improve efficiency, and enhance quality of life. Innovation can also help to reduce negative environmental impacts and promote social equity by creating new opportunities for people to participate in the economy.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Enhanced dialogue among different stakeholders
- Explain to the broader audience concepts that are not easy to be understood as they are technically oriented.
- The next South School on Internet Governance will be organized in the city of Campina Grande, Paraíba, Brazil and there will be a special track focused on the WSIS Forum and other International for a, as it has been organized in previous editions (2022, 2021).

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Capacity building is essential for enhancing cybersecurity in developing countries, the South School on Internet Governance offers every year fellowships to promote education, training and awareness to build stronger, more resilient cybersecurity environments that can effectively protect individuals, organizations, and national security interests.
- In developing economies, activities towards capacity building can be useful to strengthen the technical infrastructure that is necessary for effective cybersecurity. The South School on Internet Governance initiatives raise awareness and

understanding of these issues and promote good cybersecurity practices.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Cybersecurity and cloud computing
- Artificial Intelligence and new challenges for cybersecurity
- Quantum computing and new challenges for cybersecurity

Cybersecurity special track: Round Table on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity
(International conference on cyberlaw, cybercrime & cybersecurity, international
commission on cyber security law and cyberlaw university)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/523>

Organization: International conference on cyberlaw, cybercrime & cybersecurity,
international commission on cyber security law and cyberlaw university

Date: Friday, 26 May 2023

ICTS AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING SPECIAL TRACK

ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming special track: KIDsvAI Train-the-trainers session to break gender stereotypes in STEM (WOMENVAI and Swiss Engineering Geneva)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/174>

Organization: WOMENVAI and Swiss Engineering Geneva

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/392>

Organization: Omuka Hub

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Summary of Session: Combatting Non Consensual Intimate Image Abuse (NCII)

SWGfL

16th March 2023 09:00

[Session 187— Combatting Non Consensual Intimate Image Abuse \(NCII\) | WSIS Forum 2023 \(itu.int\)](#)

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Often referred to in the media as Revenge Porn, NCII is a catastrophic form of abuse that destroys lives (both sharing or the threat to share).
- Launched in 2015 by SWGfL, the UK Revenge Porn Helpline has supported over 13,000 NCII victims and of these 4% have expressed some form of suicidal ideation. NCII has a significant gender imbalance. Women are around five times more likely to be victims of intimate image abuse whilst conversely predominantly male-perpetrated.
- StopNCII.org is revolutionary. It is the worlds first 'device side hashing technology' that empowers victims to take control of their own images by working with online platforms to both proactively remove these images where they exist online whilst at the same time preventing anyone from posting them onto these platforms.
- The workshop covered the following aspects linked to NCII
 - Victim Blaming. When the photos are leaked without consent, comments such as she should have refrained from sending it or she shouldn't get naked in front of the camera persist, putting the blame on the girl, without addressing the issue that the person who received it had no right to share it with others. Victims often blame themselves too and girls are more likely than boys to face a negative backlash from both male and female peers if their image is shared.
 - Stereotypes: Research has found that gender-based violence is closely linked to power imbalances between women and men and harmful expressions of masculinities (UN Women, 2016). In this regard it is important to look at the roots of gender stereotyping and to understand and raise awareness about the factors influencing such stereotypes which range from cultural traditions, family or domestic practices to broader societal and environmental factors such as the sexual objectification of women and girls in media or advertising.
 - National Model Responses: As highlighted above, there are many countries across the world now starting to realise the prevalence of violence against women and girls online. This thread discussed examples of existing policy and best practice from those participants.
 - Prevention: When someone else shares their intimate images without consent or is threatening to do so, unless they meet specific demands, it can be catastrophic.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Gender Imbalance - why women and girls disproportionately experience online abuse, specifically Non Consensual Intimate Image Abuse. What States and organisations should be doing to combat NCII affecting everyone, but especially women and girls. Women are around five times more likely to be victims of intimate image abuse whilst conversely predominantly male-perpetrated.
- StopNCII.org should be signposted as a support to victims of online NCII

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Stakeholders, Governments should adopt a National [Adult Image Based Abuse Model Response | SWGfL](#)
- StopNCII.org is available globally for victims to prevent their intimate images being shared on participating platforms and seeking
 - Platforms to adopt StopNCII hashes
 - NGO's providing support to victims of NCII, to partner with StopNCII
 - Governments to support and encourage the rollout of StopNCII

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Tech Facilitated Gender Based Violence

How Can Women Digital Entrepreneurs Boost Inclusion? (UNCTAD)

Summary of Session: *How Can Women Digital Entrepreneurs Boost Inclusion? Voices from the field*

UNCTAD

Tuesday, 25 April 2023

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/228>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Economic impact of women's inclusion in the digital economy: Increasing women's participation in the economy benefits marginalized communities and society as a whole.
- Investing in women entrepreneurs: Equal opportunities, funding, and support in the digital economy lead to sustainable development by overcoming barriers, biases, and providing inclusive capacity building.
- Bridging the digital divide through collaboration: Government, NGOs, and technology companies play vital roles in creating inclusive policies, promoting equal opportunities, and challenging biases to empower women entrepreneurs.
- Role modeling for motivation: Showcasing success stories inspires women entrepreneurs to invest in learning and adopting digital tools, leading to increased participation and success in the digital marketplace.
- Leveraging networks for growth: Women digital entrepreneurs can expand their online businesses by joining and utilizing networks and ecosystems that offer training, professionalization, and collaboration opportunities to access global markets.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Investing in women entrepreneurs and providing them with equal opportunities in the digital economy can lead to sustainable development, boost innovation, and foster economic empowerment for marginalized communities.
- There is still a need to overcome barriers and biases faced by women entrepreneurs, ensuring equal opportunities and access to resources, and bridging the digital divide to ensure inclusive participation in the digital economy.
- Building stronger partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders, including governments, private sector organizations, civil society, and international bodies, would enable to enhance the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and promote gender equality in the digital economy.

- Prioritizing capacity building programs, mentorship, and training initiatives to enhance digital skills and entrepreneurship capabilities among women, could ensure they can fully leverage the opportunities provided by the digital economy.
- Providing and expanding networks and ecosystems that support women digital entrepreneurs, with access to resources, knowledge sharing, and market opportunities, would enable them to scale their businesses and access global markets more effectively.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Raised awareness among participants regarding the significance of women's inclusion in the digital economy and its positive impact on societal inclusion.
- Showcased concrete examples of the positive impact of women digital entrepreneurs on their ecosystems.
- Facilitated peer-learning and the exchange of best practices among different regions.
- Identified opportunities for collaboration between UNCTAD, AfriLabs, and the e-Commerce Institute.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- UNCTAD will discuss further with AfriLabs and the e-Commerce Institute to foster collaboration on tangible initiatives and projects that support women digital entrepreneurs.
- Efforts will be made to amplify the visibility of women digital entrepreneurs who participated in the session, recognizing their contributions and their impact.
- UNCTAD and its initiative eTrade for Women will continue to provide women digital entrepreneurs with opportunities for networking and targeted training. The programme will also continue highlight women role models in the digital economy and leverage partnerships to promote inclusive policies.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Sustainable Development and Digital Transformation: Examining how digital technologies can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting digital innovation for sustainable development, and measuring the impact of digital transformation on economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

Gender Responsive Standards (ITU, UNECE, ISO, IEC and Canada)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/476>

Organization: ITU, UNECE, ISO, IEC and Canada

Date: Thursday, 4 May 2023

Sustainable Synergy: How Accelerating Gender Equality in IT warrants a Thriving, Eco-friendly Future (Women in Tech in Switzerland)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/536>

Organization: Women in Tech in Switzerland

Date: Friday, 5 May 2023

ICTs for Emerging Technologies and Industry 4.0 special track: Critical elements of successful industry 4.0 policy (Information Technology and Innovation Foundation)

Summary of Session: “ICTs for Emerging Technologies and Industry 4.0 special track: Critical elements of successful industry 4.0 policy”

Stephen Ezell, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)

Monday, March 13 3:00-3:45PM

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- How to implement key technologies driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution: generative and predictive AI, robotics, IoT, blockchain, additive manufacturing, etc.
- Leading use cases by sector in developing countries of leading 4IR technologies.
- Innovation and trade policy frameworks leaders must get right in developing and developed countries for them to maximize their participation in modern industrial processes and advanced innovation industries.
- The importance of zero-in/zero-out free trade agreements like the Information Technology Agreement in spurring countries’ digital economies and ability to participate in value chains for the production of advanced information technology and communications (ICT) goods.
- Getting regulatory frameworks right to support greater levels of AI and ICT adoption deployment.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The vital importance of spurring greater deployment of infrastructure-level telecommunications platforms like 5G and Internet broadband.
- The vital importance of getting digital devices (i.e., smartphones, tablets, computers) in the hands of the global public.
- The vital importance of advancing digital literacy among peoples.
- The vital importance of assisting small businesses in adopting digital tools and technologies.
- The vital importance of getting policy frameworks right to make all this happen.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- An understanding of how enterprises in specific industries can adopt and deploy 4IR tools and technologies to create compelling business models and customer experiences.
- An understanding of the innovation policy framework and environment needed to support this.
- A sense of global best practices in 4IR solution development and deployment across developing and developed countries alike.

Session Summary: Ethics and AI for and with Society: Ethical Design

Are Ethics and AI really two sides of the same coin?

PROMIS@Service and 'AI&Society' Journal, Springer Nature

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 10:00–10:45 (UTC+01:00)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/182>

New technology developments which focus on integrating human-centred methods and rules into our use of AI, so that it is transparent, evidence-based and secure, will serve to increase trust in technology, assisting the process of changing society and the world of work for governments and people everywhere in a way that favours human dignity at all levels of involvement, from workers to managers.²

Key Issues discussed

Special attention was given to: evidence-based AI, ethical AI machine, ethical Governance, human-machine interaction, diversity, Ethics of Reciprocity, ethics across cultures, empathic social agency, traditions, human dignity, digital transformation, sustainability.

- Dr. Andreas Reis, Head of Health, Ethics & Governance at the World Health Organisation started by explaining the importance of Ethics in health care and in particular the training for those involved in the design development of AI technologies for health. WHO, together with a group of experts in ethics and governance, has developed ethics guidelines and are finalising the development of an online training course targeted to designers and developers of AI algorithms to ensure transparency, trust and the minimisation of risks.³
- Prof. Karamjit Gill, [Editor-in-Chief, AI&Society](#) Journal, Springer Nature answered, to the question if it is possible to embed ethics in the machine, building on the idea of machine ethics as an extension of human ethics, ultimately becoming fully aligned with the machine's operations - just as the machine was seen as an extension of the human body, now machine 'intelligence' is seen as an extension of human intelligence. He also underlined that ethics is situated in different cultural contexts; there is no universal view of ethics, as it has impact on cultural practices of societies, and thus ethics has to be contextualised within cultures.⁴
- Dr. Olufemi Adeluyi, Sen. Tech. Assistant (R&D) to the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Nigeria, continued underlining the importance of quality and inclusivity of data to AI and recommended an approach for balancing the requirements of regulation and the need to promote innovation of AI systems.⁵
- Mr. Forhad Zahid Shaikh, Chief e-Governance Strategist of a2i, ICT Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and IT, Government of Bangladesh, addressed major ethical concerns and possible threats due to AI that he apprehends in the cultural and moral context of his country. One risk he highlighted was the issue of biased data, which could lead to unfair decisions and outcomes, in addition

² Evidence-based AI, Ethics and the Circular Economy of Knowledge, AI&SOCIETY Journal, Springer Nature, C. Berbenni-Rehm, 2022.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01581-1>

³ WHO: Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health, full report: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240029200>

⁴ Moving the AI needle: from chaos to engagement, AI&Society Journal, Springer Nature, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-023-01627-y>

⁵ Ethical Societal Impact Artificial Intelligence, Nigerian Communications Commission,
https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Files/View/DOC/fa7d77b451bfed11914cd067e5f879f3/research-ethical_societal_impact_artificial_intelligence_ncc.pdf

to the misuse of personal data and the chance that online criminals would use AI to hide their crimes. Regarding the threats under Bangladesh's cultural and moral context, he explained that AI could potentially lead to unemployment in several key sectors, such as the RMG, freelancing, and customer care service.

Mr. Forhad emphasized the importance of holding AI developers accountable for their creations and ensuring that AI is used ethically, to avoid ethical concerns and potential threat to society.

- Dr. Evelyne Tauchnitz, Senior Researcher at Institute of Social Ethics, University Lucerne, focused on the need of ethical governance for digital technologies and on the values and norms – namely human rights – upon which we can build such ethical governance on a global level. Universal human rights norms are an important point of reference that can serve as a minimal ethical standard to guide policy makers in the formulation of global governance strategies. Human rights possess the advantage that they have already been accepted by the vast majority of states and institutional mechanisms are already in place both at the national and international level to monitor their respect and progress. A public debate is needed to discuss how human rights are to be interpreted, properly implemented, and, if necessary, enforced, in the digital age.
- Mgr. Giulio Dellavite, Secretary General of the Diocese of Bergamo, Italy, closed the session on the question if Ethics have anything to say to our modern and fast-changing society. The expression "being well" sums up being well, doing good and doing it well. It is a 'human' concept and in effect is the same for all religions and spiritual philosophies. This is the evolution of Pope Benedict's XVI thought, who introduced the concept of "integral human ecology" that calls for action towards a new humanism and a new renaissance. Ethics does not make us guardians of a past to defend, but guardians of a future in which to invest. So, ethics is a new criterion for the economy of the future; it is a good and beautiful business.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025

There are very strong interrelations between the SDGs and the WSIS Action Lines, therefore the session addressed all goals in general, and in particular goal 1, goal 2, goal 3, goal 4, goal 6, goal 7, goal 8, goal 9, goal 10, goal 11, goal 16, goal 17.

Ethics: Symbiotic Horizons

- Common ethical goals BUT different cultural practices;
- No universal view of ethics. Ethics and AI have to be contextualised within cultures;
- Just as there is symbiosis between *explicit* and *tacit* knowledge and practice, so there are symbiosis between common (global) and diverse (contextual) cultural views of ethics;
- Future Symbiosis: technology, society and nature.

Tangible outcomes

The session has built upon the results of research, development and innovation: the versatile and robust Eco-System Platform PROMIS®, that gathers and protects tacit knowledge, as the key to developing structured multilingual intellectual capital and integrates Ethics-by-design alongside AI-by-design in view of the far reaching consequences involved for good or ill. [<https://rdcu.be/cYVPg>]

Actionable plan - Thematic aspects to be included in the WSIS+20 Forum 2024 (High-Level Event)

- To start a project concerning Ethics-by-design and AI-by-design methodology, integrated in a human-centred and multilingual framework involving UN institutions and interested partners.
- To expand the cross-cultural & inter-cultural dialogue on Ethics and AI on a global scale.

ICTs for Emerging Technologies and Industry 4.0 special track: Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Blockchains and Metaverse and Law (Cyberlaw University)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/506>

Organization: Cyberlaw University

Date: Monday, 15 May 2023

Summary of Session: Consolidation of Programmes

The OneGoal Initiative for Governance

May 18, 2-3pm

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/509>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Complexity in the evaluation of redundancy
- Humans vs machine
- Adding regulation vs starting from scratch
- Translation from one programme into another
- Example of standardization in financial reporting
- Choice of initial domain of application of consolidation
- Role of standardization in consolidation

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Independently from the workshop series, not engaging any entities or persons that would relate to the workshop:
- Achievements to date on action lines 1 (role of governments and all stakeholders) and 11 (international and regional cooperation) may be jeopardized mainly by an indirect polarisation of countries via stakeholders toward the stakes of LDCs or developing countries,
- Emerging tech may accentuate such a trend, and
- This may also impact action lines 3 (access to information and knowledge), 6 (enabling environment), 9 (media), and 10 (ethical dimensions) and impair the measures of the action lines 13 (digital solidarity agenda) and 14 (follow-up and evaluation).
- These all move toward more fragmentation in the world, be it between or within countries,
- But also come with an avoidable stark rise in risks for stakeholders.
- Therefore a remediation of this would be advantageous for decision makers.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- An initial draft working document was produced, including requirements for a consolidation approach to get developed and implemented.

- The concept of consolidation was explored in three further domains (accounting/financial reporting; nuclear power plants; statistics).
- A further meeting is projected.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Finding funding: this may or may not be actionable, and the rest is contingent at least on that.
- Designing the consolidation method: initiated.
- Applying it to a specific domain (selected domain: laws/rules/regulations/ethics/norms) while enabling transposition into other domains and using that experience to rectify the method where needed.
- Standardising the method.
- Integrating it as a process.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Consolidation, of course!
- (Independently from the workshop series) The watermarking of AI *and* of data for use by AI needs to be discussed in order to find a technical solution that not only informs the user if they are dealing with an AI, or which name the AI carries, but also which data, tools and methods were used in its development and, perhaps most importantly, who else is using the same AI, respectively who is using which AI for similar purposes, or overall, instead of the one the user is using. Possibly with benchmarks on the respective outcomes. This requires also a watermarking of data such that where it is harvested for use in AI development, the AI is marked with this source and the position/function it came into play at in the AI's development process.
- Numerous other issues exist today and I must forgo listing them all here.

ICTs and Youth special track: Sustaining relevant digital inclusive education for young people (5-18 years of age) (IFIP)

Summary of Session: Sustaining relevant digital inclusive education for young people (5-18 years of age)

IFIP

Thursday 16th March 2023, 09:00

<https://play.itu.int/event/wsis-forum-2023-sustaining-relevant-digital-inclusive-education-for-young-people-5-18-years-of-age/>

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/185>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- To sustain relevant digital inclusive education for young people (5-18 years of age), the IFIP Task Force has identified five key areas of concern that warrant particular attention
- Aspiration
- Diversity, inclusion, the digital divide and the under-represented
- Computational thinking and its links to problem-solving
- Developing teacher practices
- Short- and long-term plans and actions

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- There is a current trend to introduce computing/informatics/computer science into compulsory education, which should be regarded as an important step for wider STEM education
- Implementation of computing/informatics/computer science into compulsory education needs to be placed within a longer-term concern for the integration of application, practice and change
- Challenges for compulsory education still concern diversity, equality and inclusion, which need to be addressed from a starting position of enabling technical infrastructure followed by access that is regularly monitored and updated
- Achievements have arisen, nationally and locally, but have taken focus over time and continuous periods of action, often across periods of some 20-30 years
- Opportunities have arisen and accommodated the evolution of continuous development, rather than relying upon single or non-aligned transformational approaches

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- As digital technologies become more widely used, certain costs are being reduced
- Access to mobile devices and smartphones is increasing, and could provide important means to support longer-term sustainable digital inclusive education
- Inclusive practices are being focused on to increasing extents, outcomes are being shared to wider audiences, with international and national requirements being implemented
- Positive approaches and outcomes are being shared more widely, but these need to be seen in the wider longer-term context of sustainable practice

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Provide a mapping of how local and national implementation has achieved longer-term sustainable digital inclusive education
- Identify key factors and features within the five focal areas of concern that local and national initiatives need to accommodate
- Recognise the importance of systemic approaches to development, and the need to integrate all stakeholders into appropriate discussion and focus
- Share these actions with local and national groups who wish to take forward longer-term sustainable digital inclusive education

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- To develop sustainable, long-term, relevant digital inclusive education for young people (5-18 years of age), key factors and features within the five focal areas of concern (aspiration; diversity, inclusion, the digital divide and the under-represented; computational thinking and its links to problem-solving; developing teacher practices; and short- and long-term plans and actions) that local and national initiatives need to accommodate is an important aspect that could be highlighted through a high-level event.

Summary of Session: Young Societies Role in shaping emerging technologies and progressive digital institutions

[Ongea Na Demokrasia](#), [African Child Projects](#)

Tuesday, 4 April 2023 **13:00–14:00 (UTC+02:00)**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/200>

Ongea na Demokrasia Introduction Ongea na Demokrasia is a project run by African Child Project that aims to sensitize enhanced democratic participation to the public and leverage the use of civic technologies to increase civic participation in the democratic processes. The project has developed an open digital platform called Sema Tanzania, which means "Say Tanzania", to facilitate polling, ideation, collaboration and access to digital services among citizens and the purpose of this report is to summarize the main findings and recommendations from the session.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

The key insights and outcomes from the session are as follows:

- Youth are a vital force for democracy and governance in Africa, as they constitute more than 60% of the continent's population and have the potential to shape its future. However, youth face many barriers to participate effectively in democratic processes, such as lack of awareness, education, representation, inclusion, empowerment, resources, opportunities, and platforms.
- Technology can be a powerful tool for enhancing youth participation and empowerment in democracy and governance in Africa, as it can enable access to information, communication, education, expression, collaboration, innovation, mobilization, monitoring, evaluation, feedback, and accountability. However, technology also poses some challenges and risks for democracy and governance in Africa, such as digital divide, misinformation, disinformation, manipulation, surveillance, censorship, cyberattacks, and digital rights violations.
- There are many examples of youth-led initiatives that use technology to address issues of democracy deficit, lack of good governance, and human rights violations in Africa. Some of these initiatives include:
 - Sema Tanzania: A civic technology open platform that empowers democratic participation through polling, ideation, collaboration, and access to digital services among citizens, and government .
 - Ushahidi: A social enterprise that develops open source software for information collection, visualization, and interactive mapping, used by various organizations ,and communities ,to monitor ,report ,and respond ,to issues such as elections ,human rights ,and disasters .

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Strengthening the capacity and network of youth organizations and activists to advocate for their rights and interests in policy-making and implementation. This can be done by providing training, mentoring, funding, recognition and support to youth-led initiatives that work on democracy and governance issues.

- Supporting the development and scaling-up of innovative solutions that use technology to address issues of democracy deficit, lack of good governance and human rights violations in Africa..
- Enhancing the collaboration and dialogue between youth and other stakeholders, such as governments, civil society, media, academia and private sector, to foster mutual understanding and trust.
- Promoting a culture of democracy and civic education among youth, especially in areas where there is low awareness or participation in democratic processes.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Launching of Sema Tanzania Platform
- Sema Tanzania Application selected as top 4 Semifinalist in tech4democracy Africa competition
- Commitment to strengthening open innovation for democracy through civic technologies
- Agreements to report of feedback and build the session to more audiences and collaborations at the 2023 internet governance forum.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Progressing the session to the IGF in Japan, presenting key findings and collecting insights.
- Building a network of democracy advocates strengthening and sensitizing the shaping of open, equal and safe digital democratic spaces

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

The role of youth in shaping the future of the information and knowledge societies. This theme could explore how young people can contribute to the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs through their creativity, innovation, participation and leadership in various domains such as education, culture, media, science, technology and governance. It could also highlight the challenges and opportunities that youth face in accessing and using ICTs, as well as their rights and responsibilities in the digital age. This theme could showcase some of the initiatives and projects that empower youth to become agents of change and social transformation in their communities and beyond.

UN International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: Safe Play in the Digital Age: Child Online Safety and Sports (ITU/WSIS)

Summary of Session: Safe Play in the Digital Age: child online safety and sports

ITU and Scort Foundation

Thursday 06 April 2023, 14h-15h:30 CEST

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/463>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Relevance of online safety in sports from the perspective of children and actors in the field.
- Need for prioritization of online safety for children in sports.
- Experiences of implementing child online safety measures in sports and key lessons learnt.
- Collaborative approaches and strategies across sectors to promote child online safety in sports among the UN bodies, sports organizations, and NGOs.
- Utilization of sporting activities in promoting digital skills development among children

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The WSIS ACTION Lines have helped in creating an understanding of the role of ICTs, digital media in achievement of the sustainable development goals. In addition to development of strategies to promote online safety for young people.
- One key emerging trend is the focus on bridging existing digital divides to promote inclusive interconnectedness globally and digital rights especially for young people.
- The utilization of the WSIS Forum by different stakeholders from UN, academia, non-governmental organizations, and governments globally has been crucial in the implementation of the WSIS action lines.
- The translation of the call to actions into practice and collaborative engagement in interventions by the different stakeholders is still a challenge when it comes to WSIS action lines implementation.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- commitment to incorporate safeguarding through technology in policy and legal frameworks.

- Developing national policies, legislations and interventions aimed at online safety promotion.
- Launch of the policy brief on child online safety in sports by scort and ITU.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Need for regional dialogues and collaborative action in promotion of online safety for children.
- Need for coordination, collaboration by the different stakeholders and child participation in issues on online safety in sports for children.
- Need for massive awareness creation on online safety for children and the different strategies in which this can be promoted.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- WSIS Forum 2024 High level event session should also put emphasis on child online safety due to the rapid technological advancements taking place and increased children use of the digital media in their day to day lives. This should focus on discussing the digital divide among young people, bridging the existing digital divide in terms of gender digital divide and geographical locations.

ICTS AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIFIC NEEDS SPECIAL TRACK

ITU Members driving ICT/digital accessibility to build a digitally inclusive world for all (ITU-D Study Groups Question 7/1 Management Team)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/472>

Organization: ITU-D Study Groups Question 7/1 Management Team

Date: Thursday, 20 April 2023

Mainstreaming ICT accessibility across all sectors and by all stakeholders - a key requirement for building inclusive digital communities, societies, and environments (ITU)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/469>

Organization: ITU

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2023

ICT accessibility for inclusive job opportunities (ILO)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/473>

Organization: ILO

Date: Tuesday, 16 May 2023

The role of ICTs in Mental Health Prevention and Treatment (WSIS)

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/537>

Organization: WSIS

Date: Friday, 19 May 2023

High-Level Strategic Dialogue: WSIS+20 and the future of WSIS beyond 2025

14 March 2023, 11:15–12:15 CEST

SUMMARY

A high-level strategic dialogue was organised on 14 March 2023 at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2023 to address the topic of WSIS+20 and the future of WSIS beyond 2025. The WSIS Forum 2023 marks the 20th anniversary since the first Summit held in 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Deputy Secretary-General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), **Mr. Tomas Lamanuskas** moderated the high-level strategic dialogue session. The panellists of this session were **Dr. Tawfik Jelassi**, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO; **Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill**, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Executive Office of the Secretary-General; **Ambassador Thomas Schneider**, Ambassador and Director of International Affairs, Switzerland; **Mr. Mansour Al-Qurashi**, Vice Chair, Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD); **Dr. Liberato C. Bautista**, President, Conference of Non-Governmental Organization in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO); and **Ms. Timea Suto**, Global Digital Policy Lead, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The WSIS Forum 2023 Chairperson, **H.E. Dr Emilija Stojmenova Duh**, Minister of Digital Transformation, Republic of Slovenia was also present.

During the discussion, Mr. Lamanuskas invited the panellists to reflect on the achievements of the WSIS process in the past 20 years, its future direction, and its interconnection with other global processes, including the Global Digital Compact (GDC). Despite the progress made in the past 20 years of the WSIS process, there are still many complex challenges to overcome. It is paramount to maintain the momentum towards a digital future that is inclusive and sustainable, with technology serving the needs of everyone, regardless of their background, gender, knowledge, location, or abilities.

WSIS+20: Reflections on Achievements and Future Directions

Dr. Jelassi recalled the goals and ambitions set in WSIS to create an information and knowledge-based society. While acknowledging that advancements have been made, there are still significant challenges to

be addressed. He stressed the need for a strategic reboot of the WSIS, suggesting the new banner of *WSIS 2.0*. The importance of a collective, multistakeholder approach is instrumental to combat the harmful side of the digital world, such as misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, and cyberbullying.

Mr. Gill discussed the new paradigm that the world is in due to the rise of machine learning, data, and new platforms with generative artificial intelligence. He highlighted that governments and private sectors would continue to be the lead actors in driving progress towards the WSIS goals, but civil society, academia, and the technical community also play a crucial role in ensuring that the excluded are not left out as bystanders in shaping the digital future. He stated that the Global Digital Compact is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to craft a shared vision and action framework to reboot and update the digital space. He informed that the GDC consultation phase will end in June, with a Ministerial meeting to be held in September to give guidance for *The Summit of the Future* in 2024. Mr. Gill invited everyone to participate and contribute to seizing the opportunity.

Ambassador Schneider shared the achievements of WSIS, particularly in fostering a mutual understanding and cooperation among various stakeholders towards achieving shared goals. He highlighted that the WSIS+20 process would become crucial, noting the importance of implementing the agreed goals through structures, such as the annual WSIS Forum. This multistakeholder platform facilitated partnerships across different stakeholder groups. He also added other platforms, including the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Internet Governance Forum, and AI for Good, all of which promote the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the common good. Looking forward, Ambassador Schneider highlighted the importance of ensuring the political goals agreed upon in upcoming processes, such as the GDC and *The Summit of the Future*, are not just limited to paper but translated into action. Ambassador Schneider reiterated Switzerland's continued support to all processes that unite stakeholders to achieve shared goals beyond 2025. Ambassador Schneider also expressed anticipation for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event in 2024.

Mr. Al-Qurashi emphasised that WSIS must be preserved and strengthened to tackle future challenges. He acknowledged the challenge of coordinating multiple parallel processes but stressed the need for identifying UN action and collaborating to join forces to achieve a better future for all.

Dr. Bautista highlighted the critical role of non-governmental organisation (NGOs) in achieving the substantive multilateral agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the WSIS Action Lines. The full and successful implementation of the multilateral agenda relies heavily on the partnerships among governments, multilateral institutions, the private and business sectors, and civil society, including NGOs. He expressed that the inclusion and involvement of civil society organisations is critical to ensure digital justice and communication rights for an

open, free, and accessible knowledge and information society beyond 2025 in the context of the WSIS. CoNGO pledged to strengthen the multistakeholder collaboration and cooperation beyond 2025 and to contribute the *CoNGO compendium of principles for NGO good practice* in the use of information technology.

Ms. Suto underlined two main points reached at WSIS: (i) ICTs, Internet, and digital technologies hold an enormous potential for inclusive, social, and economic growth; and (ii) this potential can only be truly unlocked and effectively harnessed through multistakeholder cooperation between governments, businesses, civil society, technical and academic communities. She expressed appreciation for the progress made by UN agencies, governments, and stakeholders towards creating an inclusive and people-centered information society. However, she highlighted the fact that billions of people are still waiting for the opportunity to join the inclusive information society envisaged at WSIS, emphasising that there is still a long way to go. She urged stakeholders to remember the lessons learned in the past 20 years and work towards achieving the goals of multistakeholder cooperation for an open and inclusive information society, noting that top-down management and politics should not hinder progress towards the WSIS goals. The multistakeholder model is important for connecting everyone and everything to create a better future. She highlighted the need for the WSIS+20 review to focus on strengthening, spreading, and enabling this model.

WSIS+20: Approaches and Vision

Dr. Jelassi drew attention to the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda that calls for great collaboration and partnership. He stressed the need to ensure that various initiatives such as WSIS+20, IGF+20, and the Global Digital Compact are mutually reinforcing towards the goal of an inclusive, people-centered, development-oriented, information society that is respectful of human rights.

Mr. Gill emphasised the crucial role of Member States in strengthening digital cooperation in the UN setting, with the upcoming *The Summit of the Future* as an opportunity to reboot multilateralism and address key issues such as the SDGs, climate change, and outerspace management. He highlighted that the Global Digital Compact is an opportunity to shape a shared vision.

Ambassador Schneider referred to different places and organisations in Geneva, New York, or other parts of the world that have its own contributions to address ICTs issues. Despite the complexity, it is essential for each organisation to focus on their areas of expertise and work collaboratively towards achieving a common goal ensuring that the various efforts being made are connected.

Mr. Al-Qurashi urged Member States, stakeholders, and UN agencies to work collectively towards finding a unified solution and common ways to go forward for a digital future that benefits everyone.

Dr. Bautista emphasised the importance of inclusivity in multilateral processes leading up to 2025. The *United Nations Charter's* preamble refers to the people of the world, and Dr. Bautista stressed the need to include them in every process, including political and digital access.

Ms. Suto highlighted that multistakeholder and multilateral process are ways to go forward for future conversations. She referenced upcoming processes, such as the *SDG Summit* and *The Summit of the Future*, where stakeholders should be included in the discussions alongside governments.

WSIS+20: Mapping the Way Forward

Dr. Jelassi outlined a multistakeholder approach to addressing digital transformation. He emphasised the need to answer three fundamental questions: why, what, and how. He underscored the importance of digital technology as a strategic enabler and catalyst for change when discussing the "why". The "what" required an agreement on scope and boundaries on what to implement and to achieve through GDC, WSIS 2.0, and Our Common Agenda. He explained that the "how" involved implementing and deploying digital technologies in an inclusive manner to achieve positive impact.

Ambassador Schneider emphasised the importance of rule-based societies and economies, with incentives for all stakeholders to follow agreed-upon rules. There is a need to combine multilateral and multistakeholder systems for a better future.

Dr. Bautista expressed optimistic outlook for the future of the multilateral system, envisioning a more inclusive, just, and participatory future.

Ms. Suto shared her vision of an open, free, safe, trustworthy, and inclusive internet. Ms. Suto called for engagement and participation of all parties through concerted efforts to move towards this shared vision, highlighting the importance of the approach and the vision we want to achieve.

Concluding the session, Mr. Lamaunaskas conveyed his appreciation for an inspiring vision presented by all panellists and expressed his hope that it will galvanize collective action. He underscored the need to not only ideate but also to actively engage in concerted efforts to make it a reality. Mr. Lamanuaskas highlighted that this inspiration will provide a boost for further efforts towards the WSIS+20.

Summary of Session: IEEE Knowledge Café: Beyond Strong Sustainability - Catalyzing a Planet Positive Future for Generations to Come

IEEE

13 March 2023, 12:30-13:45 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/360>

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- This interactive session explored opportunities to build a flourishing planet that goes beyond sustainability and builds upon the UN SDGs and related declarations.
- As we step closer to 2030 and embrace and navigate the complexities in the pursuit of the SDGs and in addressing climate change and related challenges, there is a need to take into account the large diversity in culture, in local, regional and global conditions and needs, and the varying contexts around the globe. This requires flexibility and a diversity of approaches to creating a ‘planet positive society’. It also requires practical guidance on decisions, e.g. decisions impacting GreenHouse Gas levels in the atmosphere, resource use, and many others, and the implementation of these decisions by individuals, communities, companies, organizations, and governments.
- Through the lens of a set of guiding principles that prioritize flourishing ecosystems and human well-being, we explored ideas and solutions that can be designed, innovated upon and deployed to reach a Planet Positive by 2030 – and, more so, catalyze a Planet Positive future for generations to come.
- Specifically, participants discussed these guiding principles to frame the discussion and identify tomorrow’s challenges, innovative solutions and imaginative concepts through a focus on energy and smart cities, policy and an accountability framework.
- Participants envisioned a world in 2030 where our actions to prioritize the health and well-being of the planet are realized—where we have arrived at a major milestone toward a Planet Positive future, and exchanged views on the following questions:
 - What were the key factors or drivers that contributed to this milestone?
 - What actions or innovations were taken by individuals, organizations, governments – practical solutions, new modes of cooperation or collaboration? In short, what were the building blocks?
 - What is your short headline for how we catalyzed a flourishing world that went beyond sustainability?

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

In line with WSIS Action Line 6 - Enabling Environment and WSIS Action Line 11 - E-Environment, participants highlighted opportunities for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, including government investment, crowdsourcing and standardized tools for sustainability.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

In line with the appreciative inquiry statement of this session, the Knowledge Cafe outcomes focused on the building blocks that need to be overcome in order to address climate change and related challenges.

As it concerns the area of Energy, points needing to be addressed include a stronger investment by government and organizations, a transforming education system that educates the future workforce including in sustainability, innovation and associated risks, taking note that risk managing decisions do not just shift risk, but truly mitigate risk, and inclusion of young people, their voices and creativity.

Concerning energy technology, participants agreed that the achievements of technology include the creation and distribution of sustainable power, providing food and other resources from local production. This will minimize transportation, increase the capability of remote collaborative tools to reduce travel with improved productivity and increase the availability of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to address human needs in a connected world with minimized energy consumption.

As it relates to issues on accountability needing to be overcome, participants agreed that these relate to a required cultural change to be transparent, accountable and liable, to trust, to a much needed responsible use of technology. Reports need to be trustworthy and correct. That also requires standard and concrete tools. Potential crowdsourcing of 'solutions', reviewing of such 'solutions' and a standardized tool/platform to share curated knowledge, best practices, technical know-how, e.g. metrics and reporting tools - all accessible through common language - are suggested to accelerate deployment decisions and implementation of technological and other 'solutions'.

Discussed outcomes related to policy considerations that will catalyze a Planet Positive future for generations to come, highlighted knowledge preservation when storing data digitally, the need to address institutional as well as generational bias, a lack of regulation and the linked human impact, as well as a requirement 'green' regulations - environment first - and for interoperability: interoperability not only of technology, services and standards but also of regulation and policy between jurisdictions...

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

To create a flourishing planet that goes beyond sustainability and meets the needs of well-being of the people, a number of actions were proposed, such as:

- Standardized tools, technology, services
- Interoperable regulation
- Sustainability by design from the outset - applicable to services, technology, infrastructure, to name a few.
- Accountability by design from the outset - evidence-based decisions, including metrics, reporting tools and liability considerations from the outset
- New sources of funding, incl. government support and crowdfunding

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

Given that the global response to the UN Secretary General's short survey leading up to the UN75 celebration was that the environment is the number one priority issue to be addressed, Action Line 20: Addressing e-environment issues and challenges, developing Green IT and using ICTs to adapt to and mitigate climate change, would be a strong candidate for a discussion. Specifically, how can we design for a smaller footprint? With our data storage and processing needs, the topic of greener ways to code could be addressed, for instance. Another topic that could be addressed is document and data proliferation. A discussion of digital building blocks for eGovernance could be another topic. This would cover Action Line 21: Recognizing the importance of maintaining open ICT standards development processes for innovation in the ICT sector as key enablers for an inclusive information society.

Summary of Session: WSIS Intergenerational Knowledge Café

ITU – WSIS x Poppaedia International

16/3/23 – 12-14pm CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/374>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- **Segment 1: Healthy Ageing**
 - What does it mean to “get old”? How do young people feel about getting old and what do they imagine will be their lives in their older age? Are these points of view based in fact, inevitable or just a culmination of notions based in an outdated visual imagery and biased descriptions?
 - What is being done to re-shape and re-tune this outdated narrative and will these efforts have an impact on young people’s notions? According to our colleagues at the WHO, what are the inherent health risks of Ageism? According to young people, and their own experience, what more should be done?
 - What are the actual realities of older age that young people need to start thinking about now? How should young people start preparing for a whole-of-life health experience that is integrated, effective and has technology at its core? What about financial wellness – why is that so important and how can that be assisted through technology?
- **Segment 2: ICT & Intergenerational Relations**
 - In this segment our guest speaker discussed the importance of intergenerational collaboration at work, for housing and to shape public spaces.
- **Segment 3: Youth involvement**
 - Importance of meaningful youth engagement (example of Generation Connect).
 - Presenting the WSIS x Generation Connect Youth Prize with Poappedia International.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Basic connectivity remains a major challenge to achieving digital inclusion for all, especially for young people.
- Addressing barriers to connectivity and reducing digital inequalities are crucial steps towards a safe, inclusive, and sustainable digital future.
- Policies that promote digital equity and sustainability should be prioritized in shaping the future of digital development.
- Young change makers and tech sector leaders can work together as partners in driving digital transformation towards greater inclusion and sustainability.
- Achievements such as the WSIS x Generation Connect Youth Prize finalists and the Generation Connect summits demonstrate the commitment to engaging young people in shaping the future of digital development.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- The announcement of the finalists for the WSIS x Generation Connect Youth Prize, with one of the winners receiving an award at the event.
- The unveiling of the Generation Connect summits and various opportunities for collaboration between the youth and other stakeholders.
- A fruitful intergenerational dialogue that underscored the pivotal role of the youth in driving progress and innovation.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Inviting the youth to participate at the WSIS X Generation Connect Youth Prize and share their thoughts about technology and inclusivity.
- Initiating an intergenerational dialogue between the youth and the older generation at the workspace.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- The WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) could include discussions on several thematic aspects. One of the suggestions put forward by some participants is to focus on the topics of youth in the workplace and youth in politics. The discussions could center around exploring ways in which youth can become an integral part of important economic, social, and political decisions. The event could also highlight practical steps that could be taken to facilitate youth involvement in decision-making processes. Such discussions could be particularly relevant given the increasing participation of young people in shaping the future of our societies.

Workshop Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/406>

Organization: Bahrain

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Hackathon (The Digital Government Authority Saudi Arabia)

The Digital Government Authority- DGA and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2023, in collaboration with other stakeholders organised a virtual global hackathon to reach the larger innovation community and champions in an attempt to contribute to building the GovTech of tomorrow and help ensure a better future for us, all in line with the WSIS Action Lines and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Summary of Session: DigitalGov Hackathon

Digital Government Authority

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 14:00-14:45 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/376>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

DigitalGov Hackathon Journey:

- Hackathon Focus and Overview
- Hackathon Tracks
- High-level dialogue with emerging tech experts
- Conducted webinars about using emerging technologies in public sectors

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- Overview of the submitted solutions and winners' projects
- DigitalGov Hack Awards Ceremony - LEAP 2023

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- NA

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- NA

More information about Hackathon: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Home/Hackathon>

EXHIBITION

Exhibition Inauguration

Monday, 13 March 2023

10:45 – 11:00

Open Space, CIG Ground Floor

WSIS Forum 2023 gathered more than 30 exhibitors from Governments, Civil Society, International Organizations, Private Sector, Technical Community, Academia and Youth. The Exhibition offers stakeholders worldwide an opportunity to showcase their innovative initiatives on the ICTs for advancing sustainable development, also provides stakeholders a vibrant and interactive atmosphere to foster meaningful collaboration and partnerships.

Exhibitors presented a diversity of cutting-edge projects and solutions addressing particular challenges and issues that are critical to sustainable development in the information society. The Exhibition also featured Virtual Reality films and games that brought delegates an immersive experience and a unique way to explore art, culture and sports, creating great vibrancy and vividness to the scene of the Forum. The photographic works by the winners and champions of the WSIS Forum 2023 photo contest on display along the exhibition area and open spaces also artistically highlight the significant relationship between ICTs and sustainable development of the international community.

At 10:45 AM, Monday, 13 March 2023, the exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, the Secretary-General of ITU, and the WSIS Forum 2023 Chairperson, H.E. Dr Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Minister of Digital Transformation, Republic of Slovenia, as well as H.E. Eng. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Director General of the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) of the United Arab Emirates.

The Exhibition of WSIS Forum 2023 was honored to host such an intriguingly diverse spectrum of exhibitors, all united in their pursuit of leveraging ICTs for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. Their trailblazing projects unfolded multifaceted topics, centering around the following categories:

- Digital Literacy
- ICTs in Education
- Media Sustainability and Accessibility
- Art, Culture and Sports in VR
- Healthy Ageing
- Cyber Security
- E-business
- E-employment and Green Economy
- Waste Management
- ICTs and Disaster/Emergency Management
- Digital Diplomacy
- Digital Transformation for Smart Sustainable Cities
- Digital Inclusion of Youth

Exhibited Partners	
Platinum Partner	
United Arab Emirates	
Gold Plus Partner	
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
Partner for Specific Activities	
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)	
Contributing Partners	
Kingdom of Bahrain	
Republic of Rwanda	
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)	
Supporting Partners	
The General Delegation of Wallonia-Brussels, Belgium	
International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)	

VR Exhibitors	
Sensory X	Exploring in virtual reality the reality of the Indigenous people of the Amazon
	Exploring the XR Olympics: join us to experience how virtual reality can connect physical and social activities!
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art	25-minute virtual reality film “Trail of Angels” by Kristina Buožytė and Vitalijus Žukas, inviting visitors to get acquainted with 60 well-known and easily recognizable and less visible paintings by the Lithuanian artist Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis in VR space.

Regular Exhibitors	
Basic Internet Foundation	Connect the future
	Empowering communities through community learning & living labs”
Siberkreasi	Indonesia's digital literacy movement
	Digital Literacy: The exhibition space would be used to showcase multi-stakeholder digital literacy and/or transformation initiatives, especially for Indonesia's Winners and

	<p>Champion of WSIS Prize. This exhibition will contain digital literacy materials, including highlights of the work of Indonesian multi-stakeholders. The exhibition would also design to be interactive exhibits that allow attendees to discuss digital literacy materials and could allow attendees to connect and learn each other interest and initiatives.</p>
<p>Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia</p>	<p>Indonesia’s multi-stakeholders partnership</p> <p>Digital Literacy / Transformation Multistakeholder Initiatives:</p> <p>This exhibition space could showcase multistakeholder digital literacy and/or transformation initiatives, especially for The Winners and Champions WSIS Prizes this year and previously. This could include physical or virtual exhibits highlighting the work of the Indonesian government, private sectors, CSOs, academia, technical communities, and other stakeholders in the field of ICTs, and how they are using these technologies to drive innovation and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The exhibition space could also include demonstrations and interactive exhibits that allow attendees to experience the technologies and innovations being showcased firsthand. Networking opportunities, such as meet-and-greet sessions or casual gatherings, could also be included to allow attendees to connect and learn more about each other's work and interests. The exhibition space could be organized and managed collaboratively by Indonesian multistakeholder.</p>
<p>CMAI Association of India</p>	<p>Cyber Security Awareness Skilling and Teaching</p> <p>Co-operation for ICT telecom business with India</p>
<p>HiNounou</p>	<p>Live longer healthier with ICTs but not isolated</p>
<p>Global Coalition on Aging</p>	
<p>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona</p>	<p>GreenSCENT and MEDIAVERSE</p> <p>Immersive Storytelling</p> <p>Media sustainability</p> <p>Media Accessibility</p> <p>Raising awareness</p>
<p>Swiss CyberSecurity</p>	<p>Cyber awareness</p>
<p>Xworks Tech</p>	<p>Data integration platform for the bulk movement of waste & recycling commodities, managing compliance</p> <p>& creating digital passports</p> <p>Waste management and ICT</p>
<p>The World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO)</p>	<p>Introduction to WeGO and the Seoul Smart City Prize</p> <p>Promotion of WeGO and the Seoul Smart City Prize (http://seoulsmartcityprize.com/) to champion people-centered smart cities.</p>
<p>GM Group of Companies, INDIA</p>	<p>Employment and Job creation in Communities using Green Economy.</p>

	One the largest greenfield Ethanol plant along with a sugar mill and Co-Generation power plant in the region capable to produce 30MW of green energy.
ADA Lovelace Software Private Limited, INDIA	ICTs to empower Children, Women and Elderly- through AI tools and assistive technology Empowering communities and job creation through green economy
Alert-Hub.Org CIC	Free tools for CAP-enabled emergency alerting
DiploFoundation & Geneva Internet Platform	Capacity development in digital policy and diplomacy
The OneGoal Initiative for Governance	Qaucus: toward a quantum treaty <i>today</i> Presenting <u>onegoalinitiative.org</u> and the case for a Quantum Treaty
Communications Regulatory Authority – State of Qatar	Welcome to ITU PP 2026 in Qatar: A Convergence of Technology and Culture Introducing Qatar as selected host for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026
Popaedia International (Student Association)	WSIS Generation Connect Youth Prize: “Exchange, dialogue and exhibition of youth-led ICT projects and initiatives”
Seed Studio	Make sense from [the true wild]
Apps and Girls	Advanced IT & Entrepreneurship training and Incubation for young women (JOVIA Program)
International Telecommunication Union	AI for Good
International Telecommunication Union	GovStack Initiative





SOCIAL NETWORKING EVENTS

The list of WSIS Forum 2023 Social Events is available here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/SocialEvents>

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Ceremony of the WSIS Forum 2023

Links:

Hybrid: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/343>

Virtual: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/538>

Organization: WSIS

Date: Friday, 17 March 2023; Monday, 29 May 2023

QUICK LINKS

- WSIS Forum 2023 Official Website: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/Forum/2023/>
- Open Consultation Process: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Home/Consultations>
- Agenda: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda>
- Facebook WSIS Process: <https://www.facebook.com/WSISprocess>
- WSIS Flash: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Flash/Newsletter>
- Twitter WSIS Process #WSIS: <https://twitter.com/wsisprocess>
- WSIS on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/wsisprocess>
- WSIS Stocktaking: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking>
- United Nations Group on the Information Society: www.ungis.org
- Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/>

For further information please write to the WSIS Secretariat at wsis-info@itu.int

Video Highlights and Interviews:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WSISProcess>

Photographs:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/itupictures/collections/72157721557594139/>

INVITATION FOR THE WSIS+20 FORUM HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

The WSIS Forum 2024 will be branded as **WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event** in Geneva and serve as a platform for the WSIS+20 review to provide multistakeholder discussions and to take stock of the achievements and key trends, challenges and opportunities since the Geneva Plan of Action.

All stakeholders are invited to participate and contribute actively to the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event. The Forum will take place from 27 to 31 May 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

More information about the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event will be made available at www.wsis.org/forum.