DCDF 2021

منتدى التعاون الرقمي والتنمية

Digital Cooperation and Development Forum

Shaping our digital future | رسم مستقبلنا الرقمي

Date: Wednesday 15 December, 14:00 - 15:15 pm Beirut Time

UNITED NATIONS
ESCWA

Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs (World Summit Information Society (WSIS) Secretariat)

Background

This meeting on the regional WSIS implementation activities will provide a platform for information sharing and collection of regional inputs on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, in particular the WSIS Action Lines, towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The vital role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a catalyst for development is specifically recognized in the development framework "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which acknowledges that "the spread of information and communication technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress and to develop knowledge societies, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy". To that end, the WSIS-SDGs Matrix, developed by the UN Action Line Facilitators, clearly shows the linkage between each Action Line and the 17 SDGs, and provides rationale for each (www.wsis.org/sdg).

More specifically, the main purpose of this meeting is to provide a platform for stakeholders, in particular the WSIS Action Line Facilitators, international and regional organizations, experts, and government representatives, implementing the WSIS Action Lines at the regional level, to share good practices, foster partnerships, identify regional challenges and opportunities, while strengthening alignment between implementation of the WSIS and SDGs. This meeting will provide structured opportunities to network, learn, and participate in multistakeholder discussions and consultations on the WSIS implementation.

In this context, this meeting will focus on sharing of best practices and flagship initiatives, such as

- Emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in building inclusive information and knowledge societies (WSIS Action Line Facilitators)
- Sharing of best practices (WSIS Prizes Winners from the region) and flagship initiatives (relevant stakeholders)
- Multistakeholder discussion on strengthening implementation of WSIS Action Lines to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs
- Contributions of the Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2022
- Interagency collaboration on ICT for sharing of information and best practices from national, regional, and global experiences, including the WSIS Prizes Winner 2021.

The outcomes of this meeting will serve as inputs to the WSIS Forum 2022 (15 March onwards until the final week on 30 May – 3 June 2022) and its open consultation process, WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Prizes, thereby bringing to forefront emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges from the regional layer in a multi-stakeholder format. Regional good practices shared will be highlighted at the global level within the framework of the official WSIS Stocktaking process. The WSIS Forum 2022 Calls to Action are listed as Annex 1 below.

The United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs), including ESCWA, play an active role in the WSIS process and the discussions at the annual WSIS Forum to strengthen the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for achieving the SDGs at the regional level. ESCWA continues its leading role in the WSIS process in the Arab region, including the regional preparatory activities.

The WSIS process is built on the framework of the 11 WSIS Action Lines that cover all aspects of ICTs for development. Since 2015, the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are being aligned by stakeholders to integrate ICTs into their approaches in implementing the activities/initiatives to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Description

This session will bring together various stakeholders and experts from difference sectors to discuss how ICTs and the WSIS Action Lines can help accelerate the SDGs and focus on strengthening partnerships and digital cooperation towards achieving goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It will also highlight the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab region.

Moderator

Speakers

Ms. Gitanjali Sah
Strategy and Policy Coordinator, ITU

Mr. Adel Darwish
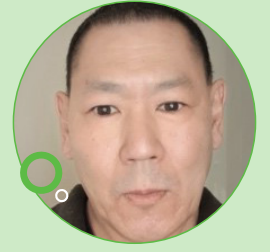Arab Regional Office Director, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny
Chief of ICT Policies, UNESCWA

Mr. Karim Abdelghani
Arab Regional Office Programme Coordinator, ITU - Arab Office

Mr. Joe Hironaka
Programme Specialist, Digital Innovation and Transformation Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO

Ms. Scarlett Fondeur Gil
Economic Affairs Officer, E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD

Ms. Minerva Novero-Belec
Policy Specialist, UNDP

Mr. Michael Hodin
CEO, Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA)

Ms. Mei Lin Fung
Chair and Co-founder, People Centered Internet

Ms. Lara Rudar
UN Youth PreCOP26 Delegate

Annex 1. WSIS Forum 2022 Calls to Action

1. Open Consultation Process (OCP)

The Agenda and Programme of the WSIS Forum 2022 are crowdsourced and designed in collaboration with the multi stakeholders on the basis of official submissions received during the **Open Consultation Process** on the thematic aspects and innovations of the format of the WSIS Forum 2022.

- Request for workshop proposal

You are invited to submit a proposal for workshop(s) through the OCP form with two steps, as follows:

1. Create an account here or log in if you already have an existing account
2. Fill out the OCP form

We encourage you to submit your proposal as soon as possible to be a part of the WSIS Forum 2022 agenda and programme. Deadline: 7 March 2022.

- Request for virtual exhibition space

We provide a virtual exhibition space to showcase your innovative projects and work that harness the power of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Please complete the OCP form to submit your virtual exhibition space request. Deadline: 7 March 2022.

- Suggest speaker(s) and submit inputs on format and themes of the WSIS Forum 2022

We would be delighted to receive your speaker recommendation and innovative ideas for the WSIS Forum 2022. Kindly share your input through the OCP form. Deadline: 7 March 2022.

2. WSIS Prizes 2022

Please SUBMIT your outstanding projects that leverage the power of ICTs!

Deadline: 21 January 2022

3. W SIS Photo Contest 2022

Please SUBMIT your photo shows how ICTs are playing an enabling role in achieving the SDGs. Deadline: 7 March 2022.

4. High-Level Track Facilitator (HLTF)

We invite you to nominate a representative who will facilitate a High-Level Policy Session. Please submit the nominee to wsis-info@itu.int. Deadline: 7 March 2022.

5. WSIS Forum 2022 Partnership

WSIS Forum is extrabudgetary and every year we raise funds to defray the operational costs through partnerships. We invite you to explore our partnership packages here to be our Digital Transformation Partners for the WSIS Forum 2022.

6. Hackathons

1. Hackathon on Designing a Sustainable Future Using ICTs, in collaboration with the TDRA - UAE

2. Hackathon on ICTs and Indigenous Languages, in collaboration with UNESCO

3. Please visit www.wsis.org/forum for more details.

7. WSIS Forum 2022 Special Prizes

WSIS will launch the WSIS Special Prize on Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize and the WSIS Special Prize on the ICTs for Preserving, Revitalizing, and Promoting Indigenous Languages.

Kindly visit our website www.wsis.org/forum for more information.