

HL Dialogue No 2

Smart climate monitoring: Expanding access to information on weather, climate and water

(Facilitated by WMO and ITU)

Tuesday 14 May 2013 -14:00-16:00

Room C

Debated Issues	<p><i>The High Level Dialogue "Smart Climate monitoring: Expanding access to information on weather, climate and water" was moderated by Dr. Cosmas Zavazava. This high level dialogue was part of the activities held during WSIS Forum 2013 around action line C7 e-environment</i></p> <p><i>Weather, climate and water have had a significant global impact on sustainable development and human well-being. Given the right conditions, they provide safety, food, health and abundance. However, other weather and climate extremes can cause destruction, famine and economic disaster. Therefore, providing access to the smart climate monitoring Information and Communication Technologiess(ICTs) can create better preparedness for global citizens</i></p> <p><i>In this session, panellists discussed the benefits of how smart climate monitoring, driven by state-of-the-art forecasting and sophisticated ICTs, can empower today's societies to anticipate and adapt to climate variability and change and the resulting trends in weather and in water resources.</i></p> <p><i>The session featured the following speakers:</i></p> <p><i>H.E. Tuisugaletaua A. SofaraAveau, Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, H.E. Mr. Jean PhilbertNsengimana, Minister of Youth and Information and Communication, Rwanda, Mr. Jerry Lengoasa, Deputy Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunications Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union, Ms. Patricia Gorin, Advisor in Environment and Climate Change, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Mr. Sergio López Ramos, Program Director, Technology For Good, Ericsson. The session was moderated by Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, Chief of Department, Project Support and Knowledge Management, ITU</i></p>
Quotes	<p><i>"ICTs are invaluable tools for recording and analyzing climate data, but we also need to address the issues of e-wastes and of greenhouse gas emissions from this sector" – H.E. Mr Tuisugaletaua A SofaraAveau, Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Tehnology</i></p> <p><i>"ICTs have made an essential contribution to the work of the weather and climate</i></p>

	<p><i>community, from observations to predictions to services” – Jerry Lengoasa, WMO Deputy-Secretary General</i></p> <p><i>“We need to work together along with our private sector in developing solutions. Together through partnerships and advanced and sophisticated ICTs we can make an enormous difference, however in addition political will is also needed.” Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, Chief of Department, Project Support and Knowledge Management, ITU</i></p> <p><i>“ We need to translate all data we have to useful information for the most vulnerable people” Ms. Patricia Gorin, Advisor in Environment and Climate Change, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation</i></p>
<p>Main Outcomes of the Session</p>	<p><i>It is essential that the ICT is recognized as the tool for gathering and disseminating information for weather, water and climate to communities. Communities and development organisations need to work together closely, not only at the international level but also at the national and regional levels. Communities also need to be actively involved in the application of ICTs to climate, weather and water issues, as do the private sector and NGOs. While ICTs are critically important, the challenge of climate change can also be fully addressed through stronger political will.</i></p> <p><i>The development of advanced smart Climate monitoring systems is significantly increasing due to advancements in climate change. ICTs are essential tools for recording weather, climate and water data that can be analysed and turned into meaningful information leading to knowledge on climate change.</i></p> <p><i>The use of ICTs in climate monitoring should be seen as an “end to end” system from observations to predictions. Much progress continues to be made on forecasting. Over the next ten years today’s 5day forecast will be as valuable as a 10 day forecast. Therefore it is very important we continue to protect the available spectrum and satellite orbits to maintain and continue developing new ICT-enabled applications for meteorology.</i></p> <p><i>Both Helevatas, active in the Philippines and India, as well as Ericsson specifically in Lake Victoria in Africa have played a significant role in educating and involving local communities from developing countries to increase knowledge and usage of ICT smart monitoring technologies and equipment to manage local conditions to understand the risks.</i></p> <p><i>It was also highlighted that ensuring availability of communication spectrum for climate change monitoring is key to developing countries and also in development or more accurate climate data that leads to better weather forecasting.</i></p> <p><i>ITU and WMO were asked by participants to further promote cooperation and collaboration among national and regional organizations on communication spectrum availability.</i></p>
<p>Emerging Trends relevant in the context of the WSIS +10 process</p>	<p>Smart Climate Monitoring advancement and development is fundamental as weather and climate issues continue to capture increased attention globally. A better understanding of how climate will evolve as a result of climate change will be fundamental to enable decision makers to take actions in climate change adaptation. Participants in this session encouraged the WSIS+10 process to review how to incorporate further elements related to Climate in WSIS process, possibly through a creation of a specific action line on Climate with focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the linkage between communities, partners, national and regional at; • <i>Formulating how the WSIS process could contribute to the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services to help support the response to climate change;</i> • <i>Defining how developing countries could be active in using more sophisticated applications for climate based on ICTs;</i>

