



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Template for Submission of Executive Summaries for

Thematic/Country Workshop/ Action Line Facilitation Meetings/ Interactive Sessions/ High Level Dialogues/Publication Releases/Briefings

Deadline: Thursday 22 March, 2018

Exception: For sessions on Friday 23 March, please send at the latest 2 hours after the session

*Please note that the WSIS Forum 2018 Outcome Document will be released on the **23rd of March** (the last day of the Forum)*

1) Title of your session

ALFM Action Line C5: Blockchain as an enabler of security and trust

2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session

ITU

3) Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11

C2, C5, C6, C7, C11

4) Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (these will be reflected in the press release and Outcomes Document of the WSIS Forum 2018)

N/A

5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

I. Debated Issues

The session aimed to provide a better understanding of Blockchain technology and its relevance to security. It analyzed and evaluated the current status of Blockchain technology and its maturity. It further expanded on the various uses of Blockchain and the potential policy and regulatory implications and finally reflected on the future of the technology.

II. Quotes

- **David Manset, Be-Studys:** “Data will become the currency of the future and we want the related transactions to be secure”
- **Ghassan Karame, NEC Laboratories Europe:** “Blockchain can be one of the most robust platforms against cyberattacks, IF one knows how to use it.”



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- **David Wen, ITU FG-DFC:** “We first need to look at the goals of each system, then understand the economic impact and the regulatory requirements and, finally make sure that the technology is implemented in a compliant way.”

III. Overall outcomes of the session

- Blockchain is not a one-size-fits-all application. It needs to be developed based on different use cases, so that it can be applied effectively in different industries, such as the telecom industry. Standardization is vital in this regard.
- Some of the advantages mentioned were that Blockchain allows to digitize and speed up financial processes and that it is more robust against attacks.
- Blockchain technology is often referenced as “secure by design”, making it potentially suitable for activities such as record management, identity management, transaction processing, supply chain management, voting etc. Some panelists were however of the view, that in Blockchain’s current level of maturity, privacy is not fully safeguarded.
- Bitcoin has inspired recent interest in Blockchain and DLT as a technology that can meet some of the security requirements of a new form of money. However, there are also considerable shortcomings in the scalability and reliability of the underlying technology.
- The aspect of wasting resources was further mentioned as a potential disadvantage of DLT, in view of its design to create multiple copies of the same portion of data (e.g. waste in terms of energy consumption, server capacity or cost of transaction).

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

In the Post-2015 era, ICTs are expected to have an enabling role in all aspects of socioeconomic development. Such development would however not be sustainable without providing the necessary safeguards, based on which nations could benefit and thrive.

The [WSIS-SDG Matrix](#) elaborates further on areas of the SDG framework, where security in the use of ICTs could foster and accelerate implementation. These include inter alia access to electronic financial services (1.4), access to online information as part of education (4.1, 4.3, 4.5), empowerment of women through ICTs (5b), development of resilient infrastructure and sustainable economic growth (7.1, 7a, 7b, 8.1, 9.1), transition to Smart Cities (11.3, 11b), and end of child violence and exploitation, especially in the online world (16.2).



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Blockchain was identified as a promising technology that could potentially be applied in many uses of ICT, as these are listed above.

- V. **Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting**
N/A
- VI. **Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019**
N/A

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