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**
   An End to Electronic Waste – Building the E-waste Coalition

2) **Name of Organization/s organizing the session**
   UN Environment, ITU and UN Environment Management Group

3) **Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11**
   Action Line C7 E-Environment

4) **Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (these will be reflected in the press release and Outcomes Document of the WSIS Forum 2018)**
   The signing of a Letter of Intent which will lead towards paving the way for coordination and collaboration on UN system-wide support for e-waste management.

5) **Main outcomes highlighting the following:**

   I. **Debated Issues**
   - Please capture highlights of the main issues debated and interactions with audience

Electronics are everywhere and yet we are throwing away precious materials and not capturing these resources. Businesses must adapt their models to facilitate a reduction in the loss of resources, whilst consumer must have a clear message about the impact of e-waste. Between businesses and the UN system, a common language must be established. E-waste is a grass-roots issue, very much at the national level, with the consumer very much heavily involved. Poor management of waste at the national level is something that we must address, whilst it must be understood that waste management is not something just done at the end, rather the

source of waste is equally important. Design, production and standardisation are all the elephants in the room, when it comes to the source of e-waste.

- Please highlight key achievements and challenges shared by the audience and/ or panelists

Achievements:

The UN organisation coming together to sign the Letter of Intent (ITU, UN Environment, UNU, BRS, ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR).

The great step towards the collection of data and statistics on e-waste, as highlighted through the publication of the 2017 Global E-waste Monitor.

The Environment Management Group's publication of the report on the United Nations System-wide Response to Tackling E-waste.

The World Economic Forum's Partnership for Accelerating the Circular Economy.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Circular Economy – Factor10 initiative.

Challenges:

- Still a limited statistical base on e-waste, whereby any information which we have, is not concisely presented and available to those whom it would be useful for, e.g. enforcement authorities, governments, port authorities etc.
- There is no clear message on e-waste, that the consumer can interpret clearly. Electronics are products that comprise many different materials (and waste streams), which may be something challenging for the consumer to grasp.
- UN and private sector collaboration requires a common language in order to respond to the fast-paced environment of the business sector.
- The building of a coalition on e-waste must be multi-stakeholder. It must include the expertise of a wide range of actors.

II. **Quotes**
- Please provide two important quotes from the session and the names & organization of the person you are quoting

"Change the concept that waste is a cost, to waste as a revenue" (Ms. María Mendiluce, World Business Council for Sustainable Development)

"E-waste is a win-win situation for sustainable development, for industry and for green jobs" (Ms. Alette Van Leur, International Labour Organization)

III.   Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- main conclusions reached during the discussion

- Long-term discussions among UN entities on the possibilities for increased programmatic collaboration, grand partnerships and the communication of key messages in their efforts to tackle the global challenge of e-waste.

- Follow-up meetings to build the E-waste Coalition, including at major events coming up.

- Possible support from partnering and interested private sector organisations for initiatives such as a Knowledge Sharing Platform on e-waste.

- the vision for implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015

IV.   Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2018/Pages/Agenda/Session/174#intro (see our Agenda page on your website).

V.   Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting

VI.   Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019

Most certainly the impact of ICTs growth and smart cities on the rise of e-waste, including the waste from telecommunications devices which is circling the world in space – as mentioned during this event by Mr. Zhao himself.

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