



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

"Free Flow of Data: Panacea or Danger?" AND "Concentration in Internet Services"

2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session

Association for Proper Internet Governance/JustNet Coalition

**3) Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11
C1 and C2**

**4) Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (these will be reflected in the press release and Outcomes Document of the WSIS Forum 2018)
Continued debate of the issues is necessary.**

5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

I. Debated Issues

- Data is the new oil: its monetization funds many Internet services at present. Users are not always fairly compensated for the value of the data they provide. Monetization of data has a significant impact on personal privacy, which is a fundamental human right. Consequently, the question of whether data should flow freely is complex and must not be discussed as if it were merely a technical or a trade-related issues.
- We are seeing increasing concentration of providers of Internet services, and some instances of abuse of dominant positions. The concentration is favored by network effects and economies of scale. Traditional anti-trust law is not necessarily adequate to deal with the issues that are emerging, in particular because Internet service providers are global companies and thus national competition authorities find it difficult to evaluate their actions.



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

- The key achievements are a growing understanding of the issues outlined above. The key challenges are to further educate all stakeholders, and to find solutions that will result in benefits for all.

II. Quotes

- “Data is the new oil. Nobody would give away their oil for free. So why should data be given away in exchange for services whose value is much lower than the value of the data?” Richard Hill, Association for Proper Internet Governance
- “The Internet was supposed to favor competition, and it has in many areas. But base Internet services such as searches, social networks, online retail, are becoming increasingly concentrated. There is a need to address this at the international level.” Richard Hill, Association for Proper Internet Governance

III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- Data flows, both within a country, and cross-border, raise financial and human rights issues that require serious discussion.
- There is a need for ways and means to ensure competition at the international level for base Internet services.
- A detailed summary is found at:
<https://dig.watch/sessions/free-flow-data-panacea-or-danger-and-concentration-internet-services>

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

Goals 8 and 10

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

There is a clear need for a global data protection regime, and for global action to maintain competition in Internet services at the international level.

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

None at this stage

Please complete this document and send to Matthew L. Greenspan,
Matthew.Greenspan@itu.int AND Gitanjali Sah, Gitanjali.Sah@itu.int