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WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

High Level Dialogue

Promoting Internet Universality Indicators as a comprehensive tool for achieving SDGs

1) Title of your session

High-Level session: Promoting Internet Universality Indicators as a comprehensive tool for achieving SDGs

2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session

UNESCO

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

The session involves all Action lines, from C1 to C11.

UNESCO's project aims to enable a safer and more sustainable Internet environment. This is linked to **C5** (building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and **C9** (media) (as it questions the role of media in the Information Society and tends to combat illegal and harmful content and counter cybercrime to enhance cyber security). This project also meets **C6** (enabling environment) by bringing together all stakeholders to build and assess inclusive legal regulatory and policy governance. UNESCO is working on the Internet Universality indicators, which can serve as a recognized and authoritative global research tool for stakeholders to voluntarily use in assessing Internet development locally and enhance better ICT applications, which crosscuts with **C7** (ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life).



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Furthermore, the development of the internet universality indicators is linked to Action lines **C1** to **C11** as they are based on the ROAMX principles. This means that these indicators promote an Internet based on human Rights (covering **C10** ethical dimensions), an Internet which is Open to all (responding to **C3**), Accessible (tackling **C2** infrastructures and **C3** access to information and knowledge) enhanced by Multistakeholder participation (responding to **C1** role of stakeholders) and equally covers Crosscutting issues such as cultural diversity (**C8**) and gender and youth (**C4** capacity building). The draft Internet Universality indicators, which contain above 200 options for indicators and was built upon extensive desk research and international and regional consultations is in direct relation to **C11** International and regional cooperation.

4) Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments

This High Level session presented the first draft of the “Internet Universality Indicators” and assessed their utility as a comprehensive tool to help states and other stakeholders to measure Internet policies in support of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at national levels.

5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

I. Debated Issues

The panelists debated all six categories of the internet universality Indicators (ROAMX + contextual indicators) and emphasized the fact that:

- Human rights should apply equally online and offline;
- An Internet that fails to uphold human rights is incompatible with the SDGs;
- All citizens should have equal, non-discriminatory and affordable access to the Internet;



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- Multistakeholder cooperation is essential in order to create an Internet Society with a human dimension.

With the audience, panelists discussed the implementation of the project and insisted on the fact that:

- The internet universality indicators will serve as a self-assessment tool;
- The implementation of the indicators will be crucial;
- It is essential that UNESCO secures resources to build a tool that allows for feedback on how it is being implemented in individual countries at the national level.

One of the main challenges highlighted by the participants was the universality/adaptability of the indicators.

II. Quotes

- Yolanda Martínez M (National Digital Strategy Office, Mexico): “Having reliable information regarding the ROAM Principles of Internet Universality will boost the development of the Information Society. We understand that the development of indicators represents a major effort in this sense. However, having more than 240 indicators represents a real challenge for the member states who will have to gather reliable and updated data both from governments and non-government actors.”
- Ms Raquel Gatto, representative of the Internet Society (ISOC): “This project is very relevant for the future of the Internet. It embraces very complex issues, but we are in a complex time. In Internet space, complexity is our challenge but also our strength.”

III. Overall outcomes of the session

- The internet universality indicators will help identify the gender gap and will boost the development of information and knowledge societies;



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- Pilots and pre-tests will provide insights and tips on how to prioritize data gathering and how national instruments for data gathering could be enhanced to capture new measurements according to the ROAM principles;
- The implementation of the internet universality indicators will help assess and promote the WSIS Action Lines through rights, openness, access for all, multistakeholder participation, gender issues, youth, and safety.

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

UNESCO's internet universality indicators will help achieve SDG 16 "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." The indicators embrace five principles that have been and should continue to be fundamental to the development of the Internet and its role in advancing the SDGs. The project is also linked with SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 10 on reducing inequality.

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

Participants underlined the need to further develop programmes on digital literacy.

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

Applying the Internet Universality Indicators: a step towards Internet development and policy improvements