



# 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 **23<sup>rd</sup> of March** (the last day of the Forum)*

#### **1) Title of your session**

WSIS Forum: The Broadband Commission Dialog  
“Targets 2025: Connecting the Other Half”

Speakers having attended the session:

- **Ms Philippa Biggs (moderator of the session)**, Senior Policy Analyst, ITU; The Broadband Commission Content Coordinator.
- **Ms Doreen Bogdan Martin**, Chief, Strategic Planning and Membership, ITU; Executive Secretary to the Broadband Commission.
- **Mr Patrick Nyirishema**, Director General, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA).
- **Mr Paul Mitchell**, Senior Director, Technology Policy, Microsoft.
- **Mr Tomas Lamanauskas**, Group Director Public Policy, VEON.

#### **2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session**

International Telecommunication Union  
The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development  
<http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Pages/default.aspx>

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

Action line C1, action line C2, action line C3, action line C4, action line C5, action line C6, action line C7 e-government, action line C7 e-business, action line C7 e-learning, action line C7 e-health, action line C7 e-employment, action line C7 e-environment, action line C8, action line C9, action line C10, action line C11.



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

- Key achievement: promotion of the Broadband Commission's Targets 2025, fostering of cooperation between main stakeholders involved in the functioning of the Commission.
- Announcement: launch of State of Broadband report, to be released in September 2018.
- Agreement/commitment: none.

#### For your information, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development 2025 Targets:

- 1. By 2025, all countries should have a funded National Broadband Plan or strategy, or include broadband in their Universal Access and Service (UAS) Definition.*
- 2. By 2025, entry-level Broadband services should be made affordable in developing countries, at less than 2% of monthly Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.*
- 3. By 2025 Broadband / Internet user penetration should reach: 75% worldwide, 65% in developing countries, and 35% in least developed countries.*
- 4. By 2025, 60% of youth and adults should have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills.*
- 5. By 2025, 40% of the world's population should be using digital financial services.*
- 6. By 2025, overcome unconnectedness of Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises by 50%, by sector.*
- 7. By 2025, gender equality should be achieved across all targets.*

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

##### **I. Debated Issues**

- Main issues debated and interactions with audience:
  - Presentation of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, history of its creation, how the Commission works, who are the members of the Commission, what are the main outcomes of its work and impact, presence of specific working groups.
  - Presentation of the new Targets 2025 recently launched by the Commission during the World Economic Forum held in Davos in January 2018.
  - Discussion with panelists and audience on practical approaches and potential solutions to reach the Targets 2025.



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- Key achievements and challenges shared by the audience and/or panelists:
  - Achievements: common recognition of importance of setting up targets for connecting the world's population not connected to the internet, common recognition of importance to have high collaboration of concerned stakeholders (governments, private sector, civil society, academics, etc.).
  - Challenges: how to connect people to internet without the proper infrastructure in place e.g. lack of access to electricity in Africa (concerned raised by a member of the audience), what is the rationale behind the target selection (why removing/adding some of them), how to make sure that the ICT policies are created, discussed and further implemented given that other policies take precedence in certain countries.

## II. Quotes

- **Ms Doreen Bogdan Martin**, Chief, Strategic Planning and Membership, ITU; Executive Secretary to the Broadband Commission.  
*"As a group we come together and we send a specific message to major gatherings so that there is a further understanding of broadband and technology in sustainable development"*.
- **Mr Patrick Nyirishema**, Director General, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA).  
*"The work of the Commission finds its ways directly in policy, influences and concretizes our thinking in Rwanda. As example - the Broadband Commission started in 2010 and about that time we had discussion in our country on deliberate effort to bring broadband access to the whole country. Our government invested money in rolling out optic fiber in the country, (...) we have been revising our national ICT plans every 5 years. In 2015 we adopted Smart Rwanda Master Plan, which included gender equality as a target for 2020, which is reflection of the Broadband Targets of the Commission."*
- **Mr Paul Mitchell**, Senior Director, Technology Policy, Microsoft.  
*"Those targets are all about creating equality of access all around the world, for people in developing countries and in economically disadvantaged situations"*.
- **Mr Tomas Lamanauskas**, Group Director Public Policy, VEON.  
Talking about Expert Group report with recommendations: *"There is difficulty to achieve the targets if we don't have a roadmap for that" (...) "I really hope that governments again will read those recommendations and would use that as a roadmap"*

## III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- Main conclusions reached during the discussion:



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- Importance of broadband cannot be underestimated, collaboration of all stakeholders is crucial, recommendations of the broadband commission have to be further carried out.
- The vision for implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015:
  - Achieving the Targets 2025 can contribute to the implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015.

#### IV. **Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals**

- Recommendations of the Broadband Commission and Targets 2025 can indirectly contribute to reach the SDGs 1 to 8 and 10 to 17.
- Recommendations of the Broadband Commission and Targets 2025 can directly contribute to reach the SDG 9.

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

- Advancing gender equality in internet infrastructure access and in digital skills

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

- Implementation of the Digital Strategies – how to ensure the impact,
- Monitoring and Review of the Global Advocacy Targets 2025 – main challenges/lessons learned

**Please complete this document and send to Matthew L. Greenspan, [Matthew.Greenspan@itu.int](mailto:Matthew.Greenspan@itu.int) AND Gitanjali Sah, [Gitanjali.Sah@itu.int](mailto:Gitanjali.Sah@itu.int)**