



**WSIS
FORUM**

**19-23
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

Women in STEM* as a business case for a better society

**STEM=Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*

2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session

INWES, the International Network of Women Engineers & Scientists

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

C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

C3. Access to information and knowledge

C4. Capacity building

C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

C6. Enabling environment

C7. ICT Applications: E-government

C7. ICT Applications: E-learning

C7. ICT Applications: E-employment

C7. ICT Applications: E-science

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

C9. Media

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

C11. International and regional cooperation



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Because we represent a global network of organizations of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), with over 50 Organizational Members, Corporate Members, University/Institutional Members, all together representing over 250,000 women from 100 countries around the globe.

Because also:

- women are very underrepresented in STEM globally
- STEM provides individuals opportunities for social-economic well-being
- economic growth is predicted for STEM roles and sectors
- it is a matter of business and political necessity

It really matters for our industries, for our leadership, for our colleagues, our young ones and for our future.

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

We signed a high-level letter of intent between the high-level signatories listed below:

- ✓ H.E. Thomas Schneider, Ambassadeur et Directeur des Relations Internationales, Office Fédéral des Communications, Suisse
- ✓ H.E. Aurélie Adam Soulé, Ministre de l'Economie et la communication Numériques, République du Bénin
- ✓ Mario Alberto Fócil Ortega, Titular de la Unidad de Administración, Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones, Mexico
- ✓ Dr Brahima Sanou, Directeur du Bureau de Développement, Union Internationale des Télécommunications

On the common activities to be conducted under the priority actions listed below, aligned with INWES vision and ITU/WSIS strategic principles that are **to build a better future worldwide through our Engineering and Scientific societies, including men and women's participation in ICTs.**

Concretely we have 3 outputs:

1: INWES will continue to work in collaboration across our global platform with partners and governments: We will provide expertise, workshops and projects to support the engagement, recruitment and retention of women in ICTs.



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2: INWES will share good practice in ICTs for women and girls: we will provide programmes for mentoring for women and girls in ICTs; resources and materials to reach all young people; technology and leadership programmes to empower women to be influencers, creators and developers of ICTs.

3: INWES will build on past campaigns to raise awareness at the highest levels of gender issues in ICTs: we call now on governments and policy-makers to implement gender mainstreaming in ICTs.

5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

I. Debated Issues

- Please capture highlights of the main issues debated and interactions with audience.
- Please highlight key achievements and challenges shared by the audience and/ or panelists

On Monday the 19th March 2018 we organized two successful workshops led by women Engineers & Scientists working in ICTs and in inclusive projects around the globe. We were supported by the Swiss Ambassador to the UN and the Benin minister of Digital Economy, together with a key partner from the regulatory world: IFT de Mexico and the Director of the BDT Dr Sanou.

The workshops put the light on the role of women engineers & scientists activities in implementing solutions for inclusiveness and access to the Internet and ICTs for all, while bringing sound and sustainable economic development and contributing positively to poverty reduction strategies and actions.

II. Quotes

Prof. Liliane Dorveaux, vice president for industrial relations, INWES: *“The gender equality issue is the key challenge from now for Companies: there is a need to change mindsets, working towards diversity at large”*

Mario Focil, head of Administration of the Mexican telecom operator, IFT – Instituto Federal de telecomunicaciones: *“the inclusion agenda of 21st century is the inclusion of women and girls. If we do not include girls and women we will be losing not just money, we will be losing the future”*



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III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- main conclusions reached during the discussion
- the vision for implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015

Our priority actions are aligned with INWES vision and ITU/WSIS strategic principles that are **to build a better future worldwide through our Engineering and Scientific societies, including men and women's participation in ICTs.**

Concretely we have 3 outputs:

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IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

Serving humanities through achievement of the WSIS action lines and quick strategies for SDGs implementation, with the high contribution of engineering societies in the World, while mainstreaming Gender at all levels, will help align strongly to the adopted SDGs, including the following Goals:

- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
- Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



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As women engineers and architects are included in the process, on equal basis, we believe our major strength is to propose clearly to contribute to GOAL 5. Of course, we also are contributing to major development goals listed above.

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

- ⇒ *Strategic partnerships with private and public sector and INWES being the facilitator*
- ⇒ *Helping regulators to pursue modern ways of Human Resource Management*

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

- ⇒ **Strategic Human Resource in the Telecom Regulation world!**
- ⇒ **Challenge 50/50 : women and men on equal basis @WSIS:!**

**Please complete this document and send to Matthew L. Greenspan,
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