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**

 Megaconstellations offering new technology for an inclusive access to rural areas of the LDCs

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

INWES & AB5 Consulting

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

This session looked at the practical example of a project led by the European Space Agency (ESA) and AB5 Consulting concerning the opportunities created by the new satellite constellations, such as OneWeb, in developing applications and services which will be for the benefits of all, in particular in e-Government (birth registration), smart agriculture (weather stations services), disaster management, and logistics/transport.

The workshop addressed all the WSIS Action lines from C1 to C11 as it covered the underlying infrastructure, looked at the regulatory/legal, economical, sociological context, exchanged with the audience on good practice in order to develop pilot projects which are developed to be translated as sustainable solutions.

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 workshop was organized by the International Network of Women and

The key achievements of the session were the review of the good practice of developing sustainable solutions in Africa and other LDC regions. These comprise the training and involvement of the local users on the solution, re-use of existing materials, co-development and open source code wherever possible, the development of low cost solutions, the importance of interfaces and the development of modules, which can be assembled to fulfil the needs of a community, country, region.

The workshop welcomed around 50 participants and created a very cooperative atmosphere of exchange of experiences and ideas.

5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

    I.   **Debated Issues**

The key achievements of the session were the review of the good practice of developing sustainable solutions in Africa and other LDC regions. These comprise the training and involvement of the local users on the solution, re-use of existing materials, co-development and open source code wherever possible, the development of low cost solutions, the importance of interfaces and the development of modules, which can be assembled to fulfil the needs of a community, country, region.

    II.   **Quotes**
- "It is important to involve local people and inform them about the new system if the project is to be successful"
- "Barriers to a sustainable development of the solutions include regulations, fees, too complicated and expensive technical solutions"
- Betty Bonnardel, AB5 Consulting: "the session has provided an invaluable input into the project and should help develop pilot projects leading to the successful implementation of sustainable solutions."

    III.   **Overall outcomes of the session highlighting**
- The main conclusions for the session are as follows. To be successful a pilot project needs to consider;
- a. the best possible location/country in terms of the environment, including the regulations, fees, interest
- b. a solution which should be easy to implement, maintain and with a low cost
- c. train the users and encourage them to train others on the solution
- d. favour co-development, open source code, development of modules

- The vision is to develop inclusive and sustainable solutions which benefit all, and in particular those communities which are remote, and women.

IV. **Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals**
Such a project addresses all the SDG if correctly implemented.

V. **Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting**
More concrete and practical solutions, good practice sharing, long term sustainability, low cost solution, train the users on the solution

VI. **Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019**
Towards sustainable and inclusive ICTs

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