

RAW FILE
WSIS FORUM 2018
MARCH 21, 2018
11:00 A.M. CET
DIGITAL ECONOMY AND TRADE

Services Provided By:

Caption First, Inc.
P.O Box 3066
Monument, CO 80132
1-877-825-5234
+001-719-481-9835
Www.captionfirst.com

This text, document, or file is based on live transcription. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), captioning, and/or live transcription are provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. This text, document or file is not to be distributed or used in any way that may violate copyright law.

>> We are starting session 13. Please speakers from session 13 are welcome to join me at your stage. You normally have your name. So you can join me.

>> Just for speakers that are missing for session 13, please join us in the stage and we will start shortly. Just waiting for a few more minutes but I think we are ready to start.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Yeah. Let's give it a few minutes. Well, good morning, and welcome to session 13, it is a pleasure to be with this fantastic and numerous panel. For the next hour we will focus on the topic of Digital Economy and trade. Each speaker it will not be seconds but each speaker will have four minutes to answer two questions. Speakers when the four minutes are over, there will be a yellow card shown by my colleague. 30 seconds later if you don't finish I will have to ring the bell. Everyone has the possibility to intervene. We are very happy to have WSIS action line facilitator here with us. And he will be starting -- this panel and I would like to ask you a couple of questions. Mandate trade and development. What is UNCTAD doing to o promote a more inclusive policy. How is the e-trade

for all evolving?

>> Thank you very much, Natalia. Good morning, to everyone. We are happy to participate in the WSIS Forum as a great opportunity to bring out the development dimensions on the e-business action line that we are coordinating with ITC and EU. On the question how we make Digital Economy for inclusive which is the key challenge as I see it now, we have dramatic growth in the Digital Economy and with e-commerce but not everyone, not every country is fully on board in this process and not everyone inside a country is still on board.

We know that's a huge gap still in terms of Internet usage and the least Developed Countries only one in six people are using the Internet and when you have access to good activity it doesn't mean that you will start using that for e-commerce or productive activities. If we look at the rich countries of the world we have maybe 60 to 80% of the population buying on line. Less than 5% of the population are currently buying things on line and if you go to the least Developed Countries, namely 1 or 2% of people are buying online. There is a huge e-commerce divide and it is not inclusive today. For us at UNCTAD we try to address this by assessing the situation, especially in the poorest countries, least Developed Countries and helping countries to produce better statistics and Government is trying to formulate policies in this area. They don't know the facts. We need to help better and faster. We can help countries develop strategies for harnessing the Digital Economy and also help countries improve the legislation in this area. Another tool that we are using is the e-trade for all initiative. We had some 18 partners and now we have 28. The latest to join were WIPO and UNIDO and also the African society for Civil Society for information society. And we see this as a necessary tool to make our support to Developing Countries more effective and efficient and not least transparent. Instead of having Member States having to call all the different international organizations to find assistance in this area they should be able to go to e-trade which is a common platform online and find information in several policy areas on issues that are crucial and benefit from e-commerce. Thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: It is a great way to start the session. We don't have our representative from Serbia. I don't know if he will arrive a little bit later we will give her the floor at that moment. So let me go to the Singapore representative, and let me ask you a couple of questions. How can Governments help in facilitating and development of Digital Economy. And what areas should Government look in to foster national and international cooperation in growing of Digital Economy?

>> Since we have four minutes let me get to answering the

questions. As the name suggests Digital Economy is not just about ICT. And therefore I think how we collaborate within Governments, among agencies and also with (inaudible). I think three areas that I think -- and I think this is also sharing Singapore's experience, first and foremost is the ICT infrastructure. We need a robust, it has to be high quality, high speed and also very importantly resilience in other words, to think about protecting the infrastructure. And in this area I think what Government -- what Government can do is to have enabling policies to encourage the bringing about of new technologies. So in Singapore what we have done to is facilitate trials 5G by leaving the spectrum fees during this period of the trial so that operators can put in place new technologies and try out. Second area is about transforming industries. So it is not just about ICT industry, how do we transform education, health care, transportation, et cetera. And this is where we need to work with other regulators and also industry players. So what we do in Singapore is to develop industry transformation roadmaps. So we can -- health care one and education one, et cetera. Basically to work with other sectors to how we can introduce digital technologies to transform the way we deliver service, the way to do business and the way they handle customers and part of that is also the skill sets that are required in the Digital Economy. Especially for SMEs. So we have a program called SMEs go digital. Simply to help small and medium enterprises to adopt technologies and change the way we do business. The third and I think perhaps I would consider the most important area is transport ecosystem which means more and more data are going to be handled in -- and moved around in a Digital Economy. So how can we have policies such as proper data protection and also facilitating cross-border data flow. I think this is a hot topic that we discuss in many Forums but I think really need to take note of how we transport data across border in a safe and responsible manner because that will be the field of the Digital Economy. And where we can collaborate amongst Government is really to develop itself. Interjurisdiction policies. So, for example, would be something like the impact cross-border data regulations, CBPR. Also within ASEAN to develop a data governance framework. Facilitate data flow within Member States. This is some of the steps that we need to take.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you. I would like now to go to the director of public policy of VEON. Let me ask you what do you see as key enablers for a Digital Economy? And we know that companies always have a list -- a shopping list for governments. But what is your own responsibility as businesses.

>> TOMAS LAMANAUSKAS: Thank you. And it is a pleasure to speak after Singaporean authority. I would be happy for the

regulators and knowing our footprint we have the same vision and ideas. We can start on a specific purpose, very utmost importance that what we see is not Digital Economy directly but to have fundamental rights. In some markets we pay more than 55% of revenues in taxes and 50% of that is specific taxes. How can we stimulate economy if we treat that as luxury. And also some of the markets we still lack fundamentals of regulation. For example, in liberalized international gateways and we see very clearly comparing neighbors who are international gateways and ways not liberalized is 15 times difference consumption per data. I would love to involve the regulator from the importance of that. Data localization policies is still prevalent and more prevalent now and they increase -- you mention -- increase cost of 40 to 60% because they can't use cloud services properly and similar.

Financial services, without -- you cannot have Digital Economy without digital finance. We are very proud to have 50 million mobile finance users but around 400 million people, 400 million people across our footprint still don't have access to mobile -- to financial services. However still too many Central Banks are very conservative are saying we don't trust you. We will try to find a way for you not to do this and that I think sometimes we need more progressive thinking about that. Then more softer side, skills, I think without skills we cannot use this infrastructure, this facilities that are available and we still across our foot print, 90% covered by 3G on 40% of people use -- how they bridge that 50% gap. And skills are very important. Not only generic skills but digital entrepreneurship and abilities to launch digital businesses and we are proud to play a role in and 10,000 people participated last year in our digital skills development workshops around 2,000 people took part in our accelerator programs. The last bit is acknowledging that inclusive need for development. I think -- a little bit took on that. So that everyone has to know. And I'm very interested to plug the recent research. Before the session Allison showed me recent statistics from my markets as well that still the gap in Bangladesh and Pakistan of mobile phone usage is around 25 to 30% difference between men and women and for Internet it is around 10 and more percent. So we still need to bridge that gap. So we need to work together. Now it is a long shopping list as when the governments are do. What can we do and I think first and utmost is important to be a business that understands and we have responsibility business driven by values. One of our key values is collaboration, realizing that we can succeed on our own and we need to be part of an ecosystem and work together with everyone and that's the Digital Economy is built. Not by locking users in and then hoping that network

effects -- users grow as a monopoly but working together with everyone and the creating this business. That's why we launch and that's why we encourage ecosystem growth and to make sure that the ecosystem grows as much as we do so we be part of that. And last but not least, especially sometimes challenging markets the value of truthfulness and integrity. In the past we showed very, very clearly if you seek the short term gains at expense of the long term integrity of your company you will lose eventually and sometimes people it is easy and you go to the markets and these markets you cannot work be integral component but -- we learn that yes, there will be market and not able to work like that but if the business knows what they want and you will always find a willing partner in the Government side in every country as well. So this is very important lesson for us as well. Thank you very much.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much. And I would like to move forward and I talked a little bit with the Secretary-General of ASIET inter-American telecommunications companies. What should the appropriate environmental conditions to reduce the digital divide and allow effective development of Digital Economy. And secondly what are the necessary boundary conditions for an effective development of the Digital Economy at the regional level?

>> PABLO BELLO: Thank you very much Chair. I will speak in Spanish. Two messages I wanted to share with you this morning, the first of these if we don't increase productivity of economies of in transition, then the economic growth will be lower than previous years. In Latin America if we are not able to resolve the fundamental issue of work productivity then the economic growth over the next 15 years will be between 40 and 50% lower than the economic growth of the 15 years prior. Therefore we wouldn't be able to reduce poverty, wouldn't be able to generate particular conditions and better opportunities for all.

If countries are only able to progress digitalization they would be able to increase productivity in sustained fashion. In Latin America between now and 2030, if you are not able to bridge the digital divide with more Developed Countries in terms of digitalization, therefore economic growth of our countries will be divergent from those more Developed Countries. This is to say if we don't address the challenge of digitalization now, then Developing Countries will be poorer in relative terms compared to Developed Countries and these latter will be richer. Latin America has made important steps in the last few years in almost all homes in Latin America there is a public telephone and the prices have significantly decreased more than 30% in real terms over the last three years. And the speeds have

increased significantly, 600% of growth at high speed over the last few years. We continue to bridge the digital divide with the first world. Nevertheless there is still much to do. More than every two Latin Americans are not connected to the Internet. The important task ahead is that no public policy more important than bridging this digital divide and to implement infrastructure in place and to have productive use of technology and ICTs moving from consumer towards a production of Internet. There is no more important task of economic policy than this. There is no other type of micro economic policy tools available rather than digitalization and productivity, these have to be the focus of all efforts of public policy and it is therefore that in the private sector we are making a call and appeal to Governments and regulators and fundamentally but only to the sectorial authorities in which we share goals and objectives of having a better understanding of the challenges ahead but also ensuring that we communicate with the Ministers of economy and finance that we really focus on having an ambitious agenda which between now and 2030 will allow us to bridge this digital divide effectively and to implement a first class infrastructure and therefore this requires public private policy and investments. Investments in infrastructure and this absolutely is essential. This is the key in order to achieve the goals. Therefore we have to work together in a new public policy sphere with new regulation which adapts to the change of technology which considers neutrality so that we don't have symmetric regulations in order to ensure tax regulation which is in alignment and to facilitate the rollout of networks. We have a great opportunity this morning to really emphasize our goals so that we don't lose an opportunity to make progress towards a future towards equal opportunities. Focusing on digitalization. And the work of which we are doing here and with ITU. Thank you very much.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much. To the Caribbean. CEO of Pathfinder4 and I would like to know what is the current state of the Digital Economy in the region? And what do you think needs to be done to achieve the SDGs? And also we know that the Caribbean represent as small portion of the world's consumer base and natural resources. That presents a challenge in attracting attention on investment.

>> MATTHEW MCLARTY: Thank you. From the perspective of a private sector innovation company, we see that Digital Economy in the Caribbean as being a somewhat paradoxical state the moment. We have enjoyed fastest use of Internet usage over the last 50 years. Usage sits between 50 to 85% of the population across most of the islands. However, at the same time most people are searching for social and informational purposes and there is very little monetary value that's been exchanged. So

what we are seeing something a slight disconnect the financial and digital infrastructure. And to a large extent in the case of many Caribbean islands that's driven by a large number of unbanked and underbanked. So as a result of that there is limited incentive for the creation of ecosystems platforms and market places that were underpinned digital trade in general and the Digital Economy.

So what needs to be done? Well, the islands that have that problem are beginning to attack it by creating strong beings, Jamaica is creating a national identity scheme where each citizen will be linked to a unique identifier code and typed back to biometrics and other forms of personal data. This will be a tremendous help in creating improving things like KYC, credit references and banking unbanked which is substantive problem. We need -- also we need to create the value propositions that resonate with international customers to build a human capital to be able to deliver premium knowledge services through outsourced model.

And we do actually have some of the talent already to do this. But we need to stop losing them to brain drain as many of them find jobs over seas. This is going to require investment and creativity. So we at path finder are working on a project, projects in the Caribbean we are working with key, public, private and academic partners to develop an advanced data science and data management competency that can be delivered through an outsourced model. Why do we start in why do we choose data? It is one of the most repetitive marketplaces that we see for a tiny countries like the Caribbean to cater to. As most of the data -- we consider that all -- 50% all the data that has been created in history was created within the last two to three years. It is a vast amount of and continue to grow. Further think about the fact that only 2% or less than 2% of this data is being analyzed and used in a really meaningful way. This gives you an idea of the scope of the opportunity. Although there is a lot of talk about Big Data, what we are seeing as a private sector consulting group working with lots of companies in many different jurisdictions is that most of them still don't even begin to understand the true depth of potential that data holds for them.

So what this represents is an unprecedented opportunity for value creation and yes, that means partly making money but also to understand and do good in the world like we never had an opportunity to do before. So for that project we already identified our partners, both technical and commercial as well as funding. Certainly see funding and we would like to do is just invite all parties that are public private and academic and others that are interested in joining the conversation with us

to look at knowledge sharing, co-creation and any other synergies that we can identify along this. To look at the actual nuts and bolts of implementing a financially viably and nationally transformative enterprise in underresourced Developing Countries. Thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much. Very interesting. Now moving back a little bit to the data discussion that we just had before, I would like to give the floor to the President of the Association for proper Internet Governance and I would like to know a bill lit more if data is the new oil, shouldn't people be financially compensated for use and monetization and do you think that free trade negotiating Forum such as WTO are I the appropriate Forum to negotiate the free flow of data and other Internet Governance issues?

>> RICHARD HILL: How many of you here are using Facebook? Could you raise your hands? How many of you read the terms and conditions? We guy. And you are still using Facebook. Because you have no choice. You have no choice and that's just an issue. Just read the head lines about political campaigns. My personal data is worth nothing if I keep it to myself but combined with the personal data of all of us in this room and market and it is a target at advertising. Now are we getting fair value? Well, I think obviously not. Because if you look at the profitability of those companies they are living off of data, Google Facebook, Twitter whatever you name them they are very profitable. How come they are so profitable? Because they are not giving us services that commensurate with valuable data. We are getting better compensated because we don't have any bargaining power. I want more services in exchange for my data. I don't have any choice and then there is a question of community data and the value. Let's take an example of Uber which has a lot of data about traffic flows in certain cities. That data came from the city itself. To build roads and things like that. Why should all the value coming from that data stay with Uber and think of Artificial Intelligence. Much of the new Artificial Intelligence like the one used for driving cars is based on massive data analysis. Well, who is going to have the value of those Artificial Intelligence programs and services that are going to be provided? Whoever owns the data. Well, if a few just big private companies or an if you countries own all the data they are going to get all the value. We are going to have a situation even worse for Developing Countries, whether Caribbean Latin America where all the data is controlled right now and most companies in those countries are going to benefit. How should we negotiate changes to that and it should not be done in the World Trade Organization because they are focused on trade but they are not multi-stakeholder. I am sure that everyone in this room

has heard of a multi-stakeholder model. Does anybody know that the OECD countries are always saying that anything to do with the Internet has to be done in multi-stakeholder models? Yes, you all know that. Why are these very same countries now saying you want to do e-commerce and it is identical to Internet Governance. They are proposing to negotiate Spam, or Spam reduction in WTO. Since when is Spam trade issue? And why are they wanting to do this? Because they want to lock in free flow of data and why do they want to lock in free flow of data so we can stay in a current model. WTO is the least inclusive and least development. How can anybody with a good conscious say that e-commerce matters should be negotiated in WTO where Civil Society has into voice, business has limited voice through national Delegations and technical experts have no risks at all. Whatever we do, these issues must not be negotiated in close Forums and free trade negotiations such as TPP and so on they are even worse. They are even more closed than WTO. Thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much. We will now change a little bit and I have another vision. We have -- head of product of Kiwicampus. It would be interesting to know how can this innovations go outside of expectations and break traditional business models to democratize social mobility and should robots be taxed?

>> SASHA IATSENIA: It is very important to consider that our future is changing really quickly. If we look at a couple of hundred years ago any regular person would probably have the same sort of lifestyle that we are living at the moment five years from now. If we look at life today anybody who is living today will live a very uncertain future five years from now. We might have self-driving cars and other technologies that will shift how we approach society. It is very important to understand these technological disinterruptions. A common thread I see in this panel is data and -- data can be anything. Right now we are building autonomous robots and without data we want be able to do that. We are collecting images of streets, cars. We are doing this on a very small scale. We only have 10 million images collected to date. The companies all these companies are working with datasets that are not measured in tare radio bytes. They are working with datasets that nobody has ever seen. So it is important to be considered that data is very valuable. And the information that can be extracted from this can work -- be used for products and things like -- other companies like that. So it is very important to emphasize public Governments and proper sharing of data and knowledge. One of the initiatives that are really supporting and really fan of is open source and particularly open source data. Because such initiatives you can share information and everyone can equally contribute and

equally benefit from such data. Technology in robot and we are using open source technology to transmit video to capture data to trade our images and many, many companies many, many even (inaudible) and all sorts of technologies. That's something I think is very important to emphasize. And in regards to what can be used in social mobility based on strategic technologies I think it is important to recognize the fact that it is very shifting landscape and we have a lot of new actors that have never had a precedent before. So companies like Uber and Waimo and other competitors who are building self-driving technology they are capturing a lot of data and they are making a lot of learnings from that data. They are learning how to drive autonomously and how to build cars and avoid accidents but on the other hand, just the other day Uber had their first death from a self-driving car and there is absolutely no precedent to that. Nobody knows how to handle such a situation. There is no precedent for how to handle the liability. How to handle tracking the case with planes, for example, if there is a plane accident the whole industry find the out what happens and they will do something that hasn't been done before. Won't repeat the same mistake. With self-driving and cars and other new technologies they don't have an option right now. We should be asking yourselves what can you do with these new ever changing destructive technologies to capture data in such a way that we can share it amongst all of us and not keep confined to just a few select companies or individual groups. So I think it is very important to approach our ever changing technologies with open heart and accept the possibility to share this data and to share the knowledge that we gather from all of this. And in regards to whether we should tax robots that is a question open for discussion. I think there are arguments for and against. I think with the robots we are going to see a lot of displacement of jobs but I think we are going to have creation of jobs. We are going to -- maintain robots. So it is very important to keep that in mind and use other things that are offered by the public. Should they in turn pay the bills. Should they contribute back. Questions that we should be asking ourselves and I think important that we emphasize that these questions will be fundamentally changing the way we approach society and life in the next few years. Thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much. It will be very interesting to see how robots are going to change our way of living. Mr. Grin you are deputy Director-General of Intervale and also Vice-Chair of ITU Focus Group on digital currency, including digital Fiat currency. What ITU telecommunication sector is doing for development or building of Digital Economy and trade? And also what are the main issues preventing use of

mobile devices for financial services?

>> YURY GRIN: Firstly, thank you very much Natalia. I will start off in Russian and I would like to congratulate on the start of spring. The first day of spring today.

Perhaps we can't really feel it today in Geneva. It is rather chilly still. But it is the first day of spring. I will let the Russian interpreters relax for a couple of minutes and then I will switch to English. Thank you.

So what ITU is doing in fact, we all have to remember that ITU is union and union of not only 193 countries but also more than 800 private sector and academia members. And supported by ITU Secretariat. So from my opinion the whole worldwide infrastructure, information society is built by common efforts of countries, members of union, sector members, and ITU Secretariat.

So I would like here to narrow my answer with the work of the ITU-T only which is telecommunication standard position sector. And only to one area which is financial inclusion.

Tomas was already referring to this, that financial services is wider for Digital Economy. So -- and from my point of view is prerequisite of Digital Economy. I would like to make reference only to two examples from my point very good and important one. One is a work of so-called special group ITU-T Focus Group on digital financial services.

This group was initiated a couple of years ago by Gates Foundation and supported by broadband and many others agencies and umbrella of ITU-T. And this group was joined not only by ICT expert but what was very important maybe first time it was combined efforts from ICT experts, financial experts, people who are taking care of customer protection rights and (inaudible). The work of this group which already finish its activities last year resulted in a few main results from my point of view. One it was creation of common vocabulary for all these different people and it was very interesting to see that -- with common awards, people from different areas, understand totally different stuff. So it was really important to create a common language and this language is available from ITU website. So anybody can use it.

It was also creation of ecosystem on digital financial services which is also important, dozens of specific recommendations for Government, for entities, regulatory entities, private companies which also published and continue in implementation of few projects around the world and some other activity on international level.

And the second group which I would like to invite those people who are interested, just started the work and this group on digital currency and including digital Fiat currency. For those

who don't know what Fiat it means that money which you have in your portal. So issued by U.S. government, Euro, or whatever. So the move to create this in a digital format it is not very strong. The work just started. However is interested I invite you to join. And this is answer to the first question and I see your yellow card. I will try to be fast answering the second question. Regarding why -- why the use of mobile devices in financial services. One point of view there are two issues. One convenience for use of this devices and second is security. So people should be sure that they are using securities devices and unfortunately these two issues, their direct link, the more secure device will be and the service will be the more difficult for user to use it. So ITU is dealing with second issue with security. We have some good results. We have some new common recommendation approved by all Member States which can be of use. So just -- if interested and from point of view of is it possible to solve this or not my personal opinion is that yes, it will be possible. And for me recent development in -- biometric technologies not only I iris or fingerprints or stuff like face recognition, you have your patents in combination few of them. Plus if you want -- if you will, add allocation, that -- this is -- regarding Big Data. It will provide most convenient and secure use. So thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much. I was almost ringing the bell. Or last speaker we have the President of African Civil Society on the information society. I would like to know what do you think would be the role of Civil Society to develop Digital Economy and trade? And what are the priorities for African countries?

>> CISSE KANE: Thank you. Thank you very much. I'll start with your second question on Africa. I think that Africa has a particularity. It is the continent that is lacking the furthest behind in the Digital Economy. And if I'm not mistaken that there is currently not digital divide that is a cap on the digital economy. What does that mean? It means that Africa currently running a danger of the -- oversight of the Digital Economy or control of it which is largely outside of the continent itself. It is controlled elsewhere. And so it is fragmented. African countries have not -- are not ready to develop a Pan-African vision for this and as you know well we can't develop Digital Economy if we are not strong. Because international companies have the equivalent to three of several countries GDP. So African has not yet addressed this challenge. Including access, local content, and these are the technical aspects of information. So it needs to have a Pan-African vision to address this. And President at the moment is currently designing a free trade agreement for the continent and this is a

good sign for Africa. It is moving in the right direction.

And I hope that with this free trade agreement we will be -- it will ease reflected within it. Because this is the direction we are moving in and Africa needs to take a stance on this. So this is also what's at stake, economic transformation, and so we can't take steps backwards and we need to move towards international cooperation and we need to be strong within Africa and work within our partners and this is why we believe it is important and urgent to include platforms such as e-trade for all under UNCTAD and have a platform that we can all think together only global solutions for this.

So we are not looking at this on a country by country fragmented fashion but we need to have a broad practical approach with our partners. WHO was mentioned previously and it should be inclusive. And this is why we ask and put in the table of African union, we had a first Pan-African Summit on the (inaudible) Digital Economy because it is high time that Africans get together to solve these problems together. I hope that issues of trade and commerce will be top of the agenda. Now on civil society, African Civil Society we are a platform that brings together more than 500 Civil Society organizations and we are particularly spread across Africa and we would advocate for Africa to integrate in various plans and objectives and goals and vision. The issue of Internet and ICTs. Not only Internet for access point of view, but also when once it becomes part of our ecosystem it can be a tool that can then generate profit. Because from our point of view we can clearly -- that African doesn't have the necessary tools at its disposal. Thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: We have finished our panel interventions. But I would like to open the floor to the public. If you have any questions, this is the moment to direct your questions to any panelist or just an open question to anyone. Don't be shy. Well, if there is no questions and -- there is one. Please, sir. You need to open your mic.

>> I have in front of me a document of 58 pages and a book of Japan's practices for SDGs, creating shared value by SDI business and social innovation. And then in parenthesis preliminary addition for 2017. It is the only document that I -- to my knowledge I have to read to know what the countries are doing since three years. I think you can certainly elaborate the local recommendation from this session to ask at the final session that each country for the next year produced a preliminary report so that we can better change because we are not able to be in rules at the a same time. And I think -- that also the procedure to see success or to see difficulties and exchange, how to solve problem. If this document, for example, I have read five pages about ICT and disaster. So people in the

room the first day, on Monday doesn't know anything about this report. But the people are discussing even from Japan about that. Very big exchange of information and you can certainly have a good configuration if you ask people to do not every year but at least, for example, next year preliminary report for all the countries. What do you think about that? This time it is me, I put the question. Not you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: So I think more than one person would like to address this question. I would give the floor to Mr. Torbjorn Fredriksson and then anyone else also can contribute.

>> TORBJORN FREDRIKSSON: In general we definitely need more information. Provide a lot in this area. And while we are having very rich discussion here during one hour it is very clear that the wealth of dimensions and the complexities of these issues pose opportunities and challenges that we have heard about from different perspectives requires so much more time to discussion and go a little bit deeper in to the issues. I want to mention to you all here that who are interested in the Digital Economy for development dimension, that only a month from now we will be gathering again here in Geneva for the UNCTAD e-commerce week, we will have a full week around 60 sessions to discuss the dimensions of Digital Economy for development and you are most welcome. Because we are bit concerned here that the trend right now is going in the wrong direction when it comes to helping Developing Countries. The latest report from WTO's aid for trade review that looks at aids assistance to trade relate the activities shows that between the -- over the past ten years or so the share of aid going to ICT related areas dropped from 3% to 1%. In a period where we really should scale up our attention and focus to Developing Countries, to help them cope better with ICT and with Digital Economy. And I think also many donors are only starting to fully embrace the digital dimensions in their development strategies, very recently different UK came out with digital for development strategy and EU has published new digital for development strategy where the Digital Economy or e-commerce dimension is very, very limited and it could be expanded further. Sweden is in the stage of producing a new strategy for development. But we are all starting. We are only very beginning of this new digital era. So we need to engage more in this kind of dialogue. We can dig deeper on the -- on the relevant issues and we need to have this multi-stakeholder perspective in to the picture. So I would embrace the proposals that we keep the multi-stakeholder dialogue going in all the different dimensions of Digital Economy.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Just let me give the word firstly

to -- and African Civil Society. Let's do it in that order.

>> Thank you very much. I will be brief. Very important point information sharing and I would like to indicate that ITU is regularly publishing together with other co-conveners. In electronic format. Information regarding results and also best cases from different countries. So we might reach consultant to check this.

>> Thank you. Private sector use government. I will jump in. So actually also concur that with the need of sharing best practices information and also in the multi-stakeholder fashion in partnership with others and that regard the very good Forum which is actually goes beyond, UN broadband commission where they did have a target of having national broadband plans and now since a couple of weeks ago during the mobile Congress was launched the new best practices paper created by expert group composed from digital companies, platforms that some people don't like. In the last few weeks telecom operators that try to compile the best practices. But it goes much further than just infrastructure. About data, financial services, about broader infrastructure things. So I think these types of sources it is very important that they percolate and people look at them and discuss how we can implement and benefit of applying those best practices in each and every one. Thank you very much.

>> Thank you. I suppose maybe Singapore's PR is also good but just to keep you informed last year we introduced a report on future of economy of Singapore. So in there one of the key strategies is digitalization. We provided a link and also to ITU for this collection and in the coming months as a result of that free trade and economy plan if you like, we will soon also be releasing a specific Digital Economy blueprint. Again talking about strategies that we would like to adopt and implement. Also agree that we should try to share all this vision. Very often it is not so easy to look for this, these kinds of publications. And ITU or broadband commission one of the -- one of the platforms, broadband commission started one was to attract a number of countries who actually have blueprint or master plan for broadband infrastructure. By now practically most countries if not all that have sort of broadband plan. Within the next phase is about Digital Economy because broadband infrastructure is necessary but insufficient to bring about Digital Economies. So that might be another way that the commission can think about. Thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Yes. If you want to intervene.

>> Thank you, Chair. I would like to invite to you join us in e-commerce week which should from 20th of April in Geneva. They we will have a more space and also time and also interaction. And we -- really applaud for this multi-stakeholder

setup because it was -- in regard to Africa, for example, we are really conscious that we were moving towards integrates of the economy and transformation of economy and we know that -- Africa is only contributing for only one person on e-commerce. So you can imagine the potential with 1.2 billion people in a few years. So we are lacking of assessments on how e-commerce is doing to transform the societies and we thank our partners who are on the ground, including UNCTAD who are working on the issue of assistance and how we can trigger the issue of e-commerce by transforming societies and record for more integration and cooperation between the stakeholders because it is a tremendous issue which we transform our society and in this regard African Civil Society is conducting through its grassroots organizations training sessions on these issues and we -- we welcome the ITU and -- for organizing this research session on e-commerce and Digital Economy. And once again we are calling upon our partners to support us and including African countries, represented in this room to support the organization of the Pan-African Summit on the Digital Economy and sustainable growth. Thank you.

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Thank you very much. I'm so sorry we are running out of time. So I will welcome you to speak away with our panelists after the session. I would like to thank all of the interpreters that have been with us for this hour and for the whole two days. Thank you very much. Please join me in thanking the panelists and I hope to see you later and I am sure we exchange some other thoughts afterwards. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> NATALIA VICENTE: Just to inform you the summary of all sessions will take place at 4:30 today. You can join us also to have an overview of what has happened during this High-Level Track in these two days. Thank you very much.

This text, document, or file is based on live transcription. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), captioning, and/or live transcription are provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. This text, document or file is not to be distributed or used in any way that may violate copyright law.
