Session 181: ICTs and Resilience-
ICTs as a tool for promoting resilience and reducing risks
WSIS; Geneva, Switzerland
March 23, 2018
9:00-10:45 AM
Location: Room M, ITU Montbrillant

The theme of resilience is at the center of the rapidly changing world in which we live. ICTs have contributed to the planetarization of trade, finance, social medial, and other phenomenon, though have also raised issues of inclusion, equity, justice, and ethics. The WSIS Forum focuses on the role of ICTs as means of implementing, monitoring, and reviewing progress with the 2030 Agenda, as outlined in target 17.8. While ICTs can be applicable in various contexts and across sectors, special attention should be placed on their potential applications in disaster settings, conflict areas, humanitarian response, and other fragile contexts. Exacerbated and emerging risks are increasingly noticeable from trends such as migration, rapid urbanization, anthropogenic climate change, and even rapid technological change.

In the Hyogo Framework, vulnerability is defined as the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards. Therefore, awareness and action at the local community level is crucial for scaling successful DRR initiatives. The SFDRR specifically mentions the importance of strengthening public awareness, especially on disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media, and other tools. This allows for a community to utilize available resources to continuously avoid, mitigate, respond to, and recover from adverse situations, despite uncertainty with future risks.

Objectives:

The focus of this session is in line with this year's ECOSOC Integration Segment theme of *"Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies"*, as well as that of the 21st Session of Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 3rd Multistakeholder Forum on STI for SDGs, and 2018 High-level political forum (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC. The session's focus on the topic of promoting resilience in communities will specifically explore the following two topics:

● ***Assessing knowledge - understanding and communicating risk***

Measuring risks in a systematic, disaggregated, and standardized way is fundamental to designing effective disaster risk reduction strategies, allocation of scarce resources, and monitoring progress. Of relevance, UNISDR recently launched the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) as a tool to track progress in implementing the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for DRR as well as its related dimensions reflected in SDGs 1, 11 and 13. The SFM will also function as a management tool to help countries develop disaster risk reduction strategies, make risk-informed policy decisions and allocate resources to prevent new disaster risks. The process of collecting, analyzing, monitoring, communication and responding to knowledge

(both qualitative and quantitative) requires various ICTs to enhance measurement and communication tools (e.g. early warning systems).

In addition, understanding urban areas as home of the majority of the population, today our cities and citizens are facing new and amplified challenges as a result of rapid urbanization, a changing climate and political instability. Urban resilience is the measurable ability of any system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming toward sustainability. In this sense, UN-Habitat developed an urban system methodology (City Resilience Profiling Tool) as a model through which a comprehensive resilience diagnosis of a city can be achieved..

Guiding Questions:
- How can actors (state and non-state) best harness the information in the Sendai Monitor to direct policy, practice and research?
- How to support local governments in monitoring and building urban resilience?

- **Capacity Building**

Gaps in access to knowledge, tools, technologies, and capacities both within-and-between countries need to be addressed through deliberate locally-driven initiatives that strengthen capabilities to set and achieve resilience targets. This is not the work of any individual organization or sector of society, rather requiring society-wide participation, good governance, strong political will, financial commitment, and inclusion. ICTs have the potential to provide both the needed infrastructure and access to knowledge, though also demand deliberate efforts to overcome digital divides, especially of marginalized groups. Capacity building can also be understood in the context of lifelong learning, promoting intergenerational and interdisciplinary efforts, and skills building to allow both the design and use of context-specific innovations.

Guiding Questions:
- How to support knowledge and technology transfers between countries?
- What areas of innovation in telecommunications for infrastructure can improve the capacity building process moving forwards? (e.g. combination of MOOCs and in person courses)
- What are the limitations and concerns that need to be accounted for when developing inclusive capacity building policies? (accounting for different stakeholder groups)

Moderators:

Ms. Rozita Singh, Science-Policy Focal Point to WSIS/CSTD, UN MGCY

Panel Presenters:

Ms Yolanda Martínez, Head of Unit of the e-Government office in Mexico, Coordination of the National Digital Strategy *(Invitation sent; response awaited)*
Mr. Esteban Leon, Chief a.i. Risk Reduction Unit - RRR Branch / Head, City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP), UN-Habitat
Ms. Sandra D'Urzo, Senior Officer, Shelter and Settlements, Disaster & Crisis Prevention, Response & Recovery, IFRC

Mr. Rob Cartridge, Head of Global Knowledge, Practical Action [remote participation]
Mr. Josh Woodard, Regional ICT & Digital Finance Advisor,Asia Pacific FHI 360 [remote participation]
Mr. Ingo Piegeler, Humanitarian Coordination Advisor UNFPA *[tbc]*

Women in ICT (Innovation presentations)

Ms. Jiwon Park, Founder, CodePhil
Ms. Marija Musja, Founder, Empowerment Lab
Ms Iffat Gill, Founder/CEO, The Code to Change [tbc]

Outline of Session

Time	Topic	Facilitators / Presenters
9:00 - 9:10	Introduction	MGCY (Ms. Rozita Singh)
9:10 - 9:40	**Context Setting**: ICTs as a tool for promoting resilience in communities	Each panelist will have the opportunity to introduce their work, experience, and reflections on the opportunities ICTs provide in promoting resilience in communities. Each speaker will be allotted a maximum of **up to 7 mins**.
9:40 - 10:10	**Topic 1**: Assessing knowledge - understanding and communicating risk	Discussion on Topic 1: Panelists are invited to comment on any or all of the guiding questions presented, or on the topic using specific case studies from their work/organization. Each speaker will be allotted a maximum of **up to 5 mins each.** Followed by **10 mins** for interactive discussion with audience on Topic 1
10:10 - 10:40	**Topic 2**: Capacity building Women in ICTs	Discussion on Topic 2: Various case studies will be presented by women innovators, each striving to promote capacity building in ICT applications to promote resilience. Each speaker will be allotted **up to 5 mins each.** Followed by **10 mins** for interactive discussion with audience and panel on Topic 2
10:40 - 10:45	Conclusion	MGCY