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** **High Level Session on Digital Transformation**

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

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

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

   This session focused on a key requirement for building vibrant ICT Ecosystems - funding. The discussion was around investing in and funding of bankable projects for sustained development with immediate and long term measurable socio-economic impact. Examples of successful ICT4SDG projects fostering digital transformation were presented. Mechanism of crowd funding was presented drawing attention to new opportunities for inventors and stakeholders driving ICT centric innovation.

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

   I. **Debated Issues**
      - Please capture highlights of the main issues debated and interactions with audience
   - **GIZ and Government ministry are funding projects in digital transformation in many countries.**
   - **SIDA has euro1.5b funding for development aid, but only 1 % is dedicated to ICT. Decision makers need to shift this spending allocation.**
   - **Bangladesh "whole government" approach based on a common language of TCV is accelerating transformation. Several instrument such as the innovation fund, the PPP funding on big infrastructure, funding of micro-entrepreneurs to deliver government services, crowdfunding and acceleration services platform, as well as the incubation iLab are helping transform the funding landscape.**

- Ghana's GIFEC use of USF fund in a tripartite model (PPP) with ministry, telco and vendors is helping accelerate access in rural areas.
- WEF is trying to build a platform that will link both demand and supply side to fund projects that accelerate digital transformation. WEF focus is how to get more investment to last mile. To deliver on this, WEF is building a platform for matching projects to funding.
- SAMENA: Money is available with operators , mechanism are available but incentives are not there. If the infrastructure that is there is not sustainable, we cannot deploy our investment.
- Wecan.fund: crowdfunding as another way to fund projects. Different type of crowdfunding model. If you have the community, it is easier to get the funds. Wecan.fund vision believes that crowdfunding can fund any projects. The company is a technology provider who can offer an API to broker : any type of crowdfunding , multi-currency , customizable , automated , etc. Wecan.fund offer technology platform to offer funding mechanism to stakeholders.
- Intel finance ICT education programs and affordable broadband programs for low income persons.
- Political support and coordination between different institutions is critical to get digital transformation programs going. Existing national investment should be directed to have ICT components.

- Please highlight key achievements and challenges shared by the audience and/ or panelist

  Funding for development aid is available but is not dedicated to ICT. Funding for ICTs when available is lacking the win win model and incentive to get all stakeholders on board. Crowd funding and other new approaches to funding projects need to be looked into.
  World Banks and other regional Banks' view on the matter would be needed.

II.   **Quotes**
- Please provide two important quotes from the session and the names & organization of the person you are quoting

" From telecom operators perspective, there is fund available for driving Digital Transformation. The question is how to apply win-win business models that caters for all stakeholders to tap into this fund" **Mr. Bocar A. Ba, Chief Executive Officer of SAMENA Telecommunications Council**

"New financing mechanisms, for ICT Centric innovation ecosystems, should be further explored and applied. We should continue working together with all stakeholders to strengthen the ICT element in National Sustainable Development Strategies unlocking new opportunities for supporting the countries to accelerate Digital Transformation."   **Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of ITU Office for Europe**

III.   **Overall outcomes of the session highlighting**
- main conclusions reached during the discussion
- the vision for implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015

Digital Transformation needs to be understood, developed and measured. Traditional as well as innovation funding mechanisms are required together with new forms of partnership and new business models

IV.   **Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals** SDG 9 and SDG 17

 V.   **Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting :** Funding models for Digital Transformation

Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019 :
Innovation for Digital Transformation & Rethinking resource optimizing and synergies Crowdfunding and other new approaches to mobilizing funds. **World Banks and other regional Banks' view on the matter would be needed.**

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