



WSIS FORUM | 19-23 MARCH 2018

Geneva | Switzerland

WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

- 1) **Title of your session:** Measurement of progress towards the SDGs through ICT indicators
- 2) **Name of Organization/s organizing the session:** Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. The Partnership includes 14 international and regional organizations: ITU, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), ILO, UNEP-SBC, UNU-ViE SCYCLE, World Bank, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, EUROSTAT and OECD.
- 3) **Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11**
C11. International and regional cooperation
The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development's work is closely linked to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which called upon countries and international organizations to work together to develop appropriate indicators and produce official statistics to monitor the Information Society.
- 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 work of the Partnership Task group on ICT for the SDGs related to the development of the thematic list of ICT indicators that could be used to measure ICT availability and use in sectors relevant to the SDGs (that are not covered in the global SDG indicators framework) was presented. WSIS stakeholders were requested to provide comments and inputs to the list from June 2018.

The Task group on ICT for the SDGs is still expecting members. Interested parties can send an email to indicators@itu.int

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

I. **Debated Issues**

This session highlighted the work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development of the Task Group on ICT for the SDGs (TG-SDG) which was launched at the 2017 WSIS Forum. The task group aims to propose a thematic list of information and communication technology (ICT) indicators that could be relevant



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for the measurement of the SDGs, but that are not covered in the global SDG indicators framework.

The session included mention of ITU's work in measuring the information society including the ICT Development Index which is a tool by Member States to benchmark their progress to other countries. The importance of the work of the ITU Expert Groups on ICT Indicators was emphasized, which helps to define indicators that could be used to measure the fast pace of ICT developments.

It was highlighted during the session the substantial contribution of ICTs in the implementation and measurement of all SDGs, which has not been sufficiently recognized in the current targets and indicators. The TG-SDG addresses this gap by proposing ICT indicators that could contribute to the measurement of progress towards the SDGs and complement the existing SDG measurement framework. In addition to the list of thematic indicators, the task group will prepare a methodology document for the ICT indicators included in the list and will present the list to regional and international events to raise awareness on the thematic list of indicators. Several examples of ICT infrastructure, ICT households, ICT in business, e-government and e-waste indicators that could be included in the list were presented. Finally, a country example from Bangladesh was presented, which highlighted the challenges faced in monitoring the implementation of the SDGs, including the coordination among stakeholders, the cooperation between the public and private sectors, raising awareness on the role of ICTs in the SDGs, and the scarcity of baseline data.

The discussion that followed focused on the need for capacity building and digital literacy skills, and the importance of clearly communicating the definitions and methodologies needed for the collection of data. Some pointed out the challenges related to data availability and disaggregation, the new of new data sources including big data to complement traditional data sources. It was highlighted that data could be quickly outdated, and recommended the inclusion of near-real-time data whenever it is available. Yet, the use of new data sources requires building capacity in the use of big data and addressing the challenges related to data access, as it is difficult to get individual level data from companies due to confidentiality issues and business interests. Finally, the session concluded by inviting participants to participate in the discussion of the thematic indicators by joining the task group on ICTs for the SDGs.



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II. Quotes

- Please provide two important quotes from the session and the names & organization of the person you are quoting
 - a. “Improving statistical system capacity so as to better respond to new requirements related to SDG measurement is of utmost relevance.” Mr. Alexandre Barbosa, CETIC, Brazil“
 - b. If we were to assessed number of computers in our schools, we would do great. However, if we were assessed with the impact of computers on students, we would not do that much good” A participant from Ministry of Education, Mexico.

III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

The current SDG indicators framework needs to be supplemented by indicators to capture the contribution of ICTs to achieving the SDGs. The thematic list of ICT indicators currently being developed by the Partnership Task Group on ICT for SDGs can be used by countries to measure ICT availability and use in sectors relevant to the SDGs that are not covered in the global SDG indicators framework.

There is also need to come up with indicators to better measure the impact of ICTs. For example, instead of looking at how many computers deployed in schools, look at what is the impact of technology on students, in other words, identify indicators that can measure this impact.

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

- a. The Partnership has made a concerted effort to highlight the role that ICTs will play in achieving the SDGs. It has also helped to shape the SDG monitoring framework to help track the SDGs and targets.
- b. The Partnership’s work will support monitoring the SDGs, and help overcome the challenges in terms of data availability, and quality. The Partnership will present new and potential data sources in support of monitoring progress towards the SDGs.
- c. The Partnership will finalize the thematic list of ICT indicators to better monitor the broader contribution of ICTs to achieve the SDGs. This approach has been adopted for other areas to monitor progress towards the SDGs.

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

The use of big data as an alternative data source was highlighted during the session.

To produce real-time indicators to address current problems.



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- VI. **Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019**
“Use of big data for Measuring the Information Society” or “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” in line with the theme of the HLPF 2019

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