



# WSIS FORUM | 19-23 MARCH 2018

Geneva | Switzerland

## **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 **23<sup>rd</sup> of March** (the last day of the Forum)*

#### **1) Title of your session**

**“Organising Monitoring of the SDGs based on the three principles (transparency, inclusiveness, participation) and following Wikipedia methods using ground truth ICT techniques”**

Subtitle: Monitoring SDGs through ground truth methods

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

Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND), Geneva

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

C1, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C10

#### **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 session launched the first ever research analyzing the word “monitoring” in 6 major international documents since 1992 and how they related to the 3 SDG principles “participation, transparency, Inclusiveness- P.T.I.).

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



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- Panelists agreed, and the audience supported, the observation that SDG monitoring could benefit from ICT supported application of Ground-Trothing and other participatory methods
- The participation of society will make the SDG monitoring process more participatory, inclusive, and transparent. It will highlight gaps in SDG implementation through the identification of needs among populations.
- Participatory methods need to bear in mind potential bias and data protection concerns, which could be mitigated by triangularising the data

## I. Debated Issues

- Please capture highlights of the main issues debated and interactions with audience

How can actors involved in SDG related activities in developing countries seek and obtain data that informs them of the needs and expectations of the populations they serve. A second highlight was the agreement that NGO actors involved in SDG activities have to obtain as much data as possible (e.g. from government, local authorities, farmers, urban citizen, academics and think tanks) and be mindful that all available sources might be biased and hence need to be triangulated with other data.

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

Ability to use ICT in the field by Federation of Red Cross-Red Crescent Society but at the same with caveat that persons working in the field should not rely only on ICT provided data but always add personal interviews with the population they are in touch with.

## II. Quotes

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

ICT methods and tools should be included at the start of humanitarian projects (Alexandra Sicotte-Lévesque, *Manager, Community Engagement*, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

Both government and citizen data have their benefits and flaws. There is an opportunity in combining the two sources and look into the areas where the two don't match, as these are likely the area where improvements can be made.



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Barbara Rosen Jacobson, *Programme Manager* | DiploFoundation & Geneva Internet Platform

### III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- main conclusions reached during the discussion:
- Monitoring the SDGs requires a reliance on multiple data sources and a mix between natural science and social science methods
- the vision for implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015:  
To approach SDGs from top-down (government to citizens) and from bottom-up (from citizens to government), to help governments improve inter-ministerial policy coordination (most SDGs are interdependent, hence require inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination) and to improve policy consultation and dialogue between government and non-state actors (private sector and CSOs). At the same time, to strengthen citizens' abilities to use ICT and to be literate in regard to assessing data sent to them (identifying misinformation of all sorts).

### IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

ICT supported Ground Truth methods needed to ensure implementation of the 3 SDG Principles- Participation, Transparency and Inclusiveness

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

Increasing complementarity between monitoring as controlling, checking, surveillance versus monitoring as participatory science supported by ICT

### VI. Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019

How to design, implement, revise Ground Truth/ICT based SDG implementation (participatory data collection and data sharing)