TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF OUTCOMES

1) Title of your session

*Tackling disasters and reducing risks through awareness of citizens*

2) Name of Organisation(s) organising the session

ABU (Asia Pacific Broadcasting union) on behalf of UNDRR (UN Disaster Risk Reduction)

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

C2 - C3. - C11. - C9 -

4) Did your workshop highlight any issues related to COVID-19? If yes, please explain.

NO

5) Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments

**Scope of the session was:** “The best form of prevention for Disaster risks reduction is to create awareness among the citizens of a given community and the most efficient way to reach these citizens is through education -for those still going at school- or through media : mass media and personalized media.”

So during the session partners have presented some best practices example of how to make this possible.

UNDRR and ABU/WBU presented the project MEDIA SAVING LIVES, now in its second phase, that is aimed to train TV and radio professional from 100 media organizations across 4 continents (Asia, Africa, Australia, Americas) to understand how to deal with situation of emergency and natural hazards.

ITU has presented the Disaster connectivity maps, that are a tool that allow to retrace situation of telecom and internet connectivity in most of the regions of the world, so that –in case of emergency- immediately can be identified where most of the damages are and will help to plan where and how to re-establish the lost connections.

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EBU announced that they are working on a future resilient information system that will use more systems in parallel (TLC, broadcast radio and tv, mobile, fixed lines,) in order to guarantee that coverage could be guaranteed even in extreme situation h24 and 7on7.

WMO presented its strategic plan to improve relationship between National Meteorological and Hydrological services and media at national level, because this is the weakest link in the communication chain.

Ron Salaj from Turin University and Impact skills presented a bottom-up experience of citizen science, where the habitants of Pristina in Kosovo have been involved in a research experience, where themselves were collecting and providing data, to supply the absence of initiative from the local authorities. A model that could be replicated in other DRR experiences.

6) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

I. Debated Issues
   • Please capture highlights of the main issues discussed and interactions with audience
   • Please highlight key achievements and challenges shared by the audience and/or panellists

II. Quotes
   • Jeanette Elsworth (UNDRR) remember the quote of UN SH Guterres that at the last IPCC report presentation few weeks ago told that in only few years —if humanity will not react- there will be” 1 million of animal species extinct and some of the major coastal cities of the world underwater”. In order to prevent that risk we need to act now at all level.
   • Natalia Ilieva (ABU/WBU) stressed that we need to use the “quiet time” between a disaster and another, to educate and prepare citizens to be ready in case of emergency.
   • Samuel Muchemi (WMO) mentioned that his organization was working in 70 countries of the world across 4 continents, to reinforce the relationship between National Met offices and local media, in order to be able to reach each single citizen.
   • Antonio Arcidiacono (EBU) remembered that during the last summer flash floods in Central Europe there was not mobile communication in function during the emergency and the only way to reach population in danger was

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radio signal. A lesson to be learn from that is that future spectrum allocation needs to keep this reality in account.

- Vanessa Gray (ITU) announced that ITU will double its effort in convincing countries that have not yet signed the Tampere convention (on emergency telecommunication -1998) to do it as soon as possible, because the multiplication of natural hazards shows how important such move is.
- Ron Salaj (Univ. of Turin and Impact skills) suggested that bottom-up experiences like the one he animated in Kosovo for UNICEF could be more and more in future a model, a way to involve citizens in the shaping of policies that concern their future and their life environment.
- Eliot Christian (expert) remembered that last year at WSIS was launched an appeal for a global adoption of CAP (Common Alert Protocol) to be used during crisis and stressed the importance to arrive soon to this result.

III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- main conclusions reached during the discussion
  all these best practices experiences need to be reiterated and reinforced in future and spread around.
  - GP 2022 DRR in Bali in may needs be a turning point to relaunch DRR action plan and needs to integrate media in its scope and objectives
  - Tools like the Disaster connectivity maps need to be implemented and extended to all regions of the world.
  - Next ITU World Radio Conference 2023 will have to carefully consider the future allocation of spectrum resources, taking in account the growing needs of communication during natural hazards.

7) Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (please specify the SDGs)

- Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - Project MEDIA SAVING LIVES and
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation - Disaster Connectivity Maps from ITU and Resilient Information systems by EBU
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all – Project of UNICEF on “Impact of Air pollution” in Kosovo

8) Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting

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The progressive integration of DRR action lines, ITU emergency communications and IPCC climate change commitments is one trend that needs to be considered and integrated in future strategies of these 3 areas.

9) Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2023
   For sure, in WSIS 2023 the same topics will have to be discussed again to make the point of improvement that have eventually been registered in the DRR strategies and action plans.

10) Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date.
   Based on the discussion within this workshop, DRR and Climate change issues need to have a permanent and larger dedicated space where ICT based and innovative solutions could be presented and proposed to the attention of WSIS audience.