Template – Session Outcome Document

(2 pages max)

Summary of Session: Can cyber technology be resilient and green?

EC MEDICI Framework

Monday 13 March – 9:00 – 9:45 CET

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/161

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- DT and “new normal”
- The “reverse pyramid” of DT relies on a single pillar
- Digital fragility, resilience
- Digital monopolies, top-down control
- Nation states and “platform states”
- Digital ecosystem sustainability
- Electronic waste disposal
- Energy consumption

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Increasing lack of resilience of the global digital ecosystem: key factors, DT transfers data and procedures from physical / analog world to intangible digital world the whole infrastructure relies on cyber tech subject to malfunctions and hackers, many times no plan B.
- The acceleration of DT due to the pandemic increased risks: key factors, power and information asymmetries, digital divides, need for capacity-building to bolster the weakest links in global cyber security.
- Governments and public authorities have less control on digital revolution than in case of previous “revolutions”: Key factors, strategic role played by few supranational digital tycoons/platforms often operating in a regulatory grey zone and without “public” competitors.
• The hierarchical structure of cyber domain originally thought as open and continuum without borders is turning into a patchwork of cyber-sovereignty islands. Once DT is completed, human rights could be subject to risks.

• To what extent can “cyber” be considered green: Key factors, increasing innovation pace of digital devices creates a waste disposal problem, to keep the network running and high-level number crunching processed operating a relevant amount of energy is required.

• To what extent do we want to give up human rights to embrace innovation? The need to find a proper balance between humanities and technologies is omnipresent. The WSIS can play a key role in this process.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

Panellists and some contributors from the floor agreed to start a cooperation on the following points:

• The need to approach the transition process at systemic level having humans and the preservation of their rights in the centre.

• The need to embrace an ethical approach in codesigning new technologies and their use. The need to purposefully deploy tools from resilience theory including purposeful adoption of innovative and improvisational, open, holistic, collaborative, bottom-up design thinking. We need to move from the defensive to the preventive

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

• Contribute to establish a multidisciplinary, multistakeholder think tank that will foresee potential impact on society due to cyber technologies.

• Extend the cooperation network started as an outcome of this workshop.

• Contribute to create an active network on digital skills capacity-building.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

• Building resilience from the grassroots at national and regional levels through digital capacity building, tools, and techniques.

• Prepare a “plan B” or even “C” in case of any “malfunction” of the cyber “environment” (procedures, data, etc)

• Adoption of IUI ROAM X principles for closer monitoring of WSIS action lines.