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WSIS ACTION LINES FACILITATORS
MEETING, SUMMARY, AND CERTIFICATES
SESSION 484 & 539 & 486

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>> GITANJALI SAH: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Really, thank you for being here with us. Your dedications toward the WSIS Action Line is really showing that you are here to listen to the WSIS Action Lines Facilitators Meeting right after lunch. So thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, this session of the WSIS Action Lines Facilitators Meeting actually was the Foundation of the WSIS Forum. Because initially, before 2009, we had the cluster WSIS-related events, which was converted and rebranded into the WSIS Forum. Essentially, the reporting of the WSIS Action Lines presenting the Roadmaps and the future plans of what they would be doing beyond that year.

Since it has been 20 years, today, in this session, we will focus on what the WSIS AL Facilitators have achieved in the 20 years, how the context has evolved, what are the challenges,

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and what is the vision of the WSIS Action Line beyond 2025?

The mandate we have is in accordance to Article 109 of the Tunis Agenda which mandates the WSIS Action Line Facilitators to meet every year, report and form an Action Plan about their work.

As you know, we have a beautiful framework, we have different UN agencies, based on the mandate that implement the different WSIS Action Lines. And we have them here with us today. We also have our Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas who has joined us to encourage the AL Facilitators and congratulate them for their good work. The floor is yours.

>> TOMAS LAMANAUSKAS: Thank you for the Facilitators and everyone in the audience. It is the last Day of the busy week. Kudos to you to bringing the energy for the whole week, bringing ideas and contributions to making the digital development of the world really impactful.

It is indeed an honour to welcome for me all of the WSIS Action Line Facilitators to report. I liked how you framed it. This is the session.

This is the session, this is the origin of WSIS Forum. This is the session without which WSIS Forum couldn't exist.

If we didn't have it we will just be gathering on digital development. For me, it is a super important session. It is great to have you here.

Indeed, a bit of context. A lot of people here would know WSIS, but good to remind the context.

In 2003 and in 2005 framework, you know, WSIS was established as this really all-encompassing digital development framework for the world. That includes all the Governments and more importantly all of the stakeholders that deliver together in the Private Sector with the Governments, Academia, Civil Society, technical community and others.

Of course, since 2015, we made sure WSIS became Sustainable Development Agenda. To make sure it is implemented through the digital tools.

WSIS Action Lines is the backbone and not just come once a year to the meeting, we deliver. We deliver the change in connectivity. And we have been quoting the numbers over the week. In 2003, 800 million people connected, and then 2005, 1 billion. And now 5 and a half billion. From 12 and a half percent to 2/3 of the population. Good job, but not enough.

Same thing, you know the Action Lines areas. We hear from our colleagues that through which that digital impact is really felt. So really, that is the mechanism for it to have the commitments in a concrete action and different areas that I mentioned already.

That is also to make sure we have reference points and share experiences. In this example, the stock taking is an

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important role. It allows people. We have around 15,000 different examples of how digital development can help throughout the Action Lines and more than 2 million people signing up to that.

That indeed helps us all make digital development from political statements to reality on the ground. Kept saying today, the feeling of sitting there in the seat, watching the WSIS Prize Winners coming on the stage in the short videos. That was the moment when what is it all about? About the digital identities, the remote area, the digital health and people using the tools for actually making the big change.

Of course, very proud of her own role as an Action Lines Facilitator and hear from our colleagues on that as well. C2 infrastructure, C6 enabling environment, C4 capacity building, C5 cybersecurity. And it is important as well to make sure a lot of our Action Lines is infrastructure.

So we build the roads. The roads are not useful if no cars on them. If there is no destinations to travel to. In the cities, it is the same here. Content, agriculture, health, Government, decent work and decent jobs, all of the areas are super important for that to be happening. I hope that today's meeting, especially in the WSIS+20 Review. The WSIS Forum is the only one recognized in the WSIS+20 Review. They didn't recognize it because of the recognition, they expect us to deliver results. This session is key for that. In December, United Nations General Assembly, we can put it together and set the strong stage for the next stage of WSIS Forum. Enjoy the session, please continue. Thank you very much.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Tomas Lamanauskas, for setting the scene. I see some Facilitators. Any Action Lines Facilitators? So Maria. ILO. Maria, we will take you up so once a person finishes you can come here. Thank you so much. As Tomas Lamanauskas put the context out there, we are basically, this is the meeting where we hear from the Action Lines Facilitators. We want to hear from all of you. Please do try to stick on time.

I want to start with C1, but Denis Suzar with UNDESA is not here yet. We will move to C2, Sophie is implementing the Action Lines on -- okay. So C2 is not here as well? Okay. So we move on to access, which is Davida from UNESCO.

UNESCO has a huge job. You look at the knowledge society part of the WSIS. We often say that we have rebranded WSIS into information and all the societies, not only Information Society. So can you share Davida, what you have been doing in order to -- how the Action Line on access has evolved in the 20 years?

>> DAVIDA: Thank you, Gitanjali and everybody. So the meeting as we say it is Action Line. Which is the why. I would like to focus maybe on telling about the evolution that has all

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of the action information which is the access.

This is what we have seen during this period of the 20 years in the progress. First of all, in the way that how we manage to get Member States to report on what is the progress on the access to information knowledge. It is as little as 14 in the 2019, 239 countries. So there is still a lot of work to do.

So the WSIS is very much linked to the goals, it is the SDG 16.10.2. So we provided the strategic support to Member States to be able to implement it into the reforms and to implement the information laws. This is the community in the celebration of the universal access to information day.

It is every year on 28 September. Which enables not only the countries, but all the actors that are involved in participating in that.

I would like also to give a couple of words on the evolution of the way the information is being accessed. So this is tremendous changes over the 20 years, of course. Even the role of it, every one has been changing. Let's think about the libraries and how they're for the Internet. This is still evolving a lot. We have had to rethink how the whole society actually use in access information and how this is interacted. And also, there is the way how the information is accessed in terms of knowledge. I would like to mention particularly the access to scientific information with the different open access models as through the years have been democratized and the evolution latest of one, it is the diamond open access model that we discussed in this very session this year. Which needs of course, key engagement from all the stakeholders to make it possible.

So we look forward to continuing to work with the entire community for that.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much Davida. Action Lines C4 on capacity building. Carla, ITU is leading this, there are several stakeholders including several UN agencies. Throughout the week we heard capacity building digital skills are crucial. Especially with the evolution of technology, to keep pace with it. A lot has evolved. A lot of changes since 2003 and 2005. Please share your views.

>> CARLA: Hello, good afternoon. Thank you for this panel. Sorry for being a bit late. I was stuck in the other meeting.

So what we discussed over the past days, not only of course yesterday -- Wednesday as part of the WSIS digital skills track, but also in the knowledge cafe, what we have realized is that if we look a little bit back to 20 years ago, the main text and main principles of the Action Lines C4 seemed valid. We need to continue on that route though we need more emphasis on the way how we report and how we implement. That would be over the past years we achieved a lot in terms of more partnerships and

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cross-cutting collaboration among the different, you know, areas and topics related to digital skills, you know from healthcare to education. There is still a need to have a more inclusive approach.

And in our discussions, they need to be youth centric to really look at the vulnerable communities, so women, girls, people with disabilities, older people as came across the discussions many, many times.

There is now of course with the emerging technologies from AI to other technologies. There is a need to think a bit in a different way on how we deliver digital skills and capacity building Programmes. Sometimes we look at the National and maybe local context, we need to think a bit out of the box. That is something that also, you know, many stakeholders have realized over the past let's say four days. And because, again, the traditional way and traditional means on how we're delivering the capacity development Programmes sometimes are not really working on the ground. And we really need to understand at the National local needs we need to address the targeted skills that are useful for that community.

The overall assessment that we have seen is that we are in a good direction, though, as I was saying, we need different ways on how to report and we need to capture that reporting from the community. There might be a lot happening. But again, we're not really capturing at the Action Line level.

This is what I took from the different discussions. Yeah, I will be happy to elaborate more in future. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Carla. The other thing we also heard is currently, there is no monitoring and assessment framework for the evaluation of the Action Lines. If someone was to tell us what has capacity building achieved in the 20 years, we can't really give concrete figures. So we hope the review this time will have a thought about that as well. Though we have the WSIS targets, but they're not aligned with each WSIS Action Line. Which would make our job easy to get the data collected and ensure we have monitoring frameworks.

Thank you, Carla.

I will move on to Preetam. Action Lines C5 cybersecurity. In this area, there is so much evolution with the evolution of technologies. We heard so much about AI, security as well. And as there is progress in technologies, you have new challenges that come in this area.

We also heard in some sessions, you know, protecting children online, we did have the guidelines, those should be updated and revised as well. So there is a lot we started doing. A lot of good work. There is a lot more we need to do to catch up with the changes in technology. Over to you.

>> PREETAM MALOOR: Thanks. You posed the question and also

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you answered it. Let me provide some starts to illustrate the points. In 2005, it is obvious the digital landscape was very different. The DSG also highlighted this. Only 1 billion online. The cost of cybercrime to the Global economy was around 400 billion. Which is a large number for that time. The threat vectors at that time, while they were sophisticated is nothing compared to what we have today.

You know, I have stated from 2024, because the currently we haven't compared. Right now we have 5.6 billion online. The cyber attacks have increased 80% year by year, which seems like a conservative estimate, I think it is more. The cost of cybercrime 300 billion has increased to 8, \$11 trillion. An attack happens every 39 seconds somewhere on the web. Clearly issues related to privacy, related to cybersecurity have intensified. No doubt about that.

And as Gitanjali just said, you know, many of the attacks include AI driven attacks. We need to prepare for a postquantum world. The good news in the story is we have grown wiser. The stats show that.

We are for example, places emphasis on resilience of infrastructure. This includes submitting cables, satellite, terrestrial and cyber resilience. And there are impactful initiatives in each of these that same to work. We also are seeing accelerated efforts in improving Cybersecurity. And the Global Cybersecurity Index numbers show that in just as a recent example, you know, in 2017, 110 countries lacked a National strategy. In 24, 67 were still without one, which is a big chunk. But it could have been worse. 2017, a third lacked a response team. And boy 24, this number is reduced to 68.

So also in child online protection that Gitanjali mentioned, we have a Global effort, we have guidelines. We have countries that are being assisted in developing a National Cybersecurity strategy that has a child online protection component integrated into it. There is a lot happening.

So, you know, what does it tell us? Well, the numbers indicate that the risks are increasing in complexity, targets, technologies.

You know, the numbers also offer some hope. It shows that stakeholders are better organized and resilient than 2005. We believe the framework WSIS provided has played a positive role in bringing the stakeholders together forging multistakeholder partnerships that are helping this effort. And that is what we have heard across the WSIS Forum including the AI for Good. We had an entire session on AI and trust yesterday.

It was all about what we can do. It wasn't all doom and gloom. I think, you know, I think this message is conveyed to the WSIS+20 Review process and the role of the WSIS framework. And the Action Line C5 is reinforced. Thanks, Gitanjali.

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>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Preetam. We will move to Action Line C6. Sophie, ITU coordinates the AL.

We had Regulator Roundtable for the first time at their request. I see some Regulators here. Thank you, ma'am, for joining us. Regulator of Georgia.

We have the main two points that came out of that, in my opinion was one, they should be a lot more of this stuff happening to learn from each other. Best Practices sharing and they can learn from each other because they're at various stages of development.

Second one was that there are so many cross-sectoral Regulators that have come up now. Regulators for health, for education, agriculture. How does the ICT Regulator, you know, kind of converge all of that and work with all of them?

Over to you, Sophie.

>> SOPHIE MADDEN: Thank you. It was interesting to have the Regulator Roundtable and the global symposium for Regulators we have every year. The Roundtable will be in Riyadh 31 August to September 3.

I hear it being said that for us, inclusiveness, the holistic approach, the need for data and the reporting came out in our Action Line as well.

Let me rewind. If we go back to the year early 2000s, it was just after the WTO reference paper on basic telecoms.

We were really looking at principles to guide liberalization of telecoms, working on fair access. And the competitive practices and the establishment of the independent Regulators that we brought together. In the mid 2000s, we were looking at broadband and looking at NGNs, looking at innovative regulatory strategies like infrastructure sharing.

Fast forward to mid 2010s, then we started looking at -- that addresses your points are the rise of the digital ecosystem. We were starting to see more mobile money, e-education and e-health and e-agriculture. And we started with collaborative education.

And then COVID in 2020. Digital was not just on the Agenda but became the Agenda. Without digital, health, education, agriculture, Government could not work.

And today, we're at advanced regulatory frontiers. Looking at Regulators as digital ecosystem builders to come to your point, Gitanjali.

So we need to address new challenges, emerging and fast-move technologies, opportunities and new players.

There is the need for inclusive frameworks. But also for adaptability and flexibility, while maintaining the sustainability and the confidence in the markets, because investors need to invest in the new technologies and that needs that confidence in the markets in the tools in the regulatory

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tools.

From some of the Regulators we heard about data-driven regulation. Data is key. We also need innovative regulatory approaches. We heard about regulatory sandboxes as well in which we experiment. One of the Regulators said, we have data-driven regulations so we can put the data out in the market before imposing regulations. So I think that is what we're hearing.

So in the Action Line, we have focused in these 20 years on knowledge exchange, as you say, sharing Best Practices, knowledge exchange platforms like our Global symposium for Regulators, sharing tools, data, research, analysis, Study Groups, sharing that with members for members. Data analysis, we have the data hub, the ICT regulatory tracker on what we call the G5 benchmark, the fifth generation of regulation, where it is not just about -- remember, I started was it about telecom. Now it is not just telecom, it is digital. Remain versatile. Make sure we have the necessary resources to collect the data and to act upon the data. Be inclusive and really work with the multistakeholder environment to get the solutions. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Sophie. Move to WHO e-health. C7 ICT applications has several Action Lines together.

The way, you know e-health is encapsulated is e-health. We may have to rebrand it and start calling it digital health. It is much wider now. Derrick a lot has changed, especially since COVID as well.

The health community understood the importance of digital. So what are your views, Derrick? What is the vision beyond 2025?

>> DERRICK: Thank you, Gitanjali and fellow panelists. Thank you for the ITU keeping us coordinated on the Action Lines. I'm head of capacity building and partnerships, but the focal point on the Action Line on C7 on e-health together with ITU.

Just to maybe point out that we have seen tremendous progress amongst our Member States and our partners in the inclusion of ICTs in health. And so the past 20 years has seen tremendous progress indeed I speak about how the future looks like. We actually began in 2005. Shortly after the WSIS framework was put in place. Where our Member States gave us the first mandate to coordinate the introduction of ICTs and health. We call that the e-health Resolution of 2005. Shortly after, that we saw tremendous uptake of digital solutions. By then, loss of digital solutions were involved mostly around data collection, aggregation, reporting, you know, health events at high levels. We saw a lot of introduction, especially in the HIV, malaria and TB space. This led to interoperability. In 2018. Member States put together the data standardization and interoperability that we are fast tracking with ITU. In 2013, we

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saw the evolution of ICT, the evolution of technology, really take a heightened elevation.

So in 2018, our Member States recognizing the emergence of artificial intelligence and other emerging technology put together on digital health.

With the Resolution on digital health in 2018. We're working with the Member States to introduce emerging technology into health. We're thankful Member States that have taken up digital health as a means to universal health coverage and better outcomes. Each Region has examples from South Africa, I will point out, that is a correct example. We had a Winner at the WSIS Prizes in Zanzibar on the DPI on health. In the eastern Mediterranean Region, in Saudi Arabia they establish virtual hospitals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the Western Pacific Region, in Australia, had continued to deploy patient centric tools. Digital patient facing record to allow currents to carry their own records in Estonia, they have a great example of the Region of the Americas, Brazil, with the digital health platform.

There are many examples. These are just a few.

Just to point out, looking at the future, looking to working with our Member States through a framework put in place. The Global network on digital health. It is intended to make sure all actors contributing to this Agenda have an inclusive and meaningful contribution towards the transformation.

AI for health is a key area together with the whole issue of digital public infrastructure for health. A subject that were involved with the ITU.

I neglected to mention India's work in tele-Mission. That is a great example from Southeast Asia. Quite excited with the extension of the Global strategy of digital health that we are using.

Health and universal healthcare coverage is key and cross-cutting. This Action Line will help take us further. Thank you so much.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Derrick. I have IPU and UNCTAD for the Action Line on e-business. Perhaps you can share your time, let's call it?

>> Is this okay? I would like to defer to UPU for reporting on the Action Line itself. And put instead of that the hat of the CSTD and partnership for development. If you don't mind.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Please share your time. Over to you.

>> Thank you Gitanjali for bringing us together. UTU and UNCTAD and ICT have been focusing on the Action Line C7 on e-business.

In the case of the UPU, the focus was on trying to achieve the digital inclusion through the by network of postemphasis,

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which is in remote and rural areas, especially in Developing Countries. Oftentimes, the post offices already serve as trusted anchor institutions in their communities.

And we are just now coming up with the flagship Panorama report, done through a survey. And we received answers from more than 100 postal operators, from more than 100 countries. Actually 71% of post offices worldwide are already providing e-commerce services to their communities, which means that for instance, small business, SMEs, women entrepreneurs, artisans can already benefit from this service.

We had a session earlier this week, together with ICT and UNCTAD where we shared also the examples of how e-commerce Action Line is helping especially, you know, small business, women entrepreneurs, in the case of the UPU, we do recognize that there is a strong link with the capacity of, you know, those services being digitalized so people can access them better. Our institution tries to provide technical support, advisory services and different capacity building tools. We have notably two projects. One is connect dot post. The post offices can only do this type of work when they're properly digitalized. Our aim is to help with the Digital Transformation of countries so they can enable post offices to serve better the communities. And our second big project is trade post, which is trying precisely to, you know, create the space for small entrepreneurs that are in remote areas to try to get online, try to cover new markets, doing export, incidental port, through various digital services that the post offices can offer.

Thank you very much.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Scarlet?

>> SCARLET: I won't do it in eight seconds, but if you allow me 30, I can do it? I would say on the partnership for ICT development. You have addressed the monitoring framework for the Action Lines. And let everyone know that at the session this WSIS event, we announced a mapping exercise that we will be conducting. We did a similar exercise in the occasion of the WSIS + 10 where we looked at mapping targets and the available indicators on ICT for development. And we are going to be doing the same or similar exercise for WSIS+20, except at this time we are also taking into account the impact of the GDC and try to improve the vision over how can we monitor the Action Lines, which we didn't really talk about 10 years ago. A lot has happened since 10 years ago. In that spirit, UNCTAD is also serving as Secretariat to information and technology development. Which is charged with the follow-up of implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

Just nine days ago, we published online the report that results on the consultation of implementation. I invite you to visit the web page of UNCTAD and look at this report. And I did

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print out a couple of copies there. But it is a hefty report. In any case, chapter two of the report, it is specifically on the Action Lines under different themes. It does conclude that much has change said as a you result of the consultation, much has change since 2005 in terms of the Action Lines. It is the perfect time to think how to either reformulate or expand Action Lines.

And we look forward to the results of the discussion at the end of this year. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you so much both of you for pointing out the work done by the partnership, which is really important work. It is a Group of statisticians that look at how to measure the process better and the group that adopts the Resolution that goes to ECOSOC. Thank you for bringing those perspectives as well.

I will move to Davida from UNESCO. He's holding several hats today. Davida, if you can talk to us about e-science and e-learning, two additional Action Lines that UNESCO implements.

>> DAVIDA: Let's start with e-learning. Much happened, I think major shift, we all know into the digital technologies into education, including the widespread adoption of the learning platform, open educational sources and digital open schools. I want to remind of the OER, the open education act resources was started in 2022. So really at the time of the WSIS. And allowed the more access to quality educational material and also towards the use of the quality additional material adopted in terms of localized inclusivity and equity is changed and making it more inclusive and addressing the barriers faced by marginalized Groups.

Also of course, now we talk about the new things, which are the AI and emerging technologies and education, UNESCO is providing guidance on the AI and education providing frameworks that emphasize the need for frameworks for ethical use of education. And in education, the need for teacher training and curricula and how to prepare learners for human machine interaction. And so these are some of the aspects.

I would like also to give -- provide a shift. We spoke about information and knowledge, but now we see a shift also between the focus from information to attention. Where information was a scarce resource in 2003, 2005, now we have an abundance of information.

What we have is attention. There is a reflection of how to react to the unwanted consequences of the adoption of technologies into the educational system.

Lastly, I would like to mention the fact that although there is -- we know there is a projected investment of \$500 billion, I think we have to mention that with another hundred billion would be needed to close the Global financing

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gap for education for maybe reaching the goals of SDG 4, as a matter of scale, that is important to note in terms of the investment, which is being devoted to one or the other.

This is very summarized for education. But for learning.

But on e-science, would you like me to go to e-science?

Let me take some notes, sorry. Science. e-science it is reshaping the way scientific knowledge is created and applied through Global connected research infrastructure, open access data, we mentioned data. Digital collaboration platform, et cetera. And there is a more attention now maybe how to get every researcher to be able to access infrastructure. So there was some attention dedicated this morning there was a session on that, on the remote infrastructure access.

To make sure that every scientist in the Developing Countries may contribute to the benefit of Government scientific process. And again, there is a need for investment in digital infrastructure, capacity building, and the support, which is essential to continue delivering on this Action Line.

And I think, yeah. Maybe too much details, I don't know if I have more time or not.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Yes, please, Davida to do justice to your Action Line and designs.

>> DAVIDA: The message was to realize the full potential of the science we need a more investment in digital infrastructure. And we need to coordinate the policy frameworks, foster equitable access, ensuring responsibilities of data and artificial intelligence and bridging the Digital Divide in line with the Action Lines and SDGs. And these Action Lines offer a pathway to promote scientific innovation accelerating knowledge based solutions and strengthening science as a digital -- as a Global public good. So that is the message from this direction.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Davida, and thanks for covering both of the Action Lines.

This year, for the first time we also had a digital skills track that ITU did with ILO. And thanks to ILO that it was really so vibrant, the track really covered different aspects of the digital skills and capacity building. So we merged the Action Lines of C4 and C7 e-employment together to be more impactful.

Maria, how has this Action Line evolved, especially with the coming of AI and emerging technologies, the discussions that we hear nowadays. What is the future that you see of e-employment? Over to you.

>> MARIA: The impact of technology on e-employment has been important over the past 100 years. The introduction of electricity has impacted, every change has impacted the labour market.

In the past 20 years, we have seen an exponential growth in

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the evolution of employment, and also lately with artificial intelligence. It is important to mention here that all levels of the labour market are being influenced. Be it low, high, middle level jobs, but also jobs in the formal and the informal economy. So which is why the ILO has introduced recently an observatory to measure those impacts, to see where we're going and try to grasp through different types of information sources and how to respond to these issues through better capacity building and indeed we had a really nice collaboration with ITU on this issue on Wednesday. Several sessions that dealt with digitalization, capacity building, and employment.

And also I wanted to mention, it was mentioned earlier also, the impact that COVID had on sort of accelerating even more the impact of the digitalization on the employment.

Now, the ILO is a normative organisation that makes international labour standards to regulate employment.

So one of the main challenges for the organisation is how to adapt those to the current labour market, including platform work. And this is an ongoing discussion.

When it comes to the Action Line itself, e-employment, we have a growing demand, and I'm sure the other Action Lines are experiencing a similar thing from constituents asking for more support on the issue of digitalization and employment policies. In digital policies, in occupational safety and health, in the labour market. In active level market policies, so on. So the Action Line therefore needs to also evolve. I'm hoping that these discussions and this year would lead to more evolved Action Line and that one that we can do in close collaboration with the other Action Lines.

Because we're definitely all extremely related.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you. We have the Action Line on e-environment. That is also divided into two components, one is a part that we do with WMO and ITU and the other part has to do with UNEP and ITU.

Maria, I invite you to talk about the work being done on disaster risk management and climate change aspects. And Graham, if you can join us. Maria, if you can start. You can both share your time, please.

>> MARIA: Thank you very much, Gitanjali. As you know, this has three goals, one is on the environment -- two of them are on the environmental side. And a third one is on using technologies for disaster risk reduction. I will focus on that one.

Over the past 20 years, we have seen the evolution of the use of technologies for disaster management. And we have seen how these technologies have shifted from being only optional tools to becoming essential behaviors for life and for saving lives.

Under the Bernadette Lewis of Action Line C7 on the

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environment, we have focused on using the technologies for disaster risk reduction. To build more resilient communities and countries. Most important to ensure no one is left behind.

Today, we have seen the evolution of technology and now we have seen how satellites are capable of sending early warning alerts directly to mobile phones without passing through the land networks.

So this has been an evolution, this is something that helps to bridge the digital gap and the digital connectivity.

Particularly in the most remote areas, and with the most remote communities which are at risk. We have seen how artificial intelligence is used in our daily life, especially for disaster risk reduction. The AI is helping forecast a wide range of hazard and identify gaps.

They speed up the preparedness and response activities when a disaster strikes.

But at the same time, we have also IoT networks that support real-time monitoring. The monitoring and data are essential for sending early warning alerts, analyzing the data and save lives of people.

So one of the most important examples we have seen is the launch of the early warning for all initiative that was in May. Many of you have heard. This is a Global commitment to ensure that everyone is covered by an early warning system, by the end of 2027. However, we are still scaling up and in the process of launching this early-warning initiative. ITU is the lead of pillar through on early warning dissemination and communication. Working closely with other UN entities to facilitate the implementation of this initiative worldwide.

We look forward to the future. Our challenge and opportunity is to continue building on this momentum that we have. The technology is there. But it is not only about technology, we also need to see that we have -- we need to have regulatory frameworks to use technologies in the best way to saving lives.

>> GRAHAM: I see Maria has taken most of the time, so I will be quick. On environment, we have seen some development over time. This AL is looking at the role of the ICT for the environment, but let's say the negative externality on the environment. This is a double-sided viewpoint here.

To quickly summarize some of the key areas, electronic waste, greenhouse gas emissions, critical raw materials that we use today to power our devices. These themes are things we are focusing on from a regulatory standpoint from a data collection standpoint. Going forward, they're critical. One particular point, and I would like to refer back to what Sophie was talking about, the evolution of the regulatory spaces, the greenhouse gas emissions are equivalent to those in the transportation

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Sector. There is no clarity around who is Regulating the space. There is important questions with this Action Line going forward. Back to you Gitanjali, thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Graham. We have Denis, who we started with, but you weren't in the room. UNDESA implements three Action Lines with the different UN agencies, co-facilitating with many of us. Denis AL C1, C11, C7 e-governance. Over to you.

>> DENIS SUZAR: I apologize for being late. I was stuck in another meeting. C7, I can start with that e-Governance. We published an edition every other year, last was in September. We're working right now in preparation for the 2026 edition. We sent a questionnaire to all 192 Member States. The most populous city in each country. The next survey will be available in 2026 where we look at the e-Government development of 193 Member States and most populous city in each country. We're creating lots of partnerships with Government and non-Government entities on applying our methodology to several cities in a single country.

So if any WSIS stakeholders here are interested in collaborating, we are open to that. We did partnership with Brazil, India, Greece, and pilot and application requirement that is happening right now in UK, Uzbekistan and a few other countries.

If you Google this, you can see all of our work in our knowledge base.

Very quickly, about the other two Action Lines. C1, promotion of ICTs and C11, international cooperation. As the Secretary for the 20-year review of the WSIS for the UN General Assembly, we organized two sessions here, one on WSIS and GDC and the other one was a contentious issue on enhanced concentration. I will summarize what we heard.

First, reinforcing the multistakeholder model. There was a need to maintain the multistakeholder approach. The WSIS Forum here was an excellent example of that for the Co-Facilitators that you will hear from them after this meeting.

Also integrating and implementing the GDC principles into the WSIS. We have heard this from many stakeholders. This is something I think you will also see in the zero draft. Strengthening the IGF and continuation of the WSIS Forum. These were the two elements that we heard. About human rights language, there were a lot of inputs as well to make sure that we use the latest version in the zero draft. And other things included to have more inclusive transparent processes and I think UNDESA will have other stakeholder consultations, involving all stakeholders in coming months, in coming days, actually, after we got the feedback on the paper, there will be further consultations. I stop here. And I give it back.

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>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Denis. I know you are very busy. I'm glad you could make it.

We also have Dee from UNESCO who is moderating and implementing the Action Line on ethics. Of course, the ethical dimension is completely evolving and changing. We heard from most of the Action Line Facilitators on this. Let's hear from you. Over to you UNESCO.

>> DEE: Thank you. It is actually fitting that we have the last one. You can hear the rapid changing digital landscape over the last 20 years has an impact across all areas. And embedded within that are key ethical considerations that needs to be reflected upon and acted upon. I think through this Action Line we have been working very closely with wide network of experts and UN partners and other partners to make sure that ethical reflection keeps pace with the challenges that we keep seeing emerging again and again. So for example, we have been advancing the work on ethics of artificial intelligence. We have been working very closely with Member States to help them with the assessment on the assessment for adopting AI embedded within which is, you know, the fundamental ethical considerations that they need to take into being. Helping them also with capacity building, with ethical impact assessment itself. Also we created wide networks such as the AI ethics experts without borders to help to provide capacity building, concrete capacity building to Member States.

One of the key things that we also need to, through this Action Line we're seeing that a lot of the ethical considerations are now tied very much to the ethical implications of technology itself. Not only technology but the digitalization of technology in areas which is not maybe not Conventionally conceived as digital. Such as neural technology, such as quantum, which is more hardware related. But in your technology, we are also advancing on the neural technology. And at the end of the year we'll accept concrete policy recommendations in this area.

Maybe what I want to say is through this work, I think it will be very important to reaffirm that ethics must be a foundational and cross-cutting part of the pillar. It is especially with the rapidly evolving technologies such as AI and quantum computing.

Lessons learned moving forward, we need to be in the design, deployment and regulation of digital tech, ensuring it is embedded across the entire technology life cycle. Not only in the beginning but also when you will be moving technology out of service. That is also the ethical considerations there. We are going to have to continue promoting interdisciplinary and inclusive Governance models that leverage anticipatory ethics. This is important. We talk about adaptive governance, but we

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need to build in anticipatory Governance.

We need to leverage public trust and stakeholder dialogue for sure.

We need to also start to recognize this ethics as a form of agile soft Governance, that is capable of complementing formal legal and regulatory systems in real-time.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Dee and welcome to the Forum. It is your first time here. We have others joining us as a high-level Facilitator, Carla with C4 and Dee with ethics. The community is growing.

We will end with Davida. Two minutes for the Action Line on C8 cultural diversity. It is a very important one. Please go ahead.

>> DAVIDA: Not too many Action Lines. Quickly, it is worth mentioning that huge impact of the digital technology into culture. In terms of access in terms of production and the new form of expression there is a lot of impact to mention there. The one significant thing is that in 2025, there is the Ministerial meeting in 2025, that happened in 2023 as well. It was like 40 years that the Ministers didn't bring together to discuss about the digital culture. Easily important part of the WSIS. We had mainly a discussion this week about the multilingualism, the impact as well on that.

For the presentation of the multilingual content into the digital world. Lastly a few seconds to mention in the media, the Action Line on media. Of course, there are major concerns, major evolution with linked to the digital transformation of the media, the expansion of Internet and we have reminded a few times during the week the work of UNESCO about the platforms and guidelines and work on the importance of the work on safety of journalists and everything around with the media landscape to ensure independence and et cetera. And also one other thing that is mentioned by the colleagues, the meeting information literacy, which is also taking into account the need for the public as producer and consumers of information to be adequately trained and conscious of the consequences of clicking, for the joint Internet.

Lastly, I would like to end by mentioning the work that have been doing altogether in the last many years on the Internet for the indicators, there is a tool that is providing a way to assess and guide policies for rights based open access for multistakeholder driven Internet Governance.

This is one of the frameworks of UNESCO is promoting as a possible tool for the WSIS to come to measure also the progress. At least for some of the Action Lines. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Davida and all of the UN agencies implementing the different Action Lines. We'll do a quick Group photograph and then we're going on to a very

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interesting dialogue with the Co-Facilitators. Stay in the room, while I invite everybody to take a quick photograph. Graham, Denis, please join us so we can start with the very going dialogue we have been waiting for. Thank you for being here Ambassador.

(Applause)

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much. We want to invite on stage the two WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators. We would like to invite you on stage, please. So the session is entitled, Charting the Path Forward for the WSIS+20 Review: A conversation with the WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators. We are continuing this dialogue from IGF and bringing it here because the two milestone multistakeholder events are listed as venues for gathering multistakeholder input.

Ambassador Thomas Schneider, Cynthia, we invite you on the stage, please. A big round of applause Ambassadors have been so busy this whole week. So kindly listening to all of us. Whoo!

>> CYNTHIA LESUFI: Good afternoon, everyone. It is a pleasure to welcome you to this interactive session, Charting the Path Forward for the WSIS+20 Review: A conversation with the WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators. We are honoured to have you join us both here in the Plenary room at Palexpo, room C and remotely from around the world. We're about to embark on a thought provoking discussion about the future of Global Information Society. Today, we have an incredible opportunity to engage the two Co-Facilitators that are leading the WSIS+20 Review and setting the next chapter of the Information Society. I hand over to Ambassador Thomas Schneider.

>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: To add to that, the WSIS process is now 22 years old and shaped more or less hopefully our lives in Global digital policy during this time. And this quick session is to discuss where we stand, where we are headed and the role of Global digital cooperation in shaping the future of the Information Society.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Ambassador Thomas Schneider. I want to highlight the fact that Digital Divide continues to be one of the greatest challenges we face globally. While there has been a significant progress, many Regions still lack access to digital infrastructure, education, and affordable Internet.

What steps do we think we should be taking to ensure that the next phase of WSIS process continues to prioritize digital inclusion? How can we ensure that no country, no community is left behind in this new era of digital information?

I now want to then give the floor to the Co-Facilitator to respond to the questions that are asked. I will start with Ambassador Suela Janina, please take the floor.

>> SUELA JANINA: Thank you, Cynthia. Good afternoon, everyone. I think it is a good setting to make this panel with

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us at the end of the week. Because in this way, we can also express our appreciation to everyone that have been engaged with us during this week, very productive, especially to ITU for the organisation of the WSIS Forum. But also to everyone that had been able to approach us and to tell us about expectations about this process.

Indeed, the moment that we are facing is a very important one. We have been tasked with very important and also challenging tasks together with my colleague to review the progresses that we have achieved. And also to identify gaps and challenges in view of the development of new technologies.

In this discussion, Digital Divide is one of the main discussions that we need to face because in 2003, Digital Divide in terms of different aspects. If we see it from the aspect of connectivity, what we had in 2003 were 700 million people connected. We have nowadays 5.8 billion people connected, that shows that this is a progress. But still, I think that we need to approach the discussion about overview with appreciation of what we have achieved but also in terms of ambitions, what we need to address in order to fulfill the vision of WSIS.

Now, we have and we are facing that besides the success, we have also huge challenge, because we have 2.6 billion -- sorry. 2.6 billion, I hope it would be million, but we're still billions that remain unconnected.

So this is the challenge we need to face. Not only in terms of connectivity, but we need also to face it in terms of affordability. There are many people that also are connected but they cannot afford to have a meaningful connection.

At the same time, we see that there are divisions, and this is a theme that it is a little bit subjective for me, but I have it very near to my heart. The fact that we have gender divide that is also going a little bit widening in terms that where we're seeing the unconnected individuals come mostly from women and girls and mostly from the Global South. So we need to see also the divide in terms of participation.

How to address this?

I think this is the main questions that we need to focus on. It has connected a lot of elements including international cooperation, including the fact that we need to invest on technologies, first of all, to ensure connectivity. But at the same time, we need also to address other elements like digital literacy, for example. Especially for category that I mentioned. The most marginalized and most vulnerable categories.

So I think that the challenge we had is really a major one. But what I need to emphasize in this process maybe I will return it back again. The fact that the multistakeholder model has functioned successfully and we need also to build on this achievement, also to address the challenges that we have ahead.

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So if you allow, I will conclude this point with these remarks and hand over to my colleague.

>> EKITELA LOKAALE: First, let me thank the Moderators for having us. It is a wonderful week for meeting remarkable people having quite insightful discussions with each one of you. It has been a real honour to be here. I agree with everything my colleague has said. I think first, there seems to be mother-in-law agreement that the original WSIS vision is still relevant. People-centred and inclusive development oriented Information Society.

The construction of the vision is what enabled the Global community to make tremendous progress from the levels of connectivity or investment in the Information Society that we had only 20 years ago to a situation where we have close to 70% of the Global population being connected. In terms of relevance, I think that is important. Speaking to many of you for the last couple of weeks, we have received a confirmation that indeed we need to take it forward.

Second thing is as my colleague has said, our focus now, I think, needs to shift, if it hasn't been on those 2.6 billion people who are not connected to date.

Because in a Sector such as this, that moves quite rapidly, it is easy to build on the Foundation and assumptions of those who have already been connected who have access to digital, public infrastructure, who live in environments or areas where there is access and so on and forget, you know, those who have been left behind.

So I think there is need for us as a community to just apply our minds a bit more on how to connect the unconnected. Go back to the basics for those who to date have not benefitted.

And this brings me to my last point at this stage, which is that we are deliberately trying to create room and spaces for everyone to contribute to the current review. Whether it is a multistakeholder, the different stakeholders, technical community, Member States, Civil Society and others, but also other subsets of those populations. For instance, we welcome the desire by young people, not in the meaning of youth, but teenagers have actually asked to be part of this conversation. Women have wanted to be part of it. Indigenous People, so on, so forth. So we're willing to provide room for everyone to participate in that process. And perhaps the challenge to all of us is to go out of our way to make sure that all of the voices get an opportunity to bring their ambitions, aspirations to the table, so that they're reflected in the eventual outcome document. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Your Excellencies. I now want to hand over to my co-Moderator, Ambassador Thomas Schneider, please, say something.

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>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Yes, thank you. I had the honour to spend one week to the 2 Co-Facilitator at IGF in Norway two weeks ago, and now you have been here in Geneva for another week for two important events, the WSIS+20 High-Level Event and the AI for Good Summit. So you have had the chance or the burden to meet 10,000 of people from all over the world from all stakeholders. And when you came to Oslo at the beginning, you said that you're realizing that the UN in New York is quite different world because it is a different people, different issues, different tradition that is present there in New York and in Oslo at the IGF, which is one of the key pillars of the WSIS structure and also the WSIS Forum. And let's say newer structures like the AI for Good Summit with this like crash course that you received over the two weeks.

Maybe just before I would ask like what are your main takeaways of this? This is a short session. We have like 13 minutes left. If it is okay with all of you, I would like to open the floor for a little interaction and feedback, if this is possible? I think it should be as it is foreseen. I think we can have questions or comments of one minute maximum each, for the Co-Facilitators, if you want to ask them, if this is possible.

>> MODERATOR: I think I agree with your approach. We can open the floor for comments coming from the floor. We have the opportunity to engage directly with the Co-Facilitators, the floor is open, colleagues. Yes, I see a hand in front here.

>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: The mic is coming. It is not a robot that brings the mic, it is a human being.

>> ATTENDEE: My name is Jennifer from Canada. I work with taking it Global. And I have enjoyed being back after 20 years when we were first involved with the youth caucus. I want to recommend that we have National multistakeholder processes to invigorate all Sectors in the renewed commitment to the WSIS Action Line items. So I'm thinking a lot about what we can also do in Canada. Maybe we can bring together stakeholders on specific action areas. I just think about the ways that coming to an international venue can be strengthened when there are National processes that are sort of similar to what we're experiencing here to bring more voices. Yeah, in particular, with e-learning, which is something I'm very passionate about, I would love to see multistakeholder processes involving children, youth, learners of all ages, we're talking about AI. And how lifelong learning is essential for all of us. So regardless of our age, we need to keep learning.

So how do we keep that renewed commitment? Because I'm concerned, a lot of people on the WSIS file maybe in Government, they may be very new to the file. So we need to kind of educate our population about these commitments, and we need to engage

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everyone in realizing we all have a part to play. It is not just up to Government alone. You know, we need all Sectors. How do we mobilize people? I think more multi-National stakeholder dialogues. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. I see another hand over there. Please take the floor.

>> ATTENDEE: Good afternoon. Thank you. Very big thank you for providing me opportunity. Excellencies, currently a notable gap appears to exist between the UN resident coordinator of peace at country level and the issue concerning WSIS and IGF. At the country level, our recommendation is strengthening this link could foster greater collaboration and enhance the effectiveness of the WSIS and IGF at the country level.

Second area is what is needed is a permanent reinforced and even stronger WSIS and IGF Secretariat with such funding at the Secretariat and country level. Thank you.

>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Should we take one more and then maybe give the chance for the Co-Facilitators to respond.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you, I'm from Tunisia, I'm a Professor, and I used to be a Regulator.

So I like the idea of the connect the unconnected, but in some countries, they need more than the Internet, because they don't have energy. Without energy, we cannot speak about connection. And even if we were talking about school and teaching and so on, so forth. There is water issue also. So how we can work together for these needs before to connect. Maybe they're happy without Internet. Maybe there are more needs for the kids and for this generation.

So this is my question, how to work together for better life? Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. I want to now give the floor to Ambassador Ekitela Lokaale.

>> EKITELA LOKAALE: Thank you for the comments, we'll take them as input as we work on the zero draft. Thank you, Jennifer. That is a brilliant suggestion, really. Because one of the things we heard from Oslo and even throughout the week is the need to strengthen the IGF, and make it permanent. And also the National and Regional IGF. Because we had the privilege of meeting some of the National IGFs here and in Oslo. And everybody agrees that they play such an important role in reinforcing the commitment but also mobilizing different constituencies to participate in the processes. I agree with your point. That is one of the strong recommendations for example, that has been made to us as co-Facilitators. That relates to the point by the gentleman, I think, he introduced himself, about making the IGF permanent, more sustainable, with predictable and sustainable funding because it plays an important role.

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There seems to be consensus also at least within the community on the need to do that. That is one of the points that we takeaway.

I think so I don't exhaust the point by the Professor is profound. The reason why the 2.6 billion people remain unconnected is not a WSIS problem, but, you know, it is due to many other structural problems. It is everything to do with the economic system and sovereign debt situations in those countries. It has something to do with population and poverty levels and which is why from Norway, we attended the financing for development Conference in Spain.

And innovation technology was actually an important component of that conversation on financing for development, generally.

So the point perhaps to make is that we should not have the WSIS conversation as an isolated conversation. But as part of the broader development conversations that we have, a human rights conversation that we have. Peace and security conversations, because all of the issues are interconnected. So I think I will leave it there. Thank you.

>> SUELA JANINA: Thank you. I fully subscribe to everything my colleague said. A few additional advice from my side. Thank you for what you put forward. Jennifer I like how you approached it. All have a part to play. This is key, I believe, in addressing the issues in front of us.

The fact that multistakeholder approach has functioned very well at the international level, maybe we don't see this reflected at the international level. That is where we need more effort. I see the two comments connected with the one that the gentleman made about the place at the country level and how to include also the UN mechanism to reinforce that.

So it is part of the UN mechanism, resident coordinator and also we have seen UNDP for example, have a strong capacity building element on the field. At the same time, there is Governments that need to facilitate these kind of models, but also the communities themselves need to be more proactive in terms of the interest that they see in facilitating and making the multistakeholder model, a model that function in their own context.

So when it comes to the remark by the colleague and gentleman from Tunisia. Sometimes we need to thank those that bring us back to the sad reality of the problems our world is facing.

Maybe connectivity is not the main dream that children may have in those difficult position and situations in many parts of the world.

That's why I turn to the comment made by my colleague, that all of these issues are so interlinked and interconnected with

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each other, without Sustainable Development, we cannot aim for bridging the Digital Divide in the view of new technologies. But at the same time, we should meet our focus at the technologies as enabler of Sustainable Development.

So they are both interlinked. In both ways you can see they can influence each other in positive ways. So this is a window of opportunity that we are having during this period. Until December that we can build the process in the way that it helps towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and make it work for people everywhere and for everyone.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Your Excellencies. Ambassador Thomas Schneider, I thought we should now move to the process itself. You know, just to hear from the Co-Facilitators as to how are they viewing the achievement to date as presented by the WSIS process. What is the view on the WSIS+20 Review in helping to reflect on this achievement and building upon these successes. I want to give the floor to you Ambassador to reflect on my question. Thank you.

>> EKITELA LOKAALE: Thank you very much. The first point I'll make is for me, personally, I think it has been a pleasant surprise to see such an engaged community as we have here. Within the WSIS process.

Since I had the opportunity to co-facilitate the modalities stage of this, what you have within WSIS is a very engaged community whether it is Civil Society, technical community, Private Sector, States, others, people who are really passionate and so full of energy. Some have been achieved from 1998, others earlier. And because of, that you know, we received very concrete proposals and that is something that we are grateful for.

In terms of the process, as you are all aware, we released the elements paper on June 20. That for us was a starting point of this conversation. It wasn't really, you know, an indicator of what was going to be in the final outcome, but it was something to generate debate and conversations. And we're glad that it has done precisely that, based on the feedback we received in Oslo but also here in Geneva.

Currently, we are already receiving inputs, according to the Secretariat, written inputs from most of you. And initially, the plan was to open that window in 15 July. But based on the requests we received from many of you, we have extended that deadline to 25 of July. Just to give room for as many people as possible to submit their written submissions. Our intention is to produce a zero draft of the outcome document. Towards the end of August. The actual dates are going to be published on the UNDESA website. But in between, we're hoping to create an opportunity for one more informal consultation. It is going to be a virtual one. A few days after the 25th of July and we're

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toying with the idea of 29 or 28, but again, we're going to let you know in good time. And in those consultations, we will have -- we'll invite all the stakeholders. That's to mean Member States and the multistakeholders so we can all have a conversation with one another. That's another request that came from yourselves. And we're happy that we're able to do something about it.

Once we have the zero draft, you know, of course, that marks the beginning of the formal negotiations. We will have opportunities for negotiations among Member States. But with input and consultations with the multistakeholder. So in the Roadmap as soon as we're back, we're going to publish dates for the informational consultations that will happen in October but also November.

Depending on how the negotiations will go, we hope that with the positive spirit that we see among members of this community, that we are going to have a consensual outcome document that we'll then adopt at the high-level meeting on the 16th and 17th of December in New York. That is how we have mapped out the process. So our appeal to you is to please make your submissions in writing. It's our intention to take as many of those into consideration as possible as we write the zero draft. Thank you.

>> SUELA JANINA: Thank you I will try to be short because it is accurately described by my colleague. I want to mention what you said Cynthia, about the progress for WSIS. This is something that will help us in our task that we have. And the question is has WSIS proved itself to be successful? I completely would agree with that, yes, WSIS has proved to be successful. But in order to build on this success, we need maybe to go back to the basic to the reason of the WSIS. As a Global initiative, which is there to foster dialogue, collaboration, and also at the same time to help to fulfill the vision for Information Society that is people-centred, inclusive, and development oriented. So if we take this as being a WSIS platform that is successful in fostering dialogue and collaboration, yes, it has been there. Still, we need to improve it.

Because I think if we remain a success that is static, we will not progress so far. When it comes to the fulfillment of vision of WSIS we have still a lot to do. Because of the elements we mentioned, I don't want to repeat Digital Divide, equal participation, but also to use ICTs in terms of Sustainable Development. We have a lot to do.

But I think this is a window of opportunity that we need to use. Just not to take more time, my final remark would be kind of let's walk this talk together.

>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you very much. Our time is up

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for now. Thank you to everyone. Thanks to all of you. It was a pleasure to be here with you. I hope you will take many, many impressions with you home. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you for joining us today. Thank you very much.
(Concluded)

>> HOST: Thank you, it was a pleasure to work with us and hear from you. On behalf of the WSIS+20 community thank you for your patience and being there for us. Thank you, Cynthia and Ambassador Thomas Schneider.

Ladies and gentlemen, we had 13 Leaders TalkX at the High-Level Event. We were moderated by the very abled track Facilitators, representing different stakeholder types. We received nominations. We have a call for nominations for this. We receive a lot of nominations from different stakeholder types. We have our 13 high-level track Facilitators here, who did a fantastic job of moderating the Leaders TalkX.

I would like to invite our Secretary-General Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin to the stage to give them their certificates and to recognize them for the excellent work they did throughout the week. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

We'll start with Ms. Yuhan Zheng from IEEE. She has a flight to catch. So Yuhan Zheng, please join us on the stage.

(Applause)

Thank you. Amrita Choudhury representing CCAOI she was working on the forging partnerships for purpose. Thank you.

Valeria Betancourt, association for progressive communication. She facilitated the Leaders TalkX with the sustainable access. Thank you.

Professor Abdulkarim Oloyede from University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Thank you so much, Professor.

Ms. Cheryl Miller U.S. Council for international business. Cheryl had a flight to catch. So I think she's not here.

Professor Lucien Castex. Thank you very much for moderating the Leaders TalkX on the safer, connected world. Strategies to strengthen digital trust and cyber resilience.

Ms. Caroline Vuillemin from Fondation Hironnelle. She moderated local to Global preserving culture in a digital era.

Ms. Lidia Stepinska-Ustasiak from Polistratos Institute, academy. She moderated when policy meets progress.

Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen from the African Internet school. She moderated moral pixels. Thank you. And also the initial high-level dialogue on Monday morning. Thank you so much. Lori Schulman from the international trademark association. Thank you, you moderated rethinking cooperation in the digital era. Thank you very much.

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And Cerys Stansfield from Access Partnership who moderated building inclusive and knowledge driven digital societies. Thank you, Cerys Stansfield.

We would like to invite SG to please stay on stage for a Group photograph with the high-level track Facilitators. Colleagues, please join our Secretary-General on stage for a Group photograph. Thank you so much for your excellent timekeeping and moderation.

(Music)

Thank you. The summaries will be available online and also in the form of a podcast, which you can use to share through your social media and on the WSIS website.

(Music)

>> GITANJALI SAH: We will begin with the Chair summary in 15 minutes. You can have this chance to take a break, get some water. You have been so busy. We will start in 15 minutes with the Secretary-General final remarks and the Chair's summary that we have been waiting for.

Thank you for your patience. Please do stay with us for the closing ceremony.

(Music)

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