



Session Outcome Document

(2 pages max)

Harnessing digital public goods and fostering digital cooperation: a multi-disciplinary contribution to WSIS+20 review

UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP)

14:00-14:45 (UTC+02:00), 8th July 2025

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/404>

Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025 (5–8 bullet points highlighting achievements, emerging trends, challenges in 20 years, figures, success stories and opportunities for WSIS beyond 2025)

- **Information is a public good - Windhoek+30 Declaration:** Endorsed by UNESCO Member States, the Declaration affirms information as a public good. Realizing this requires: digital literacy and connectivity (demand), support for content creators (supply), and an ethical, accountable digital ecosystem.
- **IFAP–IFLA Issue Brief "Empowering Libraries for Advancing Digital Inclusion":** With 2.8 million libraries and 1.6 million staff globally, libraries are vital digital infrastructure. Beyond books, they provide digital skills, e-government access, and entrepreneurship support. The brief offers 56 recommendations to guide digital inclusion through libraries.
- **IFAP Issue Brief "IFAP Framework and Guidelines for Information Accessibility and Transparency":** Developed by IFAP's Working Group, the brief presents actionable principles and global examples (e.g. Canada, Chile) to promote equitable access to information and transparency.
- **Meaningful connectivity and UNESCO ROAM-X Indicators:** The session highlighted UNESCO's ROAM-X Indicators and defined meaningful connectivity as daily access to 4G internet, a suitable device, and adequate digital skills.
- **Gender inclusion in digital transformation and governance:** A Brazil case study revealed hidden gender gaps in connectivity despite equal usage rates. The session called for inclusive systems that prioritize women and underserved groups in digital policy.
- **Disaggregated data for inclusive policy making:** Speakers stressed the need for disaggregated data—by gender, location, income, and language—to uncover digital inequalities and support inclusive policymaking.
- **Digital innovation for Indigenous languages:** The session discussed the *Living First Language Platform (LFLP)*—an Australian initiative empowers Indigenous communities to build and manage their language datasets for use in education, translation, and AI.

Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Strengthening multistakeholder partnerships through the IGF Dynamic Coalition on Measuring Digital Inclusion (DC-Digital Inclusion)**
- **Two forthcoming IFAP–IFLA Issue Briefs “Empowering Libraries for Advancing Digital Inclusion” and “IFAP Framework and Guidelines for Information Accessibility and Transparency”**
- **The Global Five-Point Plan (GFPP) of the Living First Language Platform (LFLP):** 1) Mapping the global location of language and literacy-vulnerable communities; 2) Identifying barriers to engagement with the LFLP/CALIL process; 3) Deploying the LFLP to collate, display, and utilize community-driven datasets; 4) Exploring interface opportunities with emerging digital technologies; 5) Establishing benchmarks, targets, and iterative review mechanisms to track progress.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond

- **Promote inclusive participation in decision-making, with strong emphasis on industry engagement:** Emphasize open dialogue and ensure underserved groups are meaningfully involved in digital policy, implementation, and governance. At the same time, industry must be fully included in the regulatory process to ensure that rules support innovation and sustainable growth.
- **Promote meaningful connectivity for women and underserved group:** Ensure women and underserved groups have affordable, safe, and reliable internet, appropriate devices, and digital skills.
- **Strengthen disaggregated data and monitoring frameworks:** Develop and apply socioeconomically disaggregated indicators across gender, geography, urban-rural divides, and other factors. Frameworks such as **UNESCO’s ROAM-X indicators** were highlighted as essential tools for evidence-based, rights-driven policymaking.
- **Empower Libraries for Digital Inclusion and Transformation:** Recognize and empower libraries as key digital infrastructure supporting literacy, e-services, and entrepreneurship. Integrate them into digital inclusion strategies.
- **Advance Indigenous language and literacy through digital innovation:** Expand platforms like LFLP to close literacy gaps, protect Indigenous languages, and enable community-managed language datasets for use in education, AI, and public services.
- **Constantly explore the implication of frontier technologies on harnessing digital public goods and fostering digital cooperation:** More research and anticipatory policy studies should be conducted to track the development of digital ecosystem. Inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogues should be fostered to ensure diverse voices shape digital public goods and cooperation beyond 2025.