Session Outcome Document

Global Standards for a Sustainable Digital Future

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)

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https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/350

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)

- For example, IEEE advances open technical standards development by fostering global, consensus-based technical standards that are grounded on ethically aligned design principles, transparency, interoperability, security and collaboration.
- Global standards development should always start with bottom-up, multi-stakeholder collaboration—ensuring that technological progress is based on trusted processes and supports sustainable, inclusive, and ethically sound outcomes that avoid capture by any single organization or interest group.
- Emerging technology has highlighted the importance of promoting open, ethical, and inclusive scientific and technological practices through the application of ethical design principles and governance mechanisms that can evolve with the technology.
- Global standards contribute to the success of WSIS Outcomes, the UN SDGs and key principles of the UN Global Digital Compact by establishing the underlying technical language that enables cross-border infrastructure growth, supports new applications and uses such as AI and healthcare for disease management, and provides the necessary foundation for ongoing digital transformation.
- Recognition and use of global standards ensure interoperability, promote safety, guarantee quality, and foster trust in new technologies, enabling emerging technologies to scale, to be adopted widely, and to integrate seamlessly into our existing infrastructure.
- Technical Standards transform exciting new concepts into reliable, everyday realities.

Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Demonstrated** the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in developing technical standards for digital technologies

- **Explored** how inclusive standardization contributes to global digital cooperation and the achievement of the **SDGs** in support of the WSIS outcomes.
- **Discussed** case studies on successful multi-stakeholder engagement in IEEE standards development activities
- **Identified** the opportunities for all interested parties to participate in the IEEE standards development process where the WSIS multistakeholder model has been successfully adopted, and is flourishing

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond (2–5 bullet points presenting concrete actions and guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review by UNGA and build the multistakeholder vision of WSIS beyond 2025)

- As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, global standards play a pivotal role in ensuring that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and emerging digital innovations are designed to be scalable, secure, and accessible and safe to use for all.
- Noted that Digital Cooperation, as emphasized in the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, is essential for creating a collaborative, safe, and sustainable digital future for all.
- The multi-stakeholder model in global standards development fosters transparency and global applicability, ensuring that digital infrastructure and services help support the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes for ICT development and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Open, consensus-driven standards provide the necessary foundation for digital transformation, sustainable development, and responsible technology governance, contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, the principles outlined in the UN Global Digital Compact (GDC), and in support of WSIS outcomes.
- Global technical standards are enabling progress in sustainability, connectivity and digital inclusion, with the aim to foster collaboration, share practical insights and inspire meaningful engagement in standards development.
- Standards developed through an open collaborative process have the potential to drive positive change, encourage collaboration and commitment to creating a sustainable digital future.