



Session Outcome Document

Action Line Facilitator Session: C10 Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society

Ethics in AI and Converging Technologies

UNESCO

10 July 2025

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/401>

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)

- The session reaffirmed that ethics must be a foundational and cross-cutting pillar of digital transformation, especially in the context of rapidly evolving and converging technologies such as AI, neurotechnology, and quantum computing.
- Panelists emphasized the need for anticipatory and adaptive governance models, rooted in high-level ethical principles, which can be customized to emerging technologies without reinventing them.
- Public trust and responsible innovation were highlighted as critical enablers for acceptance and deployment of AI and neurotechnologies, particularly as data derived from human cognition becomes more accessible and sensitive.
- The role of soft governance mechanisms—such as ethical guidance and stakeholder engagement—was underscored as essential as legal and regulatory frameworks.
- Speakers and participants stressed that ethics should guide technology design, regulation, and use, ensuring alignment with societal values throughout the entire technology life cycle.

Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Highlighted the growing convergence of emerging technologies and the urgent need for ethical frameworks that are interdisciplinary, anticipatory, and localized.



- Shared concrete national implementation strategies (e.g., Thailand’s implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI) showing how global normative instruments can be translated into actionable policies.
- Reinforced the value of soft governance and stakeholder participation as essential tools to support ethical technology development and avoid the lag of regulation behind innovation.

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)

- Mainstream ethics as a cross-cutting framing in the design, deployment, and regulation of digital technologies, ensuring it is embedded across the entire technology lifecycle.
- Promote interdisciplinary and inclusive governance models that leverage anticipatory ethics, public trust, and stakeholder dialogue—especially in the context of converging technologies.
- Encourage countries to translate global ethical frameworks into tailored national strategies, with support for multi-stakeholder platforms, capacity-building, and institutional mechanisms.
- Recognize ethics as a form of agile soft governance, capable of complementing formal legal and regulatory systems in real-time.
- Strengthen international cooperation to ensure that high-level ethical principles remain stable yet adaptable to diverse technological contexts and local needs.