

INTERNATIONAL  
TELECOMMUNICATION  
UNION

WSIS+20  
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT  
2025

OUTCOME DOCUMENT  
(Draft)







## DISCLAIMER

Please note the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 Outcome Document is a compilation of the outcomes of the sessions (interactive sessions, partner insights, Action Line Facilitation Meetings, High-Level Dialogues, and many more) submitted to the WSIS secretariat by the organizations responsible for their respective sessions. ITU does not hold any responsibility for the outcomes provided by the organizers of the sessions for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025.



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# WSIS+20

## HIGH-LEVEL EVENT 2025

### OUTCOME DOCUMENT

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# WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025: Introduction

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, co-hosted by ITU and the Swiss Confederation and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD, was held from 7 to 11 July 2025 at Palexpo, Geneva. Marking two decades since the inception of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Event served as a multistakeholder platform for reflecting on the pressing need for global collaboration, digital inclusion, and leveraging technology for development. It also provided an opportunity for multistakeholder dialogue on 20 years of digital progress and for shaping a shared vision for the future.

This year's Event reaffirmed the WSIS architecture as the implementation platform for a shared digital future. The WSIS+20 High-Level Event brought together experts, policymakers, and diverse stakeholders from around the world to discuss information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development.

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 welcomed over **11,000 participants** attending both on-site and remotely, from 160 countries worldwide. The Forum gathered more than **500 high-level representatives** of the wider WSIS stakeholder community, including Ministers and Deputies, Regulators, Ambassadors; and leaders from the private sector, academia and civil society. The five-day high-level event's sessions took place from Monday to Friday at Palexpo

This year's Forum had several innovative session formats and featured around **200 sessions**, including interactive sessions, WSIS Action Lines Facilitation Meetings, knowledge cafes, WSIS Prizes, Leaders TalkX sessions, and many more.

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 Chair was **H.E. Mr. Solly Malatsi, Minister Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), South Africa (Republic of)**. During the closing ceremony, the Chair presented the Chair's summary, which summarised the discussions that took place during the five-day Event.



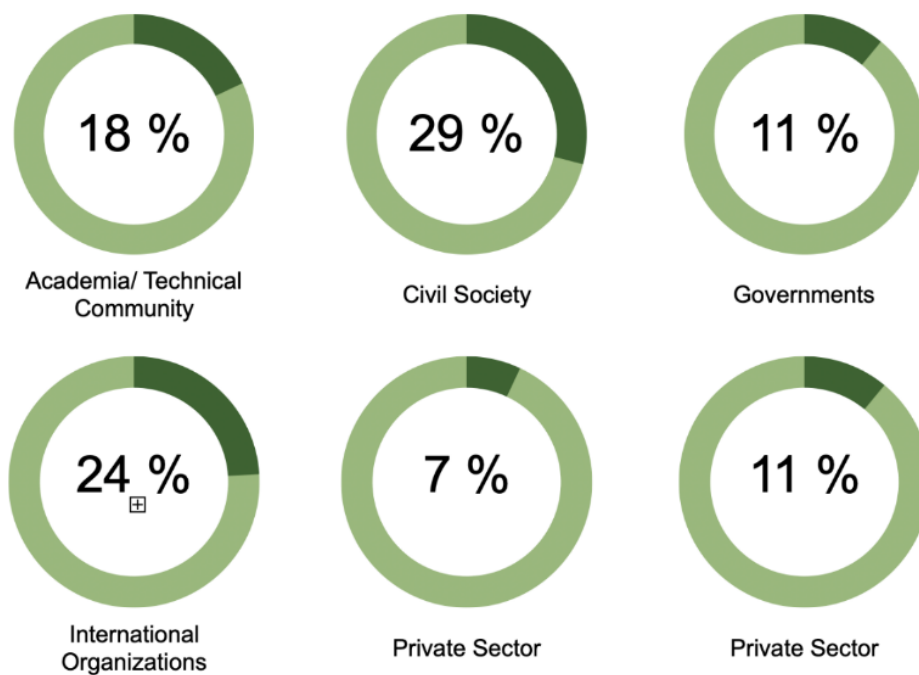
# Open Consultation Process

The agenda and programme of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 were designed in collaboration with the multi-stakeholders on the basis of official submissions received during the Open Consultation Process (OCP) on the thematic aspects and innovations of the format of the Event. Engaging all WSIS stakeholders (governments, international organizations, civil society, private sector, technical community, and academia), this process aims to ensure active participation across sectors in forming the agenda and the programme of the WSIS Forum, highlighting linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The OCP for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 began in November 2024 with consultative meetings organized to collect inputs to shape the programme of the event.

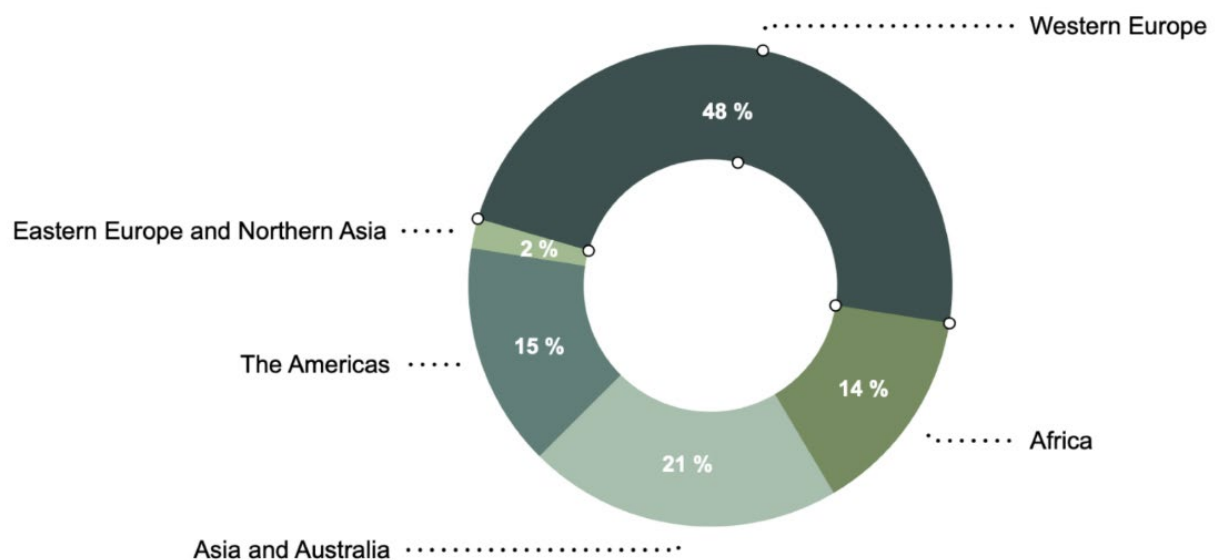
The ITU-WSIS Secretariat received more than 200 submissions containing proposals on the thematic aspects and innovations on the format of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, including binding requests for sessions, exhibition spaces, partnerships, and more. All related information can be found at:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Home/Consultations>

## Stakeholder Type distribution



### Regional distribution of contributions



*\*It is important to note that about half of submissions from Western Europe came from the headquarters of organizations with an international presence.*



# Participation at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025

- Nearly 250 sessions took place throughout the week, including high-level dialogues, Leader TalkX sessions, interactive sessions, knowledge cafés, exhibitions, WSIS Prizes and other ceremonies, a ministerial roundtable, a regulator roundtable, WSIS+20 celebrations, social events, and more, featuring approximately 1,000 speakers.
- Over 11,000 participants from 169 countries walked through the event halls that week, with many more joining online from around the world for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 and AI4G Global Summit.
- The Event brought together 59 ministers and deputies, 56 regulators, more than 60 delegates from UN entities, alongside CEOs, civil society leaders, youth, and representatives from international organizations, the technical community, and academia.
- Participation reflected a strong gender balance, with 44% women and 51% men.
- Over 900 participants actively used the imeetyouatWSIS networking app during the event. Through the app, more than 5,000 connections were made. The top 10 most active users were highlighted on the engagement leaderboard.

# Social Media at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025

The social media presence for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 serves as a key digital channel for sharing updates, highlights, and key moments from the event.

Across multiple platforms, content such as event recaps, session coverage, and announcements is posted regularly, helping both onsite and online participants stay informed and engaged throughout the event.

The coverage of the event is available on the following platforms:

- [WSIS Process X](#)
- [WSIS Process Facebook](#)
- [WSIS Process Instagram](#)
- [WSIS Process LinkedIn](#)
- [WSIS Flash](#)

# PRESS COVERAGE

- **Press products:**
  - A series of press products was produced to support media coverage of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, including 3 press releases, 1 media advisory, and several coverage planning notes. The WSIS Forum was also mentioned in 2 AI for Good press releases given the shared location.
  - The WSIS opening press release was sent to 5,800 reporters, with an opening rate of 27.1% and click rate of 6.5% (above the industry average of 15-25% and 3.2%).
  - The closing press release was sent to more than 6,000 reporters, with an opening rate of 17.9% and click rate of 4.5% (above the industry average of 3.2%).
- **Media accreditation and coverage:**
  - **Media coverage of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 emphasized its role as a milestone in global digital development.** It highlighted ITU's facilitation of dialogue among high-level delegations, Ministers, technology leaders, and private sector representatives, reflecting the event's multistakeholder approach. National outlets, especially from WSIS Prizes winners, frequently showcased the recognition of national projects and initiatives, including coverage by prominent media such as CGTN.
  - **Between 1 and 16 July, 3k mentions were monitored** in English, Arabic, Persian, Indonesian, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Lithuanian and Spanish, with a total of **2.92 million estimated views** by Meltwater.
  - **The peak of mentions occurred on Thursday, 10 July 2025**, driven by ZTE's press release and robust coverage from African outlets.
  - **Sentiment was positive** (59.5%) to neutral (40%).
  - **Top countries** that covered the event were: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, United States, Algeria, Bahrain, India, Türkiye, and Jordan.

- Inquiries and interviews:
  - ITU160 and the WSIS+20 High-Level Event in French [podcast episode](#) on 8 July.
  - Interview with the President of Estonia, H.E. Alar Karis, on [Youtube](#). The Press Service also facilitated [an interview](#) between Euronews and the President of Estonia.
  - A series of interviews with WSIS Prize winners and Ministers, which were posted on ITU's YouTube channel [here](#).

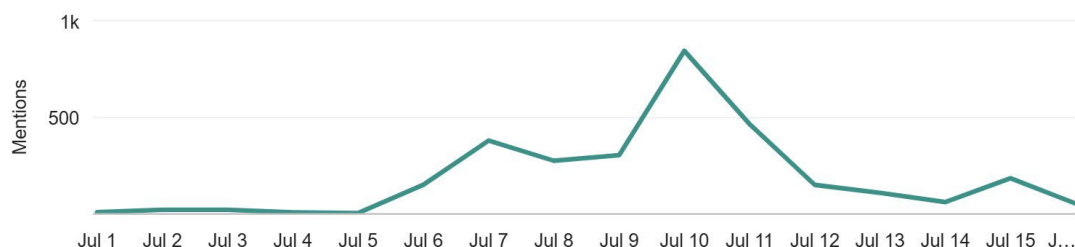
## Key infographics

### Top mentions - WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025



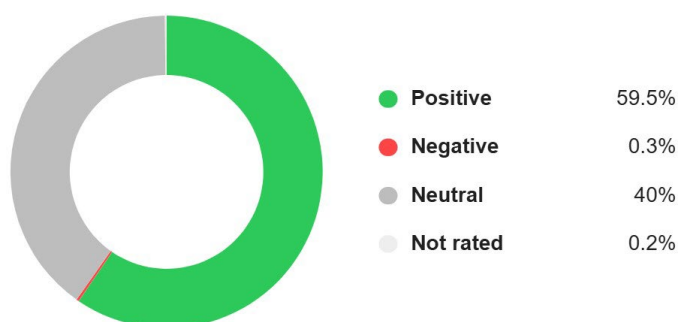
### Mentions Trend

Jul 1 - Jul 16



### Sentiment Breakdown

Jul 1 - Jul 16



### Key mentions

## KEYSTONE SDA

### AI: ITU wants “agile” regulation in the face of rapid changes

*Keystone-SDA via Swissinfo* (Switzerland) - 2 July 2025

(machine translation) "When it comes to artificial intelligence, things are moving so quickly that countries are struggling to keep up," Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin told a handful of reporters in Geneva on Wednesday. ... In total, more than 10,000 people are expected next week for a follow-up event more than 20 years after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the "AI for Good" meeting. As every year, robots will be present at this event. A flying car will also be on display at this meeting, which highlights the positive uses of AI in education, health, and the economy in different countries. (Syndicated)

## submarine telecoms FORUM

### WSIS+20 Panel to Address Strengthening International Cooperation on Submarine Cable Resilience

*Submarine Telecoms Forum* (US) - 3 July 2025

The high-level panel, titled-level panel, titled ‘Strengthening the Resilience of Submarine Telecommunication Cables’, features an impressive lineup of speakers. ... The panel will be moderated by ITU Deputy Secretary General Tomas Lamanauskas, Co-Secretary of the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience.



What to watch this week: ‘Agile’ AI rules

*Geneva Solutions* (Switzerland) - 7 July 2025

[Excerpt from the Geneva Solutions newsletter]

More than 10,000 government ministers, tech leaders, civil society experts – and robots – will gather at Geneva's Palexpo conference centre this week for the UN tech agency's annual summit dedicated to AI, double-backed with a high-level forum on digital development and cooperation. This year marks 20 years since governments came together in Tunis for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The year's meeting, from 7 to 11 July, is aimed at reviewing progress since 2005 in levelling the global digital playing field, as well as wrestling with crucial questions regarding future AI governance.



## WSIS+20 High-Level event 2025 kicks off with wide participation

*Kuwait News Agency* (Kuwait) - 7 July 2025

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 officially kicked off Monday with the participation of a high-level delegation from Kuwait headed by Communications Minister Omar Al-Omar, and a wide range of representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia. ... The summit is held in parallel with the "AI for Good Global Summit 2025" aiming to foster digital cooperation and address emerging technological challenges.



## Two decades on, WSIS+20 sets course for inclusive digital future

*Digwatch* (Switzerland) - 7 July 2025

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event opened in Geneva with a celebratory yet forward-looking tone, marking the 20th anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society. ... ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin called multistakeholder collaboration 'the beating heart of WSIS,' reaffirming its importance in guiding digital development.



## WSIS+20 Event 2025 Preps for Crucial UN Review

*The Mirage News* (Australia) - 8 July 2025

Ministers, industry leaders, and representatives of international organizations and civil society joined together today at the inauguration of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, in preparation for the UN General Assembly's review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process due in December. ... "For twenty years, WSIS has united the global community around a vision of a digital world that works for everyone," said ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin. (Also in [Auspul](#), [Cyber Era](#), [IT Edge News](#), [THD](#))



**"ITU is like the head chef in the kitchen of digital diplomacy, making sure technology serves all of humanity"**

ONU Info Genève (Switzerland) – 8 July 2025

[Podcast with Monika Gehner on ITU's 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary and WSIS+20. In French.]



## Geneva Hosts Landmark WSIS+20 Summit on Digital Cooperation

IT Edge News (Nigeria) - 13 July 2025

This week, Geneva became the epicenter of global digital policy as 11,000+ participants from 169 countries gathered for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event. Co-hosted by the ITU and Switzerland, the summit reviewed two decades of progress under the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and set priorities for the future. ... “WSIS is the blueprint for an inclusive digital society,” said Doreen Bogdan-Martin, ITU Secretary-General.



## WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 charts path for a sustainable digital future that includes all

Telekomkh (Spain) - 14 July 2025

Geneva served as the centre of global digital dialogue this week as technology leaders, policymakers, and innovators reviewed 20 years of progress and the future of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Co-hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Swiss Confederation, the WSIS+20 High-Level Event, held this week at Palexpo convention center alongside the AI for Good Global Summit, contributed to a combined total of over 11,000 participants from 169 countries.

## Country participation



## Malaysia highlights inclusive digital agenda at WSIS+20 in Geneva

The Vibes (Malaysia) - 6 July 2025

Malaysia is showcasing its commitment to inclusive and sustainable digital development at the World Summit on the Information Society +20 High-Level Event (WSIS+20), taking place in Geneva from 7 to 11 July 2025. Led by Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, the Malaysian delegation is participating in the summit.



## Tanzania's ICT Minister meets ITU Secretary-General ahead of WSIS20 High-Level Event

Diramakini (Tanzania) - 7 July 2025

Jerry William Silaa , Minister for Communication and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania, held a bilateral meeting with Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), ahead of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025.



### Egypt Engages in WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, AI for Good Global Summit *Business Tech* (Egypt) - 6 July 2025

The Minister of Communications and Information Technology Amr Talaat has headed to Geneva to participate in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 High-Level Event 2025 and the AI for Good Global Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).



### Minister Mavetera and POTRAZ DG Join Global Push for Inclusive Digital Future at WSIS+20 Forum in Geneva

*Technomag* (Zimbabwe) - 7 July 2025

Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services, Hon. Tatenda Mavetera, is attending the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) High-Level Forum 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. ... The WSIS+20 High-Level Event is taking place from 7 to 11 July 2025 at Palexpo in Geneva. It is co-hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Swiss Confederation and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD.



### Saudi Arabia Showcases Digital Leadership, Support For ITU Goals

*Saudi Press Agency* (Saudi Arabia) – 10 July 2025

At the WSIS+20 Forum in Geneva, Saudi Arabia showcased its global digital leadership, highlighting its top rankings in ICT development and digital government. The Kingdom emphasized its inclusive AI strategy, growth in the tech workforce, and major investments in digital infrastructure. Vice Minister Haytham Al-Ohali reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to international cooperation and sustainable digital transformation.

## WSIS PRIZES 2025



### Haiti - ISOC Haiti: Champion and winner of the “WSIS Prizes 2025” winners

*Haiti Libre* (Haiti) - 6 July 2025

(machine translation) The Community Networks in Haiti project, led by ISOC Haiti, has been selected as a winner of the World Summit on the Information Society Prizes 2025 (WSIS Prizes) by the

International Telecommunications Union (ITU). This prestigious distinction will be celebrated at the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event, which will be held from July 7 to 12, 2025 in Geneva.



## The World WSIS 2025 Forum awards SDAIA a Certificate of Excellence for organizing the first international edition of the International Olympiad for Artificial Intelligence

*Saudi Press Agency (Saudi Arabia) - 7 July 2025*

(machine translation) The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS 2025) Forum awarded the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA) a certificate of excellence for organizing the first global edition of the "International Olympiad for Artificial Intelligence", as it was selected as an outstanding project in the seventh category (E-Science), during the WSIS Prizes 2025 ceremony, held on the sidelines of the AI for Good Summit during the period (8-11) July 2025 in Geneva.



## NCC Wins Global ICT Award for Digital Awareness in Schools

*Communications Week (Nigeria) - 7 July 2025*

Nigeria, through the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), has won the 2025 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) prize for its project, the Digital Awareness Programme (DAP), under Category C3, which is on Access to Information and Knowledge.



## TAMM wins best E-Government project at United Nations-backed WSIS Prizes 2025

*Zawya (UAE) - 7 July 2025*

TAMM has been named the world's best E-Government project at the WSIS Prizes 2025, which is an initiative supported by the United Nations. ... Led by the International Telecommunication Union, the WSIS Prizes are among the most renowned global awards in Information and Communication Technology, granted annually to initiatives that make a significant contribution toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## MCMC'S NADI Digital Inclusive Project crowned as winner in WSIS 2025

*New Straits Times (Malaysia) - 7 July 2025*

The NADI Digital Inclusive Project by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) has been crowned as the winner of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Award 2025. ... The WSIS Prizes are organised by ITU in cooperation with UN agencies to celebrate information and communication technology (ICT) projects that drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## Qatar wins 2025 WSIS Prize for its Cyber Security Curriculum Project

*Qatar Tribune* (Qatar) - 8 July 2025

Qatar, represented by the National Cyber Security Agency, has been awarded the 2025 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize for its "Cyber Security Curriculum Project." The recognition was granted in the ALC10 category: Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in cooperation with the Swiss Confederation.

## CGTN

### China's weather warning project wins 2025 WSIS prize

*CGTN* (China) - 8 July 2025

A Chinese-developed meteorological disaster early warning project won the 2025 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) prize at the WSIS Forum on Monday. Altogether 19 winners were selected from 973 submissions for this year's WSIS prizes. ... This year's WSIS Forum, co-hosted by the International Telecommunication Union and the Swiss Confederation, will serve as a platform for government and industry representatives from over 150 countries to explore ways to address the digital divide and global technological challenges, as well as discuss emerging technology trends.

## IT-ONLINE

IT INDUSTRY NEWS. DAILY.

### SA shines at WSIS awards

*IT-Online* (Nigeria) - 8 July 2025

South Africa's Department of Communications and Digital Technologies has won an award from the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), for using emerging technologies to bridge the digital divide and advance socio-economic progress. ... "For 20 years, WSIS has united the global community around a vision of a digital world that works for everyone," says ITU secretary-general Doreen BogdanMartin.

## TELECOM Review

telecomreviewafrica.com

### ZTE's "Signal Reach Program" Wins WSIS 2025 Champion Award

*Telecom Review Africa* (UAE) – 8 July 2025

ZTE Corporation, a global leading provider of integrated information and communication technology (ICT) solutions, stood out from numerous proposals with its 'Signal Reach Program,' implemented in Africa, winning the WSIS Champion Award (Champion Projects) at the 2025 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Awards Ceremony. Notably, ZTE was the only Chinese enterprise to receive this prestigious honor in the field of ICT cultural diversity.

## THE ASTANA TIMES

BRINGING KAZAKHSTAN TO THE WORLD

### Kazakhstan's IT Project Triumphs at World Summit on Information Society

*Astana Times* (Kazakhstan) - 8 July 2025

Kazakhstan's Situational and Analytical Complex (SAC) project has secured first place in its category at the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2025. ... The prize was presented by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Doreen BogdanMartin.

## TEHRAN TIMES

### Iran Digital National Plan wins WSIS Champion Award

*Tehran Times* (Iran) - 8 July 2025

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has awarded the Iran Digital National Plan project as one of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) champions 2025 in the E-Business category. The WSIS Prizes 2025 recognizes outstanding projects that leverage information and communication technologies to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.



### Oman's 'Dhamani' platform ranks 5th globally at WSIS+20 Forum

*The Arabian Stories* (Oman) - 8 July 2025

The FSA won the fifth position globally after the National Health Insurance Platform "Dhamani" was rated among the best digital platforms in the category of information technology applications for e-government at the World Summit on Information Society Forum "WSIS +20" for the year 2025. The event, held in Geneva, was organized by the International Telecommunication Union.



### Thailand's Anti-Online Scam Operation Centre Wins "WSIS Prizes 2025" in Geneva

*The Nation* (Thailand) - 8 July 2025

DES Minister Prasert Jantararungtong announced on Monday that he and the ministry's permanent secretary, Wisit Wisitsora-at, received the award from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) +20 High-Level Event 2025.



### NCST honoured by ITU at WSIS+20 High Level Event

*Bahrain News Agency* (Bahrain) - 8 July 2025

The HH Shaikh Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Centre, the research and development arm of the Nasser Centre for Science and Technology (NCST), was honoured at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2025, organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialised agency of the United Nations, and held in Switzerland.

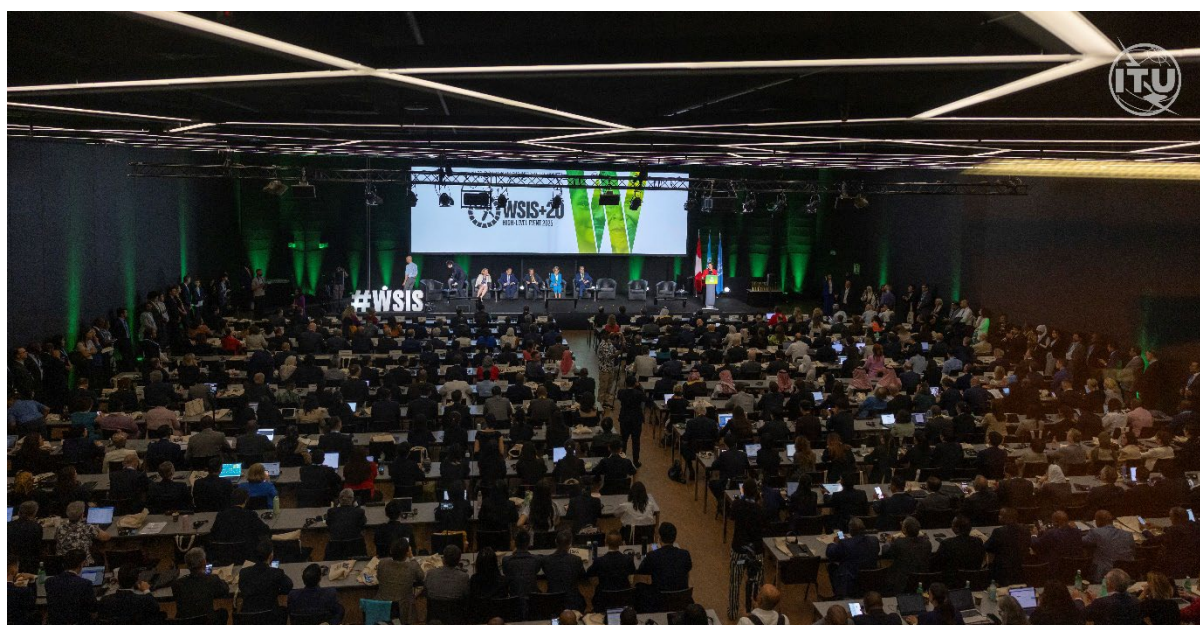
# High-Level Plenary Sessions

## WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 Inaugural Session: Celebrating Two Decades and Achieving Future Milestones Together

Monday, 07 July 2025, 09:00-09:30

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/128>



### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Celebrating 20 years of impact: Internet users have grown from ~1 billion in 2003 (16 %) to roughly 5.5 billion (~68 %) by 2025, illustrating WSIS-led connectivity evolution.
- Multistakeholder engagement as foundational: Over the past two decades, WSIS has mobilized more than 50,000 participants from 160 countries—including governments, civil society, youth, academia, and the private sector—to co-design digital cooperation.

- Digital divide still persistent: Approximately 2.6 billion people remain unconnected; significant disparities in access, gender, and affordability remain urgent priorities.
- Bridging the worlds of opportunity and exclusion: UNCTAD highlighted a stark dual reality—AI-enabled transformation in some regions versus nearly half the globe excluded from governance and access.
- Need for a “WSIS 2.0” vision: UNESCO and others called for an updated, agile, action-oriented framework that tackles misinformation, gender digital divides, and aligns with the Global Digital Compact and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Strong UN system alignment urged: Speakers recommended integrating WSIS Action Lines with existing mechanisms (IGF, Global Digital Compact, UN governance structures) rather than duplicating efforts.
- Human-centric digital transformation: Emphasis on AI and digital tools as enablers of human agency, inclusion, equity, rights protection, and sustainable development.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

- Key Achievements:
  - Recognition of WSIS as a durable global cooperation platform, with proven multistakeholder success in growing connectivity, digital skills, cybersecurity and ethics.
  - Reinforced legitimacy of the WSIS Forum and IGF as central mechanisms for implementing the Global Digital Compact and future digital governance.
- Announcements / Launches:
  - Symbolic handover of WSIS+20 High-Level Event Chairship from Switzerland to South Africa (Minister Solly Malatsi), underscoring global, inclusive stewardship.
- Agreements / Commitments:

- Collective commitment to align WSIS Action Lines with the Global Digital Compact and ensure coherence across UN digital cooperation frameworks.
- Pledge to bolster digital access, ethical AI, digital skills, cybersecurity, and human rights in global digital development agendas.

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

1. Recalibrate WSIS into “WSIS 2.0”—an adaptive, future-oriented digital cooperation framework addressing AI governance, misinformation, gender divides, sustainability, while aligning with the Global Digital Compact and SDGs.
2. Strengthening multistakeholder implementation mechanisms, including the WSIS Forum and IGF, as primary vehicles for global digital governance rather than creating new, duplicative structures
3. Target universal and meaningful connectivity by prioritizing access for the 2.6 billion still offline, expanding digital skills and inclusivity, especially for underserved and marginalized populations.
4. Ensure human-centered AI and digital transformation, emphasizing human agency, ethical safeguards, equitable benefit, rights-based design, and alignment with development goals.
5. Deepen UN system alignment and coordination, leveraging co-facilitators (e.g. Albania, Kenya) and major platforms (WSIS structure, UNGIS, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNDP) to monitor progress, avoid duplication, and maximize impact in the WSIS+20 review and broader UNGA process.

## Special Remarks - WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 WSIS Long-Standing Partner (United Arab Emirates)

Monday, 07 July 2025, 09:30-09:34

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/531>

## Keynote Address by the President of the Republic of Estonia

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 10:50-11:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/545>

## High-Level Track Facilitators Certificates

Friday, 11 July 2025, 15:30-16:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/486>

# Ministerial Roundtable

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 14:30-16:30

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/183>

The Ministerial roundtable held during the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 brought together ministers representing all the regions of the world. Ministers present reflected on the past two decades of digital development and considered the path forward for digital cooperation based on the priorities set by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process.

The discussions addressed three key topics:

- National digital priorities & implementation needs
- Emerging digital trends
- WSIS beyond 2025: achieving future milestones together

## **Topic 1: National digital priorities & implementation needs**

The original two-phase summit in 2003 and 2005 established a global vision for inclusive digital development, expressed in the Geneva Declaration and Tunis Agenda. Since then, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has led key aspects of the WSIS process, helping to advance connectivity, infrastructure and cybersecurity, with Internet use rising from 16% in 2005 to 68% in 2024.

The WSIS+10 review in 2015 and the upcoming WSIS+20 in December 2025 align with global development goals. Through its multistakeholder approach, the WSIS process led by ITU continues to address digital divides and promote equitable access, innovation, and sustainable progress in the information society.

Some Ministers noted advances in digital public services and financial inclusion, as well as expanding broadband connectivity and national strategies on artificial intelligence (AI). Developing countries count on technical assistance to help them move from planning for digital transformation projects to effective implementation.

Infrastructure remains a cornerstone for digital growth, although financing remains a challenge for many countries.

Other participants noted the need for ITU to enhance submarine cable security for equitable digital access, bring countries together to combat fraud and deepfakes, and strengthen cybersecurity. Protecting children online remains crucial as technologies evolve.

Several recommendations emerged from the discussion on this topic:

- The WSIS process – founded on outcomes from the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and 2005 – should continue to serve as the framework for digital cooperation at the international, regional, and national levels, encompassing both policy development and implementation efforts.
- The multistakeholder WSIS Forum should continue annually beyond 2025 to keep advancing dialogue, collaboration, and progress on emerging digital challenges and opportunities.
- ITU should maintain its leadership role in implementing the WSIS process, with the annual WSIS Forum fostering inclusive participation and driving progress on the WSIS Action Lines.
- Governments are encouraged to persist in implementing WSIS outcomes in close collaboration with UN lead facilitators.

## **Topic 2: Emerging digital trends**

The technology and telecommunications landscape continue evolving rapidly, with breakthroughs in 5G, AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), and quantum computing, along with satellite communications and the Internet, transforming economies and enabling smarter services. However, digital divides continue widening.

Several ministers called for ITU to maintain strong coordination to ensure robust collaboration among governments and other stakeholders on emerging digital-related issues. Interventions also urged intensified cooperation to ensure responsible development of new technologies based on shared standards and safeguards. There was acknowledgement that AI offers innovative public and industrial applications, yet raises concerns about governance, fairness, and transparency. AI, quantum and IoT applications introduce new security risks that countries must address to ensure sustainable progress.

The discussion noted that space-based technologies are becoming vital for connectivity. Addressing their complexities and sustainability challenges requires inclusive strategies, robust governance, and international cooperation to ensure equitable and secure digital transformation for all. Participants also noted the need to expand digital skills at all levels, as well as the opportunity to preserve cultures and languages through AI applications.

Based on discussions on this topic, the recommendations included the following:

- Governments and other stakeholders are encouraged to strengthen collaboration, leveraging the ITU's coordination role and expertise in global standards development, technical assistance, and fostering international cooperation to ensure that the design, deployment, and governance of emerging technologies – such as AI, 5G, IoT, quantum computing, and space technologies – advance digital innovation, equitable access, and long-term benefits of digital transformation.
- The WSIS framework should be further strengthened to support agile policy responses, capacity development, and multistakeholder cooperation on emerging trends, with particular attention to promoting responsible and trustworthy technology use and enhancing the resilience of digital infrastructure.
- International cooperation, facilitated by the UN system, remains essential to shape a safe, inclusive, and sustainable digital future. Joint efforts are needed to advance key priorities such as standard-setting, technical and policy assistance, and knowledge exchange.

### **Topic 3: WSIS beyond 2025: achieving future milestones together**

The WSIS+20 Overall Review, set for 16–17 December 2025, will assess progress on WSIS outcomes with input from all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and the private sector. It aims to highlight successes, challenges, and best practices to guide future digital development in line with the UN's Pact for the Future and Global Digital Compact, emphasizing coherence and avoiding duplication.

Participants in the session expressed unanimous support for continuing the WSIS process, building on its core strengths as an inclusive, rights-based and

technologically neutral multistakeholder platform. As the process continues, it must remain agile and responsive to emerging challenges, embracing innovation while remaining human-centric. Ministers also called for ITU to continue playing a leading role in this process moving forward.

Implementation of the Global Digital Compact needs to align with the WSIS process, the roundtable participants agreed. Existing WSIS structures must be strengthened, with multistakeholder engagement continuing to drive sustainable digital development and ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are accessible to all individuals and communities.

Recommendations emerging on this topic included the following:

- The WSIS process continues to drive sustainable digital development through a humancentric, people-oriented, development-focused, and inclusive approach.
- The Global Digital Compact should align with the WSIS process to avoid duplication.
- Existing WSIS structures must be strengthened through ongoing multistakeholder engagement to drive sustainable digital development and ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are accessible to all individuals and communities.

### **Overall meeting outcomes**

The roundtable reaffirmed the enduring relevance of WSIS as a platform for inclusive digital development. Multistakeholder engagement, international solidarity and global collaboration remain crucial to bridge divides, harness emerging technologies, and build the digital future for all.

Roundtable participants also noted that fully digitized societies and economies depend entirely on connectivity; that ITU should address cable disruptions to guarantee equitable digital access; that AI-powered cyberattacks necessitate rules-based regulation; and that countries and stakeholders must act together against deepfakes and fraud. The meeting confirmed strong support for collaboration among stakeholders on various issues, including cybersecurity and saving languages and cultures.

Furthermore, the dialogue underscored the urgent need for digital technologies to serve equity, peace, and sustainability, particularly as digital divides evolve beyond Internet access to encompass AI, trust, and governance. Ministers reiterated the

need to avoid duplication of the existing, UN-mandated, multistakeholder WSIS process as the basis for global digital cooperation. As the Ministerial roundtable concluded, the participating ministers reaffirmed the need to continue strengthening the multistakeholder approach, adding that they looked forward to reconvening at the next WSIS Forum in 2026.

# Regulators Roundtable

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 15:15-17:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/495>

For the first time, the annual WSIS Forum featured a regulators' roundtable, which brought together around 50 regulators from around the world. This high-level gathering served as a platform to address pressing issues and to develop a forward-looking action plan for the evolving role of ICT regulators in an era of rapid digital transformation. The roundtable focused on three key themes: enabling innovation and mitigating risks, cross-sectoral collaboration and harmonization, and building capacity and future-proofing regulation. Below is a summary of the key issues discussed, tangible outcomes achieved, and recommendations that emerged from the discussion.

## Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **The Evolving Role of the Regulator:** A strong consensus emerged that the role of the ICT regulator must evolve from a traditional, siloed supervisor into an agile, proactive, and collaborative "digital ecosystem builder." This represents a fundamental shift in mindset and operational approach.
- **The Imperative of Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:** The discussion highlighted that digital regulation can no longer exist in isolation. A "whole-of-government" approach is now essential, requiring formal collaboration mechanisms (e.g., joint task forces, MOUs) between ICT regulators and authorities in finance, health, data protection, and competition.
- **The Shift to Proactive and Agile Regulation:** There was universal agreement that traditional "wait-and-see" regulation is no longer viable. The session showcased the increasing adoption of proactive tools like regulatory sandboxes, pilot projects, and "regulation through data" to understand and guide innovation safely, rather than stifle it.
- **The "Implementation Gap" Caused by Outdated Mandates:** A critical challenge identified by numerous regulators is the constraint of outdated legal and legislative mandates. The slow pace of legislative reform often

leaves regulators without the clear authority to address new digital actors and complex issues like data governance and AI.

- **The Borderless Nature of the Digital Economy:** The session underscored the limitations of purely national regulation in a globalized digital world. The borderless nature of technology creates challenges of regulatory arbitrage and highlights the urgent need for more effective international harmonization and cooperation.
- **The Need for New Capacities and Skills:** To be "future-proof," regulatory bodies require a fundamental shift in human capital. This includes developing internal expertise in data analytics, strategic foresight, and behavioral economics, and fostering a culture of continuous learning.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

- The session provided **a strong validation for the four pillars** of the draft GSR-25 Best Practice Guidelines (Fostering Innovation, Adapting Capacity, Harnessing Technology, and Cross-Border Cooperation).
- A rich exchange of **concrete national case studies and best practices** from over 30 regulatory authorities, demonstrating diverse and innovative approaches to common challenges.
- The dialogue generated direct, high-level input from the global regulatory community that will be used to refine the first official draft of the GSR-25 Best Practice Guidelines, which serves as the world's regulatory blueprint.

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

- **Prioritize the Modernization of Regulatory Mandates:** Encourage Member States to initiate processes to update national legal and legislative frameworks, providing regulators with the necessary authority and flexibility to effectively govern the entire digital ecosystem.
- **Strengthen International and Regional Cooperation:** Reinforce the role of international and regional platforms to foster harmonized regulatory approaches, share best practices, and build collective capacity to address the challenges of the borderless digital economy.
- **Promote Principle-Based and "Future-Proof" Regulation:** Advocate for a move towards more agile, principle-based, and outcome-oriented regulatory frameworks that focus on fundamental goals (e.g., competition,

consumer trust, inclusion) and can remain relevant as specific technologies evolve.

- **Formalize Structured Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Support the creation of formal platforms and networks for structured learning, where regulators can share detailed case studies on how they have successfully implemented institutional and legal reforms.
- **Recognize the Regulator's Role as a National Advocate:** Acknowledge and support the regulator's evolving role as a key advocate for digital development within their own government, championing the need for legislative updates and cross-sectoral collaboration at the highest political levels.

# Strategic Partners Spotlight

## **Spotlight Keynote by Malaysia - Platinum Partner**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 10:04-10:08

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/533>

## **Spotlight Keynote by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Gold Partner**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 10:09-10:11

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/535>

## **Spotlight Keynote by South Africa - Gold Partner**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 10:11-10:14

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/537>

# Partner's Insight

## The UAE's AI-Native Blueprint: A New Era of Government

Monday, 07 July 2025, 14:00-15:00

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/359>

## **The Last Mile, Reimagined: Building Truly Connected Communities (Malaysia)**

Monday, 07 July 2025, 15:15-16:15

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/164>**

## **Community-centered connectivity: Empowering local champions to expand Internet access for all (Internet Society)**

Monday, 07 July 2025, 16:30-17:30

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/405>

### **Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The digital divide persists: 2.6 billion people remain offline globally. In India, for example, only 30% of rural residents have smartphones.
- Community-led connectivity is effective: local models (e.g., Assam's digital centers, Mexico's indigenous mobile networks) show scalable and sustainable impact.
- Affordable technology solutions exist: license-free solutions can deliver connectivity at a lower price.
- Policy barriers, such as high customs duties, spectrum access issues, and misaligned regulations, hinder grassroots efforts.
- Sustainability requires local ownership: long-term impact depends on training, entrepreneurship, and community-led operations.
- Connectivity must be purposeful: people engage more with the Internet when it meets real needs (e.g. health, income, education).

### **Tangible Outcomes of the Session**

#### **Key Achievements**

- Showcased community connectivity models from India, Mexico, Ghana, South Africa, Mongolia, and Nigeria that have proven successful.

- Highlighted the Internet Society's support for local champions through mentorship and funding programs
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of youth- and community-led strategies in closing the digital gap.

### Announcements and Initiatives Presented

- **Indigenous mobile networks (Mexico):** 17 communities run their mobile service for 2 USD a month; the first of its kind led by Indigenous groups.
- **Youth tech training (Giga, Mongolia):** Young people were trained to fix the school Internet, which helped reduce downtime and build local skills.
- **Air quality (Nigeria):** communities tracked pollution using digital tools, pushing for better Internet access.
- **Pan-African youth training:** Over 2000 young people across Africa were trained in Internet policies in five languages.
- **AI for farming (Ghana):** AI tools used to help farmers share info and improve practices.
- **Satellite and disaster training (Ghana):** communities learned to set up satellite Internet after disasters.

### Key Recommendations and Action Plan for WSIS+20 and Beyond

- Scale community-based models: prioritize grassroots-driven infrastructure and local champions.
- Invest in youth and women: expand access to training, funding, and leadership roles.

- Enable affordable technology: promote the use of low-cost, license-free digital infrastructure.
- Support multi-level ecosystems: encourage partnerships from local to global levels for sustainability.

**Collaborative Innovation Ecosystem and Digital Transformation:  
Accelerating the Achievement of Global Sustainable Development  
Goals (SDGs) (China Academy of Information and Communications  
Technology)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 11:00-11:45

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/411>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

The ITU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development advances ecosystem collaboration through its Experts Network, Network of ITU Acceleration Centres, and Digital Transformation Labs. These mechanisms have enabled research on startup investment frameworks and scalable solutions in developing countries like South Africa, Kenya and China.

- Open collaboration ecosystems, where large enterprises provide scalable infrastructure and local SMEs and startups deliver scenario-specific applications, offer developing nations an efficient pathway to adopt emerging technologies like AI and IoT. Platforms like ITU can accelerate this

process by synchronizing global entrepreneurship resources and coordinating multi-stakeholder partnerships.

- There are 2.6 billion people remain unconnected globally, with SMEs and startups constrained by bandwidth limitations and cybersecurity risks. Equitable infrastructure cost-sharing among technology providers, energy utilities, and telecom operators can bridge the connectivity divide while de-risking digital transformation for these enterprises.
- Africa's SMEs digital adoption rate remains critically low at 20%, with widespread challenges including funding gaps, skills shortages, and fragmented policies. ICT-driven solutions can accelerate SMEs transformation in R&D, smart manufacturing, and other scenarios.
- Capacity-building courses developed by ITU Acceleration Centres enabled cross-regional sustainable transitions. CAICT will distil replicable policy guidelines through its forthcoming Strategy Foresight Report and Case Studies Collection, accelerating the global scaling of best practices.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- CAICT seeks to build a platform for collaboration with SMEs based on the learning from a foresight study and the global cases.
- CAICT will launch a survey and publish a Call for more cases to be contributed.

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

- Advance the development of global and regional innovation acceleration networks by leveraging the Network of ITU Acceleration Centres (currently operational in 17 centres including South Africa, Kenya, and China).
- Acceleration Centres will collaborate transnationally to advance knowledge sharing, experience exchange, and talent development. Through tools including cross-border sandbox environments, youth entrepreneurship pipelines, and policy regulatory sandboxes, they will drive digital transformation for SMEs and startups in developing countries.
- ITU Acceleration Centres will advance knowledge sharing, experience exchange, and talent development through transnational collaboration, and will further explore new mechanisms, including cross-border sandbox

environments, youth entrepreneurship pipelines, and policy regulatory sandboxes, to continuously drive digital transformation for SMEs and startups in developing countries.

## Global Standards for a Sustainable Digital Future (IEEE)

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 11:30-12:30

**Please find the session details here:**

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

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

Through participatory dialogue and shared readouts, the session surfaced insights and pathways for embedding sustainability-by-design into real-world systems-bridging global goals and global standards with specific local community-centered issues, goals and opportunities to arrive at local context-based solutions that align with the WSIS Action Lines. This was a unique multi-stakeholder opportunity for policymakers, technical professionals, civil society, standards experts and others to co-create knowledge on how to develop local sustainable solutions and scale sustainability through standards, innovation and policy alignment.

The discussion included key issues around strong sustainability principles, technical standards, and policy approaches that are people and place centered, and that can work together to advance progress toward the UN SDGs looking at the local issues to grow and map solutions at the national and international level, such as:

- AI and the energy it use where discussed, and the depletion of resources by frontier technologies. It brings inequality. This should be addressed by government and regulations, but standards can offer a way forward.
- E-waste, direct and indirect impacts were discussed, incl. the ability/right to repair and make sure that hardware can carry new software.
- Oil & Gas extraction, which needs to be sustainable at the local levels and technology can be instrumental in that. Oil & Gas technology shall not aim at maximizing extraction, but at safeguarding local communities.
- Polarization of the debate. Sustainability needs to be on the political agenda of all countries at the local levels. Increasing awareness and work of not-for-profit organisations, such as IEEE, at the local, section level is important.
- Increase awareness of the sustainability footprint of products/services we use and what the degree of responsibilities of the different parties involved is. Technical standards can offer a way forward, becoming norms or soft law and being widely accepted.
- New methodologies for Life cycle assessment based on new standards are needed. Environmental Impact Assessment should be based on new

standards: Standards are not developed by Government and Technical communities, but in a multi-stakeholder approach. Big tech companies need to be pooled to work on these standards, without having them set those standards unilaterally.

- Looking at sustainability issues through the lens of the local community to identify the key issues and needs to support the advancement of the global sustainability ecosystem and address the WSIS Action Line implementation to meet the 2030 goals.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- The commitment to standards, technology design and local governance as they can advance strong sustainability by addressing regenerative systems, ecological integrity and long-term resilience; enable locally grounded solutions reflecting place-based realities and priorities. These can support measurable progress toward the SDGs.
- It was agreed that standards and policy tools can work together to scale solutions globally while remaining grounded locally.
- Opportunities for collaborative initiatives were identified that help align standards development with sustainability targets.
- Actionable insights were highlighted that help inform the IEEE Planet Positive 2030 sustainability initiative and its engagement with communities.

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

- Concrete actions and key recommendations related to SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities); SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production); and SDG 13 (climate action) included:
- Poor e-waste management and water pollution can be addressed if local governments partnered with youth groups and offered incentives. National policy should support producer responsibility, where sellers help collect old devices. Public education through radio, schools, and social media should emphasize e-waste dangers and solutions. This approach creates green jobs, protects health, and promotes a circular economy. It's low-cost, people-powered, and scalable.

- To adapt strong sustainability by design to local social and cultural contexts, we need to start by redefining what 'sustainability' means to our people. In many communities, sustainability is embedded in our traditions: we fix before we throw, we share land and water, and we respect nature.
- When strong sustainability by design is applied at the local level, communities can become not just passive beneficiaries, but active creators of solutions. It can lead to cleaner, healthier environments because the solutions are culturally accepted and designed for long-term use. It can also open up opportunities for job creation, especially for youth and women whether in green construction, local recycling, or sustainable agriculture. It can strengthen social cohesion, as people work together around shared values and community-driven projects.
- A mindset shift is required, because when sustainability is not seen as a foreign idea, it becomes part of everyday life. This transformation builds real resilience, pride, and dignity from the grassroots up and that's where true development begins.

**Governance and assessment of AI systems for reliable service  
delivery: EY (Ernst & Young LLP)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 14:00-14:45

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/177>**

## **Harnessing AI to Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Role of Governments (Rwanda)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 16:00-16:45

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/351>

## **Médias et journalisme à l'ère de l'IA et face au défi de la désinformation (Permanent Mission of Belgium - Wallonie-Bruxelles à Genève)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 17:00-17:45

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/280>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

How can we deal with the phenomena of misinformation and fake news amplified by social networks and generative AI? How can we preserve the integrity of information in fragile or emergency situations? How can we guarantee informed public debate? Speakers at the French-language panel organized by Wallonie-Bruxelles in Geneva as part of the WSIS+20 WSIS Process - International Telecommunication Union addressed these questions with the audience and highlighted a series of promising concrete initiatives:

- The use of AI to detect and stamp fake news with the AI4Debunk project <https://ai4debunk.eu/>
- Support for journalists to ensure that populations facing crises have access to reliable, local and independent information with the Hirondelle Foundation - Media for peace and human dignity
- Actions in education to train in media and responsible AI.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

The session brought together a diverse audience that does not often meet, but should make connections to tackle the challenges described above together.

1. Educational principles proven in Educational Sciences must guide the use of AI - not the other way around
2. We need to train teachers, trainers, parents in responsible AI
3. Integrate AI education into programs and curricula
4. Deploy active, critical and playful practices (such as AI4Debunk)
5. Scientifically evaluate the effectiveness of these practices : does it work?

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

- Continue the WSIS Forum
- Emphasise the importance of a multilingual WSIS

## **Fostering Sustainable Digital Innovation: Saudi Arabia's Approach to Digital innovative Future (Saudi Arabia)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 11:00-12:00

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/194>**

## **Pushing the limits of the internet (AFNIC)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 11:00-11:45

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/234>**

## Digital Cooperation and Empowerment: Insights and Best Practices for Strengthening Multistakeholder and Inclusive Participation (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 14:00-15:00

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/425>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

Participants from the technical community and Intergovernmental Organizations discussed strategies and shared insights for effective multistakeholder participation in digital governance, particularly in the context of the WSIS outcomes and beyond 2025. Participants emphasized inclusivity, accountability, and sustained engagement to foster impactful multistakeholder participation.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Panelists shared their views about how collaboration across government, business, civil society, academia, and the technical community can foster more balanced participation in digital cooperation.
- Panelists provided concrete examples for strengthening multistakeholder collaboration and knowledge sharing through outreach and partnerships between governments, academia, industry, and civil society.
- Participants' **awareness raised on the** policy impacts from multistakeholder processes such as implementation of IDNs and Universal acceptance, IPv6 deployment and improved interconnections in underserved regions.

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

#### Review and Beyond

- Panelists shared several key Insights for WSIS+20 and beyond:
- Keep processes open and inclusive, engage youth and regional voices, avoid duplication, and create synergies.

- Consider the IGF as essential, not optional. It remains one of the few global arenas where all stakeholders are treated equally. If we want globally representative governance, investment must be made in the infrastructure that supports it.
- Preserve Internet Coordination. The Internet works because no one controls it alone. That principle must be carried forward, especially as cooperation expands into new digital domains
- Inclusion must be designed into the system. Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names are not technical extras. They are how multilingual participation becomes possible. If people cannot use the Internet in their own language, they are excluded from digital cooperation.

## **Innovative Approaches to Enhancing Education and Learning Opportunities through Technology (TakingITGlobal)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 16:00-16:45

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/225>

## **Importance of Professional standards for AI development and testing (International Federation for Information Processing)**

Friday, 11 July 2025, 10:00-10:45

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/322>

## Country's insight

### **Harnessing Innovation and Balancing Risks and Opportunities in the Digital Space: Country Insight - Georgia's Experience**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 09:00 - 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/371>

#### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Georgia presented its national vision to become a digital hub bridging Europe and Asia, driven by strategic reforms, connectivity initiatives, and regional cooperation;
- The session spotlighted Log-in Georgia, a large-scale broadband connectivity and digital inclusion project supported by the World Bank and European Investment Bank, aiming to bring high-speed internet and digital skills to rural and remote areas.
- The session underscored ComCom's dual responsibility – as a regulator enabling open, high-quality internet access across Georgia, and as a national driver of media and digital literacy. Special emphasis was placed on outreach to underserved communities through the Digital Adoption Programme, equipping citizens with the skills to safely and meaningfully engage in the digital space.

#### **Session Highlights:**

- Deputy Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN Office in Geneva, Mr. Irakli Zhghenti, opened the session with remarks on Georgia's strategic choice

to prioritize digital transformation as the engine of national and regional development.

- OpenNet Director Mariam Sulaberidze introduced the Log-in Georgia project, partnered by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and ComCom - highlighting how infrastructure development, participation, and inclusion come together to deliver meaningful digital connectivity.
- ComCom Commissioner Ekaterine Imedadze presented Georgia's vision of becoming a regional digital hub connecting Europe and Asia, emphasizing strategic reforms, secure infrastructure, and values-based regulation.
- World Bank Digital Development Specialist Goran Vranić emphasized the importance of strategic planning and institutional collaboration, commending Georgia's multi-stakeholder approach as a replicable success model.
- Session was moderated by Ms. Nino Grdzlishvili - Head of International Relations Office at ComCom. Georgia's multi-stakeholder collaboration model was recognized as a key factor in the success of its digital transformation – bringing together government agencies, regulator, local communities, and international partners.
- Panelists explored lessons learned from implementing infrastructure in difficult terrain and highlighted the importance of institutional cooperation, proper planning, and community engagement for sustainable success.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Increased visibility of Georgia's strategic positioning as an emerging digital a digital hub bridging Europe and Asia, driven by strategic reforms, connectivity initiatives, and regional cooperation;
- Recognition of Log-in Georgia as a best-practice model combining infrastructure rollout with digital skills and rural engagement, understanding of Log-in Georgia as a replicable model that combines broadband rollout with digital literacy to reduce inequality and foster inclusive development.

- Raised awareness among partners and peers of the benefits of combining strategic infrastructure with long-term human capacity development.

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

- Encourage donors and international partners to prioritize inclusive digital transformation – infrastructure expansion is tied to education, youth engagement, and rural development goals;
- Support emerging digital hubs - such as Georgia – through international visibility, capacity-building, and cross-border cooperation.
- Encourage replication of projects and programs Log-in Georgia that combine infrastructure rollout with digital literacy and engagement in rural communities. WSIS+20 should support models that go beyond infrastructure and address socioeconomic barriers to adoption.

### **What Proliferation of Artificial Intelligence Means for Information Integrity? Latvian Mission to UN**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/175>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

Risks and opportunities artificial intelligence tools provide with regards to information integrity

- Policies and initiatives that enhance information integrity online
- International cooperation and cooperation with private sector, especially big technology companies, in raising awareness, digital skills, digital gaps and content monitoring
- The role of NGOs in fact-checking and fight with disinformation

- Importance of human rights considerations with regards to digital governance

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Support for the establishment of the Digital human rights advisory service in the context of the discussions on the Global Digital Compact
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/265 "Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development."

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

#### Review and

#### Beyond

Make information integrity a dedicated focus area under WSIS Action Line 10 – Ethical dimensions of Information Society

- Streamline human rights considerations in artificial intelligence governance
- Engage with artificial intelligence companies, especially regarding policies and tools to mitigate the risks posed by the artificial intelligence to information integrity
- Gather and disseminate good practices on addressing the impact of AI
- Invest in collecting and analyzing evidence and data, support academic inputs
- Develop governance solutions that promote transparency, integrity and trust in use of AI information environment in a way that safeguards and reinforces rights and freedoms
- Support AI literacy measures that educate about the risks of AI, with special focus on outreach to vulnerable audiences.

### **Building a Digital Society, from Vision to Implementation - National AI Task Force of Jamaica. Office of the Prime Minister**

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 11:00 - 11:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/324>



**Strengthening global cooperation in ICT for peace, security, ethical AI, revenue, governance, and the betterment of humanity in life and the afterlife promotes sustainable development and social progress - Internal Resources Division (IRD), Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh**

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/237>

**Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025:**

- Bangladesh's journey toward 'Sustainable Smart Bangladesh 2041' highlights the role of ICT in inclusive governance and peacebuilding.
- Emerging consensus on embedding ethics and spiritual values in AI and digital governance.
- The need to secure national digital infrastructures and ensure data sovereignty in the face of rising global cyber threats.
- Spiritual accountability and moral responsibility discussed for the first time in WSIS history as a guiding policy lens.
- Challenges of digital inequality, polarization, and AI misuse remain unresolved and urgent.
- Growing demand for global ethical frameworks for AI, reflecting justice, human dignity, and inclusive progress.
- South-South and multistakeholder collaboration recognized as a foundation for resilient and values-driven digital futures.
- Case studies from Bangladesh (Nothi, RMS and etc.) presented as success stories of citizen-centric digital transformation.

**Tangible Outcomes of the Session:**

- Highlighted ethical, spiritual, and inclusive principles as pillars of ICT governance beyond 2025.
- Bangladesh's national platforms (Nothi, RMS) showcased as replicable models of trustbased digital services.
- Initiated multistakeholder dialogue on incorporating faith-aligned perspectives into global ICT policies.

- Commitment to promote spiritually aware digital literacy and curriculum reform in ICT education.

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

- Integrate ethical and spiritual dimensions into national digital strategies, ensuring technology serves moral and social good.
- Develop a Global Ethical AI Framework to guide responsible, inclusive, and human-centric digital innovation.
- Encourage South-South cooperation to amplify diverse values and best practices in digital transformation.
- Ensure active participation of faith-aligned and culturally diverse communities in WSIS-related policymaking and review processes.
- Promote global ICT policies that prevent digital authoritarianism and support peace, justice, and inclusive development.

**South Africa 20-Year Country Report (South Africa)**

Friday, 11 July, 09:00 – 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/543>

# Regional Insight

## **WSIS-UN Regional Commissions**

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 10:15-11:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/466>

## **African Group meeting on WSIS+20 (ECA)**

Friday 11 July, 09:00 – 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/530>

# Interactive Action Lines Facilitation Meeting

**WSIS Action Line C7: E-health - Fostering foundations for digital  
health transformation in the age of AI**

**Monday, 07 July 2025, 14:00-14:45**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/256>**

**WSIS Action Line C7: E-Government - Bridging Visions: Aligning the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and WSIS+20 Overall Review by the UN GA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs / Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government)**

**Monday, 07 July 2025, 14:00-14:45**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/254>**

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- WSIS frameworks are broadly seen as the natural institutional foundation for implementing the Global Digital Compact (GDC).
- Participants stressed the need to avoid redundancy and streamline digital governance through existing mechanisms like IGF, WSIS, and UNGIS.
- The session highlighted WSIS's credibility, especially in inclusive governance and digital inclusion, over the past 20 years.
- GDC reaffirms WSIS principles, and many called for upgrading rather than replacing its mechanisms.
- Stakeholders emphasized building system-wide coherence through hybrid governance (government + multistakeholder engagement).
- Speakers urged WSIS to evolve to address emerging topics such as AI, cybersecurity, and platform and data governance.
- CSTD proposed a joint implementation roadmap with four key areas: digital inclusion, safe digital environment, SDG support, and developing country participation.
- Concrete tools like the WSIS Stocktaking Database and ICT Development Index were recommended for GDC tracking.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Clear reaffirmation across UN, regional, and stakeholder levels that WSIS mechanisms remain fit for GDC implementation.
- A proposed joint roadmap aligning WSIS+20 with GDC priorities.
- EU Commission announced plans to share a non-paper outlining a roadmap approach using existing WSIS action lines.

- Encouragement of written submissions and inputs to inform the WSIS+20 zero draft document.

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

- Develop roadmaps to guide implementation and coordination through the existing WSIS action lines and processes.
- Use IGF and WSIS as central platforms for monitoring, review, and multistakeholder engagement.
- Continue to keep WSIS action lines with technology neutral
- Ensure inclusive, bottom-up governance models that reflect multistakeholder voices and avoid tokenism.
- Provide political and resource support to strengthen WSIS's role as the backbone of GDC delivery.

## WSIS Action Line C7 E-learning (UNESCO)

Monday, 07 July 2025, 15:00-15:45 PM

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/382>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Digital Inclusion as a Common Good  
WSIS has championed digital access as a **universal public good**, grounded in equity, cocreation, and human-centered learning. Learners and educators are central to building inclusive, lifelong digital learning ecosystems.
- AI and Digital Integration Across Sectors  
Digital tools and AI now permeate all areas of life. WSIS supports inclusive digital transformation through **multi-stakeholder collaboration** and rights-based governance.
- Anchoring Change in Normative Instruments  
The **2019 Recommendation on OER**—the **first UN standard on technologies and learning**— and the **2021 Recommendations on the Ethics of AI and Open Science** provide essential guidance for ethical, open, and inclusive digital ecosystems. These are reinforced by frameworks like the **ICT CFT, AI Competency Frameworks for Teachers and Students**, and the **2025 Stockholm Declaration**, which call for digital education for all youth.
- Empowering Educators and Learners  
Technology alone is not enough. **Transforming mindsets**—through training, ethical AI use, and open practices—is key to building digital resilience among educators and learners.
- Global Collaboration  
Greater regional and global cooperation is vital to share **AI-enhanced open resources**, build policy capacity, and advance digital inclusion aligned with UNESCO's normative instruments.

### Opportunities Beyond 2025

WSIS can lead efforts to:

- Embed global norms for open, ethical digital ecosystems.
- Promote rights-based AI governance.
- Expand digital infrastructure and capacity.
- Support innovation for inclusive, sustainable learning.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Key achievements – Dubai Declaration on OER, Stockholm Declaration, Signals work of Creative Commons
- Announcements/launch during the session – Creative Commons Signal Launch
- Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session – Importance of human centered , learner centred digital learning system

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

#### Key Achievements Highlighted

- Dubai Declaration on OER, promoting AI-enabled open education and regional collaboration
- Stockholm Declaration on Sustaining Digital Inclusion for Youth, supporting equitable digital learning for ages 5–18
- Launch and recognition of AI Competency Frameworks for Teachers and Students, equipping education systems with tools for ethical and effective AI integration
- **Creative Commons’ Signals initiative, showcasing early guidance on trustworthy, open AI generated content**

#### Announcements and Launches

- Official launch of the Creative Commons Signals project, contributing to responsible use of AI in open education
- Continued rollout of the AI Competency Frameworks, supporting national-level adaptation and implementation

#### Agreements and Commitments

- Broad support for human-centered, learner-driven digital learning systems, grounded in openness, equity, and responsible use of emerging technologies

## Action Line C9 Media: Towards a Resilient Information Ecosystem: Balancing Platform Governance and Technology (UNESCO)

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 09:00-09:45 AM

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/386>

Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- System-based yet flexible governance frameworks, promoting platform transparency, accountability, and user empowerment in digital spaces, are key to ensuring that technology enables informed and inclusive societies rather than facilitates threats, such as risks to information integrity, freedom of expression and access to information, safety and privacy, copyright, and others.
- The whole-of-society, multistakeholder approach is important to ensure a trustworthy information ecosystem; communication channels among various stakeholders – regulators, industry, civil society, media, academia, and other relevant actors – begin to take ground (the WSIS process and Internet Governance Forum, the Global Forum of Networks, among others) however, inter-sectoral communication still face barriers, and access to platform data and enforcement remain uneven.
- Communication ecosystems should be considered in all their complexity. This encompasses a wide range of stakeholders with varying interests, as well as multiple infrastructure layers, including cloud services, satellite internet, AI, and social platforms.
- User empowerment with media and information literacy (MIL) is crucial to ensure users can critically navigate the information environment, recognize the trustworthiness of information, and ensure their safety in the digital environment.
- To ensure information is treated as a public good in a market-driven ecosystem, supporting public interest media and independent journalism is of paramount importance. To guide these efforts, there is a need to differentiate between traditional media and public interest media, content producers and other actors of the information ecosystem.
- Civil society flourishes when empowered with knowledge and innovative tools to harness technology in ways that help enhance advocacy and other civil society initiatives, give a voice to marginalized and vulnerable groups,

protect the privacy and safety of journalists and other critical voices, particularly in a context of scarce funding.

- In a world inundated with crises that are set to multiply in future, a comprehensive understanding of **crisis communication ecosystems is key**. Most digital regulations are drafted for peacetime, highlighting the importance of crisis planning. A new regulatory gap is emerging as tech monopolies dominate global communication infrastructures that are often beyond the remit of national legislation.

### Tangible outcomes of the session

- The session advanced cross-sectoral (industry, regulators, civil society, academia and media) consensus on the need for holistic, multistakeholder, and flexible governance of communication ecosystems to ensure the power of technology enables a trustworthy informational environment, freedom of expression for all, strong public interest media, and users empowered with critical thinking and MIL.
- Participants emphasized continued engagement of principles of platform transparency, accountability, user empowerment, and a multistakeholder approach, as promoted by [UNESCO's Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms](#), [the Global Forum of Networks of Regulators](#), and [the i4T Knowledge Community](#), especially for inclusive responses to AI and crisis communication challenges.
- **A shared understanding emerged around the need to embrace technology and AI**, empowering users with the MIL and tools to critically navigate the information environment, as well as helping civil society to leverage technology for public good

### Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond to all actors in the communication ecosystem, bearing a shared responsibility to:

- **Promote multistakeholder governance ecosystems** across sectors and borders by engaging with relevant communication forums, identifying shared interests and incentives to enhance collaboration and ensure equal access to data for all stakeholders.

- Support public interest media and ensure the protection of journalists and other media professionals, including by supporting their viability, protecting their safety, digital presence, and privacy, to ensure information is treated as a public good.
- Scale up Media and Information Literacy programs and user-friendly and multilingual tools and technologies to help users recognize the trustworthiness of information, identify content provenance and assess its context.
- Support innovation in civil society, especially in the Global South, by providing funding, capacity building and partnerships that ensure technology and AI are applied to enhance public interest campaigning, ethically and in line with human rights.
- Recognize that crisis communication is a distinct and pressing regulatory domain, requiring the evolution of international frameworks that address infrastructure control, data access and user protection.
- Finally, Member States should provide continued support and investment to achieve progress on the key objectives of the WSIS+20 review and the Global Digital Compass.

## Action Line C8: Multilingualism in the Digital Age: Inclusive Strategies on Cultural Diversity for a People-Centered Information Society (UNESCO)

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 10:15-11:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/372>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Uneven Digital Language Representation:** Despite technological advances, over 90% of the world's 7,000+ languages remain underrepresented or absent online highlighting a persistent digital divide rooted in language.
- **Rise of AI and Multilingual Technologies:** Breakthroughs in natural language processing (NLP) and AI have enabled faster multilingual content generation and translation, offering new opportunities for inclusion—but risks of reinforcing mainstream languages persist.
- **Multistakeholder Policy Gaps:** Many countries still lack coherent, inclusive digital language and cultural strategies. Coordination between governments, tech developers, academia, and communities remain a critical challenge.
- **Digital Cultural Expressions on the Rise:** The digital environment has become a new space for cultural innovation, yet global platforms often marginalize content in low resource languages and there is a persistent digital divide in cultural content creation and access.
- **Cross-Sector Opportunity for 2025+:** WSIS and the broader UN digital agenda have a growing opportunity to position multilingualism and language technology as cross-cutting enablers of digital inclusion, SDGs, and human rights.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Recognition of Linguistic Diversity as a Digital Inclusion Pillar:** The session reinforced that multilingualism is essential for equitable participation in the information society, not just a cultural asset.
- **Elevating the Role of Language in AI and Digital Governance:** Multilingualism is increasingly acknowledged as a strategic enabler for ethical and inclusive AI development, influencing policy and innovation dialogues.

- Presentation of a Strategic Framework: The introduction of the UNESCO Roadmap on Language Technologies and Multilingualism marked a concrete step toward systematizing efforts in inclusive language tech and policy.

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

- Integrate Multilingualism and Culture in Global Digital Agendas: promote the integration of linguistic and cultural diversity and language inclusion as fundamental principles in digital transformation strategies at both international and national levels, ensuring equitable access to information and diverse cultural content, as well as participation for all language communities.
- Support Development of Language Technologies for Underrepresented Languages: Prioritize investment in inclusive digital infrastructure, including open-source AI tools and resources, to enhance access and innovation for low-resource and Indigenous languages.
- Ensure Multistakeholder Participation: Empower local communities, linguistic minorities, and cultural organizations in shaping digital language and cultural policies and tools.
- Mainstream Language Rights in Digital Inclusion Efforts: Position linguistic diversity as a core component of digital equity, education, and participation in the information society.

## **WSIS Action Line C7 E-environment: Co-designing the environmental dimensions of WSIS +20 (United Nations Environment Programme, WMO, ITU)**

**Tuesday, 08 July 2024, 11:00-11:45**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/392>**

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- **Establish Sustainable AI Measurement and Disclosure Frameworks**

Ensure that emerging AI governance frameworks—such as those developed by the UN, ISO, OECD, and IEEE—include mandatory environmental impact assessment and disclosure requirements across the full AI lifecycle, from model training and deployment to energy use and hardware disposal. These frameworks require reporting on key environmental indicators, including greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, water usage, e-waste generation, and the embedded material footprint of AI systems. Harmonized metrics and methodologies are essential to support responsible innovation, inform green AI procurement, and enable sustainability benchmarking across the AI sector.

- **Standardized Digital Product Sustainability Information**

Develop global standards for product sustainability data—such as product carbon footprints, durability, reparability, and environmental footprint indicators—to power green digital services including sustainable search, eco-modulation of choices, and procurement. These standards should support the creation of environmental product information systems and digital product passports.

- **Build National Capacities for Environmental Digitalization, Implementation and Enforcement**

Strengthen national and regional capacities in developing countries to adopt, govern, and enforce the use of emerging digital technologies for environmental protection. This includes investments in digital infrastructure, as well as targeted support for training, skills development, and institutional readiness in areas such as big data analytics, artificial intelligence, geospatial platforms, and environmental

digital twins. Establish regional digital environment labs, regulatory sandboxes, and interoperable data sharing platforms to accelerate innovation, improve environmental monitoring and enforcement, and ensure inclusive participation in the digital transformation of environmental governance.

- **Track and Trace Critical Minerals in ICT Supply Chains**

Closing the digital divide and advancing universal digital access will inevitably drive increased demand for critical minerals—many of which are already under pressure from the energy transition. This growing cross-sectoral competition for scarce and often geopolitically sensitive minerals highlights the need for transparent, sustainable, and circular value chains. Develop interoperable digital tools and global traceability systems to monitor the extraction, trade, use, and recycling of critical minerals used in ICTs. These systems should support ethical sourcing, environmental due diligence, and enhanced recovery to align both digital and green transitions with just and sustainable outcomes.

- **Scale E-Waste Management and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

Develop and implement national legislation on e-waste governance and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms. Digital tools—including AI-powered systems for e-waste detection, flow monitoring, hotspot mapping, and predictive analytics—can optimize take-back schemes, improve recycling performance, and enhance traceability across global supply chains. These technologies are especially valuable for identifying and addressing flows through the informal sector, which is often underregulated. Dedicated financing is essential to manage the technical complexity and infrastructure requirements of e-waste systems, particularly in countries disproportionately impacted by digital waste.

- **Implement Digital Product Passport Regulations and Global Interoperability Standards**

Establish international governance frameworks and technical standards to guide the implementation of Digital Product Passports (DPPs) across priority sectors. DPPs should be machine-readable, secure, interoperable, and accessible, enabling seamless exchange of product data across borders and supply chains. Environmental attributes—such as carbon footprint, resource intensity, repairability, durability, recyclability, and chemical content—must be embedded to drive circularity, support sustainable consumption, and enable green procurement. The

European Union is advancing mandatory DPP requirements under the Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), setting a precedent for digital traceability and environmental transparency. To ensure global consistency and prevent regulatory divergence, there is an urgent need to develop interoperable, internationally recognized standards and protocols for DPPs that can support inclusive and responsible trade within a digital circular economy.

- **Invest in Digital Infrastructure for Early Warning for All**

Expand investments in digital public infrastructure to accelerate the implementation of the “Early Warnings for All” initiative, ensuring that every person on Earth is protected by Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) by 2027. This includes support for and integration of open environmental data platforms, additional environmental sensor networks, AI-based forecasting tools, and last-mile connectivity for local dissemination. Special attention should be given to the digital inclusion of vulnerable communities, Indigenous Peoples, and those at the climate–nature–conflict nexus, ensuring early warnings are timely, targeted, actionable, and locally relevant, including local language and inclusive of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

- **Strengthening Physical and Institutional Infrastructure for Resilient EWS Delivery**

In addition to digital systems, robust physical and institutional infrastructure is essential to ensure early warning messages translate into timely and effective action. Investments should support resilient communication networks, reliable power systems (including renewable and off-grid energy sources), and emergency response facilities that remain operational during crises. Institutional capacity-building, particularly at the local and sub-national levels, is critical to manage, operate, and sustain these systems over time.

- **Enhance Regulatory Frameworks for the use of digital technologies for disaster management**

Development and enforcement of regulatory frameworks that govern the responsible use of digital technologies for disaster risk management, including Early Warning Systems. These regulations should ensure data privacy, interoperability, equitable access, and ethical use of technologies such as AI and remote sensing. Strong governance mechanisms and public private partnerships will help build

public trust, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure that digital tools enhance, rather than replace, human-centered disaster response. These efforts should be co-designed with affected communities and guided by principles of inclusion, transparency, and accountability.

- **Integrate Digital Sustainability into Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

Encourage the scientific and policy bodies of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)— including the UNFCCC, CBD, and Basel Conventions—to integrate digital risks and opportunities into their strategies, implementation frameworks, and reporting templates. This includes adopting digital environmental indicators, exploring digital cooperation to accelerate targets, and embedding AI and data strategies into environmental implementation.

- **Green National Digital, AI, and Data Strategies**

Support the integration of environmental risks, safeguards, and opportunities into national digital transformation strategies, artificial intelligence roadmaps, and data governance frameworks. A UNEP-led guidance toolkit should be developed to assist Member States in aligning digital development with environmental sustainability and climate/nature/pollution goals.

- **Adopt a Global Environmental Data Governance Strategy**

Establish an international framework for environmental data governance that enables interoperability, quality control, equitable access, and transparency across systems and borders. This includes aligning with FAIR/CARE principles, the UN Data Principles, and digital commons approaches. UNEP should lead consultations on this strategy under the UNEA Resolution 4/23.

- **Advance Digital Environmental Justice and Close the Digital Divide**

Address the unequal distribution of environmental impacts and benefits arising from digitalization. Developing countries often face disproportionate burdens from mineral extraction and e-waste, while benefiting less from digital innovation. Bridging the digital divide is essential to enable all countries and communities to access and deploy digital environmental solutions equitably.

- **Promote Responsible Consumption of ICT Products in Developed Countries**

Digitalization in developed economies is driving unsustainable patterns of consumption—marked by high device turnover, energy-intensive services, and low rates of repair or reuse. National digital strategies in high-income countries must include measures to reduce the material and environmental footprint of ICT products through eco-design, right-to-repair legislation, product-as-a-service models, and sustainable public procurement. Public awareness campaigns and digital sustainability labelling can also empower individuals and institutions to make informed, low-impact digital choices.

- **Promote a more holistic approach to understanding the full environmental impacts of digital technologies**

Much existing good practice in understanding and changing the impact of digital technologies on the environment has tended to focus on particular technologies (as in the use of digital to reduce carbon emissions, or e-waste) or specific interventions (such as DPPs, or early warning systems). By focusing primarily on the parts, there is a danger of underestimating the total environmental impact of digital tech. Important new insights can be gained by adopting a more holistic framework that focuses first on the totality of the environment (atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere) and then considering how the design, construction, use, repair and ultimate demise of any digital tech influences each of these both beneficially and harmfully (as in the DESC framework).

### **Key recommendations and forward-looking action plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond**

As digital technologies rapidly reshape our economies and societies, it is critical to align digital transformation with environmental sustainability. The following key recommendations outline priority actions to ensure that digitalization supports climate, nature, and pollution goals while promoting equity, resilience, and responsible innovation.

- **Establish Global Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Digitalization**

Develop and harmonize international standards and regulatory frameworks for AI, Digital Product Passports (DPPs), and ICT supply chains to ensure environmental

transparency, ethical use, interoperability, and sustainable consumption across the digital lifecycle.

- **Accelerate Circular Economy through E-Waste Management and Critical Mineral Traceability**

Implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, scale AI-powered e-waste systems, and establish interoperable digital traceability tools to ensure sustainable, ethical, and circular value chains for ICT products and critical minerals.

- **Ensure Equitable and Resilient Early Warning Systems (EWS)**

Expand digital infrastructure for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and strengthen physical, institutional, and regulatory frameworks to guarantee inclusive, timely, and actionable disaster warnings—especially for vulnerable communities and conflict-prone regions.

- **Build Inclusive National and Regional Capacities for Environmental Digital Transformation**

Invest in digital and physical infrastructure, institutional capacity, and skills development—especially in developing countries—to support the implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of digital environmental solutions, including AI, geospatial platforms, for disaster risk reduction.

- **Mainstream Digital Sustainability into Global and National Governance**

Integrate environmental considerations into national digital, AI, and data strategies, and embed digital sustainability and justice into multilateral environmental agreements. Promote holistic frameworks that assess the full environmental impact of digital technologies for environmental protection and disaster risk reduction

**WSIS Action Line C7 E-business: Building an inclusive digital economy: The role of the WSIS E-business action line and the Global Digital Compact (International Trade Centre, UPU, UN Trade and Development, in collaboration with UN Industrial Development Organization)**

**Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 11:00-12:00**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/380>**

**Key Issues Discussed**

- The session discussed how UN agencies can ensure effective collaboration to prevent silos, so that the implementations of the WSIS action line and of GDC commitments are aligned, with a view to supporting sustainable development goals and digital inclusion.
- In developing countries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) need three enablers for digital readiness: affordable access to technology infrastructure, enabling regulatory frameworks, and digital skills. In addition, business support organizations are essential to facilitate SME adoption of digital technologies.
- Existing postal infrastructure can be leveraged in developing countries to provide e-business related services to rural communities, while enhancing trust between buyers and sellers. For example, the postal system can offer payment options and e-commerce platforms.
- In India, for example, digital inclusion has been coupled with financial inclusion, providing digital identity and mobile services in local languages, aiming to include the unbanked. This initiative is driven by the Government, which sees digital inclusion as a key driver of growth in India. The Indian postal system is one of the largest in the world and has the best reach into rural areas to facilitate access to services, for example for women selling their handiwork beyond local markets, who can also open savings accounts with the Post and build capital.

- In addition to local actions to enhance digital inclusion, coordination on digital issues is necessary at the international level to guide policy and facilitate technical assistance in developing countries. For example, UNCTAD coordinates the eTrade for Women initiative that, in collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders, supports the advocacy of women digital entrepreneurs from developing countries in policymaking spaces.
- There is still room for improvement in connecting the dots and overcoming the silos of international agencies when it comes to digital cooperation. When implementing the GDC commitments to foster innovation and entrepreneurship and improve access to markets and digital technologies, it is imperative to find synergies among various initiatives to make them more efficient in the future. The GDC roadmap will require international public and private actors to collaborate to enact digital-based solutions for trade and development.
- For example, UNCTAD and UNIDO have joined efforts under Objective 2 of the GDC (expanding the benefits of the digital economy) to engage countries in initiatives that build digital ecosystems and scale digital innovations to drive inclusive and sustainable industrial growth.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- The UNIDO Development Dialogue on Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence in 2024 and 2025 provided a high-level platform for shaping the future of AI and digital transformation in development.
- The ITC announced the launch its flagship report "[SME Competitiveness Outlook](#)" (SMECO) 2025 at the Global SME Ministerial Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, that will take place on 22-24 July 2025. SMECO offers actionable insights into how digital tools and innovation can empower SMEs to thrive in the global economy.
- The co-facilitators agreed to build their collaboration to break down silos and improve cooperation on digital initiatives.

### **Key recommendations and forward-looking action plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond**

- Governments are encouraged to reach out to international organizations for digital readiness assessments and tailored policy guidance to develop their inclusive digital economies.

- To scale up digital adoption by SMEs, Governments and international organizations should include business support organization that can identify the needs of SMEs and support skills development. Other mechanisms to encourage digital inclusion are Centers of Excellence and the digitalization of government services.
- Digitalization must also be accompanied by adapting the regulatory frameworks for digital trade, building skills, and increasing financing for digital development.

**WSIS Action Line C2 Information and communication infrastructure  
(International Telecommunication Union)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 11:30-12:30

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/390>

## **WSIS Action Line C6: Digital Ecosystem Builders in action: Redefining the role of ICT regulators (ITU)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 14:00-14:45

**Please find the session details here:**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/316>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- ICT regulators are evolving from traditional enforcers to ecosystem builders, promoting innovation, collaboration, and trust in the digital age. Regulators should become enablers, to be able to adapt to digital landscape.
- The consultation for GSR-25 focuses on the institutional evolution of regulators—including their mindsets, mandates, and capacities—as central to shaping inclusive and agile digital ecosystems.
- Speakers emphasized the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration (national and international), including combined portfolios (e.g., telecom, cybersecurity, data protection) to address complex digital challenges.
- Emerging technologies such as AI, big data, blockchain, and cloud computing were identified as both regulatory tools and objects of regulation, requiring proactive experimentation and adaptation by regulators.
- Several regulators, including from Cyprus, France, and Saudi Arabia, highlighted successful examples of sandbox models, regulatory observatories, and RegTech platforms to support data-driven decision making and foresight governance.
- The need for digital sustainability was emphasized, with Saudi Arabia sharing a toolkit codeveloped with the Digital Cooperation Organization to support green digital transformation.
- Barriers to cooperation such as institutional silos, lack of trust, limited resources, and legal constraints were discussed, along with strategies to overcome them. It is important to build on shared principles, address common challenges collaboratively, and exchange diverse solutions—recognizing that not all stakeholders are at the same level of maturity.
- Regional Regulatory Associations (e.g., EMERG, AREGNET, TRAVA, EaPeReg) were showcased as effective platforms for knowledge exchange, regional alignment, and asserting digital sovereignty.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Announcement: The upcoming Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-25) will be hosted by Saudi Arabia, from 31 August to 3 September 2025.
- Commitment from Regional Regulatory Associations representatives and its members to continue contributing to the GSR-25 consultation on best practices guidelines.
- Reinforced understanding of the new regulatory paradigm, with regulators positioned as cocreators of resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking digital ecosystems.
- Highlighted regional initiatives and collaboration mechanisms (e.g.: regulatory sandboxes in Saudi Arabia, TRAVA's thematic working groups in Europe, and EMERG's cross-Mediterranean dialogue).
- Recognition that international forums like ITU are essential platforms for sharing policy and regulatory innovation and aligning global digital goals.

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

- **Promote institutional innovation** by equipping ICT regulators with new skills, anticipatory mindsets, and adaptive tools (e.g.: sandboxes, RegTech solutions) to keep pace with digital transformation.
- **Foster cross-sectoral cooperation** at the national level through integrated mandates and joint regulatory frameworks that reflect the converged nature of digital issues.
- **Continue leveraging regional and global collaboration**, through regional regulatory associations and platforms like the ITU Digital Regulation Network Initiative, to co-create and share innovative approaches and amplify regional voices.
- **Embed sustainability and ethics** into digital regulation, ensuring technology is governed in a way that supports inclusion, trust, environmental responsibility, and long-term resilience.

## **WSIS Action Line C7: E-Agriculture (FAO)**

Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 14:00-14:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/393>

## **WSIS Action Lines C4 and C7: E-employment: Emerging technologies in the world of work: Addressing challenges through digital skills (ITU/ILO)**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 10:15-11:15

**Please find the session details here**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/384>

## **WSIS Action Line C10: Ethics in AI and converging technologies (UNESCO)**

Thursday, 09 July 2025, 09:00-09:45

Please find the session details here:

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

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking 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 neurotechnology's, 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

- 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.

WSIS Action Line: C3 Access to information and knowledge:  
"Investing in Equitable Knowledge Access: Diamond Open Access"  
(UNESCO)

Thursday, 09 July 2025, 09:00-09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/388>

Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

**Access to Information Laws:**

- Since 2019, UNESCO has conducted an annual global survey using a validated methodology approved by the UN Statistical Commission. The survey, sent to Member States each year, collects data through an 8 question self-assessment tool covering key principles of ATI, including legal frameworks, oversight and appeals mechanisms, record keeping, and the scope of exemptions. Each response is scored, contributing to a global aggregate that illustrates implementation trends without assigning national performance levels.
- In addition to monitoring and reporting on SDG 16.10.2 UNESCO continued its engagement through strategic support to national legal reform, capacity building, and awareness-raising initiatives, particularly the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) as key instruments to promote access to information worldwide. The monitoring framework under SDG 16.10.2 also serves as a fact-based tool to inform and guide Member States in advancing their legal and institutional frameworks.

**Libraires**

- The role of libraries is rapidly evolving due to the global rise of AI, affecting how information is accessed, organized, and used by students, learners, and professionals.

- IFIP is exploring how library systems and classification methods must adapt, emphasizing the need for updated policies that respond to AI-driven changes.
- AI's impact extends beyond library staffing to issues of equitable access, digital inclusion, and the responsible use of library resources.

### Diamond Open Access Model

- Libraries play a central role in scholarly communications by negotiating with publishers, managing journal subscriptions, and leveraging research grants to support and advance open access initiatives.
- Equity, cost savings, and accessibility are key benefits of Diamond Open Access (DOA), making it a valuable model for inclusive scholarly communication.
- Sustainable funding and infrastructure are among the biggest challenges facing DOA implementation and scalability.
- Institutional engagement plays a critical role in promoting DOA, from policy development to supporting community-led publishing models.
- Respondents call for a more inclusive global framework, with libraries actively negotiating with publishers, managing subscriptions, and leveraging research grants to support open access initiatives.

### Intersection of Action Line C3 – Access to Information

This Action Line intersects with others, including **Action Line C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content**, which emphasizes the protection of Indigenous knowledge and other sensitive content, and **Action Line C7: ICT applications – e-learning**, which highlights the role of digital tools in education and knowledge sharing.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

Announcement of Key Achievements:

- **Access to Information Laws:** With regard to ATI implementation, the 2024 survey findings reflect both encouraging progress and persistent gaps. Participation in the monitoring process has steadily increased, with 126 countries responding in 2023 and 125 in 2024. As of 2025, 139 countries have adopted ATI legislation, an increase from just 14 in 1990. Notably, 27 countries enacted ATI laws after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.
- **Diamond Open Access:** Launched in September 2024 and disseminated via stakeholder networks by email and made available in 4 languages It reached more than 2,900 respondents from 92 Member States. Some 3600 qualitative multilingual comments collected were collected. Results underscore the shared understanding that Diamond OA advances equity by removing financial barriers for authors and readers, Shared infrastructure and public investment are vital for sustainability.

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

- **Access to Information Laws:** With only five years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO underscores the urgent need to intensify advocacy efforts and improve not only the adoption but also the quality and implementation of ATI laws, using IDUAL as a primary platform for mobilization and progress and UNESCO SDG 16.10.2 monitoring reports as a source of best practice.
- **Libraries:** Better harnessing of the central role of libraries in the age of AI is key to ensuring inclusive, quality access to information.
- **Open Access to Scholarly Communications – Diamond Open Access:** global collaboration is key to its inclusive governance and implementation of Diamond Open Access.

## WSIS Action Line C5: Building Trust in Cyberspace (ITU)

Thursday, 09 July 2025, 10:00-10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/398>

## WSIS Action Line C1 & C11: Enhanced Cooperation in the Digital Age: From Concept to Commitment at WSIS+20 (UN DESA)

Thursday, 09 July 2025, 10:00-10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/400>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- The concept of enhanced cooperation, introduced in the 2005 Tunis Agenda, remains a key milestone in global Internet governance. While many stakeholders believe progress has already been achieved, others maintain that further steps are needed to fully realize its goals. Despite different perspectives, there is broad agreement that enhanced cooperation continues to shape international discussions on public policy issues related to the Internet, distinct from day-to-day technical and operational matters.
- Despite its longstanding presence in global discussions, enhanced cooperation lacks consensus on practical implementation, with stakeholders emphasizing the need to clarify its institutional home, scope, and process to move forward effectively.
- The IANA transition in 2016 successfully transferred the oversight of critical Internet resources from the U.S. government to the global multistakeholder community, marking a significant step toward inclusive Internet governance. Still, further advancement of enhanced cooperation on broader international public policy issues is needed.
- The Working Groups on Enhanced Cooperation (2013–14 and 2016–18) were unable to reach consensus on recommendations due to divergent views. Nonetheless, the first group contributed valuable input, including a questionnaire and a matrix mapping key issues and mechanisms.

- Current platforms do not fully address emerging cross-border digital policy issues, including cybersecurity, AI governance, and e-commerce, highlighting gaps in existing frameworks.
- There is growing convergence that multistakeholder and multilateral processes can be complementary, with some governments and stakeholders advocating for dual-track approaches to policy development.
- Developing countries emphasized the need for an intergovernmental space to ensure equitable participation in digital policy discussions and to address persistent power asymmetries.
- CSTD was discussed as a potential institutional anchor for enhanced cooperation, with broad support for reinforcing its role through formal UN processes.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- The session reaffirmed the relevance of enhanced cooperation as defined in the Tunis Agenda and highlighted broad agreement on the need for a structured and inclusive mechanism to operationalize it beyond 2025.
- There was general alignment around the idea of utilizing existing UN platforms, particularly the CSTD, to advance enhanced cooperation. Participants expressed interest in pursuing an ECOSOC or UNGA resolution—potentially through the ongoing WSIS+20 overall review by the UN General Assembly, which will culminate in December 2025—to formalize this role.

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

- Recognize **the Tunis Agenda's definition of enhanced cooperation, emphasizing the exclusion** of technical and operational matters and focusing on international public policy issues.
- Consider CSTD as a central forum for enhanced cooperation by pursuing formal recognition through a UN General Assembly or ECOSOC resolution.

- Encourage UN agencies and regional bodies to report to the CSTD on their efforts to support enhanced cooperation and enable governments to participate equally in digital policy processes.
- Promote multistakeholder frameworks, such as the NetMundial guidelines and ICANN's GAC model, to ensure inclusive participation in emerging policy areas like AI and cybersecurity.

## WSIS Action Line C7: e-Science for Inclusive Futures: Access, Collaboration, and Foresight for the Next Decade (UNESCO)

Friday, 10 July 2025, 09:00-09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/395>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

This session explored how e-Science can support the goals of the WSIS Action Line C7, particularly in fostering inclusive, equitable, and anticipatory scientific ecosystems. With the global review of WSIS under way, the session highlighted community perspectives on key priorities including expanding remote access to scientific infrastructure; promoting digital STEM education and skills development; and strengthening open, collaborative, and foresight driven science, especially in support of youth, women, and the Global South.

- E-science is reshaping how scientific knowledge is created, shared, and applied, through globally connected research infrastructures, open access to data, and digital collaboration platforms. It enables researchers, regardless of location, to remotely access advanced scientific instruments, process large datasets in real-time, and engage in cross-border collaboration. This transformation supports more inclusive, efficient, and responsive scientific systems, particularly empowering scientists in developing countries to contribute to and benefit from global scientific progress.
- Technical standards are emerging technologies common language, a set of agreed-upon rules and benchmarks developed through transparent, bottom-up and collaborative efforts by experts worldwide that help 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. They transform exciting new concepts into reliable, everyday realities.
- Anticipated emerging science and technology will radically transform the most basic features of our reality.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- These transformations will challenge our fundamental assumptions about what it means to be a human, how we can live together as societies and in a sustainable relationship with the planet.
- Multistakeholder developed, consensus-driven technical 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.
- Call for strong cooperation frameworks, to synergize with ongoing global initiatives, such as the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development and the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, avoiding duplication.

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

- To fully realize the potential of e-science, investment in digital infrastructure, capacity building, and institutional support is essential. It also requires coordinated policy frameworks that foster equitable access, ensure responsible use of data and AI, and bridge the digital divide. In line with the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs, e-science offers a strategic pathway to promote scientific innovation, accelerate knowledge-based solutions, and strengthen science as a global public good.

# WSIS Action Lines Facilitators Meeting

Friday, 10 July 2025, 14:00-15:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/484>

## Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- WSIS Action Lines as foundational elements: The Action Lines, aligned with the Geneva Plan of Action, continue to serve as pillars of the WSIS Process—addressing connectivity, access, capacity-building, cybersecurity, and e-governance.
- Integration with the SDGs and WSIS+20 Review: Facilitators reiterated that the Action Lines remain directly relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with most aligning to specific targets (e.g., e-health, e-education, ICT infrastructure).
- Emerging themes since 2005: Since the original Action Lines were created, critical new priorities have emerged—including AI, digital trust, online safety, platform accountability, and climate sustainability.
- Lack of coordination and visibility: While progress is evident, challenges remain in coherence and integration across Action Lines, leading to gaps, redundancies, or siloed activities.
- Demand for modernization and convergence: Participants highlighted the need to revisit and possibly refresh the Action Lines framework to make it more forward-looking, synergistic, and aligned with other digital cooperation efforts such as the Global Digital Compact.

## Tangible Outcomes of the Session

- **Key Achievements:**
  - Acknowledgment that Action Lines remain central to WSIS implementation and are directly contributing to SDG progress.

- Continued commitment of UN agencies and partners to serve as Action Line facilitators and report annually on progress.
- **Announcements/Launches:**
  - Renewed call for cross-Action Line collaboration and joint initiatives in the context of WSIS+20 and the Global Digital Compact.
  - Plans to develop more accessible and interactive monitoring tools and visualizations to map Action Line contributions to the SDGs.
- **Agreements/Commitments:**
  - Broad agreement that the Action Lines must evolve to reflect current digital realities and that a stocktaking exercise—possibly with multistakeholder input—should inform their renewal.
  - Endorsement of strengthening inter-agency coordination to reduce duplication and increase the impact of Action Line activities.

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

- Undertake a comprehensive review of the WSIS Action Lines to assess alignment with today's digital landscape, including new technologies, risks, and governance needs.
- Embed stronger monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that link Action Line implementation more directly to SDG outcomes and regional development priorities.
- Promote cross-cutting collaboration among Action Line facilitators to enhance synergy, reduce overlap, and identify shared thematic priorities such as gender, youth, and climate.
- Ensure Action Line evolution supports the Global Digital Compact by aligning language, targets, and implementation approaches to maximize coherence across UN digital efforts.
- Empower stakeholders with updated, user-friendly platforms to track, report, and engage with Action Line work, including visual dashboards and multilingual reporting.



# Special Tracks

## Accessibility Special Track

**Underserved to Unstoppable: Revolutionizing STEM with Inclusive Design,  
Assistive Tech | The Accessible Game-Based Learning for the Global  
Agenda (STREAM Technologies)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 09:00 - 09:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/172>

## AI for All? Inclusion, bias, and opportunity for people with disabilities (Equitable AI Alliance)

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 10:00 - 10:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/173>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- AI is already here, not something for the future. From self-driving cars to warm, responsive robot caregivers, AI's potential seems limitless. However, algorithms are often biased against people with disabilities. If AI products are not inclusive by design, people with disabilities risk exclusion from and discrimination in day-to-day life activities, workplace, education, and other spheres of life. Conversely, AI has enormous potential to create inclusive and dedicated products for people with disabilities. Inclusion, accessibility, and equality must be fundamental to current and future developments if AI is going to meet real-world needs.
- In Employment, AI is advancing workplace inclusion by increasing accessibility (e.g. real-time captions, sign language interpretation), supporting fairer recruitment through bias-aware resume screening, and enabling skill-based matching that focuses on qualification rather than superficial aspects. However, institutional use of AI in HR also poses serious risks. Biased HR tech data, discriminatory automation, and rigid algorithmic management practices may exclude people with disabilities from recruitment and career progression.
  - Example 1: AI tools like Predictable learn a user's typing patterns to predict text and phrases, supporting individuals with neurodegenerative conditions or cerebral palsy in communicating more efficiently at work.
  - Example 2: Video interview tools may disproportionately screen out job candidates with involuntary movements caused by neurological conditions.

- In the finance sector, AI has the potential to make banking services significantly more accessible for people with disabilities. This includes applying ethical standards to prevent data bias, ensuring systems are accessible by default – not placing the burden on the user – and securing assistive technologies (AT) used in banking. When designed equitably, AI can detect users' accessibility needs and activate tailored support protocols, such as granting more time or adjusting interaction modes. However, the risks remain high. Noncompliance with digital accessibility standards (e.g. EN301.549), misuse of disability-related data, and exclusion from AI development processes can lead to unfair treatment and security vulnerabilities.
  - Example 1: AI systems can identify when a user relies on AT and automatically adjust banking interfaces to ensure safe and accessible service.
  - Example 2: AI systems might misinterpret the use of AT—such as slower navigation speed – as suspicious behavior, resulting in blocked transactions or denied access to essential banking services.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Key takeaways to amplify opportunities and mitigate risks for equitable AI:
  1. Consider human differences, the potential for inclusive value, and the potential for exclusion and discriminatory harm.
  2. Authentically engage and collaborate with experts, especially those with lived experience.
  3. Identify and mitigate risks across data, algorithms, outcomes, and unintended uses.
  4. Build AI that actively includes empowers, and addresses real-world barriers.
  5. Reflect, adapt, and share insights to improve inclusive AI practices.
- Invitation to engage with the Equitable AI Alliance:
  1. Connect conference organizers with Equitable AI Alliance experts and speakers.

2. Find resources in the Equitable AI Knowledge Hub.
3. Reach out for webinars tailored to your needs on AI.
4. Join discussions in the Disability-Inclusive AI LinkedIn group.

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

- Adopt inclusive design as a foundational principle for all AI development – solutions must be accessible by design, with persons with disabilities meaningfully involved throughout creation, testing, and application.
- Mandate sector-wide accessibility standards such as EN301.549, supported by robust policies, ethical guidelines, and regulatory frameworks to ensure compliance and accountability.
- Strengthen data governance by improving training data quality, eliminating bias, and embedding fairness throughout the AI lifecycle.
- Enforce data privacy and consent safeguards, ensuring transparency around what data is collected, how it is shared, and with whom, with user consent at the core.
- Foster cross-sector collaboration to scale effective, disability-inclusive AI solutions and share successful models globally.

## **Digital Skills Special Track**

**Blueprints for building digital skills (International Telecommunication Union)**

**Wednesday, 9 July 2025, 14:00 - 15:00**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/501>

## Empowering Workers in the Age of AI (International Labour Organization)

Wednesday, 9 July 2025, 14:00 - 15:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/519>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Digital transformation is reshaping work:** Nearly 90% of jobs will require digital skills by 2030 (UNESCO), highlighting the urgency to equip all workers with digital competencies
- **Job transformation, not elimination:** While 25% of jobs are exposed to generative AI, only 3.3% face full automation. Most roles will evolve, not disappear – especially administrative and support roles, impacting women disproportionately
- **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the digital supply chain:** From miners to data annotators and content moderators, digitalization creates new OSH risks. Informal and precarious workers are particularly vulnerable, lacking adequate protections
- **AI's impact on learning and upskilling:** Innovations like AI-powered learning platforms, personalized learning analytics, and automated assessments were highlighted as major opportunities for lifelong learning and workplace training
- **Challenges for institutions:** TVET and skills systems struggle to adapt quickly to technological change, while also undergoing their own digital transitions. SMEs lag in tech adoption, limiting apprenticeship and reskilling opportunities
- **Inequality and exclusion risks:** The digital divide persists with 2.6 billion people still offline (ITU nov 2024). Women, informal workers, and low-income populations face more barriers.
- **Regulatory responses emerging:** Examples from Argentina, Germany, France, and others show how governments are updating OSH, AI governance, and telework regulations to protect workers in the digital economy

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Key achievements

- Elevated the multidimensional risks and opportunities of AI in work and learning.
- Clarified policy priorities including gender-sensitive digital skilling and worker protections in the AI supply chain.
- Announcements/launch during the session:
  - ILO joining the AI Skills Coalition
  - Introduction of the ILO Artificial Intelligence Masterclass

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

- Invest in foundational and advanced digital skills: Support large-scale, inclusive upskilling and reskilling initiatives targeting women, youth, and informal workers.
- Create rights-based digital learning ecosystems: Promote quality, accessibility, and data privacy in all digital learning platforms and tools.
- Strengthen OSH frameworks for digital work: Expand protections for new forms of digital labour including data annotation, AI moderation, and remote platform work.
- Encourage public-private partnerships: Facilitate collaboration between governments, industries, and training institutions to close digital skills gaps and co-develop agile curricula.
- Institutionalize AI observatories and foresight tools: Embed regular scenario planning and evidence-based monitoring in national and global policymaking on digital transformation.

## Emerging technologies Special Track

### Innovation and A.I. for a better information to citizens and more accurate EWS (Eurovisioni and WBU)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/223>

#### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- WSIS since 2026 is a unique opportunity to showcase best practices or best policies that have used technological innovation at the service of the SDG implementation
- It's also the best place to be in to know which are the most advanced solutions that technology could provide for some of the most urgent problems of our civilization
- The marriage of WSIS+20 the "A.I. for good summit" increased the opportunities to become aware of all technical solutions that are around, and nowadays, this means to investigate about the progress made by artificial intelligence
- In our case, what is relevant are the progress made -thanks to artificial intelligence- in the field of weather forecast, that now allow to provide forecasts with a degree of accuracy and anticipation that had no equivalent in the past.

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

- According to WMO the introduction of A.I. is already now allowing us to deliver more accurate, precise and advanced forecasts that could be more localized. But as the case of Texas floods showed just few hours before the session, the main problem - once you have identified the area and the exposed population- remains and it is how to inform the vulnerable population and how to convince them to act (evacuate certain areas, move on the top of the hills or of buildings, etc. etc.);
- According to BBC This could only happen if a preparatory work of awareness could be made across the population beforehand and if the tools to

communicate (the so-called last mile) with the final users are still in place when the disaster occurs.

Announcements/launch during the session:

- What the Texas floods experience shows is that kind of disasters such as floods or tsunami or earthquakes tends to destroy non resilient infrastructure and to shut down electricity. When this occurs (and it was the case in Spain in April 2025 with a gigantic black out, or in Turkey and Syria for a big earthquake 3 years ago, or in Texas one week ago, and in general more often than in the past) telecom networks are out of orders and cannot reach anymore the population. So alternative media needs to be kept available.
- This is exactly what forecasts the M.A.R.S. strategy promoted by EBU<sup>1</sup>; where this acronym stands for: **Multilayer, Anywhere, Resilient, Sustainable**. In other terms this means that to face emergency of the future, you cannot rely only on one network, but you a plurality of networks, interconnected among them : cellular networks, 5G broadcast networks, but also terrestrial and satellite broadcasting ( TV and radio) and , last but not least, analogue radio FM or AM or , even, in certain cases, short/medium waves radio<sup>2</sup>.
- In this sense would be primordial that in all countries at risk of disaster and of climate change impactful events, there will be a preliminary assessment of ALL possible "last mile" solutions and not only telco's-based solutions, including satellite and terrestrial broadcasting (TV and, especially, radio).
- Once this connection is established, it's crucial to proceed in close cooperation among all stakeholders (weather forecast, civil protection, NDM =National Disaster management authorities) in order to assess the resilience of the infrastructures (all of them, not only the telcos) in that given country or region; to identify which are the tools available for the "last mile" communication and to establish safe and robust lines of communication among them;
- It's also very important that new technologies such as 5G broadcasting (that allow the broadcasting signal to access to the mobile devices present in a given zone using the already approved ITU/3GPP standards)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://tech.ebu.ch/publications/white-paper-2024-10-16>

<sup>2</sup> <https://tech.ebu.ch/tech-i>

would be adopted and included in all new portable devices, allowing to have a multiplicity of communication layers, that could prove to be more resistant at time of crisis;

- Broadcasters -on their side- need to improve, strengthen and maintain a high level of cooperation with the organizations that could spread around the population early warnings alerts;
- Project like MSL - Media saving lives, promoted in these last years by UNDRR in partnership with WBU - World Broadcasting Union, is a perfect examples of what needs to be done, to train media professionals at broadcasting media) in order to be aware of what to do in case of crisis and to establish permanent and secured links between regulatory authorities and the journalists in the broadcasters newsroom (TV, radio and community radio);
- And finally, according to BBC, the introduction of A.I. in the newsrooms and in the weather forecasts units of the media could also improve a lot to cover the "last mile" gap.
- WMO and World Broadcasting Unions and the European Broadcasting Union promised to improve and enlarge already existing cooperation like in the EW4all project<sup>3</sup> and collaborative efforts to achieve the goals mentioned above.

More in general, it would be good to have in the future WSIS follow up a dedicated track to climate change and disaster reduction, because this will be one of the main topic of the future years to come.

USEFUL MATERIAL TO KNOW MORE:

**EBU contribution to EW4All: see annex**

**EBU:** <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Early-Warnings-for-All-Initiative.aspx>

**BBC:** <https://bbc.com/news/articles/czel61ge514o>

**BBC:** <https://bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/cwy6ykp7049o>

**ABU:** [WBU/UNDRR Media Saving Lives initiative to focus on effective early warnings and risk communications - ABU](#)

**RTVE-RADIO NACIONAL ESPANA: video** "Apagón Abril 2025"- [LinkedIn](#) ; [Facebook](#) ; [X](#)

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<sup>3</sup> EW4All UN/ITU : <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Early-Warnings-for-All-Initiative.aspx>



## AI Use Cases to Increase Healthy Life Longevity for Children & Elderlies (HiNounou - France-China)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/192>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- “The debate around AI today should not pit humans against machines,” stated Charles Bark, Founder of HiNounou. **“Rather, it is about finding the right balance to combine the strengths of both, to increase healthy life longevity and support caregivers more effectively.”**
- As one of the world’s top 1% Invisalign orthodontists and a pioneer in dental innovation, Dr. Bianchi shared over 20 years of clinical experience integrating AI into daily medical practice: “AI will never replace the skilled hands and clinical judgment required in my daily work with patients. However, it significantly augments my ability to provide more efficient, personalized, and precise care. AI acts as a GPS, helping me simulate and visualize the entire orthodontic journey for children and adults. With Invisalign’s AI algorithms, trained in over 20 million patient cases, we can forecast potential treatment outcomes even before starting. AI supports my practice—it doesn’t replace it—and it empowers patients to become active participants in their own health journey.
- From a national policy perspective, H.E. Mr. Hajymyrat Hudaygulyev, Minister of Telecommunications of Turkmenistan, highlighted AI’s role in digital transformation: “We consider artificial intelligence to be a cornerstone of Turkmenistan’s digital transformation, designed to improve societal wellbeing.”
- Laurent Vachey, France's Inspector General of Finance, who led the creation of the fifth branch of social security to promote elderly autonomy, emphasized AI’s value in public health: “AI is a potential game-changer in preventive care, particularly for chronic diseases. By collecting and analyzing data through connected medical devices, AI can identify and mitigate health risks before symptoms appear. HiNounou’s Digital Twin AI, modeling individuals with five

multi-omics data dimensions, is a powerful example of predictive and preventive AI healthcare.”

- As one of Founder of Serapy, an AI entrepreneur to promote better education, Sophie Bertin stated: The most important, core value proposition of AI in education is the Hyper-Personalisation of the training. It offers unprecedented ability to deliver hyper-personalised learning experiences.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

This roundtable showcased cutting-edge ai applications from both public and private sectors:

#### PUBLIC SECTOR:

*Turkmenistan’s Ministry of Telecommunications* and *France’s Ministry of Finance* represented national efforts to harness AI for public good.

#### PRIVATE SECTOR:

- *Natuzzi (NYSE)* demonstrated its WellBe Comfortness line—smart sofas and beds designed to enhance wellness through embedded AI.
- *Dr. Bianchi* highlighted AI-driven 3D-printed Invisalign aligners that restore smiles and jaw functions for children and adults.
- *Sophie Bertin*, a leading AI entrepreneur, shared successful gamification strategies to enhance AI literacy and training.

### Agreements & Commitments

HiNounou announced a strategic partnership with the Government of Turkmenistan, supported by Minister Hajmyrat Hudaygulyev, to pilot and scale HiNounou’s AI-powered digital health innovations within Turkmenistan’s healthcare ecosystem.

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

- **Prioritize AI for Health (AI4Good):** Promote AI to support SDG 3 ("Good Health and Well-Being") by enabling early diagnosis, prevention, and personalized care across age groups.
- **Bridge the Digital Health Divide:** Address SDG 10 ("Reduced Inequalities") by promoting AI solutions that improve healthcare access in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), especially for children and older adults.
- **Foster Multistakeholder Collaborations:** Encourage partnerships among governments, private sector, startups, and academia to develop scalable, ethical, and inclusive AI health ecosystems.
- **Invest in Preventive AI Models:** Scale AI-driven Digital Twins and multi-omics-based predictive health systems to prevent chronic conditions and reduce healthcare costs.
- **Advance AI Education & Public Literacy:** Use gamification and inclusive training strategies to empower citizens, caregivers, and medical professionals with AI knowledge and skills.

**Human Rights-Centered Global Governance of Quantum Technologies: Implications for AI, Digital Rights, and the Digital Divide (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) , European University Institute (EUI), Delft University of Technology...)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 10:00 – 10:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/176>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- **Embedding Human Rights Principles in Emerging Technology Governance:** Quantum technology (QT) innovation and applications must be grounded in universal human rights principles. Rather than being constraints, human rights norms are essential foundations for sustainable growth, ethical innovation, and equitable digital transformation.
- **Proactive and Inclusive Governance for Quantum Futures:** Global QT governance should reflect the diversity of global interests and safeguard fundamental rights. In addition, participants explored how global QT governance connects to existing internet governance issues via quantum information and communication technologies, stressing that principles from the Tunis Agenda should guide QT governance frameworks, particularly under Action Lines C3 (access), C7 (e-applications), and C10 (ethical dimensions).
- **Addressing Quantum’s Dual-Use Dilemma:** QT applications, particularly in computing and cryptography, present a complex dual-use challenge, posing significant privacy and national security risks. The session underscored the urgent need for ethical, socio-technical foresight, and meaningful global cooperation to govern this duality responsibly, particularly when there are ongoing geopolitical tensions in balancing openness, sovereignty, and security in global digital cooperation.
- **Closing the Quantum Divide:** As with previous technological revolutions, there is a real risk that quantum technologies will deepen global digital divides if equitable access, infrastructure investment, and technology transfer mechanisms are not prioritized. Speakers emphasized that “technological transitions do not happen in a vacuum,” and called for capacity-building and open knowledge-sharing, especially for countries in the Global Majority.
- **Tackling Gender Inequity in Quantum Fields:** Without structural interventions (e.g. targeted inclusion policies, education initiatives, and systemic reforms), QT innovation risks entrenching persistent intersectional inequities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

- **Reforming Multistakeholder and Multilateral Governance Models:** Experts advocated for embedding transdisciplinary multistakeholder participation in all phases of quantum governance, from standard-setting, governance, research, and deployment, to bridge the gap between diverse communities and to build momentum toward trustworthy, inclusive, and sustainable QT development.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Key achievements:** The session elevated the global discourse on the human rights-centered governance of quantum technologies, linking it to WSIS+20 priorities.
- **Announcements/Launch during the session:** A joint issue brief titled “Human Rights-Centered Global Governance of Quantum Technologies”.
- **Agreements/Commitments as an outcome of the session:** Participants committed to leveraging the UN-designated *International Year of Quantum* to raise global awareness, foster inclusive policy dialogues, and accelerate multistakeholder cooperation.

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

- **Institutionalize Inclusive Multistakeholder Participation:** Participation from civil society, academia, the private sector, and underrepresented communities must be institutionalized beyond consultation to co-shape agile, interoperable, accountable governance mechanisms that can adapt to rapid technological shifts, based on contextual realities.
- **Catalyze International Collaboration through Global Research Centers:** Shift from dialogue to action by establishing regional international quantum research centers that promote shared responsibility, open science, and equitable innovation to democratize access and governance of QT.
- **Position QT as Digital Public Goods:** Promote global governance approaches that treat QT innovations as digital public goods—developed transparently, governed collaboratively, and accessible equitably. This vision ensures that quantum technologies bridge, rather than deepen, existing and anticipated multidimensional digital and socioeconomic divides.
- **Encourage Anticipatory Governance and Ethical Socio-Technical Foresight:** The session concluded with a clear message: the time to govern quantum technologies is now. Delayed action risks locking in inequities and surveillance threats. WSIS+20 must serve as a platform for shaping a human rights-centered, ethical, and future-ready global QT governance agenda that serves the public interest.

**Back to the Future: Putting the "I" (individual) back into A.I (Institute for Digital Culture, University of Leicester)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 11:00 - 11:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/187>

**Key Issues discussed:**

- The past was reflected on as a lens to the future – going back to the 1980's before reflecting on the last 20-years.
- Potential warnings within the Brundtland (Our Common Future) Report (BR) were considered and used as a starting point, namely:
- Although BR alluded within, that technology had a role to play, in terms of being, "*A mainspring of economic growth...*" it also, recognized, "*while this technology offers the potential for slowing the dangerously rapid consumption of finite resources, it also **entails high risks**, including new forms of pollution and the introduction to the planet of **new variations of life forms** that could **change evolutionary pathways***" (BR – pg 1).

**Questions asked related to:**

- Was one variant to be viewed as 'AI?' – remembering that as early as 1950 Alan Turing, posed the question, "*can machines think?*"

**Looking Beyond 2025:**

- The session also questioned whether we were on the right path in terms of technology use to meet the SDG's and better the world?
- Or, whether there was a need to re-think certain policies and approaches?
- This session delved into the impact of technology – including A.I., and the potential to change OUR evolutionary pathway (which is inherently influenced by our collective and '*individual*' past experiences).
- Discussions factored in the need to consider "*reorienting technology and managing risk*" today, (BR – pg 46) – which are particularly associated with "*electric and other utility distribution networks, communication systems, and mass transportation.*" These being said to be "*vulnerable.... if stressed beyond a certain point*" (BR - 55).

- Questions posed and discussed related to whether “*that point*” is today (or will be tomorrow) and whether technology stands to compromise not just the human but, more importantly the individual.
- Also questioned was the alignment of policies and whether (certain) policies conflicted with the overarching sustainability goals – particularly those that seek to promote technology as a solution to meeting the SDG’s.

### Overview of engagement and findings

**Panellists** were: Alfredo Ronchi (Professor at Politecnico di Milano - Engineering Faculty; Secretary General of the EC-MEDICI Framework of Cooperation) and Aleve Mine, The One Global Initiative for Governance.

However, this session was facilitated to build in audience engagement.

**Chair/Convenor** was Dr Sarah Jane Fox – Institute for Digital Culture, University of Leicester

- 1) Participation was strong, and the session was fully attended.
- 2) The audience engaged well, and the session started by asking the audience about their knowledge and experience of WSIS.
- 3) On the whole, most of the audience had not been to any previous WSIS events and only one person had presented in the past (except, that is, for the panelists which had been to and presented at other WSIS events).
- 4) The audience were from a wide variety of areas (broad stakeholders) from education, government bodies and the private sector.
- 5) Only one audience member (and Dr Fox) had any knowledge of the Brundtland Report (Our Common Future), so overall, the historical knowledge of sustainability was not strong.

### POINTS DISCUSSED

- Concerns were raised as to the compatibility of various policies to the overarching goals of the SDG’s. *Dr Fox questioning whether they always aligned to other SDG’s areas, including WSIS action lines (particularly relating to equality and leaving no one behind):*

**For example** – one participant referred to e-vehicles and the mining in their own country to obtain resources (mineral for batteries) which failed to respect human rights and claimed land which affected regional persons, who were often of a lower income and generally challenged. So, whilst the objective is to use more environmentally friendly vehicles, this came at a human and social cost, which often affects lower-standing people. This was seen as a concern – whereby, policies fail to recognize the overarching effect; in terms of the condition of workers to achieve the resources, the impact to landowners, the associated pollution of mining resources. While the environmental factors relating to battery disposal was also questioned.

- Overall, the audience expressed concerns as to effective policies and controls being put in place to regulate and oversee technologies. Technology development often being seen to financially and economically benefit producers. Concerns were also equally expressed relating to governments acceptance of technology without protections always being in place for the most vulnerable in society.
- The loss of human intelligence, if technology was heavily relied on, particularly A.I. was also discussed.
- There were concerns over IPR's relating to technology (and A.I.) and the erosion of the arts.
- Professor Ronchi referred to technology - A.I. making decisions over patients in hospital.
- Alve Mine, and an audience participant, questioned the over-use of technology diagnostics, particularly from a medical perspective, which risked prevention and earlier human interventions.
- While autonomous vehicles also were discussed in terms of programmed algorithm and cultural differences relating to valuing lives (for example: the young vs. the elderly).
- Dr Fox raised concerns that the majority of the population the elderly (particularly women) risked being left behind and disadvantaged by new and evolving technologies – for example: autonomous cars and e-government systems which they could not operate or understand.

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

- There remains the need to engage those affected by policies (particularly the vulnerable and elderly) more.
  - There must be consideration given to wider policy areas (and policy conflict);
  - Advocated in a working group that has oversight of policies and considers the risks of various policies that stand to affect individuals (societal groups) negatively.
- 
- i. The final aim of the contributors are policy guidelines and tools that translate findings and recommendations into actionable policy guidelines for stakeholders and institutions.
  - ii. Evidence-based policy guidelines on the critical aspects of digital transformation – i.e. that include the benefits and challenges of digital technologies, which should include recognising individuals (that is societal groups) likely to be affected by policies.
  - iii. This should include strategies for promoting human-centred values in digital initiatives.

FINAL COMMENT: In the + 20 review *we should be confident to stand up and say certain policies/approaches are wrong and won't work and there is a need for a re-set in certain areas.*

**La régulation du numérique et de l'IA dans l'espace francophone comme inspiration et bonne pratique internationale (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 13:00 - 13:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/317>

## **fAlnance for Good: Harnessing AI to Almpove the Global Financial Systems (ainitiative - to aimprove (y)our future)**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/178>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The amplified use of fAlnance, fintech, AI and blockchain to improve financial inclusion, transparency and efficiency in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Real-world examples from UNHCR and WFP on blockchain-based cash aid, de-duplication and traceability in humanitarian finance.
- The impact of alternative finance models such as M-Pesa (mobile money in Africa), UPI (India's instant payments) and agent-based networks in expanding access for unbanked populations.
- Addressing the challenge of raising awareness that fAlnance is an increasingly vital component of the information society and the internet as (digital) money is a reality transferred online as easily as text, photos, videos, gaming, music-streaming etc.
- The need for ethical frameworks, transparent algorithms and human-centered design to prevent bias and to ensure responsible deployment of digital finance.
- The role of humanoid robots in financial education and as tools for engagement with youth and communities.
- The importance of community-controlled and decentralized finance models, including programmable digital tokens and new fundraising mechanisms.
- The urgency of preparing financial infrastructure for quantum computing threats with quantum-secure blockchain and cryptography.
- Challenges in localization, digital literacy and ensuring access to digital financial tools for women, youth and displaced people.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

#### **Key Achievements**

- Demonstrated cost savings and improved transparency through AI and blockchain in humanitarian finance.
- Presented new models for inclusive finance, such as staking pools and programmable donations.
- Showcased collaboration across public, private, finance and tech sectors, integrating AI, blockchain and digital identity tools.

### **Announcements/Launches during the session**

- Harnessing AI-powered financial education tools using humanoid robots.
- Pilots for quantum-secure blockchain in humanitarian and cross-border finance.
- Introduction of programmable financial products and staking pools for fundraising.

### **Agreements/Commitments as an outcome of the session**

- Commitment to ethical AI in financial services, with a focus on transparency and explainability.
- Agreement to strengthen partnerships for inclusive, sustainable financial ecosystems, emphasizing community participation.
- Pledge to expand digital and financial literacy, especially for women, youth and displaced persons.
- Support for regulatory innovation and open standards for digital wallets and identity systems.

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

### **1. Develop Robust Ethical and Transparent AI Frameworks:**

Ensure financial systems adopt explainable AI, bias prevention and transparent algorithms, with clear audit trails and human oversight.

### **2. Scale Digital and Financial Literacy:**

Invest in education and capacity-building, targeting women, youth and displaced communities to ensure meaningful participation in digital finance.

**3. Promote awareness for fAlnance in the Information Society including Interoperability and Open Standards:**

**Raise the awareness about the crucial role of fAlnance as an essential pillar of the information society - where digital money is seamlessly transferred online just like text, photos, videos, gaming and music streaming. Embrace the future of finance in the digital age.** Support the adoption of interoperable digital wallets, portable digital IDs and open protocols to enable seamless, cross-border financial access.

**4. Invest in Quantum-Safe Financial Infrastructure:**

Accelerate the transition to quantum-secure cryptography and blockchain to future-proof humanitarian and financial systems.

**5. Foster Multi-Stakeholder and Community-Led Partnerships:**

Encourage collaboration between public, private, humanitarian, finance and tech sectors, prioritizing localization, agency and community-controlled fAlnance models to close the digital divide and advance the SDGs.

**Developing capacities for bottom-up AI in the Global South: What role for the international community? (DiploFoundation/Permanent Mission of Kenya/Microsoft/IT for Change)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 10:00 - 10:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/423>

**Key issues discussed**

- **Bottom-up AI development:** Strong emphasis on developing AI solutions that serve local community needs rather than imposing external frameworks, with focus on “smallest beautiful models” that can run locally and address specific tasks rather than requiring large-scale infrastructure.
- **Infrastructure and policy challenges:** Recognition that basic infrastructure issues (reliable electricity, internet connectivity, etc.) must be addressed alongside AI development, with debate over whether to tackle these sequentially or simultaneously. Arguments that one fundamental challenge for AI adoption in developing countries is the lack of coherent policy frameworks across critical areas; issues like unreliable electricity, fragmented data ecosystems, and inadequate educational systems stem from policy gaps rather than just resource constraints.
- **Data governance capacity building:** Reflections that building institutional capacity for data governance is key: effective AI implementation requires robust frameworks for managing and governing data. If data cannot be used effectively to impact the most vulnerable populations, then AI implementation is failing.
- **Community-centered AI applications:** Focus on practical applications that augment existing local practices (e.g. in agriculture) rather than displacing traditional methods, with emphasis on training local talent to support rural communities using accessible AI tools.
- **Regenerative AI:** Emphasis on a concept of ‘regenerative AI’ that prioritises human dignity over competitive advantage. This approach focuses on AI that

augments human capabilities while respecting indigenous knowledge systems and being intentionally designed for inclusive outcomes.

### **Tangible outcomes / areas of agreement**

- AI implementation should respect and build upon existing local practices, knowledge systems, and community-identified needs rather than forcing communities to adapt to externally designed technological frameworks.
- Focus should be placed on integrating AI into specific development sectors, such as agriculture, health, and education, where it can deliver tangible benefits while respecting existing practices and local knowledge systems.
- Effective AI capacity building requires collaboration between multiple stakeholders including governments, private sector, and communities, with emphasis on networked approaches that connect similar contexts.

### **Key recommendations**

#### **Takeaways**

- AI capacity building requires nuanced, context-specific approaches rather than one-size-fits-all solutions, with different countries needing different types of support (talent development, infrastructure, policy frameworks, etc.) based on their development level.
- Bottom-up AI development should prioritize local community needs. Successful technology implementation should not require communities to fundamentally change how they work. Instead, technology should be designed and implemented to enhance existing practices and workflows, making them more efficient and effective without disrupting established methods.
- Basic infrastructure challenges (electricity, connectivity) could be addressed simultaneously with AI development rather than sequentially, as waiting for perfect infrastructure would delay beneficial AI applications.
- Local communities possess talent that can be leveraged for AI development. Graduate unemployment could be addressed by training young people to

use AI tools that can support rural communities. This approach creates employment opportunities while providing technical support to farmers and rural populations who can benefit from AI applications.

- Policy frameworks should focus on data governance, institutional capacity building, and embedding AI in broader development sectors rather than treating AI as a standalone technology.

**Questions for further exploration:**

- **Implementation mechanisms:** While participants discussed principles, specific mechanisms for ensuring AI serves community-identified needs rather than externally imposed solutions require further development.
- **Scaling challenges:** How to scale successful local AI solutions while maintaining their community-specific benefits presents ongoing challenges.
- **Infrastructure trade-offs:** The debate between sequential and simultaneous approaches to addressing infrastructure challenges and AI development reflects broader questions about development priorities and resource allocation.

**AI for Digital Inclusive Development (Internet Society of China / Estrategia Latino-Americana de Inteligencia Artificial)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 11:00 - 11:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/185>

**Key Issues discussed :**

- **Challenge:** The Widening 'Interpretative Gap': The next 20 years will see an exponential increase in the complexity of AI systems, creating a critical "interpretative gap" where users lack the cognitive tools to understand or contest the technologies shaping their lives. This asymmetry fundamentally challenges digital citizenship and human agency
- **Emerging Trend:** The Need for 'Digital Hermeneutic Justice': As a response, a new humancentric paradigm is emerging. This goes beyond technical fixes to demand shared interpretative resources, ensuring that all individuals,

especially in the Global South, can make sense of their digital experiences and participate meaningfully in the Information Society

- **Challenge for the Next 20 Years:** A New 'Algorithmic Illiteracy': The over-reliance on AI for judgment and reflection is fostering a new form of illiteracy—the inability to think critically without algorithmic mediation. Countering this will be a central educational and societal challenge for the WSIS process.
- **Opportunity:** The Shift from Opaque Contracts to Transparent Communication: The era of incomprehensible "Terms of Use" is unsustainable. The future lies in standardized, humanreadable risk communication. The "AI Risk Nutrition Label System" is a success story in the making, showing a practical path to democratize understanding and empower informed consent.
- **Emerging Trend:** Globally Interoperable Governance: To avoid a fragmented digital world, there is a clear trend towards interoperable governance frameworks. Grounding new proposals, like the AI Risk Label, in robust existing regulations (e.g., the EU AI Act) provides a blueprint for creating legally sound, globally applicable standards.
- **Opportunity for WSIS Beyond 2025:** Fostering Human-First AI Governance: The true challenge is not perfecting AI models, but agreeing on the ethical ends they serve. WSIS is uniquely positioned to lead a global dialogue that moves from a technology-first to a human-first approach, prioritizing collective deliberation on values and normative frameworks.

## Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Key achievements**
  - Successfully introduced the concept of 'Digital Hermeneutic Justice' as a novel and critical framework for understanding and addressing the core human-centric challenges of the AI era.
  - Presented a concrete, actionable governance tool designed to bridge the interpretative gap between AI developers and users, empowering communities and fostering cognitive justice.

- **Announcements/launch during the session**
  - Official launch of the 'AI Risk Nutrition Label System' proposal—an innovative, twotiered governance framework designed to provide transparent, standardized, and accessible information about AI risks. It includes a detailed AI Risk Panel for technical stakeholders and intuitive AI Risk Labels for the general public.
- **Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session**
  - A call to action for a multistakeholder coalition of governments along with ELA-IA, civil society organizations, and academic institutions to commit to the further development and pilot implementation of the AI Risk Nutrition Label System. The session seeks a commitment to secure funding and collaborative resources to transform this proposal into a globally recognized and operational standard for ethical and accountable AI.

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

- **Prioritize Human-Centric Transparency Mechanisms.** The WSIS+20 Review should formally recommend that all future digital governance frameworks adopt standardized, humanreadable transparency mechanisms, such as risk labeling systems, as a core principle to empower users and ensure accountability.
- **Integrate 'Digital Hermeneutic Justice' as a Core Principle.** We recommend that the WSIS+20 Review and the vision beyond 2025 integrate the principle of 'Digital Hermeneutic Justice,' recognizing that equitable access to information is insufficient without the collective cognitive resources needed to interpret and act upon it.
- **Establish a Multistakeholder Working Group on Interpretative Equity.** Launch a dedicated WSIS working group focused on 'Interpretative Equity and Algorithmic Literacy' to support SouthSouth collaboration in developing and sharing governance models and educational tools that restore human agency in the algorithmic age.

- Create Funding Mechanisms for Public-Interest Governance Tools. Recommend that UNGA and associated bodies establish dedicated financial mechanisms to support the development, scaling, and adoption of non-commercial, public-interest AI governance solutions, particularly those originating from the Global South, to ensure a diverse and equitable ecosystem of tools.

## Global adoption, global progress: Managing the challenges of AI inclusion (International Chamber of Commerce)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/189>

### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Connectivity is the foundation for inclusion**

Speakers underscored the persistent global gap in meaningful Internet access, particularly in Africa, noting that without connectivity, the benefits of AI remain inaccessible. Bridging this divide requires investment in both physical infrastructure and supportive digital ecosystems.

- **Soft infrastructure and policy ecosystems are often underrecognized**

Beyond connectivity, trusted platforms, safe online environments, and clear regulatory frameworks are key to sustaining digital inclusion. The session highlighted the importance of investing in these elements alongside physical infrastructure.

- **Inclusive, representative data is critical**

Speakers highlighted the need for equitable, diverse datasets that reflect local languages, contexts, and realities. Persistent data gaps in many regions limit AI's usefulness and inclusivity. They emphasized expanding open-access data platforms and advancing responsible, community-driven data stewardship to ensure AI serves all populations.

- **Skills and capacity development must scale**

Speakers emphasized the urgent need to scale skills and capacity development to keep pace with rapid AI advancements. Building competencies from early education through to workforce transition is essential to ensure that users, developers, and regulators can effectively engage with emerging technologies.

- **Agile and harmonized governance is essential**

Regulatory fragmentation presents significant challenges. An adaptive, innovation-friendly regulatory environment that promotes interoperability and cross-border data flows was identified as critical to accelerating inclusive digital transformation.

- **Multistakeholder collaboration is indispensable**

Speakers emphasised that bridging the digital divides requires joint efforts from governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia. Partnerships, such as those demonstrated in climate risk prediction and inclusive AI initiatives, highlight how cross-border and cross-sector collaboration can drive real-world impact and build trust.

- **Empowering users as co-creators of AI is critical**

Enabling users to participate in designing and innovating AI technologies, rather than solely consuming them, was identified as essential for sustainable digital development.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

- **Key achievements:** The session reinforced strong alignment among diverse stakeholders on the urgent need to prioritize connectivity, inclusive datasets, AI skills development, and agile, interoperable regulatory frameworks as foundational building blocks for inclusive AI.
- **Announcements/launch during the session:** ICC announced the release of its policy paper, *Achieving Inclusive AI* (released 8 July), which outlines practical recommendations to promote inclusive AI benefiting both business and society.
- **Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session:** Speakers and participants expressed a shared commitment to advancing inclusive AI.

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

Governments, businesses, and stakeholders should:

- **Prioritize comprehensive digital infrastructure investments** that integrate both physical connectivity (such as broadband networks and cloud access) and essential soft infrastructure, including inclusive policy frameworks, digital safety measures, and trusted platforms. This holistic

approach is crucial to ensure that inclusion is sustainable and addresses not only access but also meaningful and secure use of technology.

- **Scale capacity-building initiatives** by embedding AI and digital skills education throughout formal education systems and workforce development programs. This will equip individuals across all sectors with the technical expertise and regulatory understanding needed to participate effectively in AI innovation, governance, and usage.
- **Expand equitable data ecosystems** through promoting open data access, responsible data stewardship, and targeted investment in developing datasets that are diverse, representative, and inclusive of multiple languages and local contexts. Such datasets are foundational for creating AI systems that serve all populations fairly and effectively.
- **Foster agile and harmonized regulatory environments** that support technological innovation while ensuring interoperability and secure cross-border data flows. Regulatory frameworks should be flexible enough to manage risks without stifling growth, adapting swiftly to the fast pace of AI developments and promoting international cooperation.
- **Strengthen multistakeholder collaboration** by encouraging sustained partnerships among governments, private sector actors, academia, and civil society. Collaborative efforts are essential to co-design inclusive solutions, bridge digital divides, and enable the responsible deployment of AI technologies that benefit diverse communities worldwide.

**Embedding Human Rights in AI Standards: From Principles to Practice  
(Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) - International Telecommunication Union  
(ITU) - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human  
Rights...)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/179>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The growing importance of embedding human rights into the lifecycle of AI systems through inclusive, transparent, and accountable standardization processes.
- Technical standards as both guardrails and enablers of human rights, shaping access to services, freedom from discrimination, and privacy protection.
- Concrete frameworks emerging from organizations like ITU, OHCHR, IEEE, and Women at the Table for aligning AI governance with international human rights law.
- Challenges in translating abstract human rights principles into technical specifications across global standardization bodies.
- New initiatives such as the Human Rights AI Benchmark and training modules on human rights in standardization.
- Evidence of consensus among Member States, including adoption of recent Human Rights Council resolutions and collaboration across SDOs.
- Strong momentum for multi-stakeholder and Global South participation in standard-setting processes.
- The urgent need for early-stage engagement with AI developers, particularly those working in the private sector.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Strengthened collaboration between the ITU and OHCHR with a joint work plan on standards and human rights.
- Announcement of a Human Rights AI Benchmark project led by Women at the Table, aiming to guide procurement and regulatory decisions.

- IEEE reaffirmed its commitment to expanding the 7000-series standards addressing ethical and social impacts of technology.
- Consensus on embedding human rights training modules into standardization committee processes (e.g., ITU human rights courses).
- Shared learning from diverse initiatives, including inclusive data standards and city-level digital humanism frameworks.

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

- Promote inclusive participation of civil society and Global South stakeholders in AI standard-setting bodies.
- Encourage standardization bodies to adopt and scale human rights due diligence frameworks throughout the AI lifecycle.
- Prioritize capacity-building and shared vocabulary efforts to bridge gaps between human rights experts and technical communities.
- Support the operationalization of the Global Digital Compact's recommendations, including the creation of an AI Standards Exchange.
- Facilitate early engagement with AI developers and model creators to address risks before products reach the market.

## Children & Robots (Ethic Minds Institute)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 16:30 - 17:30

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/320>

### The Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Advanced quantum computers will soon break global cybersecurity frameworks.
  - Protection of private data via quantum-secure encryption is becoming essential to operate effectively in this new digital reality.
  - The economic dynamics of AI will change through the appearance of QUANTUM AI systems.
- The use of data is changing rapidly.
  - Securing private data to users, starting in childhood, is critical to changing the relationship between people and corporations
- Data is more valuable than ever, especially for AI training.
  - The interests of children are challenged by AI systems, including those embodied in humanoid robots.
  - Children (and adults) are generators of IP that is valuable and digestible by AI systems, which should be commercially recognised.
  - Children are able to contribute to curricula and be recognised economically for adding value to the education system and education products as a new economic reality in the AI economy.
- The subject of data goes to the nature of ourselves. Our data is intrinsic to our identities, and we are potentially losing control of it.
  - The right to data privacy, enshrined in Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, needs to be respected.
- Revenues from private data are necessary to offset job destruction, and children's assets are primary stakeholders in this.

- This moment in history represents a strategic opportunity to address the imbalance between \*technology companies\* and "users" in terms of access to and ownership of user data
  - New cryptographic systems are providing the tools to achieve this, through data security, data provenance and secure payment systems
  - Secure digital identities enable these kinds of mechanisms to operate within existing common law frameworks
  - We can use emerging technology to secure IP to individuals and produce higher quality and more valuable data sets that can be commercially licensed by AI systems for training
- We can establish standards for LLM provenance, to help ensure the physical safety of children in the proximity of robotic systems

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Parents and teachers were highlighted as having an important role in protecting children from the harms of AI and robotic systems.
- Recognition of the need to equip parents and teachers with the right technology and understanding to protect children from harm.
- Recognition of the need to strengthen the principle of common law duty of care in relation to potential harm.
- Children as stakeholders, owning their lifetime data.

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

- We recommend that the ITU and UN system support children as stakeholders in the emerging AI economy, including by recognising the value of their data, their right to own it, and their right to revenue derived from it.
  - We should recognise that children own their lifetime data.
  - Changing the way we consider the rights of children to reflect their interests as stakeholders in the emerging AI economy.
- A potential Partnership program with the corporate "Vaulted Ventures" (<https://vaulted.ventures>) to provide access to new cryptographic infrastructure and quantum-secure functions to ITU members.

- To develop an array of applications that support IP rights generally and to highlight children as stakeholders in the emerging AI and robotic economy.
  - This system will bring essential quantum-secure protections to the mass market and help to survive the inevitable advances in quantum computing, re-establishing confidence in digital systems and the economies they support.
  - The corporate "Vaulted Ventures" is strategically positioned to play a key role in the development of Data Insurance, which provides a commercially viable opportunity.
- Quantum computing should be built with ethics at its core, to find quantum powered solutions for complex challenges at scale for industries, governments, academia and research and because Quantum Computing is the greatest opportunity of our time to enhance positive change. As a leader in industrial-scale quantum-powered solutions, Dynex provides Quantum-as-a-Service (QaaS) technology with up to 1 million algorithmic qubits, enabling ethical innovation across sectors. It is through the corporate "Dynex Moonshots" ([www.dynexmoonshots.com](http://www.dynexmoonshots.com)), the strategic, ethical, and investment stewardship of the Dynex ([www.dynex.co](http://www.dynex.co)) ecosystem, that we ensure that every deployment of the technology is guided by long-term human-centered values and accountability.
- The corporate "Dynex Moonshots" is launching a groundbreaking Quantum Educational Program Website - Q.EDU by Dynex Moonshots, with its first quantum Educational Program "Applied Quantum Computing with Dynex" with Ethics as a cornerstone of this program. Module 2; Ethical Principles and Quantum Computing is a mandatory and foundational component of every program plan. This ensures learners globally develop not only technical skills but also ethical consciousness and essential standards as quantum capability reshapes industries, societies, and lives.

**International Artificial Intelligence Frameworks for Safeguarding Human Rights and Dignity (Globethics)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/181>

**Reshaping the world : Mapping opportunity with AI disruption (Jaipuria Institute of Management noida/Open Health Network/Mykolas Romeris University)**

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 17:00 – 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/190>

**Key Issues discussed:** Looking Beyond 2025

- AI tools and digital innovations transforming education by enhancing intercultural communication, preserving traditions, and fostering social change in the digital era.
- Critically examine the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, highlighting both its transformative potential and its implications for traditional pedagogical practices
- The open science movement and big data analytics accelerating research collaboration. Policies that support multilingual digital environments, content localization, and AI-driven translation technologies as essential to preserving cultural diversity in the digital age.
- Access to reliable, context-specific knowledge as a human-rights imperative in global health.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Key achievements: AI-powered tools are reshaping how educators engage with students, creating personalized and inclusive learning experiences. By leveraging machine learning, natural language processing, and adaptive learning platforms, these technologies help bridge cultural and linguistic gaps, making education more accessible across diverse communities.
- Announcements/launch during the session: One of the major challenges in ensuring equitable access to information is the persistence of language barriers and the dominance of a few major languages in digital content. While open-access initiatives have expanded, many populations still struggle to find relevant and localized content in their native languages. This lack of linguistic diversity in the digital space limits the potential of ICTs in education, governance, and civic engagement.

- Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session: We must emphasize not just access but also the quality, accuracy, and inclusivity of digital information. Strengthening open access policies, supporting multilingual digital content, and developing AI-driven content verification mechanisms will be essential in addressing these challenges.

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

- Digital learning platforms and open educational resources have expanded access to education, but disparities in infrastructure, affordability, and digital literacy hinder universal adoption. Future efforts must emphasize digital pedagogy training, improved connectivity in rural areas, and AI-driven personalized learning.

**Driving the Future: Opportunities and Challenges of Autonomous Vehicles  
(The Institute for AI International Governance of Tsinghua University,  
Globethics, Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (TUM))**

**Friday, 11 July 2025, 11:00 - 11:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/244>

**A fair communication/ Une communication équitable (Universal Esperanto Association)**

Friday, 11 July 2025, 13:00 – 13:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/313>

## Environment Special Track

### Monitoring and controlling sand movement in urban areas, agricultural lands and roads using artificial intelligence for a sustainable environmental future (King Faisal University)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/298>

#### Key Issues discussed Looking Beyond 2025:

- The session's topic was placed within the general framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs: 13-17) in addressing environmental issues and their economic and social challenges in arid regions, especially since some communities depend on agricultural and pastoral activities for their economies. Linking the problem of sand encroachment to climate change makes it important for regional partnerships to address it, given its environmental, economic and social importance, to mitigate its risks and develop technologies to stabilize it.
  - The project addresses the issue of sand movement (sand creep and sand drift) in Al-Ahsa Governorate, located in the Eastern Region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This region is among the most affected by sand creep due to its geographical location, which contributes to desertification.
  - The project involves monitoring and observing this phenomenon and predicting its behaviour to mitigate its environmental, economic, and social impacts. This will be achieved through the use of artificial intelligence (AI), remote sensing techniques, and geographic information systems (GIS).
  - The ability to identify the geographical distribution of sand dunes, map sand movement trends and annual rates, analyse the factors influencing sand movement activity, identify its sources, and predict its dynamics using modern technology applications in the environment of geographic information systems, remote sensing, and geospatial artificial intelligence.
  - Proposing effective techniques for stabilizing sand dunes.

- Providing decision-makers with a comprehensive spatial database to support the planning of development projects in the region.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session:**

1. To be able to monitor and control the movement of sand dunes in the study area, which is directly linked to environmental issues associated with climate change. This will be achieved through the 2 applications of geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and artificial intelligence algorithms to identify and map the geographical distribution of moving sand dunes and their encroachment paths.
2. To enhance environmental sustainability by understanding the extent of sand movement and its impact on the environment. This includes mitigating its impact on agricultural lands, urban areas, and infrastructure, and implementing measures to stabilize sand dunes.
3. The Eastern Province is a vital agricultural centre in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and sand encroachment threatens food security. The project will focus on enhancing food security by protecting agricultural lands from the negative effects of sand encroachment.
4. To collaborate with neighbouring countries to develop partnerships to address the problem of sand encroachment and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in this area (Goal 17). These countries, such as Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, and Iraq, are part of this research. The project proposes the establishment of a regional early warning centre to monitor and control sand movement, and to enhance cooperation and exchange of data and strategies for desertification management.
5. We expect agreements and commitments from donors, UN funds, and sponsors of the forum, noting that the National Center for Giftedness and Creativity Research and the Deanship of Scientific Research at King Faisal University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement to fund the project in its initial studies under contract number (KFU-Creativity-13), especially since the project's applied scientific benefits include all GCC countries, and its results can also be used in similar

regions in dry areas around the world, as the project achieves the expected achievements of the sustainable development goals related to climate change and the importance of international partnerships in addressing environmental issues through the sustainable development goals by utilizing modern information technologies.

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

- The importance of using modern technology indicators and leveraging information technologies to study the nature of sand movement over successive time periods and measure its environmental, economic, and social impacts on communities in fragile environments to mitigate the impact of climate change. This supports decision-makers in taking the necessary measures to mitigate its effects.
- Activating regional partnerships and United Nations donor funds to conclude agreements to implement projects that contribute to addressing the environmental issues resulting from sand movement in urban and agricultural areas and roads, in order to achieve environmental sustainability, within the framework of the efforts of the United Nations and the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society after 2025.

**Digital solutions for sustainability: ICT's role in GHG reduction and biodiversity protection (International Telecommunication Union (ITU), One Planet network (OPN)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and United Nations Conference...)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 15:00-15:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/412>

## Media special track

### Disinformation and Misinformation in Online Content and its Impact on Digital Trust (INTA - International Trademark Association)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 14:00 – 14:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/158>

#### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025:

- More truth, less trust - Misinformation identified as top global risk by World Economic Forum 2025;
- One of the greatest risks is misinformation around large language models (LLMs) - younger generations are increasingly going to LLMs for answers, but LLMs incorporate biased datasets based on the content of the global internet - for example LLMs may fail to properly incorporate inputs from the global south, leading to the distribution of incomplete or inaccurate information to users;
- AI small language models can offer flexibility and solutions for countries in the developing world;
- Regulatory and voluntary policy efforts to manage risks include the EU AI Act, OECD AI Principles, Japan AI Framework including "Social Principles of Human Centered AI", and internal corporate frameworks;
- Fragmented regulation and lack of harmonization means that entry into new markets is impeded by burden of addressing differing legal requirements - global frameworks can reduce burdens on smaller businesses and support technical innovation from diverse sources;
- Lack of technical knowledge and capabilities can impede adoption of and implementation of effective regulation - there is a need for private-sector funding, expertise, and will produce outcomes that combat misinformation and disinformation;
- Multi-stakeholder model with both government and private sector inputs is crucial for effective AI regulation.

## Tangible Outcomes of the session

INTA introduced **INTA's Board Resolution on 5 Foundational AI Principles**. These can be summarized as:

- Recognizing human vs. machine contributions to inputs and outputs; Final decisions on the granting or revocation of rights should be subject to human oversight;
- Rights holders should be able to obtain lawful access to data for the purpose of enforcing intellectual property IP rights
- Customers should know the source of information received via AI; and
- Transparency should be balanced with the need to protect proprietary information as appropriate.

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

- We recommend that ITU form hubs for entrepreneurs globally to access in order to get resources on how to combat misinformation, compliance with regulations, and how to adopt voluntary AI governance. Resources should include technical expertise, legal expertise, and ethical expertise.
- There is no single way to solve AI misinformation and disinformation risks – it has to be multisectoral and based in private/public partnerships. We recommend that ITU encourage cooperation and communication amongst stakeholders in the public and private sectors and foster the development of both governmental and nongovernmental regulatory frameworks.
- We recommend that WSIS consider INTA's Board Resolution on 5 Foundational AI Principles summarized above and available here: [https://www.inta.org/wp-content/uploads/publicfiles/advocacy/board-resolutions/051825\\_AI-and-IP-Foundational-Principles-INTA-BoardResolution.pdf](https://www.inta.org/wp-content/uploads/publicfiles/advocacy/board-resolutions/051825_AI-and-IP-Foundational-Principles-INTA-BoardResolution.pdf) as guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review.

**Between free market and public digital infrastructure: intersections of media viability and public interest journalism (Global Forum for Media Development)**

Monday, 7 July 2025, 16:00 – 16:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/277>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Over the past 20 years, WSIS Action Line C9 has served as a foundational recognition of the importance of media pluralism, freedom of expression, and access to diverse and fact-based information as essential to a people-centred Information Society.
- Participants emphasized that journalism should be recognised and supported as an essential public good: vital to the integrity of democracy, civic participation, and equitable access to information.
- While connectivity and digitalisation have improved globally, emerging challenges (such as platform monopolies, algorithmic opacity, and rising infrastructure costs) are creating a hostile environment for independent journalism.
- The combined pressures of rising costs, lack of control over infrastructure and data, and reduced competitiveness in platform-dominated environments threaten media sustainability and civic space.
- There was consensus that Digital Public Infrastructure should not be seen only as state-led technical infrastructure but must be designed and governed in the public interest, with human rights, transparency, and public oversight at its core.
- The current WSIS framework does not reflect the realities of platform dominance, algorithmic content distribution, or the structural barriers that limit media actors' access to critical digital infrastructure. As highlighted during the session, concepts like Digital Public Infrastructure and the role of

journalism as civic infrastructure remain underdeveloped in both the WSIS framework and the WSIS+20 Elements Paper.

- Speakers from Zimbabwe, Costa Rica, and indigenous and women's communities highlighted the need for DPI and WSIS processes to reflect cultural autonomy, context-driven design, and community-led governance models.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

#### Key achievements

1. Reaffirmation of the need to integrate media sustainability and infrastructure access into the WSIS+20 outcome document.
2. Recognition that public digital infrastructure must include and support journalism, as much as it supports e-government or financial inclusion.
3. Stakeholders expressed interest in continued collaboration, aligning WSIS+20 advocacy with other processes, including the GDC, Financing for Development, and the IGF.

#### Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session

- Participants were invited to contribute to and endorse GFMD's WSIS+20 advocacy efforts, including the position paper and consultations on the Elements Paper and future Zero Draft.
- Strong support was expressed for embedding journalism, DPI, and information integrity into the WSIS+20 outcome through a rights-based and multistakeholder lens.

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

- Ensure explicit recognition of journalism and media sustainability in WSIS+20 outcomes, in alignment with GDC information integrity commitments.

- Establish dedicated support and follow-up mechanisms to monitor Action Line C9 progress and related commitments, resource capacity-building for media actors (especially in the Global Majority countries), and engage stakeholders in its implementation.
- Promote equitable access to digital infrastructure and services for independent, local, and public interest journalism media, especially in the Global Majority, by investing in open, human rights-based alternatives to platform monopolies.
- Support multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces for digital governance, like the Internet Governance Forum, to connect media, civil society, technical communities, and policy actors in shaping the future of WSIS.

## Media and Education for All: Bridging Female Academic Leaders and Society towards Impactful Results (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/229>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Insightful projects are being developed by female leaders linked to the [AccessCat Network](#): there is a need to give visibility to them and to valorize scientific knowledge and transfer it to society and industry.
- The [ENACT project](#) promotes the development of easy-to-understand news across broadcasters to reach diverse audiences.
- [MOSAIC](#) enhances accessibility services with Artificial Intelligence (AI), finding ways to cater for the needs of diverse users in media. [ALFIE](#) highlights the need to work towards inclusive, accessible and unbiased AI.
- [InclusiVRity](#) approaches education in immersive environments and aims to empower teachers with VR technologies while fostering inclusive and accessible educational environments for neurodiverse students.
- [SCRIBAL](#) is a real-time transcription system in Catalan going beyond state-of-the-art systems that enhances access for students with hearing loss and students who do not have sufficient command of Catalan.
- Accessibility is viewed as a pedagogical opportunity in the projects led by RELATE research group: [Tusome na Tucheze](#) ("Let's Read an Play") has developed a Kiswahili App for literacy in rural Kenya, which has included accessibility features, whereas English Proficiency Test for SEN Students is piloting a standardized English test for students with intellectual disabilities.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Access to media and education are human rights, hence the need for research and tight collaboration among diverse stakeholders to achieve impactful results.
- Strategies to promote knowledge exchange and transfer are fundamental: in this regard, strategies such as the AccessCat network are good practices to achieve impact (see [AccessCat as Best Practice by European Commission](#)).

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

- Multiple projects led by female academics are producing impactful results, hence the need to continue giving them visibility to showcase successful approaches towards inclusion and diversity and to offer role models that empower the next generation of female scientists.
- Collaboration academia-industry-society is central, supporting the multistakeholder vision of WSIS.
- The interaction of Social Sciences and Humanities and STEM can help address the most pressing global issues and emerging trends that WSIS tries to address.
- Upskilling and reskilling is needed at multiple levels and collaboration university-industry is needed to design updated programmes that respond to societal and industrial needs.

**Joining forces against disinformation: humanitarian, peace and media actors' perspectives (Fondation Hironnelle)**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 13:00 – 13:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/315>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Fostered trust in institutions such as humanitarian actors, peace-builders and media
- Willingness to get away from the current silos and work with more flexibility
- Better detect, assess and respond to disinformation: typology of harm
- 360 response: off-line & on-line, direct and indirect, multi-stakeholders' approach
- Protect and defend access to independent and reliable information
- Journalists and media must remain independent and free to cover all issues (including when governments do not want to).

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Commitment to have the 3 sectors work together, each in their respective role: the media can check the truth, and say what is true or not, not the ICRC; yet the ICRC needs information that does not harm people
- ICRC and IFRC Movement Initiative on Harmful Information
- Disinformation is not always coming from the "bad side"; choosing not to talk about something, cf. coverage of Gaza in Europe, is a form of disinformation

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

- Keep the C9 Line work on Media at the center of WSIS Review and vision as information integrity and independent media are the most efficient way to defy disinformation.
- Reinforce a human-centered approach where the consequences of disinformation are analysed and treated thinking of people first, notable the most vulnerable.

- Facilitate the participation of media, humanitarian and peace actors to the future discussions on information integrity and harmful disinformation

**Breaking the Fake in the AI World: Staying Smart in the Age of  
Misinformation, Disinformation, Hate, and Deepfake (eWorldwide Group)**

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 09:00 – 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/278>

**Media and ICT Development: Enhancing Digital Inclusion and Infrastructure  
in Uzbekistan (Center for Progressive Reforms)**

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 11:00 – 11:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/274>

## **Smart cities Special Track**

**The next decade of urban digitalisation: the paths to people-centred smart cities and the role of the mobile industry (GSMA)**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 10:00 – 10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/246>

**FAIR Cities (United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven  
Electronic Governance - United for Smart sustainable cities)**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 10:15 – 11:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/296>

**Leaving No One Behind in the Citiverse (International Telecommunication Union and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 16:00 – 16:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/284>

## **Women and girls in digital Special Track**

**Mission: AI + Women , Art & Nature (Swiss Association of Women and Empowerment)**

Monday, 7 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/160>

## Empowering Women and Girls through Digital Technology (ITU Gender and Youth Office)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 16:00 – 16:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/345>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Bridging the gender digital divide:** Recognized persistent inequalities in skills, access, leadership, and representation, and called for targeted, gender-responsive policies.
- **Youth-led innovation:** Showcased how young women innovators from diverse regions drove transformative change in digital development, particularly in underserved and conflict-affected areas.
- **Leadership in digital spaces:** Emphasized the importance of increasing women's representation and influence in decision-making roles within the digital ecosystem.
- **Role of safe and inclusive online spaces:** Addressed online violence, harassment, and digital safety as essential to achieving gender equality in the tech space.
- **Grassroots-led digital transformation:** Highlighted the importance of empowering local women-led initiatives and ensuring that international support reached community-based innovators.
- **Intergenerational collaboration:** Promoted dialogue between youth leaders, policymakers, and industry to strengthen inclusive policy and programme design.
- **Gender-responsive and inclusive technology design:** Advocated for approaches that prevented bias and inequality from being embedded into digital systems.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- key achievements

- Enhanced the visibility of the ITU160 Gender Champions as role models for gender and digital inclusion.
  - Creation of a space for meaningful exchanges between young leaders, policymakers and technology stakeholders.
  - Sharing of practical examples of projects addressing online safety, inclusive education, indigenous connectivity, digital health, disability inclusion, geospatial innovation, robotics and IoT solutions, climate action, and women's digital entrepreneurship.
- announcements/launch during the session
    - Broadcast of the ITU160 Gender Champions Collective Call to Action, urging all sectors to prioritise inclusive leadership, gender-responsive design and intersectional policymaking.
  - agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session
    - ITU, Canada and partners reaffirmed their willingness to collaborate in supporting young women leaders in digital transformation.

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

#### Review and Beyond

- Establish permanent mechanisms to ensure the participation of young women leaders in WSIS and other international ICT forums.
- Expand direct support, including funding and mentorship, for women-led grassroots digital projects in developing and conflict-affected countries.
- Promote safe and inclusive digital spaces by addressing online gender-based violence and ensuring digital dignity for all.
- Integrate gender perspectives and intersectionality into the design of emerging technologies from the outset.
- Extend the ITU160 Gender Champions initiative beyond 2025 as a long-term platform for mentorship, advocacy and innovation in digital transformation.

## EQUALS Research Report 2025: Launch & The Path Forward (EQUALS, KAIST, ITU, Research ICT Africa, NIC.br)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 15:15 – 16:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/259>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Major milestone: Official launch of the [EQUALS Research Report 2025](#), a landmark publication with 9 original chapters and 7 case studies, demonstrating global data, analysis, and providing programmatic insights on gender empowerment in the digital era.
- [EQUALS 2.0](#) vision: Introduction of a revitalized strategy focusing on three priority domains (Social Change, Education, and Business) and the transition from coalition-based to workstream-based engagement for greater impact.
- Emerging trends and opportunities: Digital inclusion and skills development remain crucial for women and girls; the growing role of AI, digital safety, and inclusive tech ecosystems were highlighted as cross-cutting enablers.
- Persistent challenges: The gender digital divide remains significant, particularly in access to advanced digital skills, leadership positions, and equal participation in the digital economy.
- Capacity building: Introduction of the Her Digital Skills Badge Programme, designed to provide accessible training and digital literacy to women and girls globally, leveraging partnerships **between EY, GSMA, ITU, and Women's WorldWide Web**.
- Youth and leadership through [ITU160 Gender Champions](#): Spotlight on the inspiring story of Daniah Reeah, ITU160 Gender Champion from Iraq, showcasing how young women leaders are fostering digital empowerment in their communities and serving as role models in the WSIS process.
- Global cooperation: Session underlined the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration between academia, private sector, civil society, and international organizations to sustain the WSIS vision beyond 2025.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- key achievements
  - Broad dissemination of fresh research insights, including success stories and data-backed strategies for advancing gender equality in digital policy and practice.
  - Demonstrated the expanded scope and ambition of EQUALS 2.0 for coordinated, impactful gender and digital inclusion initiatives.
  - **Visibility for the ITU160 Gender Champions initiative, with a Champion's voice integrated** in the programme to inspire and mobilize stakeholders.
- announcements/launch during the session
  - Successful public launch of the EQUALS Research Report 2025.
  - Announcement and preview of the Her Digital Skills Badge Programme (to be officially launched later in 2025) offering a pathway for women and girls to earn recognized digital skills credentials.
  - **Public introduction of EQUALS' renewed workstream model under EQUALS 2.0.**
- agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session
  - Pledge to integrate findings and recommendations from the EQUALS Research Report 2025 into policy dialogues and WSIS+20 review processes.
  - Commitment by EQUALS partners and session participants to collaborate on scaling the Her Digital Skills Badge Programme globally.
  - Continued engagement of ITU160 Gender Champions in WSIS activities as youth ambassadors for digital inclusion and gender equality.

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

- Integrate gender equality as a central pillar in the WSIS+20 vision, ensuring all digital transformation strategies explicitly address the gender digital divide in access, skills, leadership, and safety.
- Scale capacity-building models like the Her Digital Skills Badge Programme through publicprivate partnerships, targeting underserved communities, especially in developing regions.

- Embed youth and women's leadership (including ITU160 Gender Champions) in the governance and implementation of WSIS-related initiatives to ensure inclusive, future-ready digital ecosystems.
- Invest in longitudinal research and data collection to track gender-related progress in ICTs beyond 2025, enabling evidence-based decision-making.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation to co-create innovative solutions that address both **emerging tech opportunities** (e.g., AI, green tech) and **structural challenges to women's participation** in the digital economy.

**Bridging Gender Gaps with AI: Empowering Girls and Women in STEM  
through Inclusive Digital Innovation (WITIN.ORG)**

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 17:00 – 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/347>

**Leveraging ICT for ageing populations: addressing Gender disparities & measuring Impact (Womenvai, University of Bari Aldo Moro and their partners)**

Friday, 11 July 2025, 10:00-10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/221>

## **WSIS+20 special track**

### **WSIS+20 Celebration**

To mark this important WSIS milestone, we organized interactive sessions with various stakeholders. These events fostered open dialogue on critical topics in digital development and highlighted WSIS's ongoing commitment to building a connected, inclusive digital future

Please find the session details for WSIS celebrations for the different days here:

Monday, 7 July, 13:00-13:45 :

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/361>

Tuesday, 8 July, 13:00-13:45 :

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/363>

Wednesay, 9 July, 13:00-13:45 :

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/365>

Thursday, 10 July, 13:00 - 13:45 :

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/367>

## Centering People and Planet in the WSIS+20 and beyond (Global Digital Justice Forum, IT for Change and Association for Progressive Communications)

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 09:00 – 10:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/370>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

Need for inclusive multilateralism with greater participation from the Global South in creating supportive regulatory environments and updating rules and norms in non-digital areas for the digital context for inclusive digital transformation.

1. Going beyond securitization as a core value in cooperation, and a need for a broader set of values – knowledge sharing, diverse economic models, and human rights – to shape global digital cooperation.
2. Need for deepening multistakeholderism at the regional, national, and local levels, beyond Big Tech and the private sector, through greater balance and diversity of actors, avenues for broader engagement, and greater accessibility of discussions.
3. The need to counter the false dichotomy between human rights and innovation, and to articulate human rights fit for the digital age.
4. Need for concerted action on financing mechanisms and a just international economic order to address digital inequalities in the digital development debate.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

Key achievements

- A focused dialogue on the central aspect of WSIS: development justice.
- Wide-ranging perspectives from Action Line holders, country representatives from the Global North and South, the tech community,

and civil society, with cutting-edge ideas for future action at the international and national levels.

- Participation and active engagement of the WSIS+20 Review co-facilitator with the session proceedings.

Announcements/launch during the session

Presentation of the Global Digital Justice Forum's (GDJF) *Call to Action for WSIS+20 and Beyond*, outlining imperatives for global digital cooperation to deliver on four critical agendas:

- Human rights adequate to the digital paradigm
- The internet as a global communications commons
- A just international economic order based on digital non-alignment
- A sustainable digital transition that safeguards the human rights of future generations
  - o Launch of the GDJF's *Campaign for Fiscal Justice*, emphasizing digital development taxes, tackling corporate tax evasion, and alternative financing for digital inclusion.

Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session

- Strong support for addressing financing mechanisms (e.g. a Working Group on the issue) at the WSIS+20 Review, and commitment to rethinking official development assistance and global tax cooperation.
- Broad-based support for strengthening real diversity in digital governance.

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

- Mandate a new working group on financing at the end of the WSIS+20 Review to explore public financing mechanisms beyond market-based approaches.
- Commit to stronger international action to tackle tax evasion in the context of virtualized business operations.

- Establish follow-up mechanisms for continued international cooperation and coordination on data policy frameworks after the CSTD's working group presents its report in the 81st UN General Assembly.
- Develop frameworks for empowerment and access to technology, data, and strengthened open-source tools and standards to support broad-based innovation.
- Update international rules in non-digital arenas for the digital context, including on intellectual property.
- Strengthen real diversity and Global South participation in digital cooperation, preserve the WSIS Process, and deepen regional engagement.

## **Harnessing digital public goods and fostering digital cooperation: a multi-disciplinary contribution to WSIS+20 review (UNESCO Information for All Programme)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45**

Please find the session details here:

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

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking 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.

## **WSIS+20 Overall Review multistakeholder consultation with co-facilitators (WSIS)**

Wednesday, 9 July 2025, 16:45 – 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/455>

The session convened all stakeholders for consultations with the WSIS+20 co-facilitators, H.E. Ms. Suela Janina, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Ekitela Lokaale, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations. The session began with Ms. Gitanjali Sah, Strategy and Policy Coordinator at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), presenting the joint preparatory process for the WSIS+20 Review. This process is facilitated by key UN organizations, including ITU, UNCTAD/CSTD, UNESCO, UNDP, and UN DESA. Her presentation highlighted the key milestones of events and activities leading up to the WSIS+20 overall review by the United Nations General Assembly, and showcased the co-facilitators' indicative roadmap outlining essential steps.

The session was moderated by Ms. Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change, India and Dr. Konstantinos Komaitis, resident senior fellow, Digital Forensic Research Lab at the Atlantic Council.

The session also benefited from the presence of Mr. Bob Rae, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate and underscored the close connection between Geneva and New York in advancing key UN consultations. He emphasized the importance of recent discussions with various stakeholders on topics such as the future of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the WSIS outcome and its upcoming review, its linkages with other processes including the GDC, emerging technologies, capacity building for the Global South, financing mechanisms, and the potential need for measurable targets.

The President of ECOSOC highlighted the critical significance of the digital economy, digital society, and addressing the digital divide within the UN's ongoing processes. He appreciated the opportunity to engage with Member States and civil society, valuing the chance to listen rather than speak extensively.

Below is a summary of key points from the stakeholder consultation session held at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025. The session brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, the technical community, academia, international organizations, and the private sector. The primary objective was to engage directly with the WSIS+20 co-facilitators, share perspectives, provide input, and discuss expectations for the WSIS+20 review and the forthcoming High-Level Meeting at the United Nations General Assembly in December 2025.

### Key Outcomes

#### - Preserving and Strengthening the Multistakeholder Model

WSIS has long embraced a multistakeholder approach since its inception, and this foundational principle continues to be strengthened and expanded through the ongoing WSIS+20 review process. This review actively involves a diverse array of stakeholders, fostering deeper collaboration and greater inclusivity across sectors, regions, and communities. This model remains essential for advancing effective, sustainable, and globally inclusive digital cooperation.

There is a strong commitment to maintaining fair and equitable representation that reflects global diversity—including balanced regional participation, gender equality, and a broad spectrum of expertise and experience. Such inclusivity is critical to accurately capturing the complex realities of the digital divide and ensuring that contributions are comprehensive, balanced, and actionable.

Questions were raised about the role and vision of the Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB), an informal mechanism established to support an open and responsive twenty-year review of the outcomes of WSIS. The Co-Facilitators informed that the IMSB was formed with careful attention to fair regional and gender representation. They stated that the WSIS+20 Review process adopts a forward-looking approach, building on previously agreed language from past WSIS documents as a baseline, without reopening settled debates. At the same time, they noted that agreed language could be revisited if stakeholders consider it necessary to reflect recent developments. The co-facilitators also emphasized their commitment to an open and intensive process, fully aware of the tight timeline and high expectations.

Broader consultations have been conducted at key events such as UNESCO's June gathering in Paris, IGF 2025 in Norway, and the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 in Geneva. These occasions provided opportunities to engage with the dynamic and vibrant WSIS community, whose contributions continue to enrich the ongoing review.

The annual IGF and WSIS Forum remain vital platforms for ongoing multistakeholder engagement and dialogue.

### - Comprehensive and Transparent Preparatory Process

The transparent and open nature of the WSIS+20 preparatory process was welcomed, with strong emphasis on the importance of maintaining an inclusive consultation framework throughout. Questions were raised about the specific dates and milestones outlined in the indicative roadmap leading up to the draft outcome document. The WSIS+20 co-facilitators reiterated the need to strike a balance between maintaining flexibility and providing clarity on key timelines to enable effective preparation. They announced an extension of the input submission deadline for the elements paper, originally set for 15 July, now extended to 25 July, with an update on next steps expected by the end of July. The preparation of the zero draft is scheduled for August, followed by a period dedicated to reviewing and proposing concrete language.

Stakeholders recommended that member states hear directly from different groups throughout the negotiation process, suggesting options such as livestreaming and regular summaries to ensure continued engagement. There were repeated calls for defining clear and predictable consultation dates, including virtual options, to enhance coordination and participation. The importance of scheduling informal discussions well in advance—particularly those planned for the autumn period—was emphasized to enable inclusive and accessible engagement.

Concerns were also raised regarding practical barriers to participation, particularly for civil society organizations and individuals from vulnerable or underserved communities. Specific mention was made of challenges affecting migrants, refugees, and those from the Global South. Visa restrictions—especially for meetings in New York and Geneva—were noted as limiting physical attendance. While virtual formats help improve accessibility, they still exclude those facing digital access challenges, reflecting persistent digital divides.

The WSIS+20 Co-facilitators highlighted that consultations have been designed to accommodate multiple time zones and use hybrid formats, including remote participation, to reduce barriers and encourage broad engagement. It was informed that summaries of the consultations are made available online. To address travel-related challenges, the Co-facilitators underscored the importance of hybrid options to ensure global accessibility.

While acknowledging the limited timeframe for discussions, many underlined the need for a forward-looking and action-oriented review focused on advancing digital development and bridging the digital divide, without reopening previously settled language.

Coordination between Geneva and New York-based processes was seen as essential to ensuring alignment. It was suggested that the roadmap be further refined with concrete milestones to support a coordinated and inclusive lead-up to the WSIS+20 Overall Review by the General Assembly.

### - Regional and Global Engagement

Regional consultations remain a key component of the preparatory process, providing an avenue for incorporating diverse and context-specific perspectives. The importance of strengthening National and Regional Internet Governance Forums (NRIs and IGFs) was emphasized, particularly to address participation barriers such as visa constraints, travel costs, and digital access limitations.

The need for enhanced cooperation among global digital initiatives—including WSIS and IGF was highlighted. Stakeholders called for concrete input on what has worked well in WSIS architecture over the past 20 years and where improvements are needed. There was also a call for greater openness, cooperation, and joint consultations among stakeholders and member states to maintain a spirit of inclusive dialogue.

The annual Open Consultation Process of the WSIS Forum, which collects input from all stakeholder groups across regions, continues to serve as a valuable mechanism for broad and inclusive participation.

### - Avoiding Duplication and Fragmentation

There was a shared concern about multiplying forums or splitting participation across multiple platforms. Stakeholders stressed the importance of maintaining coherence and avoiding parallel or overlapping processes, particularly in relation to the Global Digital Compact. Participants agreed that alignment should avoid duplication and reinforce WSIS as the primary platform for digital cooperation. Emphasis was placed on aligning with ongoing processes and leveraging existing mechanisms.

The WSIS+20 co-facilitators, acting under the delegated authority of the President of the General Assembly (PGA), confirmed that no separate consultations will be held outside the ongoing official process. They regularly provide updates to the PGA to ensure alignment and coherence throughout the preparatory process. Further, they emphasized examples of fostering multistakeholderism at the national level and encouraged mutual support and collective ownership of the process. They highlighted the importance of openness and collaboration to sustain the multistakeholder spirit and stressed that WSIS must continue to evolve to remain fit for the future.

Stakeholders underscored the importance of taking into account outcomes from related initiatives, including the outcomes of NetMundial. These inputs should inform the review while respecting the unique mandate and history of WSIS.

### Conclusion

The stakeholder consultation session brought together participants from various sectors and regions. The multistakeholder approach remains a cornerstone of the WSIS+20 process, supported by transparent, coordinated, and adaptable engagement mechanisms. Participants highlighted the critical need to avoid duplication while continuing to advance digital inclusion and address emerging technologies. The WSIS Action Lines have stood the test of time and continue to remain agile in meeting new challenges. Stakeholders are encouraged to actively engage and contribute to the ongoing consultations for the WSIS+20 Overall Review.



## Shaping Africa's ICT Future: The Role of Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Beyond WSIS +20 (AfICTA - Africa ICT Alliance)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 09:00 - 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/329>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

#### Session Summary

The session underscored the critical importance of multistakeholder engagement in Africa's digital transformation, especially in the aftermath of WSIS+20. Africa continues to face significant challenges, including low internet penetration (39%), weak cybersecurity maturity (29.1%, UNECA), and limited data infrastructure (<1% of global datacentre), despite constituting 19% of the global population. Speakers emphasized that addressing these gaps requires inclusive collaboration between governments, private sector, academia, civil society, and the technical community. The Sao Paulo guidelines were highlighted as a useful framework for localizing inclusive governance across the continent. Real progress, they agreed, must shift from policy promises and pilot programs to actionable strategies and implementation.

Youth and women emerged as central to Africa's digital future, with calls for increased investment in digital skills, innovation funding, and policy inclusion. Programs like SheCode.ai and GirlHype were cited as successful models of youth and women-led innovation when supported adequately. There was also a strong push for Africa to build homegrown, scalable tech solutions through improved R&D and academia-industry partnerships. The development of secure digital identity systems, like OSIA<sup>4</sup>, was praised as a model for successful multistakeholder collaboration. Ultimately, the session concluded that trust, inclusion, and shared responsibility must define Africa's approach to shaping its digital future.

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<sup>4</sup> OSIA: Open Standard for Identity APIs [www.osia.io](http://www.osia.io)

## Tangible Outcomes of the session

1. **Urgency of Digital Inclusion:** The session underscored Africa's urgent digital needs in respect to low Internet penetration (39%), weak cybersecurity (29.1%), and less than 1% of global data centers despite constituting 19% of the global population. This highlights the need for immediate, inclusive digital action.
2. **Multistakeholder Collaboration:** It was emphasized that governments alone cannot drive ICT growth. Inclusive collaboration across government, private sector, academia, civil society, and the technical community is essential to localize and implement digital policies effectively, guided by frameworks like the São Paulo Multistakeholder guidelines.
3. **Youth and Women as Catalysts:** Youth and women were identified as key to Africa's ICT future. Their inclusion in policy-making and innovation through initiatives like SheCode.ai and GirlHype demonstrated how targeted support can drive scalable digital impact.
4. **Shift to Innovation and Production:** Africa must move from tech consumption to innovation. Limited R&D in local ICT firms was flagged as a barrier. Greater academia-industry collaboration and local innovation are critical to building globally competitive solutions.
5. **Digital Identity and Trust:** The OSIA framework was celebrated as a proof of Africa's capacity to lead in digital identity standards. Participants highlighted digital trust, human rights, and inclusive governance as cornerstones for successful regional digital transformation.

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

1. **Establish ICT Councils:** Countries should set up national multistakeholder ICT councils to co-create and monitor digital strategies, ensuring all sectors especially youth and civil society are involved from policy design to implementation.

2. **Build Talent Pipelines:** Develop digital talent pipelines from early education to employment, focusing on high-demand skills like AI, cybersecurity, and data science to meet market needs and close the skills gap.
3. **Fund Inclusive Innovation:** Increase funding for youth and women-led tech initiatives. Ensure that financing is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the unique barriers these groups face in the digital space.
4. **Secure Digital Identity Systems:** Promote adoption of secure, interoperable digital identity systems, aligned with global standards like OSIA and backed by civil society to protect user rights and enable cross-border access.
5. **Strengthen Research and Infrastructure:** Boost R&D through industry-academia collaboration and close digital infrastructure gaps like broadband and electricity by replicating inclusive models such as Nigeria's Digital Bridge.

**Global Digital Governance & Multistakeholder Cooperation for WSIS+20  
(Freedom Online Coalition)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 10:00 - 10:50**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/310>

**ITU's Call for Input on WSIS+20**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/471>

## Youth special track

### Global Classrooms, Local Action: Empowering Youth with Digital Tools to Address Real-World Challenges (Shanghai Green Light-Year)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 13:00 - 13:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/153>

#### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Daniela from Ghana demonstrated how artificial intelligence can protect and empower local cultures. Her team developed an AI system trained in 27 African languages, making farmers receive agricultural guidance in their native tongues.
- Linh from Vietnam, through her non-governmental organization's work since 2014, assessed the accessibility of land information in Vietnam, especially for young women generation. A lots of young women are benefited and inspired by it.
- Matthew uses AI to compile a comprehensive database of community-driven climate education cases. He transforms scattered information from government websites and social media into actionable insights. This database will be publicly available, giving communities and young generations a way to learn.
- Lingxin shared GLY's collaboration with technology company Voibook to provide digital inclusion solutions for over 20 million people of hard of hearing in China. By establishing accessible services in infrastructure, education, and commerce, we have served over 1 million users through

online software and offline devices, achieving over 1 billion barrier-free communication.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Announcements/launch during the session

Youth Declaration: Harnessing AI and ICT for a Sustainable Future

We, the youth of the digital era, stand at a pivotal moment in history. Facing urgent climate crises, widening inequalities, and evolving technological landscapes, we declare our commitment to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and information and communication technologies (ICT) as catalysts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Inspired by the legacy of WSIS and aligned with the Global Digital Compact (GDC), we call for united action across three dimensions:

1. Digital Empowerment for Planetary Resilience
2. Revolutionizing Education for Equity
3. Co-Creating Inclusive Digital Governance

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

- Deeply Engage Youth Learn Lessons from Elder Generations: We propose that each session (besides youth track) can set up a youth reporter/coordinator (18-25 ages). This reporter should be recommended by the session organizer. He/She needs to follow up at least one session during the WSIS progress, record the key outcomes. Interviewing speakers in his/her session and record the successful stories.

Then, each reporter/coordinator can submit all these lessons to WSIS website. At the same time, they can communicate lessons from mentors around the world and discuss how to transform these lessons into their actions.

- Establish the propaganda relationships with local organizations: WSIS is a wonderful platform for multistakeholders to exchange news, learn tech skills and development trends. While, for security consideration, not everyone can access WSIS in person. At the same time, Zoom is not available in each countries. Therefore, we propose that WSIS establishes the propaganda relationships with representative local organizations in each country/region (such as China). Then, the authorized local organizations can help to engage more online participants to the accessible sessions and extend the summit's impacts around the world.

## **Roundtable: Young Professionals - Enhancing Your Career Skills in the Internet Governance Space (USCIB / ICANN)**

Monday, 7 July 2025, 13:00 - 13:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/374>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Careers in Internet Governance often begin unintentionally, making them difficult to plan in advance
- Passion, strong communication skills, and curiosity should guide young people in this field
- Diverse backgrounds are not only welcome but essential to enriching the community
- Young people face invisible barriers that must be addressed through systemic change
- Youth are the future of the Internet, and their active involvement is crucial for a sustainable Internet Governance ecosystem

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Active participation in local IGFs provides valuable insights into diverse stakeholder perspectives and enables direct influence on Internet governance processes
- Young participants are encouraged to confidently engage with established members of the community
- Peer support among young people is essential to building a resilient and inclusive youth presence in Internet Governance.

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

- Capacity-building programs tailored to young people should be expanded and adequately funded to empower the next generation of digital leaders
- Existing barriers to youth participation including lack of access, funding, and visibility must be addressed through institutional commitment and accountability.

## Intergenerational Dialogue: Technology for Innovation and Global Resilience (IEEE)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 15:00 – 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/273>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Human-Centricity in Technological Advancement:** The session centred on how AI and robotics offer significant innovation potential but pose ethical risks and workforce disruption, demanding a balanced approach.
- **Redefining Success Metrics:** Emphasis on the need for verifiable metrics to assess AI's societal and environmental impact, aligning with the EU AI Act and IEEE's AIE+ Framework.
- **Strong Sustainability by Design:** Highlighted strategies to embed circularity at all stages, from design to disposal, supported by IEEE Planet Positive 2030 standards and initiatives.
- **Bridging Data Gaps:** Discussed gaps between domain experts and data scientists in AI-driven climate tech, stressing open, equitable access through IEEE DataPort and new climate resilience roadmaps.
- **Youth-Led Innovation:** The panel showcased how youth councils and young professionals contribute to co-creating trustworthy AI standards, fair data practices, and climate-focused tech solutions.
- **Emerging Trends:** Use of modular design, blockchain-based impact tracking, and grassroots community solutions to expand ethical AI and digital inclusion globally.
- **Workforce of the Future:** Addressed reskilling for AI-disrupted sectors, creating human-centred tech roles and aligning AI deployment with community needs.
- **Call for "Net-Positive Tech":** Envisioned a measurable shift where technology's societal benefits demonstrably outweigh its environmental costs.

### Strategic Framework Pillars discussed:

1. Strong Sustainability by Design:

- Embed circular design principles at every stage, from manufacturing to disposal.
  - Mandate full lifecycle analyses.
  - Scale through UNIDO/IRENA partnerships bridging local and global actions.
2. Accountable Sustainability:
- Apply AI Trust Alliance standards covering safety, security, literacy, and ethics.
  - Develop robust industry certification protocols.
  - Implement transparent ethical impact audits.
3. Grassroots Engagement:
- Promote community-led technological solutions with modular scalability.
  - Prioritize empathetic human-robot interfaces, particularly in sensitive sectors like healthcare.
  - Build ecosystems with incentives for shared value.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

#### Key Achievements:

- Clear roadmap for redefining AI success metrics aligned with the EU AI Act and IEEE's AIE+Framework.
- Integration of sustainability by design through the IEEE Planet Positive 2030 Initiative and relevant standards such as IEEE P7100 and the IEEE 7000 series.
- Addressed practical gaps in data governance for climate resilience via IEEE DataPort, bridging experts and innovators.

#### Announcements & Launches:

- Launch of an IEEE Working Group dedicated to defining cross-sector AI sustainability KPIs by October 2025.
- Rollout of pilot tech hubs in Costa Rica, Turkey, and Dominica to support grassroots-led, circular innovation and inclusive climate solutions.

#### Agreements & Commitments:

- Multi-stakeholder commitment to adopt blockchain-based impact tracking for credible sustainability metrics.

- Ongoing engagement through local IEEE Planet Positive Communities Committees to pilot transdisciplinary projects in cities like Miami and Cali, Colombia.

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

- Transform Metrics & Accountability: Establish globally harmonized, verifiable frameworks for ethical AI impact and sustainability performance.
- Expand Grassroots Tech Networks: Scale modular tech hubs and community-driven solutions by leveraging open data and shared standards.
- Mobilize Industry Standards: Embed “design for circularity”, “design for manufacturing”, “design for test” and “design for reliability” as minimum requirements for responsible AI innovation.
- Strengthen Intergenerational Collaboration: Institutionalize youth participation in AI governance, policy co-creation, and ethical audits.

Pursue Net-Positive Technology: Drive toward measurable “net-positive tech” outcomes

**Promoting Education and Youth Development through Information Technology (International Competence Development Committee (ICDC), The Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy (CSEDS))**

Monday, 7 July 2025, 16:00 – 16:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/403>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

1. **AI-Driven Educational Transformation**– The session highlighted how AI and digital technologies are reshaping education, enabling personalized learning, bridging resource gaps, and promoting equity (aligned with **SDG 4**).
2. **Digital Inclusion & Accessibility**– Focus on reducing disparities through AI-powered tools (e.g., assistive tech for disabilities, telemedicine for remote areas) to ensure no one is left behind (**SDG 10**).
3. **Youth Empowerment through Digital Skills**– Research from 28 Chinese university students demonstrated how digital literacy and green tech training enhance employability (**SDG 8**) and climate action (**SDG 13**).
4. **Ethical AI & Youth Leadership**– Discussions emphasized youth participation in AI governance and digital ethics education to foster responsible innovation (**SDG 16**).
5. **Global Knowledge Sharing**– Cross-border collaboration (e.g., online education platforms) was showcased as a key strategy to achieve **SDG 17** (Partnerships for the Goals).

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Key achievements
  - Presentation of **7 interdisciplinary research projects** by Chinese students, covering AI-enabled education, digital inclusion, and green tech.

- Alignment with **WSIS Action Lines**, particularly **C3 (Access to Information)**, **C7 (E-Learning & E-Employment)**, and **C11 (International Cooperation)**.
- Announcements/launch during the session
  - **Global Competence Training Program** (by ICDC/CSEDS) to expand digital skills initiatives.
  - **YouthLink Sustainable Development Alliance** introduced to foster youth-led tech innovation.
- Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session
  - The 28 participating university students committed to:
  - Disseminating their research findings at their respective institutions; Raising awareness about WSIS Action Lines and their connection to the UN SDGs through campus presentations.

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

1. **Scale AI for Education Equity**– Governments and institutions should invest in **AI- powered learning platforms** to ensure universal access to quality education (**SDG 4**).
2. **Strengthen Youth Digital Capacity**– Launch **global digital skills initiatives** (e.g., green tech training) to prepare youth for future economies (**SDG 8**).
3. **Enhance Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration**– Establish **regional innovation hubs** to share best practices on digital inclusion and ethical AI (**WSIS Action Line C11**).
4. **Monitor Progress via WSIS+20 Dashboard**– Track youth-centric indicators (e.g., digital literacy rates, gender parity in tech) to ensure accountability.

## Youth contributing to digital and outcomes of the special track (WSIS)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 17:00 – 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/292>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- This outcome session consolidated key messages and insights from the seven Youth Special Track sessions held earlier in the day, creating a shared space for reflection and intergenerational dialogue.
- Discussions underscored the transformative potential of AI and digital technologies in advancing inclusive education, digital rights, and youth-led innovation.
- Participants reiterated the call for WSIS to strengthen partnerships with local organizations and develop grassroots outreach strategies to extend its reach.
- Emerging topics centering on data gaps, ethical risks, workforce disruption, and environmental costs have also been addressed and discussed by speakers.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Key achievements

The session successfully brought together youth leaders and WSIS stakeholders to reflect on lessons learned and translate youth priorities into policy-oriented outputs. The active involvement of approximately 280 youth participants throughout the day showcased the potential of youth-led engagement at the WSIS High-Level Event.

- Announcements/launch during the session

The session marked the presentation of the WSIS+20 Youth Outcome Report, which synthesizes the key recommendations and declarations from the Youth Special Track sessions. This report will inform the UNGA-led WSIS+20 Review process.

- Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session

Youth participants committed to continuing regional follow-up activities, awareness-raising campaigns, and institutional engagement to amplify the WSIS vision among their communities. Many also expressed intent to contribute to the dissemination of WSIS outcomes through academic, civil society, and digital platforms.

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

- **Institutionalize Youth Participation:** Create permanent youth representation within WSIS governance structures, including Youth Co-Chairs, Rapporteurs, and a formal WSIS Youth Track.
- **Launch a WSIS Youth Program:** Establish a multi-year global initiative to train, mentor, and involve youth in shaping digital policy, grounded in Action Lines C3, C4, and C7.
- **Recognize Internet Access as a Right:** Embed universal connectivity and digital equity as human rights within the WSIS framework to ensure equitable participation.
- **Promote Ethical AI & Accountability & Local Inclusion:** Strengthen WSIS's role in guiding AI governance rooted in ethical principles, sustainability performance and local knowledge, especially for underrepresented regions.
- **Enhance Grassroots Engagement:** Partner with local organizations to increase visibility and accessibility of WSIS processes, particularly in countries with limited digital participation.

# INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

## **Public-Private Partnerships for AI-Enabled Transformation of Public Sector Delivery in the Arab region (UNDP Egypt and the Applied Innovation Center)**

Monday, 7 July 2025, 13:00 – 13:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/500>

### **Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- UNDP played a convening role in bringing together key stakeholders from the public and private sectors to exchange insights on responsible and inclusive AI deployment. The session emphasized the need for robust and future-ready public-private partnerships (PPPs) to scale AI for inclusive, efficient, and transparent public service delivery.
- GSMA highlighted the critical role of mobile and connectivity infrastructure in enabling AI-driven public services, especially in underserved regions.
- CISCO showcased global best practices where AI integration in government systems enhanced security, service uptime, and data interoperability.
- Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) presented its national AI strategy, emphasizing the role of capacity building, and ethical AI deployment in public services.
- The Applied Innovation Center (AIC) shared successful use cases of AI-enabled chatbots and decision support systems in healthcare, agriculture, and citizen engagement.
- UNDP emphasized the importance of aligning AI efforts with broader development goals and highlighted its ongoing support to national institutions in shaping ethical and inclusive AI strategies.
- Discussions underscored the persistent digital divide and the need for AI solutions that are inclusive by design, accounting for language, accessibility, and local contexts.

- Data availability, quality, and governance emerged as a central challenge and opportunity in the region, requiring co-creation between governments and the private sector.
- Participants discussed the long-term potential of AI in shifting public services from reactive to anticipatory models, with citizen-centric design at the core.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

#### Key Achievements:

- Consolidation of cross-sector insights from global and local actors on operationalizing AI through PPPs.
- Reinforced the shared understanding that AI's public value will only be realized through strong, inclusive, and well-structured partnerships.
- Agreement on the urgent need to raise awareness in the region around responsible AI and its potential to transform public service delivery.

#### • Agreements / Commitments:

- UNDP reaffirmed its existing partnership with GSMA and expressed intent to expand this collaboration further in AI-related initiatives.
- UNDP also committed to facilitating closer cooperation between GSMA and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) Egypt to support the national AI agenda.
- Stakeholders collectively reiterated the importance of joining forces on key issues such as regional awareness-raising, responsible AI deployment, and leveraging PPPs to scale innovation in the public sector.

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

- Mainstream Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in AI Policy and Implementation Frameworks:

- Encourage WSIS+20 to formally recognize the critical role of PPPs in advancing AI for public service delivery, and to support countries in developing scalable, inclusive partnership models.
- **Promote Regional AI Awareness Campaigns and Capacity Building:**
  - Launch coordinated efforts—co-led by governments, private sector, and UN agencies—to raise public awareness on AI, foster digital literacy, and build institutional capacity for ethical and impactful AI adoption in the Global South.
- **Strengthen Responsible AI Governance at National and Regional Levels:**
  - Recommend the development of adaptable AI governance toolkits that uphold human rights, transparency, and accountability, and are co-created with diverse stakeholders to reflect local contexts.
- **Enhance Data Ecosystems to Power AI-Driven Public Services:**
  - Advocate for investments in data quality, interoperability, and open data frameworks to ensure public institutions can responsibly and effectively leverage AI technologies.
- **Foster Multistakeholder Platforms for Knowledge Exchange and Co-Creation:** Encourage the establishment of innovation forums under WSIS where governments, industry leaders, academia, and civil society can collaborate on practical use cases, share lessons learned, and build trust around AI in public systems.

**AI (and) education: Convergences between Chinese and European pedagogical practices (Beijing Institute of Technology; DiploFoundation / Geneva Internet Platform)**

Monday, 7 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/155>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- **East-West Educational Philosophy Convergence:** The discussion explored differences and similarities between Chinese educational systems (rooted in Confucian traditions) and Western/European approaches (emphasising critical thinking and creativity), with speakers examining how these philosophical foundations influence AI development and educational practices.
- **The Future Role of Universities and Professors in the AI Era:** A central debate focused on whether educational institutions and teachers will remain necessary as AI becomes more capable.
- **AI as Educational Tool vs. Replacement:** Participants discussed how AI should be integrated into education, not as a replacement for human learning but as a tool that requires new pedagogical approaches, emphasising the need for students to develop critical thinking skills to evaluate AI outputs rather than passively accept them.
- **Transformation of Learning Methods and Assessment:** The conversation addressed how traditional educational practices like essay writing, memorisation, and fixed-duration degree programs need to be reimaged in an AI-enhanced world, with suggestions for more flexible, competency-based systems and apprenticeship-style learning.
- **Development of Human-Centred Skills:** Speakers emphasised the growing importance of uniquely human capabilities such as creativity, ethical judgment, emotional intelligence, collaboration, and the ability to ask the right questions – skills that AI cannot replicate and that become more valuable in an AI-augmented world.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- *Announcements/launch during the session:*  
An AI Philosophy Caravan is planned for August 7-17, travelling through multiple Chinese cities to continue these discussions on AI, education and philosophy.
- *Agreements:*  
Universities should integrate AI tools across teaching, assessment, and student engagement while maintaining quality standards. Educational institutions need to develop new frameworks that blend Eastern rigour with Western innovation in AI literacy curriculum

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

- Universities and professors remain essential in the AI era, but must fundamentally transform their roles from knowledge transmitters to coaches and facilitators.
- Educational systems must shift from memorisation-based learning to developing critical thinking, creativity, and uniquely human skills like empathy and ethical judgment.
- AI literacy must encompass three core areas: critical thinking to evaluate AI outputs, creative collaboration skills, and ethical awareness of AI's societal impacts.
- Educational institutions are encouraged to adopt an 'AI apprenticeship' model where students learn by engaging with AI tools under a professor's guidance, similar to traditional master-apprentice relationships.
- Education's future lies not in choosing between human and artificial intelligence, but in thoughtfully integrating both to create learning experiences that develop uniquely human capabilities while leveraging technological tools effectively. This balanced approach, informed by diverse cultural perspectives, offers a promising foundation for navigating educational challenges in the AI era.

**Offline, underserved and left behind? - The overlooked intermediaries that are mitigating digital exclusion (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions & Universal Postal Union)**

Monday, 7 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/166>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond**

- There is a persistent connectivity gap, despite progress many remain offline and their informational needs are not being met. The library and the postal networks are therefore responding to this issue and acting as intermediaries meeting the needs of underserved populations.
- Libraries and post offices provide critical services such as digital financial services, digital skills training, e-learning, e-commerce, facilitation of access to e-government services, preservation and dissemination of traditional and indigenous knowledge and many more that are essential to many communities worldwide.
- There is evidence of the successful collaboration between libraries and post offices and how they both complement each other with resources, infrastructure and services offered.
- The Zimbabwe case study as presented by Dr. Nancy and Dr. Gift introduces also a unique perspective on how the authorities in Zimbabwe have leveraged the postal network to serve their communities and how the libraries have partnered with them to extend their services.
- Multistakeholder partnerships are necessary to align work, collect data and avoid overlapping.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Key achievements: Reinforced recognition of libraries and post offices as pivotal digital inclusion actors, provided evidence for hybrid service delivery models that complement personal digital access, blending technology with a people centered approach.
- Announcements/launch during the session: Upcoming IFLA-UPU Policy Brief on digital inclusion and cooperation between Libraries and Post Offices.

- Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session: Call to action for greater investment and policy support to institutionalize anchor intermediaries in national digital strategies.

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

- There is great importance on the investment on public access infrastructure. It is important to provide sustainable funding and connectivity to equip every community with reliable, trusted digital access points—particularly in underserved regions.
- Zimbabwe's digital centres were funded through the country's Universal Service and Access Fund (USAF). To replicate this success, ministries and regulators overseeing USAFs should ensure that Post Offices, Libraries, and other anchor institutions qualify for access to USAFs, as this is not the case in many countries.
- The WSIS action lines included the connectivity of libraries, post offices, and other anchor institutions, something that has been lost in the GDC. Harmonization efforts between the GDC and WSIS+20 Review must take into account the role libraries, posts, and other intermediaries are playing in digital inclusion and thus call for their connectivity.

## Data and Trust For Health and Wellness SDG3 with a reference to Climate Change

Monday, 7 July 2025, 15:00 – 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/199>

Excellence in communication, data collection and management, for quality AI and technology applications

- *WSIS Action Line C7 E-health*
- *SDG Good Health and Well-being #3*
- *Integrates with all other WSIS Action Lines and SDGs for the community and climate change.*

*Presented by the IGF Dynamic Coalition on Data Driven Health Technologies*

*Reported by Amali De Silva – Mitchell*

**Moderators:** Ms. Amali De Silva – Mitchell (UK/Sri Lanka); Dr. Jorn Erbguth (Germany); Dr.

Joao Rochas Gomes (Portugal); Ms. Renate Guenther (Switzerland). **Speakers:** Dr. Amado

Espinosa (Mexico); Dr. Houda Chihi (Tunisia); Ms. June Parris (Barbados); Mr. Yao Amevi Amessinou Sossou (Benin); Mr. Rodrigo Silva Rojas (Chile)

The WHO and ITU are building global data collection strategies. It is important that the perspective of the individual and the small community are integrated into policy. Developing nations will move data systems from verbal / oral to paper-based systems to digital systems. It is critical that the quality of data entering AI and other data based systems are clear; relevant; accurate; readable; meaningful; fit for purpose; translatable; creditable; honest; free of error; free of mis-information and dis-information; legitimate; authentic; complies with privacy and other legislation; is sensitive to communication styles (including braille, voice and language), culture, bias, skill level; conducive to multi-modal data sets; legal; factual; trusted and so forth. Poor data quality input can result in poor data outputs. This can have implications for ICTs.

Data that goes on to be shared with secondary systems, such as for AI data gathering, can be prone to poor quality and even hallucinations, and malign AI if the primary data gathering and recording systems are not secured for high data quality standards for pattern building, profiling, benchmarking, meta data tagging, statistical analysis etc. Unstructured data carries increased risk for data interpretation. Unintended consequences can occur, with poor data quality and unlawful access causing serious issues for the risk management of data. With regards to climate change issues impacting health, it is important that the public communications are clear and integrated. Human communication or messaging with computer or robot interactions must be clear for interpretation. Interpersonal (human to human) communication between patient or caregiver and the medical profession must be trusted, ethical and at the correct skill, knowledge level, and free of bias and harm.

The UK health digital services to the community are being developed, as around the world. The patient input must be integrated into the feedback systems (reference: COSO framework for risk management). How will the internet support outpatient care and wellness apps? How do the impacts of climate impact our health and wellness? Integrated services for community good are required. Multi modal data sets that are unstructured can lead to hallucinations and malign and trojan data pockets that may be accessed and created unlawfully. Reducing data touch points and unnecessary change of data while ensuring required updates may provide for better data integrity.

Dr Joao Rochas Gomes: Relevant elements are SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being, Climate Change, Digital Data and Trust. How should responsible data governance and AI stewardship be enabled to take into account and bridge the current constraints we have, with dealing with catastrophes and how are we documenting these events for the past, current and future, so as to assist with inclusive, non harmful, nonbiased data quality and forecasting, for climate sensitive healthcare, that provides the accurate outputs for medical diagnosis from structured and unstructured data inputs? Climate related events are often poorly represented or underrepresented which is a limitation. Digital literacy in the capturing of well-structured data is required. There must be accurate, timely, inclusive, interoperable, culturally aware, relevant data collection that requires consent and dignity, for clarity on reuse. Inclusion of climate related health indicators for enabling trust mechanisms for data quality that are useful for the population is required. Climate should influence the policy making for health care policy making and financing. As such a road map should include health climate data integration, data quality audits, open standards, interoperability, strengthen

capacity in LMICs, create multistakeholder panels for data and ethics capacity building. for sharing of data across countries, which are resilient, transparent and driven by equity. The right to health in a climate dependent world depends on the right to trustworthy, contextualize and just data.

Dr Jorn Erbguth: The management of individual data sovereignty and data governance health care should be managed and shared by law and consent, or should it be managed by reward, through a decentralized technologies such as block chain ? Health data is some of the most sensitive types of personal data, but governments increasingly share this data under the narrative of saving lives and conducting health intelligence and grant access to research bodies and the private sector, without patient consent. An opportunity to object to this practice may not exist because patients are not informed. Bias in AI is often cited as a reason to deny exemptions, as then the trend data may be impacted. So there are complex issues of privacy to be considered. There are solutions to be found in blockchain which enable easy self governance by reward sharing agreements. Examples include Itheum and Panacare DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Organization) which empower patients to retain control and specify the purpose for the data sharing. Which approach should be used, the government narrative or by the reward system? Further discussions must be ensured.

Dr Houda Chihi: Healthcare data management suffers from the fast introduction of new technologies such as AI and ML, a lack of experts and talent and operating complexities. Remote healthcare operations experience emerging risks and advanced attacks as there is network exposure and lack of security practices. These lead to healthcare operations disruption with misuse of healthcare data information. Trustworthy data information in Healthcare is based on data validity, conformity, accuracy, and must be value based.

Recommendations for patient data protection requires and network security by e.g. deploying firewalls, adaptation to AI and ML security, network segmentation through e.g. VPN. A shift in mindset to cyber security considerations, encryption and MFA (multi factor authentication) for strong passwords, regular updates of medical devices and software tools, incidence and response plans and continuous updating of patient data is a must. Data quality is important. Guidelines, rules and procedures for protection of patient data must be developed to reduce exploitation of the data. Patients data protection is based on alignment with the Health Insurance Portability and Protection Accountability act

(HIPPA) and (GDPR) General Data Protection Regulation, (HITECH) Health Information

Technology for Economic and Clinical Health, the Clinical Financial Health Act, and (HITRUST) Health Information Trust Alliance and AI for Good. Cloud data security must be maintained. Recommendations are for data encryption, access control, upskilling and reskilling and ethical information exploitation resolution. Regular tests and audits, checking of compliance regulations and standards is a must.

Mr. Rodrigo Silva Rojas: Value is created by ethics training for young healthcare workers. Scientific education must be authentic, valid and verifiable, as there is significant fake information and data simulations for teaching may not be based on real data. The ethics competency is based on sensitivity, knowledge, decision making, actions and behaviors of the practitioner. There must be critical appraisals of these dimensions in the education of healthcare workers. AI knowledge and health literacy are critical for identifications of issues.

Mr. Yao Amevi Amessinou Sossou: Observations from rural Africa for health care data trust and climate change. Climate change means the intensification of impacts on the daily lives of people e.g. rain fall patterns which impact the incidence of malaria, flooding, air quality, drought etc. These issues impact clinical trials. Information sharing is not digital, in rural areas, it may take the form of a booklet. There can be trust issues between healthcare practitioners and patient due to poor communication. Need for patient specific information and empathy, rather than generalizations or oversimplifications of the situation that the patient may not trust. Access to financial resources impact care. Repeating patient histories, is inefficient, each time care is provided which can cause stress and risk of miscommunication and record keeping. Data collection systems must be human centered, transparent and fit for purpose. Quality data has the opportunity to action real issues. Mobile ready solutions would be most effective for rural settings. Trust must be earned.

Ms. June Parris: Healthcare professionals are also human and must put the patient first. The professional must be first approached from a position of trust, but the patient must be able to question the professional, if they feel uncomfortable with a situation. In small communities there are issues such as a lack of independence, or conflicts of interest between care giver and patient, that cause issues for trust. Systematic approaches are modified for provision of urgent care, which may cause patients to feel underserved. There is a need to develop guidelines for

communications and interactions in the developing countries and a need for training, as mentioned by the previous speakers.

Dr Amado Espinosa - Calls to Action: Now is the time to take advantage of the various sources of data from IoTs, and to integrate with the traditionally siloed data sets (socio economic determinants of health, including climate variables). The patient has the opportunity to be an active participant and partner (e.g. reaction to data provided by sensors, e.g. wellness apps) in the health service delivery of their own personalized care. WSIS and IGF provide a venue for multistakeholder conversations about standardization, the required legal frameworks, AI governance and so forth, for the newly developing healthcare space, across all sectors of the ecosystem. This will enable safe and trusted Health Data Lakes that connect the primary user with the secondary user. What types of data should be collected and used, what are the issues and risks? These discussions must not only be for traditional medical practice and approaches but must develop approaches and visions for the emerging medical technologies and innovations. WHO and other organizations have the opportunity and must engage on visioning the future of health data management with the technical community such as at ITU and IGF. The IGF Dynamic Coalition on Data Driven Health Technologies provides an immediate forum to initiate these discussions and all global citizens are invited to join this community.

## International Gender Champions (IGC) Digital and New Emerging Technologies Impact Group: Advancing Equity in the Digital Era (IGC, ITU)

Monday, 7 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/258>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond

- The International Gender Champions are celebrating their 10-year anniversary in 2025, with one of its most recent achievements being the foundation of a new Digital and New Emerging Technologies Impact Group;
- While digital transformation bears vast potential to advance gender equality, the digital gender divide, persistent stereotypes, and technology-facilitated violence threaten to exacerbate existing inequalities;
- Capacity-building is a crucial element of access to digital technology for women and girls;
- There is a need to strengthen the WSIS Action Lines to deliver concrete gender equality outcomes, either by applying a gender lens to existing Action Lines, or creating a new standalone Action Line on gender equality.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Agreeing on a need to continue including a gendered lens in future WSIS processes;
- Ensuring meaningful participation for women within digital multistakeholder governance;
- Moving forward with concrete commitments on gender equality that make an impact.

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

- Including a focus on digital gender mainstreaming at WSIS, beginning by using language from the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future adopted text as a reference.
- Supporting the adoption of a separate WSIS Gender Action Line

**Are we forgetting something? The role of the individual as a driver of change between data psychology and computational thinking (FIT Academy)**

**Monday, 7 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/290>

**Building on the Success of the ITU Global Cyber Drill at GISEC 2025 (UAE Cybersecurity Council, International Telecommunication Union (ITU))**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 09:00 – 10:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/512>

**Digital tech and the most marginalised: what still needs to be done?**  
(ICT4D Collective and Microsoft (UN and International Organisations UNIO)  
(supported by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication ,  
ICT4D.at , and YouthIGF))

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 09:00 - 09:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/306>

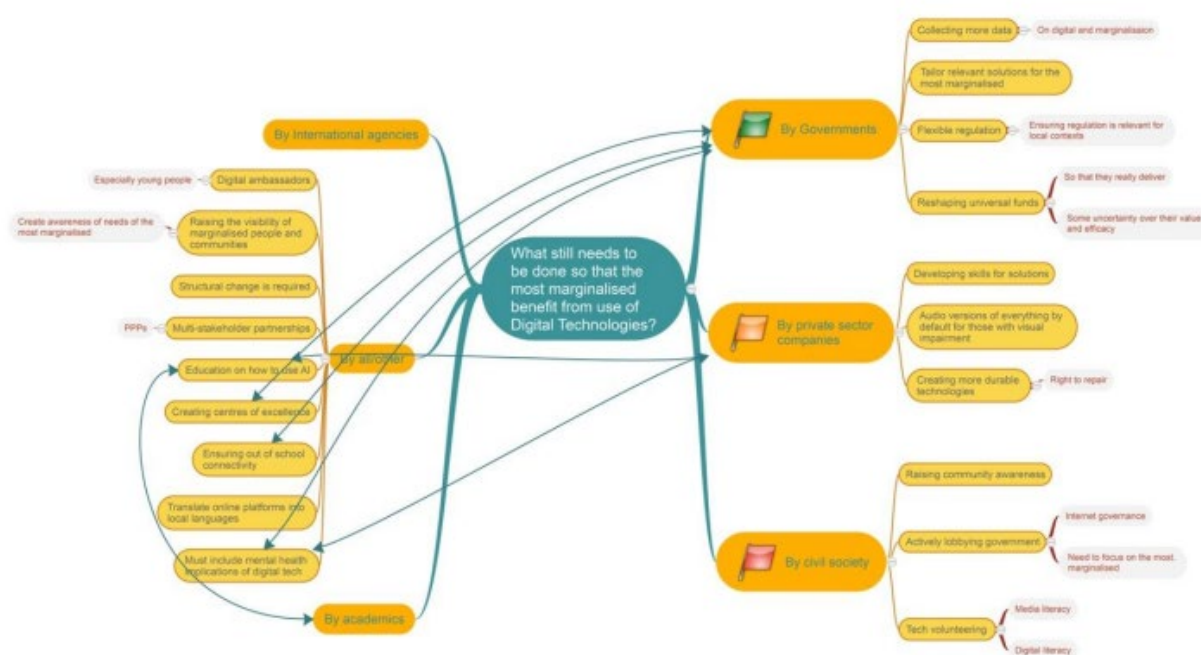
**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- There was unanimous agreement that digital technologies will not deliver the SDGs by 2030 and that we therefore need to develop an entirely new approach to working with the poorest and most marginalised to ensure that they gain positive benefits from its design and use.
- We should start planning now for global digital agendas beyond 2030
- Well planned and organised partnerships developed together with the poorest and most marginalised can help to reduce the inequalities caused by the use of digital technologies.
- The economic growth agenda needs to be balanced by an equity agenda; and the rights agenda balanced by a responsibilities agenda.
- Governments, private sector companies and civil society all have distinct responsibilities that need to be clearly articulated (see mind map below)



**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Key achievements
  - The session built on a small online survey conducted prior to the WSIS+2020 meeting, which showed that governments, the private sector and civil society each have specific roles and responsibilities in ensuring that the most marginalised can indeed benefit from the use of digital tech.
  - The very diverse workshop participants (online and in-person) co-created a mind map of the most important things that governments, private sector companies and civil society organisations need to do separately and together to ensure that the poorest and most marginalised can indeed benefit from the use of digital tech
- Announcements/launch during the session:
  - A more detailed report of the session: <https://ict4d.org.uk/2025/07/08/digital-tech-and-the-most-marginalised-what-still-needs-to-be-done/>
  - Members of the ICT4D Collective and other colleagues have contributed to a book due to be published by Routledge in early 2026 entitled Digital Inclusion in an Unequal World: An Emancipatory Manifesto, which provides a much more detailed account of how rigorous multi-sector partnerships can benefit the poorest and most marginalises
- Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session: participants committed to using and sharing the mind map below in policy and practice



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

- There needs to be an integrated process for the WSIS, IGF, and GDC within the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) system at the country level, focusing on reducing inequalities enhanced through the use of digital tech
- It is the time now to be planning for the post-2030 global digital agenda
- Greater emphasis in future work at the interface between digital and 'development' needs to place on equity, sustainability and working with (not on or for) the world's poorest.

## Defending Our Voice: Global South Participation in Digital Governance (Derechos Digitales)

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 09:00 - 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/309>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025:

- **Historically marginalized groups from the Global South continue to face significant barriers to meaningful participation in digital governance spaces.** While challenges such as visa restrictions and financial constraints persist, key obstacles like the absence of follow-up mechanisms for participation and silence procedures also remain, which sideline these groups' voices. This concern is heightened by ongoing geopolitical shifts and the risks faced by human rights defenders in participating in discussions increasingly centralized in New York.
- **It is crucial to contextualize the WSIS+20 process into Global South communities' diverse lived realities,** actively including their voices to acknowledge their needs and how they navigate the absence of comprehensive digital policies.
- **Achieving truly plural and inclusive participation in digital governance requires moving beyond mere presence in fora.** WSIS multi-stakeholder model is an opportunity to actively identify which communities and groups must be included, and guaranteeing their meaningful participation in these events to avoid worsening structural inequalities.
- **Participation is a human right that should be easily and safely exercised by all.** However, the current geopolitical climate shows a concerning pull back in human rights protections, particularly regarding gender issues. Daily reports from Global South CSOs and human rights defenders reveal growing risks faced by individuals and communities, clear evidence of systematically shrinking civic spaces. This alarming trend exacerbates barriers to meaningful participation.

- **The participation of wealthy nations and powerful corporations remains dominant in digital governance fora**, particularly in those establishing technical standards for Information and Communication Technologies. Within these spaces, meaningful civil society participation is crucial to ensure human rights' perspectives and underrepresented voices are central to the development of technical standards.
- **The WSIS+20 process plays a crucial role in establishing meaningful participation through its multi-stakeholder model, as do global, regional and national Internet Governance Forum (IGF).** These governance spaces provide vital opportunities to integrate human rights perspectives into technical discussions while influencing policy development at state levels.
- **Specific mechanisms are available to operationalize inclusive multistakeholder participation.** The WSIS+20 process should actively incorporate and explicitly reference the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines developed through the NETmundial+10 initiative as a framework for implementation.
- **Effective coordination of digital governance spaces is essential.** While multiple parallel fora addressing the same issues can help cover diverse topics, they risk producing conflicting outcomes. Strategic alignment is needed to prevent forum duplication and ensure these spaces remain effective and impactful.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session:**

- Collective identification of barriers to meaningful participation for Global South independent CSOs in digital governance arenas.
- Development of actionable strategies to overcome barriers to meaningful participation for Global South civil society in international digital governance, like the explicit mention and inclusion of São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines within WSIS+20 process.
- Identification of concrete strategies to ensure the WSIS+20 review and update process actively incorporates historically marginalized groups into digital governance frameworks; for example, keeping the mandate of IGF, especially at national and regional levels.
- Set of recommendations to advance towards inclusive governance processes ensuring historically marginalized groups have a significant voice in decisions

affecting their rights in digital environments. This includes explicit recognition of groups such as LGTBQIA+, indigenous communities, farmers.

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

- **Big Tech companies must be held accountable for human rights violations throughout their value chains deployment, with particular attention to operations in the Global South.** To do so, it is key to include the UN guiding principles on business and human rights as well as to move beyond treating Global South citizens as mere tech consumers by ensuring their meaningful participation in digital governance arenas; prioritize the inclusion of disproportionately affected groups - including women and girls, LGTBQIA+ communities, Indigenous peoples, and smallholder farmers - in accountability mechanisms; and establish transparent monitoring systems to identify and address violations at all operational levels.
- **Recognize and implement the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines within WSIS process** to enable sub-national, national, regional, and global communities to: build trust, enhance with effective multistakeholder collaboration mechanisms, and critically assess processes that claim to be multistakeholder in name only. NETmundial+10 experience provided concrete guidelines for ensuring meaningful community participation and safeguarding diversity in digital governance processes.
- **Guarantee Global South civil society meaningful participation in digital governance agenda-setting.** Ensuring that CSOs can actively shape discussion frameworks is critical to inform decision-making including the voices of historically marginalized groups. This requires establishing sustainable participation beyond token consultation. In this regard, WSIS review process must prioritize making the IGF mandate permanent, with particular emphasis on strengthening IGF at national and regional levels.
- **WSIS multistakeholder model needs to keep bringing Global South independent CSOs to the table,** not only during the high-level event, but through the whole process. São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines outline concrete examples to do so. In the same vein, it is crucial to guarantee transparent, timely information about decision-making processes.

- **The incorporation of an agreed human rights language in digital governance frameworks remains critical.** The WSIS+20 Elements Paper currently uses weak terminology, the Global Digital Compact (GDC) recognized stand-alone principles on human rights and gender that should be included. We must identify and adopt best practices from existing processes to strengthen WSIS review and update process.

## **Futurizing Democracy. Threats and Opportunities in the Digital Age (World Summit Awards)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 10:00 - 10:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/204>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Data Sovereignty and Data Governance for Democracy
- Fake News and Deep Fake supporting the agenda of populist and anti-democratic parties
- Algorithm and Biases challenging Democracy
- Digital Divides excluding citizens from Participation

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- WSA recognizes since 2003 in the category "Government & Citizen Engagement" Digital Solutions enabling Citizen Engagement and Democratic Participation: <https://wsa-global.org/wsa-awards/wsa-winners/#?category=2&>
- The Digital Empowerment Foundation trains Soochnapreneurs, community information agents those who will bridge the gap between government and citizens and will make information available to the last mile rural beneficiaries: <https://www.soochnapreneur.in/>

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

- Platform and algorithm regulation to protect democracy

**Governments and Technical Community: A Successful Model of Multistakeholder Collaboration for Achieving the SDGs (The Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC) and the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority in Jordan (TRC))**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 11:00 – 11:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/331>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Emphasised the value of long-standing multistakeholder collaboration between governments and the technical community in delivering sustainable Internet infrastructure and services.
- Highlighted the critical role of national regulators and RIPE NCC in supporting Internet and digital infrastructure development to support countries' digital agenda in the RIPE NCC service region.
- Showcased concrete progress in Internet infrastructure development, IPv6 and routing security (RPKI) deployment across the Middle East and beyond.
- Reiterated the need for agile, technically sound policy-making that supports digital and Internet resilience and economic inclusion.
- Discussed the challenges of maintaining global interoperability amid evolving digital sovereignty agendas and fragmentation threats.
- Highlighted the importance of ensuring all stakeholder groups' participation in the global Internet governance processes, including WSIS Forum and IGF, and promoting inclusive digital development.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- **Key achievements**
  - Demonstrating best practice in multistakeholder collaboration.
  - Recognition of TRC Jordan's proactive leadership in digital policy and technical Internet governance in the region.

- Showcased successful deployment of IPv6, RPKI implementation, and capacity building and awareness initiatives in collaboration with governments and regulators.
  - Highlighted evidence of improved scalability, security and resilience of national Internet infrastructure resulting from government and technical community collaboration.
- **Announcements/launch during the session**
  - Public announcement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) of Jordan and the RIPE NCC Promoting Internet Infrastructure Development and Policy Engagement.
  - Announcement of new collaboration and joint initiatives focused on capacity building, IPv6 deployment, and secure routing.
- **Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session**
  - Bilateral MoU signed between TRC Jordan and RIPE NCC
  - Advance national IPv6 and RPKI deployment through training, technical support, and community awareness.
  - Engage with regulators and policymakers in joint policy dialogue to support inclusive and evidence-based Internet governance.
  - Encourage the usage of Internet measurement tools, data, and capacity-building programmes tailored to national needs provided by the technical community.

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

- **Replicate National-Level MoU Model**

Promote replicable frameworks, such as the TRC RIPE NCC MoU, as an effective model for multistakeholder Internet governance, bridging national policy with technical expertise to deliver WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs.
- **Strengthen Capacity Building in Developing Regions**

Scale investment in Internet infrastructure and capacity development, particularly in underserved regions, through partnerships between regulators, the private sector and the technical community.

- **Embed Technical Expertise in Policy Development**

Encourage governments to involve technical experts in national digital strategies to ensure resilient, interoperable, and secure digital transformation efforts.

- **Safeguard Global Internet Interoperability**

Advocate for WSIS+20 outcomes that reinforce the technical foundations of the Internet and guard against fragmentation.

- **Reinforce and Renew Multistakeholder Institutions**

Call on the UNGA to reaffirm the mandates of WSIS mechanisms, particularly the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), as vital platforms for inclusive dialogue.

**Indigenous Digital Infrastructures and Emerging Technologies: Challenges, Capacities and Commons (Redes AC, Rhizomatica and APC)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 12:00 - 12:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/240>

**Building Digital Governance Together – IGF 2025 Outcomes (IGF Secretariat)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 14:00 – 14:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/349>

## Strengthening Multistakeholder Internet Governance: How The Technical Community Can Help (Canadian Internet Registration Authority)

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/209>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Multistakeholder Internet governance requires all stakeholder groups—governments, private sector, civil society, academia and the technical community—to participate on equal footing.
- The technical community has been instrumental in implementing the WSIS Action Lines and as a stakeholder group within the multistakeholder model of internet governance. It partners with governments to supply the expertise and technical insight public servants need to understand how the global Internet operates.
- In the lead-up to the WSIS+20 Review, there is a real risk that language supporting multistakeholder Internet governance could be weakened. The technical community, including through coalitions such as a *Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism* (TCCM), plays a critical role in defending and strengthening multistakeholder internet governance.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- CIRA announced the release of its recent report on how the technical community can help improve and strengthen multistakeholder internet governance: [cira.ca/en/ig-report](https://cira.ca/en/ig-report)

- ICANN highlighted its ongoing efforts vis-à-vis the WSIS Outreach Network:  
<https://www.icann.org/en/government-engagement/wsis20-outreach-network>
- RIPE NCC spoke to its recently announced MoU with the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) of Jordan:  
<https://www.ripe.net/about-us/news/trc-jordan-and-ripe-ncc-sign-mou-at-wsis20/>

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

The WSIS+20 Review should be conducted in a multistakeholder, transparent and inclusive way that is meaningfully shaped by contributions from all stakeholders;

- Technical community members should work within and across stakeholder groups to defend and advocate for multistakeholder internet governance.
- Technical community members should continue to work closely with governments, given their role as negotiators in the WSIS+20 Review.

## The Power of Satellites in Emergency Alerting and Protecting Lives (Global Satellite Operator's Association and International Telecommunication Union)

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/339>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

1. Urgency of Enhancing Early Warning Systems (EWS): Driven by the Early Warnings for All initiative, with a focus on ensuring that life-saving alerts reach the most vulnerable populations.
2. Last-Mile Connectivity: Recognized the critical need for robust communication solutions to deliver alerts to remote and underserved communities where terrestrial infrastructure is absent or damaged.
3. Role of Satellite Technologies: Emphasis on the unique capabilities of Direct-to-Device (D2D) satellite communication, which technology is now being deployed and operational, for bridging both digital and disaster-preparedness divides.
4. Need to Accelerate D2D Deployment in Rural and Remote Areas: Acknowledged that communities most at risk—particularly those in rural and underserved regions—need immediate access to D2D technologies that function without terrestrial infrastructure.
5. Barriers to Implementation: Challenges around interoperability, regulatory readiness, and integration with national disaster management and early warning systems.
6. Data Integration and Real-Time Monitoring: Emphasized the importance of using AI to process satellite imagery almost real-time to improve situational awareness and combining such data with satellite communication systems to deliver predictive, actionable alerts.

**Key recommendations:**

1. **Scale D2D Satellite Technology for Emergency Alerting:** Support the development and deployment of satellite-based D2D services that can operate without additional hardware or infrastructure on the user side.
2. **Promote Open Standards and Interoperability:** Ensure that emergency communication systems are interoperable across technologies and jurisdictions to allow seamless integration.
3. **Enhance Cross-Sector Collaboration and Foster Partnerships:** Strengthen public-private partnerships among governments, satellite operators, space agencies, humanitarian actors, and telecom regulators to accelerate innovation, deployment, and resilience of early warning infrastructure.
4. **Integrate Satellite Capabilities into National EWS Frameworks:** Mainstream satellite services—such as situational awareness platforms and real-time alert delivery—into public alerting strategies.
5. **Ensure Inclusive Access:** Design systems that prioritize vulnerable populations, including those in remote or disaster-prone regions, and minimize barriers to adoption.

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

1. **Adopt Global Guidelines on Satellite-Based Early Warning Integration:** Develop and promote aligned frameworks that guide countries in adopting and regulating satellite-based alert systems.
2. **Invest in D2D and Deployment:** Mobilize public and private sector resources to scale D2D innovations, focusing on affordability, scalability, and user-friendliness.
3. **Launch Regional Pilot Programs:** Establish demonstration projects to test D2D solutions in vulnerable regions, with a focus on real-time performance and local system integration.

4. Standardize Interoperability Protocols: Lead global standardization efforts through the ITU and relevant international bodies to ensure compatibility across satellite providers and national systems.
5. Strengthen Policy and Capacity for Satellite-Enabled Disaster Risk Reduction: Provide technical assistance, regulatory support, and capacity-building for developing countries to leverage space-based technologies effectively.

**From data to impact: Digital Product Information Systems and the importance of traceability for global environmental governance (International Telecommunication Union (ITU), One Planet network (OPN)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD))**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/341>

## **Resilient infrastructure for a sustainable world (International Electrotechnical Commission)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/267>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

Different stakeholders from IEC, Marconi Society Internet Resilience Technology Institute (IRTI), CERN and UNDRR stressed the need for systematic approaches across the whole arc of tech to society – from thinking about how technologies will evolve, building an ecosystem and working collaboratively, to the need for standardization and capacity building.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

A call to action for collaboration between the panelists, and scope to pursue participating organizations:

- We cannot afford to wait for disruptions, to repair. The Internet has become too critical in many processes for that. We need to pre-empt, build in the necessary redundancy, audits, local traffic routing, and infrastructure hardening
- We need to seek and support cross-sectoral collaboration between digital, energy, finance and emergency response communities.
- Capacity building is also needed locally – as local infrastructure needs and challenges are much better understood at a local level. By sharing global knowledge and insights with local communities the necessary measures can be designed and implemented where they need to be most.

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

This session directly supports WSIS Action Lines C2 and C5 by promoting resilient ICT infrastructure and strengthening trust in digital systems. It emphasized the need

for secure, interoperable networks and proactive cybersecurity strategies, along with global collaboration and capacity building to ensure safe, inclusive connectivity for all.

**Key suggestions going forward:**

- Resilient infrastructure as a foundation for sustainability: Participants emphasized that robust ICT systems are essential to achieving socio-economic development, particularly under mounting climate and cybersecurity pressures.
- Connected systems: Building resilient infrastructure requires taking into consideration the interdependent nature of infrastructure systems and we cannot look at infrastructure sectors alone. In the wake of an all-electric and connected society, instead of fragmented systems, a connected infrastructure model reduces environmental footprints, strengthens cybersecurity, and simplifies implementation.
- Accelerated standards development: Standards play a crucial role in ensuring effective, efficient and safe implementation of the infrastructure around us. Fast-tracking global standards to ensure infrastructure durability, especially under extreme climate conditions and digital threat vectors, is of key importance.
- Collaboration, capacity-building and progress: Global collaboration and knowledge-sharing can improve efficiency and reduce overlap in infrastructure development efforts. There is an urgent need to invest in long-term training and support for local technologists, scientists, and decision-makers, particularly in frontier fields like AI and sustainable energy.

## **Cibervoluntarios Network: Global Alliance for Inclusive Digital Adoption (Fundacion Cibervoluntarios)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/217>

### **Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Cibervoluntarios Network was presented as an international alliance of local organizations promoting inclusive digital transformation through technological volunteering, co-governance, and citizen action.
- The session highlighted the core purpose of the Network: to ensure that technology serves people, by facilitating the acquisition of digital skills and strengthening citizen digital sovereignty.
- A key moment of the session was a highly participatory role-playing activity, with strong engagement from a diverse group of attendees from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the United States, and Europe. Participants were divided into three working groups—social organizations, educational institutions, and public bodies—and asked to reflect on a central question: “How could your type of actor contribute to the Cibervoluntarios Network, and what benefits would you expect from being part of it?”
- The outcome was highly positive. Each group generated multiple proposals for action and identified concrete ways to engage with the Network. These included co-designing local programs, providing digital skills training to target groups, sharing methodologies, creating volunteer networks, enhancing project management capabilities, and forming strategic alliances to increase social impact and visibility. The activity demonstrated the adaptability and relevance of the Network’s model to different institutional contexts and geographies.

- The value of an innovative, flexible, collaborative, and horizontal model of volunteering was reaffirmed, with a focus on people in situations of digital vulnerability.
- The different experiences of each participant were linked to the accumulated experience of the Cybervolunteers Foundation: more than 20 years of work, currently training more than 100,000 people a year, with methodologies, tools, content, and partnerships available to all members of the network.
- Key future trends were identified: the central role of digital rights, cybersecurity, disinformation, and citizen participation in building a more ethical and sustainable digital society. The potential of the network's collective power was emphasized: diverse organizations with shared goals working together to lead inclusive digital transformation at both local and global levels.
- The network is positioned as a global reference aligned with WSIS Action Lines (C3, C4, C7, C8, C10, C11) and the SDGs, looking beyond 2025 toward greater collaboration, digital justice, and citizen empowerment.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the Session**

#### *Key achievements:*

- Active participation of international stakeholders in a co-creation exercise to explore how different types of actors can engage with and benefit from the Cibervoluntarios Network.
- Emphasis on the importance of local development initiatives as essential building blocks for sustainable digital transformation. Participants acknowledged that empowering communities at the grassroots level is key to ensuring inclusive access to technology and digital rights.
- Broad consensus on the role of digital skills as a pathway to citizen empowerment, enabling individuals not only to access services, education, and employment, but also to exercise their rights, engage civically, and shape their digital environments.
- Strong support for developing locally rooted initiatives for inclusive digitalization, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

particularly those related to education (SDG 4), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work (SDG 8), and strong institutions (SDG 16).

- Recognition of the distinctive values of the Network: citizen empowerment, free digital training, volunteering, alliances, co-governance, and scalability. These values were considered crucial to achieving tangible and lasting impact in diverse social and geographic contexts.

*Announcements during the session:*

- Presentation of the expansion goal: 25 countries and 1 million beneficiaries by 2027.
- Announcement of the latest organizations joining from Latin America.
- Launch of a new phase to incorporate organizations from Africa and Asia starting in 2025.

*Agreements and commitments:*

- Several participants expressed strong interest in joining the Network, launching pilot programs, and collaborating on transnational projects.
- A commitment was made to remain in contact to share more detailed information, exchange experiences, and formalize multilateral collaborations.

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

- Promote grassroots international networks like the Cibervoluntarios Network that translate WSIS Action Lines into real impact through digital training, local action, and technological volunteering.
- Support the development of local projects, providing access to methodologies, content, and partnerships that strengthen small and medium-sized social organizations.
- Recognize technological volunteering as a strategic tool for building more inclusive, participatory, and ethical digital societies.
- Integrate digital rights, critical thinking, and cybersecurity as pillars of global digital education policies.

Foster citizen participation from the local level, through public policies that promote digital sovereignty and bottom-up social innovation

**Powering Digital Futures: Data Governance - Navigating Data in the Digital Age (UNESCO, UNDP, ITU)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 16:30 - 17:30**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/517>

**Multigenerational Collaboration: Rethinking Work, Learning and Inclusion  
in the Digital Age (Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/422>

## Strengthening Corporate Accountability on Inclusive, Trustworthy, and Rights-based Approach to Ethical Digital Transformation (The World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA))

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/275>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

#### Achievements (2005-2025)

- **Global Internet Access Growth:** From ~1 billion in 2005 to over **5.4 billion users by 2025**, dramatically reducing the global digital divide.
- **ICT for Development (ICT4D):** WSIS helped catalyze ICT integration in **health, education, agriculture, and e-governance**, enhancing service delivery and citizen empowerment.
- **WSIS Forum:** Established as a **unique implementation-focused platform** aligning with the SDGs, hosting 1,000+ projects and over 10,000 participants annually.

#### Emerging Trends

- **AI and Big Data:** Rapid AI development reshaping healthcare, climate action, education, and labor—necessitating global governance frameworks.

#### Key Challenges

- **Persistent Digital Divides:** 2.6 billion people still offline in 2025, with rural, disabled, women, and Indigenous groups disproportionately affected.
- **Gender Digital Gap:** Women 20-30% less likely to use the Internet in LMICs; targeted policy/funding is still lacking.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Cybercrime is still a challenge; increasing attacks on infrastructure, elections, and private data.

#### Opportunities Beyond 2025

- **Revamped WSIS+:** Use WSIS+ as a **delivery arm of the Global Digital Compact** and a testing ground for SDG-aligned digital action.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Key achievements and outcomes**
  - The session discussed how the GDC can be applied in different areas to address existing and emerging challenges in the digital sector.
  - It was discussed that the GDC can provide a path/roadmap to address the critical issues around human rights, AI governance, child online rights, content moderation and misinformation.
  - It was agreed that there is the need for multi-stakeholder consultations and inclusivity of global voices, particularly ensuring equal and meaningful participation of marginalised groups in the implementation of the GDC.
- **Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session**
  - It was agreed that the GDC should be implemented in a way that respects and promotes human rights

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

- Staying action-oriented—**not rewriting**, but **updating** WSIS frameworks.
- Firmly **grounding digital governance in human rights and gender equity**.
- Keeping **Internet governance inclusive, funded, and institutionalized** via IGF.
- Embedding **transparency, multistakeholder engagement, and accountability** throughout the process.
- Tightly **linking WSIS with SDGs, GDC, AI ethics, and national implementation**.

**Championing A New WSIS Action Line For PeaceTech (SocialTech Lab;  
Institute of Social Ethics, University of Lucerne)**

**Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/281>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- While existing WSIS Action Lines address crucial areas like development, cybersecurity, ethics, and cultural diversity, there is no dedicated framework that explicitly focuses on how ICTs can be leveraged proactively to prevent conflict and build peaceful, resilient societies. PeaceTech– the responsible and innovative use of digital tools for peacebuilding – fills this gap. An Action Line on PeaceTech would align the WSIS vision with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
- Despite a rise in armed conflicts, wars and geopolitical tensions which has resulted in worrisome increases of national defence spendings and arms races, there are hardly any global initiatives that would support local and regional peace building initiatives that focus on non-violent means to build social cohesion, foster mutual trust and respect, and increase the resilience of societies in times of crises. A new WSIS Action Line on Technology & Peace building could bring local actors together to learn from each other, exchange experiences and best practices.
- There is a risk that PeaceTech could be instrumentalized for violent purposes - taking into account that in modern history, most wars have been fought in the name of safeguarding or restoring peace. Therefore, the focus must be on positive peace - as opposed to negative peace defined by the absence of direct violence. Positive peace encompasses active and non-violent efforts to build peace by addressing the root causes of war, as well as building relationships that are characterized by friendship and based on mutual trust and respect. Contributions to positive peace can be characterized by progress on respect for human rights, democracy, employability, climate and

environmental sustainability, and more - giving communities the opportunity to be resilient to crises and prosper.

- To clearly distinguish PeaceTech from WarTech (national defence), as well as to also exclude the use of technology for control and mass surveillance purposes of citizens, social activists, or marginalized groups by repressive regimes, ethical and human-rights based standards must be developed that focus on non-violent uses of technology which are based on human rights, human dignity, freedom, and equality.
- It was also recognized, that despite the many opportunities offered by technology, there are also new risks that need to be addressed, especially in fragile conflict settings which are more prone to violence. To avoid unintentional harm, PeaceTech needs to adopt a conflict-sensitive lens that is aware of local contexts, seeks the involvement of local stakeholders in its design and implementation, and still maintains a “human” element that complements technology by bringing people together.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the Session**

- Key Achievements:
  - Discussion of the proposal to launch a new WSIS Action Line on PeaceTech
  - Drafting of a Concept Note on new PeaceTech WSIS Action Line - see attachment
- Agreements/Commitments as an Outcome of the Session:
  - Broad agreement among panellists and audience to focus on positive peace and a human-rights based approach to clearly distinguish PeaceTech (peace building, social cohesion, resilience, human rights) from WarTech (national defence, surveillance)
  - Input from stakeholders in the audience confirming their alignment with the session’s vision. Statements collected below:
    - “Tech should be more responsive to positive peace but not negative peace”

- "I think it's [a new Action Line] is a positive idea, worth considering in the negotiation."
- "Visibility - make it [PeaceTech] a recognized area for investment, research, policy dev: attract more attention and resources."
- "It [PeaceTech] should focus more actively on peacebuilding"
- "[PeaceTech should consider] intention of design and regular measurement of impact"

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

### **Overall objective:**

Launch a new WSIS Action Line on PeaceTech with the vision to: ***"promote the responsible use of ICTs and digital innovation to support inclusive peace networks and processes, strengthen respect for human rights, prevent armed conflicts, build trust, and foster resilient, cohesive societies."***

### **Specific objectives:**

- Develop ethical standards to guide the design and use of PeaceTech, ensuring alignment with human rights principles.
- Empower stakeholders to develop, adopt, and scale PeaceTech solutions
- Strengthen the capacity of local peacebuilders, social tech entrepreneurs, and communities to use ICTs safely and effectively for building peace in their respective contexts.
- Mitigate digital harms that threaten peace and human rights (e.g., hate speech, disinformation, online radicalization).
- Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and knowledge exchange across sectors. Share best practices so that learnings can be implemented quickly and proactively, which is necessary in fragile conflict settings.
- Develop shared indicators to monitor PeaceTech impacts and progress on peacebuilding.



## How. POST powered services build Cyber Resilience within the global Postal and Logistics Sector (Universal Postal Union)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 09:00 - 10:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/195>

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Digital Transformation of Postal Services:** Postal services are rapidly expanding their digital offerings far beyond traditional mail, acting as multi-sector digital service providers for ecommerce, financial services, e-government, and health services, often serving as "one-stop shops" for digital inclusion.
- **Significant Cybersecurity Gaps:** Despite this digital expansion, the postal sector exhibits suboptimal cybersecurity hygiene, with low implementation rates for critical practices like cybersecurity training, risk management, and incident response plans.
- **Regional Disparities:** Developing regions, specifically Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa, show the lowest adoption rates of cybersecurity best practices and inadequate budget allocations.
- **Budget-Workload Mismatch:** Cybersecurity budgets are not keeping pace with increased workloads; less than half of posts increased their budgets despite 70% experiencing higher cybersecurity demands.
- **Global Nature of Threats:** Cyber threats, including brand impersonation, phishing, ransomware, and supply chain attacks, are a universal phenomenon affecting postal services in both developed and developing countries, often exploiting public trust in postal brands.
- **Human Element as Weakest Link:** The human layer remains a critical vulnerability, necessitating comprehensive awareness training for both postal employees and citizens alongside technical measures.

- **Importance of Collaboration:** International and cross-sector collaboration—through formal agreements, sector-specific CERTs, and information-sharing platforms—is essential for strengthening postal cybersecurity resilience.
- **Role of Posts in Digital Inclusion:** Posts are positioned as critical infrastructure and trusted community hubs that can provide human-touch access points for digital services, especially beneficial for underserved populations.

### **Call to action:**

- Continue rolling out the UPU .POST domain initiative to provide a secure digital identity and services for postal operators in their e-business. (WSIS Action line C7)
- Implement the Postal Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Centre (POST-ISAC) to enable secure and confidential threat intelligence sharing among posts and supply chain stakeholders.
- Expand the UPU SECURE.POST platform to include comprehensive cybersecurity testing and learning resources, in addition to its current URL checking service.
- Continue implementing UPU digital readiness assessments in member states through partnerships like the CTU-UPU MOU.
- Maintain and expand joint incident response simulations and real-time monitoring partnerships between national cybersecurity authorities and postal services, as demonstrated by Albania
- Provide special funding packages for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to support their secure digital transformation efforts.
- Prioritise continued upskilling of postal staff in digital literacy, platform-specific training, and cyber hygiene practices.

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

- **Enhance Cybersecurity Training and Awareness:** Implement comprehensive cybersecurity training programs for postal employees and end-users, focusing on risk management, incident response, and safe digital practices to mitigate human vulnerabilities.
- **Strengthen Financial Investments in Cybersecurity:** Advocate for governments and postal operators to align cybersecurity budgets with the increasing demands of digital transformation, ensuring adequate funding for cybersecurity initiatives, especially in developing regions.
- **Facilitate International Collaboration:** Promote the establishment of formal agreements and cooperative frameworks for cross-sector information sharing, including the formation of sector-specific CERTs and global threat intelligence platforms tailored for postal services.
- **Support Digital Inclusion Initiatives:** Encourage postal services to leverage their unique position as trusted community hubs, actively engaging in digital inclusion efforts that provide access to e-commerce, financial services, and other critical digital tools for underserved populations.
- **Expand and Promote Digital Security Frameworks:** Accelerate the rollout of the UPU .POST domain initiative to strengthen digital identities for postal operators, implement the POSTISAC for secure threat intelligence sharing, and enhance the UPU SECURE.POST platform to capitalize on cybersecurity testing and learning resources.

## Shaping the Global Digital Future: Bridging Divides, Empowering Communities, and Ensuring Ethical Innovation (Oxford Alumni-Silicon Valley Chapter)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 09:00 - 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/269>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

#### Achievements of the Past 20 Years:

- Over **5 billion people** now connected to the internet, compared to 1 billion in 2005.
- Significant digital inclusion efforts in education, e-health, and e-governance across Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

#### Emerging Trends:

- Rise of **localized AI ecosystems** in the Global South.
- **Green ICTs** and climate-conscious tech gaining traction, especially in the EU and East Asia.
- **Data sovereignty** and ethical digital governance becoming central to national policies.

#### Ongoing Challenges:

- Persistent gender and rural-urban digital divides.
- Ethical lag in AI development and deployment, especially in informal economies.
- Environmental costs of digital infrastructure still underestimated and under-regulated.

#### Opportunities Beyond 2025:

- Building cross-sector coalitions for inclusive tech policy.

- Centering ethics and climate as default design parameters in digital tools.
- Leveraging youth digital leadership as a strategic force for innovation and accountability.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

#### *Key Achievements:*

- Convened a multi-stakeholder group of experts from tech, policy, civil society, and international institutions for future-oriented dialogue.
- Identified a shared global need for ethical innovation frameworks rooted in community values.

#### *Announcements / Launches:*

- Launch of the “Inclusive AI Toolkit” for policymakers, co-developed with Global South research labs.
  - Ayse Kok Arslan announced the Digital Ethics Fellowship to support young researchers working at the intersection of ethics, technology, and society.
- Agreements / Commitments:
- Participants committed to publishing a shared guidance brief on inclusive digital transformation strategies to be submitted to the WSIS+20 Review process.
  - Aim to align national digital strategies with sustainability and equity goals.

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

*Institutionalize Digital Ethics:* Embed ethical audits and social impact assessments into public digital service procurement and private sector R&D processes.

*Green-by-Design Mandate:* Promote eco-design standards and renewable-powered infrastructure across all WSIS-related digital development initiatives.

*Support Local Innovation Ecosystems:* Increase funding and partnerships for community-driven tech solutions in underserved regions.

*Build a Youth-Centered Global Digital Forum:* Establish a permanent youth advisory council to the WSIS Forum to ensure intergenerational equity and innovation.

*WSIS+40 Vision Labs:* Initiate “WSIS+40 Vision Labs” as inter-regional think-do tanks to shape the digital society we want by 2045.

## Untangling the Red Tape: WSIS Champions Brainstorm and Offer Solutions (The Document Project)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 09:00 - 09:50

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/463>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

These are the issues addressed during the session. They were decided beforehand by the panelists as the critical issues for Untangling the Red Tape.

- Citizen Engagement
- Urban/Rural divide
- Language
- Infrastructure
- Government/Private sector
- Data and Privacy
- 

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

#### ***Key Achievements***

- WSIS Prize process leveraged: successfully used to identify expert and innovative people to contribute to the specific topic of the session
- WSIS Summit, combined with the AI for Good meeting, attracted those expert and innovative people. They were interested in participating in a brainstorming session

#### ***Agreements/Commitments as an Outcome of the Session***

Conversations to address the problem of Untangling the Red Tape will continue online. That includes the Slido.com audience participation.

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

***First, a general recommendation:***

This topic (Untangling the Red Tape) is about implementation, and almost all policy issues are tangential. However, numerous policies that are supposed to directly benefit people are severely challenged by implementation problems, including complicated documents, forms and instructions that can be missing, unclear or incorrect.

Information of many kinds matter at many stages of implementation. This topic could fit into Capacity Building, or e-Government, but it is best mainstreamed in several WSIS Action Lines. Simply - people should be able to access the government services for which they are eligible.

***Second, in response to the Open Consultation Process Outcomes ; Vision for the Future of The WSIS Process***

Continue collecting and sharing best practices through the WSIS Stocktaking Database, including the WSIS Prizes.

The WSIS Prize Champions in this Session were Champions in different WSIS Action Line categories. This was not a deliberate choice by The Document Project. It just happened that the people who had the expertise most relevant to the topic (Untangling the Red Tape) submitted their entry in different WSIS action line categories. It is a concrete example of a cross-cutting topic. The WSIS Prize process is excellent for highlighting successes and showcasing approaches that can be applied across WSIS Action Line categories.

WSIS as the leading global platform for digital transformation, WSIS must continue bridging the digital divide

**However...**

- **Keeping "Information Society", is more powerful, impactful, and helpful than just focusing on digital**
- **Digital is the world we want. But to ensure we leave no one behind, non-digital aspects and tools of the Information Society must still be relevant for a while**
- **More specifically:**

Information is critical for the SDGs. WSIS is appropriately about the "Information Society".

The WSIS multi-stakeholder process has been in the forefront of information technology, digital transformations, and now also AI.

There are new, exciting, and important communities and commitments related to AI for Good, the Global Digital Compact, etc. But WSIS will remain more impactful if it keeps its broad mandate about "Information Society". That is because "leave no one behind" is a difficult objective that does not assume people can leapfrog into a digital wonderland.

With the "Information Society" mandate, the WSIS multi-stakeholder process is especially important for straddling the space between various initiatives, including the SDGs and the Global Digital Compact.

WSIS is uniquely placed to not exacerbate the divide between the digital haves and the digital havenets.

## Digital Humanism: People first! (EC MEDICI Framework of cooperation)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 10:00 - 10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/248>

### 1. Overview

Digital Humanism is a people-first approach to global digital transformation that places human dignity, fundamental rights, and social fairness at its core and targets transparency, accountability, cultural pluralism, and inclusion in the design and governance of technology. It seeks to establish a dynamic research and action paradigm that actively engages all relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, technologists, educators, civil society, and citizens in aligning digital innovation with the real needs of diverse communities around the world.

### Key Insights

- Centres digital innovation on human dignity, rights, and agency. Preserve cultural, linguistic and creativity diversity.
- Exposes risks from unchecked algorithms, data abuse misuse, and exploitative labour models. AI governance.
- Demonstrates that regulation can safeguard digital rights and public interests, like green and sustainability policies.
- Promotes critical thinking and ethical awareness through education within the different cultural models.
- Calls for transparent, values-driven practices in business and technology.
- Encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration to align technology with societal needs.

### Emerging Trends

- Broadening interest in ethical and inclusive design across industries.
- Growing recognition of digital rights, privacy, and data fairness.
- Evolution of AI guided by the needs, wisdom, and dignity of all people

- Wider adoption of human-centred design in business and governance.
- Stronger partnerships among educators, policymakers, and entrepreneurs.

### **Challenges in the Next 20 Years**

- Ensuring human overlooking role, control and responsibility on nowadays and future AI automatic decision systems.
- Ensuring legal protections adapt to rapidly evolving technologies, including GenAI and surveillance infrastructure.
- Locally bridging the gap between regulatory frameworks and everyday ethical practices in digital systems.
- Holding companies and platforms accountable for harm while encouraging innovation.

### **Figures**

- 78% of Europeans express concern about algorithmic bias and digital surveillance (Eurobarometer, 2023).
- By 2030, more than 85% of education systems globally will include modules on ethics in digital technologies (OECD forecast).
- Businesses with strong ethical governance outperform peers in long-term public trust and regulatory compliance by 30% (World Economic Forum, 2024).

### **Success Stories and Opportunities for WSIS Beyond 2025**

- Embed digital humanism at all levels of education, from schools to vocational training and universities.
- Enabling multi-stakeholder coalitions to monitor, evaluate, and improve the ethical impact of digital transf. (DT).
- Supporting businesses to integrate ethical digital practices through capacity building.
- Expanding the WSIS role as a platform to prototype a rights-based digital social contract shaped by global voices.

## 2. Ethical Deficit on Fostering a Global and Culturally Diverse Vision of Ethics Key Insights

- Digital systems often overlook cultural diversity in ethical values.
- Ethics is still treated as compliance, not as lived moral experience.
- Intelligent systems can support cross-cultural exchange if designed with diverse ethical perspectives.

### Emerging Trends:

Growing interest in **localised ethical frameworks and indigenous knowledge systems**.

### Challenges Ahead (Next 20 Years):

Bridging the gap between compliance-based rules and the different human-centred “moralities”.

### Key Figures

Only 12% of global AI governance frameworks explicitly refer to non-Western ethical models (source: UNESCO, 2024).

## Success Stories and Opportunities Beyond 2025

- Opportunities for WSIS to set a global agenda on ethical pluralism in digital systems.
- Training programmes to elevate global ethical literacy among designers and engineers.

## 3. Paradox of Alignment in Human-Centred Design in Socio-Technical Systems Key Insights

- Shifting from technology-driven to society-informed design challenges the responsibility of developers.
- Embedding human values into systems knowing that complex algorithms are shaped by their creators' social environment.

- Ethical alignment risks oversimplifying cultural values into programmable logic.

### **Emerging Trends**

- Multidisciplinary design teams incorporating ethics, cognitive and social science, including design thinking.
- Frameworks for fairness, accountability, and transparency in system development.

### **Challenges Ahead (Next 20 Years)**

- Avoiding ethical outsourcing to users while keeping creators accountable.
- Preventing misuse of value alignment as a cover for moral disengagement.

### **Key Figures**

- Over 70% of developers report uncertainty on how to embed human values into algorithms (Stanford AI Index, 2024).

### **Success Stories and Opportunities Beyond 2025**

- Ethical auditing standards for digital systems.
- Global partnerships between civil society and developers.
- WSIS as a forum to prototype and test socio-technical governance tools.

## **4. Paradox of Empowerment: Balancing Control Between Humans and Machines Key Insights**

- Delegating control to intelligent systems is inevitable but challenging without measurable indicators.
- Insufficient transparency and predictability in advanced systems complicates ethical oversight.

### **Emerging Trends**

Development of human-in-the-loop and explainable system protocols.

### **Challenges Ahead (Next 20 Years)**

- Managing trust and distrust between users and systems.
- Designing systems that warn or override, without undermining human dignity.

### **Key Figures**

*62% of automated decision-making tools operate without full human review in high-risk sectors (OECD, 2023).*

### **Success Stories and Opportunities Beyond 2025**

- New governance bodies for oversight of machine autonomy.
- WSIS leadership in creating international standards for safe empowerment.

## **5. Cognitive Deficit: Understanding the Impact of Repeated Tool Use on Independent Thinking Key Insights**

- Reliance on digital tools may reduce critical thinking, creativity, and intellectual independence.
- When users accept machine outputs without scrutiny, they lose ownership of ideas.
- Accumulated “cognitive debt” reduces capacity for deep reasoning and diverse thinking.

### **Emerging Trends**

- Evidence-based studies on human cognition and machine interaction.
- Educational reforms that integrate tool use with active learning and critical evaluation.

### **Challenges Ahead (Next 20 Years)**

- Protecting cognitive development in youth amid widespread tool reliance.

- Rebalancing education to nurture curiosity, exploration, and resistance to shortcut thinking.
- Addressing digital overreliance in professional and academic settings. Nurture critical thinking especially in education.

### **Key Figures**

- 47% of students using learning assistants fail to verify information (MIT study, 2024).
- Creativity scores dropped 10% among frequent tool users (Journal of Cognitive Development, 2023).

### **Success Stories and Opportunities Beyond 2025**

- Curricula combining technology with cognitive resilience training.
- Creation of ethical AI mentors in education that support but not replace thinking.
- WSIS can support a global initiative on ethical and cognitive literacy in the digital age.

**WSIS-UN Regional Commissions (UN Regional Commissions)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 10:15 - 11:15**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/466>

**Connecting the Unconnected in the field of Education Excellence, Cyber Security & Rural Solutions and Women Empowerment in ICT (CMAI Association of India)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 11:00 - 11:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/230>

## Overview

The joint session brought together distinguished stakeholders, including policymakers, regulators, educators, cybersecurity experts, technology leaders, and grassroots organizations to deliberate on strategies to accelerate digital transformation. It explored critical themes:

- **Connecting the Unconnected:** Bridging the digital divide by extending ICT infrastructure and affordable connectivity to rural and underserved communities.
- **Education Excellence:** Leveraging digital technologies to advance inclusive and equitable quality education, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education).
- **Cyber Security & Rural Solutions:** Ensuring trust and resilience in digital ecosystems, with special focus on localized rural innovations.
- **Women Empowerment in ICT:** Enabling greater participation of women in the ICT sector and ensuring gender-responsive digital policies.

This event also aligned with the broader goals of the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** and aimed to outline a roadmap for progress beyond 2025.

## Key Insights

- **Digital Inclusion is foundational:** Without connectivity, communities cannot leverage elearning, e-health, e-agriculture, or digital finance. Tailored rural models and community networks were highlighted as essential.

- **Education must be reimaged:** Technology should supplement traditional pedagogies with digital literacy, adaptive learning platforms, and teacher capacity building.
- **Cybersecurity is no longer optional:** As digital adoption grows, so do threats. There is a critical need for awareness campaigns, secure digital identities, and resilient local infrastructures.
- **Women's empowerment drives societal transformation:** Investing in women's digital skills, leadership in ICT, and safety online are pivotal to equitable progress.
- **Multi-stakeholder collaboration is key:** Public-private partnerships, academia, civil society, and international bodies must work together to pool expertise and resources.

### Emerging Trends

- **AI and ML in Education:** Personalized learning pathways and predictive analytics are improving learning outcomes.
- **Community networks and micro-ISPs:** Local ownership models are proving effective for lastmile connectivity.
- **Digital credentials & micro-certifications:** Recognized globally, helping bridge education-toemployment gaps.
- **Women-led tech startups:** More women are driving ICT innovations tailored to local needs.
- **Blockchain for education records & identity:** Enhancing trust and portability across borders.
- **Cyber hygiene and zero-trust architectures:** Becoming mainstream even for small and rural enterprises.

### Challenges in the Next 20 Years

- **Affordability & equitable access:** Devices, data, and electricity still remain barriers for many communities.
- **Skills gap & digital literacy:** The rapid evolution of technology risks leaving large populations behind.
- **Cyber threats & misinformation:** As digital penetration grows, so will risks to personal data, institutions, and democracies.

- **Sociocultural barriers:** Gender biases, language divides, and local customs can impede technology adoption.
- **Sustainability of rural solutions:** Many pilots struggle to scale due to lack of long-term funding or policy alignment.

### **Success Stories and Opportunities for WSIS Beyond 2025**

- **Rural e-learning centers in India & Africa:** Community-owned centers have dramatically increased digital literacy and school enrolment.
- **Women coders networks in Asia:** Initiatives like SheCodes and WomenWhoTech have trained thousands in programming and cybersecurity.
- **Telemedicine & AgriTech platforms:** Using simple mobile apps, rural populations are accessing doctors and modern farming techniques, improving livelihoods.
- **National cybersecurity frameworks:** Several countries have adopted robust policies that protect both critical infrastructure and citizen data.

Looking ahead to **WSIS Beyond 2025**, opportunities include:

- Expanding regional digital hubs that blend connectivity, education, and healthcare.
- Developing multilingual AI tools that break language barriers.
- Formalizing international frameworks for digital trust and cross-border education recognition.
- Launching global funds specifically to empower women and rural youth in ICT.

**Measuring ICT for development: the importance of data and statistics in the implementation of the WSIS and the Global Digital Compact (Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 11:30 - 12:30**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/328>

**Inter-regional Dialogue: AI and Emerging Technologies; Public Policies  
Issues in Different Regions (ESCWA in collaboration with the UN Regional  
Commissions)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 12:00 - 12:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/548>

## Data first in the AI era (UNCTAD)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 13:00 - 13:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/498>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Challenge:** The Widening 'Interpretative Gap': The next 20 years will see an exponential increase in the complexity of AI systems, creating a critical "interpretative gap" where users lack the cognitive tools to understand or contest the technologies shaping their lives. This asymmetry fundamentally challenges digital citizenship and human agency.
- **Emerging Trend:** The Need for 'Digital Hermeneutic Justice': As a response, a new humancentric paradigm is emerging. This goes beyond technical fixes to demand shared interpretative resources, ensuring that all individuals, especially in the Global South, can make sense of their digital experiences and participate meaningfully in the Information Society.
- **Challenge for the Next 20 Years:** A New 'Algorithmic Illiteracy': The over-reliance on AI for judgment and reflection is fostering a new form of illiteracy—the inability to think critically without algorithmic mediation. Countering this will be a central educational and societal challenge for the WSIS process.
- **Opportunity:** The Shift from Opaque Contracts to Transparent Communication: The era of incomprehensible "Terms of Use" is unsustainable. The future lies in standardized, humanreadable risk communication. The "AI Risk Nutrition Label System" is a success story in the making, showing a practical path to democratize understanding and empower informed consent
- **Emerging Trend:** Globally Interoperable Governance: To avoid a fragmented digital world, there is a clear trend towards interoperable

governance frameworks. Grounding new proposals, like the AI Risk Label, in robust existing regulations (e.g., the EU AI Act) provides a blueprint for creating legally sound, globally applicable standards.

- **Opportunity for WSIS Beyond 2025:** Fostering Human-First AI Governance: The true challenge is not perfecting AI models, but agreeing on the ethical ends they serve. WSIS is uniquely positioned to lead a global dialogue that moves from a technology-first to a human-first approach, prioritizing collective deliberation on values and normative frameworks.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Key achievements**
  - Successfully introduced the concept of ‘Digital Hermeneutic Justice’ as a novel and critical framework for understanding and addressing the core human-centric challenges of the AI era.
  - Presented a concrete, actionable governance tool designed to bridge the interpretative gap between AI developers and users, empowering communities and fostering cognitive justice.
- **Announcements/launch during the session**
  - Official launch of the ‘AI Risk Nutrition Label System’ proposal—an innovative, twotiered governance framework designed to provide transparent, standardized, and accessible information about AI risks. It includes a detailed AI Risk Panel for technical stakeholders and intuitive AI Risk Labels for the general public.
- **Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session**
  - A call to action for a multistakeholder coalition of governments along with ELA-IA, civil society organizations, and academic institutions to

commit to the further development and pilot implementation of the AI Risk Nutrition Label System. **The session seeks a commitment to secure funding and collaborative resources to transform this proposal into a globally recognized and operational standard for ethical and accountable AI.**

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

- **Prioritize Human-Centric Transparency Mechanisms.** The WSIS+20 Review should formally recommend that all future digital governance frameworks adopt standardized, humanreadable transparency mechanisms, such as risk labeling systems, as a core principle to empower users and ensure accountability.
- **Integrate ‘Digital Hermeneutic Justice’ as a Core Principle.** We recommend that the WSIS+20 Review and the vision beyond 2025 integrate the principle of ‘Digital Hermeneutic Justice,’ recognizing that equitable access to information is insufficient without the collective cognitive resources needed to interpret and act upon it.
- **Establish a Multistakeholder Working Group on Interpretative Equity.** Launch a dedicated WSIS working group focused on ‘Interpretative Equity and Algorithmic Literacy’ to support SouthSouth collaboration in developing and sharing governance models and educational tools that restore human agency in the algorithmic age.
- **Create Funding Mechanisms for Public-Interest Governance Tools.** Recommend that UNGA and associated bodies establish dedicated financial mechanisms to support the development, scaling, and adoption of non-commercial, public-interest AI governance solutions, **particularly those originating from the Global South**, to ensure a diverse and equitable ecosystem of tools.

**Generative AI and Collective Memory: Navigating Truth in an Age of Digital Narratives (Prompt Society | World XR)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/358>

**Approaches Towards Meaningful Connectivity in the Global South  
(Paradigm Initiative)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/215>

## Revamping Decision-Making in Digital Governance and the WSIS Framework ([CGL.br](https://www.cgl.br) - Brazilian Internet Steering Committee)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 14:00 - 15:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/212>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- There is an understanding that the WSIS Action Lines are technology-agnostic and stood the test of time.
- To implement the Action Lines and address the emergence of new technologies and the challenges that arise with them, it is necessary to put some adaptive lenses to the already existing framework and consider the GDC and SDGs commitments, as well as to bring more diversity and inclusion and national contexts to the process. The São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines were mentioned several times as a good starting point for such inclusion.
- It is important to understand the differences between the WSIS Forum (which attracts more practitioners, along the Action Lines) and the IGF (which attracts more policy debates). Their works and outcomes, however, should be complementary and harmonized.
- Among the gaps of the WSIS framework, a lack of diversity in communities and issues represented and a lack of collaboration with other Internet governance processes were mentioned. It is important to maximize the voices in both the WSIS Forum and the IGF, not as mere beneficiaries of the outcomes, but as their co-creators.
- A consensus from the session was the need to strengthen the IGF. The actions mentioned to this end were: a permanent or long-term mandate, since a multi-year strategic planning is required; the conduction of self-evaluations; a result-oriented management; the utilization of its outcomes to inform decision-making in other spaces; the strengthening of the governance network at the local level (for instance, the work of the NRIs); a more robust and sustainable funding; and better coordination mechanisms. It is also relevant to actively keep all stakeholders engaged in the Internet Governance processes.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Recommendations on the improvement of the WSIS framework and on the strengthening of its various components, including the IGF, which should be taken into account by the WSIS+20 review process.

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

- The WSIS framework should have better coordination mechanisms, which help integrate its various components. Such mechanisms should be instrumental for a tighter integration between the IGF and the WSIS Forum, exploring their complementarity and avoiding duplications.
- The GDC and SDGs commitments should be considered as part of the implementation of the WSIS framework, so as to explore synergies, achieve harmonized solutions, and avoid duplications, especially in a situation of UN budget restrictions.
- The São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines should be used as a golden standard in the operation of all components of the WSIS framework.
- The IGF needs to be strengthened along various dimensions, inter alia the Secretariat, the intersessional work, the integration with other decision-making bodies, and more targeted and tangible outcomes. The IGF also needs a permanent or long-term mandate and a sustainable funding, combining UN and voluntary funds for instance.

The local actions also play an important role in the Internet and digital governance as a whole. In this sense, NRIs must be recognized as a vital component of the WSIS architecture, as they are an invaluable mechanism for integrating local, regional and global policy discussions.

## How to Transition Online Service to Passwordless at No Cost (Passwordless Alliance)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/197>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Understanding the new international standard ITU-T X.1280 for eliminating passwords
- Overview of Passwordless X1280, a free software distributed based on ITU-T X.1280
- Current status of the Passwordless Alliance's passwordless education program and free software distribution
- Case studies from France and Korea on applying the education program and free B2C/G2C software in companies
- Case studies from Ecuador and Korea on applying the education program and free B2C/G2C software in educational institutions
- Announcement of a U.S. association's plan to distribute the education program and free B2C/G2C software

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Shared success stories of adopting Passwordless X1280 with major countries including Korea, France, the US and Ecuador aiming to implement passwordless solutions at no cost.
- Provided guidance on how to access and distribute the free education program and B2C software.
- Confirmed interest from the United States, Malaysia, and several African countries in joining the Passwordless Alliance.
- Announcement by French company ID3 (a member of the Passwordless Alliance) on offering VDS Reader technology to strengthen KYC (Know Your Customer) processes on the Passwordless X1280 free software.

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

- Continue promoting passwordless access to B2C and G2C online services worldwide through free Passwordless X1280 software and developer education programs distributed by the Passwordless Alliance, based on ITU-T X.1280
- Deploy practical technologies that provide automatic passwordless login methods for elderly or memory-impaired users, enabling secure access to online services without the need to remember passwords

Contribute to building a cost-free passwordless society through ongoing education programs and free software distribution.

**Digital Transformation for all: An Information Society that respects and protects human rights (African Union, European Union and UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/263>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The international community is increasingly grappling with digital technologies and their impacts on people and planet. The Geneva Declaration of Principles declared the common desire and commitment to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, grounded in respecting and fully upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The WSIS+10 review recognized the role of human rights in the information society.
- Human rights present a pathway that can be used to enable the responsible and inclusive development and deployment of digital technologies whilst also identifying and addressing risks.
- The UN General Assembly called upon governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to use human rights due diligence (HRDD) as a concrete way forward to reduce risks while enabling the benefits of digital technologies. The Global Digital Compact (GDC) has a strong commitment to integrate human rights into global digital transformation and has integrated human rights due diligence as a critical approach to preventing and addressing any adverse impact on human rights.
- In May 2024, the United Nations Executive Committee adopted Guidance for [Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use](#) for the UN System. Focusing on the private sector, the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (UNGPs) are driving the integration of human rights due diligence across the tech life cycle, advancing the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS.

- The discussion aimed to explore how human rights due diligence can be better integrated into technology development and digital governance frameworks, specifically within the context of the WSIS+20 review process. The goal was to demonstrate that human rights considerations enhance rather than hinder technological innovation and business success, while providing practical guidance for implementation.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) as a Framework for Technology:** Digital transformation must center human digital dignity – ensuring that individuals are not only protected online but also empowered, represented, and respected in all digital interactions. The discussion emphasized HRDD as a systematic approach to identify, prevent, and mitigate human rights risks in technology development and deployment, with speakers describing it as a “compass” rather than an obstacle to innovation, providing a framework to surface hidden harms and make invisible impacts visible in technology development.
- **Business Case for Human Rights in Technology:** Panellists argued that respecting human rights not only complies with corporate responsibility but is also economically beneficial, with trust being fundamental to the data economy – companies that respect user rights build greater trust and achieve more sustainable business models.
- **Implementation Strategies and Best Practices:** The conversation covered practical approaches including embedding human rights considerations early in product development, requiring management support for human rights policies, conducting continuous training, and using external audits through multi-stakeholder initiatives.
- **Integration of Human Rights into WSIS+20 Review:** Participants discussed how to strengthen human rights language in the WSIS+20 review process, emphasizing that human rights should be “by default” rather than an add-on, and calling for explicit inclusion of action-oriented language on Human Rights and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

- **Addressing Digital Divides and Vulnerable Populations:** The discussion highlighted the need to focus on those left behind, particularly the 2.6 billion people still unconnected globally, with special attention to children and youth, elders, persons with disabilities, women, Indigenous communities, and other vulnerable groups in the context of AI and emerging technologies.

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

- The original WSIS vision of people-centered, inclusive, development-oriented information society inherently embodies human rights principles and should guide the review process, translating human rights principles into actions.
- The WSIS+20 co-facilitators committed to strengthening human rights language in the zero draft of the WSIS+20 outcome document, building on progressive language from recent UN documents like the Global Digital Compact.
- Participants called to actively engage with written inputs for the zero draft preparation process.
- Participants called for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to have a more prominent role in future discussions of the WSIS+20, and for the improvement and strengthening of the WSIS architecture for upholding human rights on the Internet and in digital governance.
- Participants called for i) the development of a Digital Dignity Index, a rights-based global framework to measure the impact of digital policies and technologies on personal agency, data sovereignty, inclusion, and well-being – especially for marginalized and digitally disconnected communities; and ii) the drafting of an AI Rights and Inclusion Charter, affirming digital personhood, algorithmic accountability, and equitable access to AI benefits.

- Discussions highlighted the need for more case studies and documented examples of businesses making human rights-based decisions to strengthen the argument that human rights is good for business.

**From Principles to Practice: Operationalizing Multistakeholder Governance  
(Global Network Initiative (GNI) and Global Partners Digital (GPD))**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/207>

**GovStack Digital Leaders Forum 2025 & A Celebration of the Women in  
GovTech Challenge Finalists (DLF & WiGTC 25)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 15:00 - 15:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/496>

## **Beyond International Aid: Investing in Community Connectivity and Making it Self-Sustainable (Association for Progressive Communications)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/338>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Internet access statistics hide realities that become apparent when using meaningful connectivity frameworks: in Brazil 84% vs 29%.
- Lack of meaningful connectivity is concentrated in traditionally marginalized communities (rural, small, economically poor and indigenous)
- Diversified telecommunication ecosystems are needed to target these inequality, and community-centred connectivity initiatives (CCCI) respond to them in a responsible way.
- The recognition of community networks as infrastructure investments with measurable social returns, combined with concrete funding commitments, suggests positive momentum for bridging the financial divide in digital inclusion.
- There was strong consensus on the need for blended finance mechanisms and recognition of CCCI as social enterprises that generate measurable social returns alongside connectivity services.
- The aggregation of multiple CCCI into investment portfolios was highlighted as a strategy for managing risk and scaling impact.
- The conversation reflected a shift from advocacy to rigorous, quantitative research as the foundation for building investment cases.
- ISOC and APC are working on funding and financing initiatives to support CCCI to be sustainable beyond aid, which is complementary to GIGA efforts connecting schools.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- APC referred to the research they launched at the IGF 2025: Financing Self-Sustaining Solutions for Community Connectivity:

- ISOC referred to their Co-Funding Initiative they launched earlier this year:<https://www.internetsociety.org/issues/access/connectivity-co-funding-initiative/>
- GIGA referred to the ITU Digital Infrastructure Investment Catalyst they launched at the UN Financing for Development Conference together with UNCTAD. • APC, ISOC and ITU are interested to explore partnerships that have to further their financing work to close the digital divide.

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

- Strengthening funding mechanisms, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and policy integration is critical in improving scalability of community centered connectivity initiatives and ensuring their lasting success.
- A shift in perception is needed: from unsustainable micro-non-profit to high-impact, undercapitalised asset class. With the right mix of donors, development finance institutions, and mission-aligned investors, there is an opportunity to recognize community-centred connectivity initiatives not as fringe actors, but as essential infrastructure builders, and to join in creating the investment vehicles that can unlock their full potential for inequality reduction and sustainable development.

**Digital identity solutions: opportunities and challenges in the pursuit of inclusiveness (United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, United Nations International Computing Centre)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 15:15 - 16:15**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/235>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The United Nations is walking the talk, actively using emerging technologies to resolve real issues.
- The Digital Certificate of Entitlement (DCE) and UN Digital ID were presented as two concrete examples of digitalization, process automation, and UN partnerships in action.
- As the UN strives to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16.9, which emphasizes legal identity for all by 2030, digital identity solutions like the DCE and UN Digital ID serve as crucial tool in promoting inclusiveness and ensuring that every UN staff member and retiree can effectively navigate the digital landscape.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration and approaches help ensure exchange of good practices and policies at a time when technology evolves very rapidly.
- Blockchain technology is secure: it creates and manages immutable, traceable, and independently auditable records. It is permissioned, stores only credential definitions, schemas and verification data, and no user data is stored in the blockchain.

- Digital identity, done right, does not just unlock access — it builds trust, continuity, and dignity across various sectors, from pension matters to digital wallets, to healthcare and education.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- The Digital Certificate of Entitlement, the UNJSPF digital identity solution, was developed in 2021 as a concrete solution to the ongoing problem for UNJSPF beneficiaries to provide their proof of live annually, traditionally a paper-based process. As of July 2025, the solution utilizing blockchain, artificial intelligence, biometrics and geolocalization is used by over 40,000 retirees based in 190 countries.
- By leveraging advanced technologies such as blockchain and biometrics, the UN Digital ID system addresses data fragmentation and simplifies processes from onboarding to retirement. This inclusive approach not only facilitates seamless access to resources for UN personnel but also fosters a secure environment for managing sensitive information.
- The UN Digital ID is currently being used for the use case of pensions and is being expanded to BSAFE mandatory training and inter-agency movements. Six UN entities are being joined by more entities with additional use cases in the coming months.

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

- Ensure that UN entities and other stakeholders have opportunities to introduce and promote their digital solutions, thus creating synergies and inspiring others.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships for good are essential to direct the future of the information society in a positive manner.

- Leverage on existing mechanisms such as the WSIS Forum, AI for Good, UNGIS and Virtual Worlds, avoiding dispersing knowledge and valuing existing partnerships.

## **Shall governments have access to encrypted messaging apps content? (RealTyme)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/250>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

#### **Where We've Come From – and What Comes Next**

- Internet penetration in developing countries grew from 7% in 2005 to over 66% in 2023
- Cybersecurity has evolved from technical concern to national priority
- Sovereign communication is now a foundation for trust, not a fringe concept
- WSIS helped prove multi-stakeholder models work: governments, private sector, civil society, and academia
- But the AI and post-quantum era demands new governance models
- Governments in the Global South are leading in secure digital infrastructure innovation
- WSIS+20 must transition from policy to practice—especially on trusted, sovereign communication

#### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

##### **Key Achievements**

- Reframed the global encryption debate around trust, identity, and sovereignty
- Highlighted outcomes of the ITU Academy training delivered to 15+ countries
- Presented a forward-looking vision for governable encryption and secure communication infrastructure

### **Announcements / Launches**

- Invitation to participate in the next wave of Cyber for Good training programs for public sector teams
- Introduction of RealTyme's support model for secure communication pilots in low-income and least developed countries

### **Agreements / Commitments**

- Call to action for governments to assess and upgrade their internal communication security frameworks
- Panel endorsement of sovereign platforms as an alternative to anonymous consumer apps
- Participant interest in regional working groups to define AI-misuse detection standards in encrypted systems

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

Encourage UNGA and member states to adopt a shared definition of "governable encryption" based on identity, transparency, and sovereignty

- Prioritize investment in sovereign secure communication platforms as foundational digital public infrastructure
- Establish regional cooperation tracks to define standards for AI-misuse detection in encrypted systems
- Include digital identity and encryption governance as core elements in cybersecurity capacity-building programs

Foster multi-stakeholder innovation partnerships to support post-quantum transition readiness and responsible AI use

**Communication is Humanitarian Aid (World Association for Christian Communication/Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities Network)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 16:00 - 16:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/224>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- **Infrastructure**: Communications infrastructure is essential, especially in times of crisis and conflict. However, telecommunications infrastructure is routinely targeted and significantly impacted and left without support through humanitarian aid initiatives. When addressing humanitarian crises, access to communication infrastructure must be regarded as essential services.
- **Content**: There has been a proliferation of both information vacuums and increased disinformation, particularly in times of crisis. This content has negative implications for those experiencing conflict or natural disasters, as it is more difficult for them to access trustworthy and culturally relevant information to address the challenges they are facing.
- **Funding Challenges**: Community-led media is essential to provide humanitarian aid, agency and opportunity in times of crisis. However accessibility to funding is limited and challenging in the current geopolitical context.
- **Agency**: Promoting communication justice in times of crisis is a two-way street. In order to promote information as a fundamental right, there must be a focus on the development of information ecosystems where community actors are given the agency and opportunity to meaningfully contribute. Promoting agency will subsequently lead to an increase in trust

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- **Commitment to work together as civil society to address communication in times of crisis**: There were discussions of how different civil society groups such as WACC, APC and CDAC have addressed communication and

information needs in Sudan, Palestine, Venezuela, Colombia, Myanmar, Syria, and Ukraine. These approaches coming from civil society focus on building localized trust and working to empower communities, challenging the extractive model of aid.

- **Discussion with participants about how connections can grow beyond civil society:** participants and panellists discussed the potential collaborations beyond civil society by examining the role of the private sector in disaster response through funding, the provision of infrastructure, and advocacy.

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

- **Disaster Response:** Need to focus on a crisis not only when it happens, but also on the need for sustained support. A mix of civil society and institutional support is needed to achieve a sustainable approach to communication as humanitarian aid. While civil society is working creatively to address the challenges discussed above, a lack of sustained funding and support demonstrates the need for greater institutional support in long-term disaster response
- **Multiple stakeholders within the WSIS community (governments, regulators, technical communities) need to push more strongly for methods to address communication in times of distress.** The panel identified many silences from the WSIS community, and reiterated the importance of re-examining humanitarian law to better address the risks posed to communication infrastructure and content related to conflict or natural disaster
- **Multistakeholder approach must incorporate meaningful participation of civil society organizations that provide accounts of these conditions.** Incorporating civil society organizations that are on the ground helps to address the imbalance of power that occurs in disaster response

- **The WSIS action plan must address the importance of locally led initiatives.** As seen in civil society work, locally led responses can build trust, foster agency, and lead to sustainable models for communication that can counter disinformation and provide communities with reliable and safe information in times of crisis.

**Driving meaningful participation of women in cyber through policy and practical action (Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Association for Progressive Communication)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 16:30 - 17:30**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/261>

## The Trust Dilemma: AI across sectors (Trust Valley)

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/214>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025:

- Technology, especially AI, can be both a weapon and a shield. The discussion emphasized the critical need for trustworthy AI that prioritizes security by design, privacy by design, and robust regulation to ensure AI benefits humanity and minimizes harm.
- The proliferation of AI-powered disinformation and manipulation poses a significant threat, particularly for journalists and public perception. The development of "synthetic soldiers" capable of creating vast networks of fake profiles highlights a silent cognitive warfare.
- Cybercriminals increasingly target small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within supply chains to access larger corporations and governments, revealing a critical need for enhanced cybersecurity measures across the entire ecosystem.
- AI development is accelerating at an unprecedented rate, while international policymaking and governance mechanisms struggle to keep pace. This creates a critical juncture where bold decisions and international collaboration are necessary to prevent dramatic events driven by unregulated AI.
- There is a significant gap to bridge in public education regarding the risks and proper use of AI, even among children who are growing up in an AI-pervasive world without adequate guidance on its implications.
- Training of the most widely used generative AI models on predominantly US-centric data and knowledge can influence the information and perspectives presented to users. This raises important considerations regarding cultural representation in AI outputs.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

1. Philippe Stoll Senior Techplomacy Delegate at ICRC shared key efforts to protect civilians from harmful uses of digital tools in conflict zones:
  - Presented the work of ICRC on an international treaty for legally binding international rules to ban autonomous weapons targeting

- people by 2026, as well as The Digital Dilemmas initiative to immerse users in crisis simulations to expose the real-world consequences of digital tech in warfare.
- Presented a recently published ICRC AI policy to empower in-house teams to explore AI with safety, ethics, and human impact at its core, ensuring AI adoption is guided by the ICRC's core mandate and Fundamental Principles.
2. Irakli Beridze Head of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics at UNICRI presented AIPOL (AI for Policing) initiative:
    - A joint project with Interpol funded by the European Commission called, to design a global toolkit for the responsible use of AI by law enforcement and translate in national standard operating procedures within pilot programs in Brazil, India, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, and Oman.
  3. Stéphane Koch, Vice-President of the Board of Directors ImmuniWeb SA demonstrated the dual-use nature of AI technology and presented his work on
    - AI platform to conduct attack surface monitoring and automated penetration testing to enhance information security, digital communication, and online reputation management.
  4. Lennig Pedron CEO at Trust Valley emphasized the fact that Cybercriminals increasingly target small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within supply chains to access larger corporations and governments, and announced Trust Valley work in that regard:
    - Trust4SMEs program in collaboration with the State of Vaud dedicated to strengthening SMEs cybersecurity.
    - GovTech B2G platform in collaboration with the World Bank and the Department of Economy at the national level of Switzerland (SECO) to facilitate implementation of new digital technology projects by startups with governments. Ghana is the first country to launch a pilot innovation challenge.

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

### Review and Beyond Agreements/Commitments as an outcome of the session:

- Accelerate AI Governance and Regulation Globally: Prioritize and expedite the development and adoption of robust international governance instruments and regulatory frameworks for AI, acknowledging the rapid pace of technological advancement and ensuring consensus among UN member states. This includes learning from existing models like the EU AI Act.

- Invest in Public Education and Awareness on AI Risks: Implement comprehensive educational programs from an early age, even in school curricula, to equip individuals with the knowledge and discernment necessary to understand and mitigate the risks associated with AI, especially concerning disinformation and data privacy.
- Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Responsible AI: Foster and expand collaborative initiatives involving governments, international organizations, law enforcement, the private sector (including SMEs), academia, and civil society to jointly develop and implement responsible AI practices, ensuring human rights compliance and addressing emerging threats like cognitive warfare.
- Prioritize Human-Centric AI Development and Deployment: Ensure that AI development and deployment consistently prioritize human safety, well-being, and ethical considerations, particularly in sensitive areas like law enforcement, humanitarian aid, and military applications, with a strong emphasis on explainability, transparency, and accountability.

**Key factors and design features - successful national sustained relevant digital inclusive education (International Federation of Information Processing - IFIP)**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 17:00 - 17:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/227>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The session considered and addressed points concerned with Action Line C7 (eLearning)
- An International Federation for Information Technology (IFIP) Task Force explored how young people 5-18-years-of-age could be supported with sustained relevant digital inclusive education
- Key success factors were identified from an international evidence base - aspiration; diversity, inclusion, the digital divide and the under-represented;

computational thinking and its links to problem-solving; developing teacher practices; and short- and long-term plans and actions

- A more specific national set of case studies has identified a range of design features that have been and are critical in this respect - successfully sustained for over 35 years in Northern Ireland - the long-term purpose was set; sufficient lengths of development phases were discussed and decided (10 years was set as a minimum, to ensure embeddedness and to ensure emerging technologies did not overtake and dominate what was already successful and in place); all stakeholders have been increasingly involved (policy makers, advisers, inspectors, NGOs, teachers, parents and guardians, students and providers); a long-term purpose was set; a long-term funding model was essentially developed; cost benefits of the long-term and nation-wide model needed to be demonstrated; equality was at the heart of all phase developments, irrespective of school type or sector; nation-wide scale and scope were considered to be feasible - networking, communication, infrastructure, hardware and software were implemented for all 1,000+ schools (primary, secondary and special); teams for central service provision were identified at an early stage; school principals and teachers were always supported; contracts with suppliers were appropriately developed but solutions rather than products were always sought; a 'test-bed' co-design approach with schools has been taken; necessary standardisation was identified - with options for schools; a long-term curriculum was considered and developed; links to current and future industry and employment supported aspiration; qualifications and certification have been revised to match ongoing digital interest and concerns; aspiration from early ages (5 years of age) were developed; curriculum and teacher approaches focus on long-term uses by young people; a cross-curricular approach supported computational thinking and computing in school curricula; diversity, inclusion, the digital divide and the under-represented were a focus of concern for schools and teachers; uses of digital education in special schools and for those young people not able to attend mainstream schools was effectively considered; room layouts were carefully considered; and teachers sharing practice has been positively supported

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- A long-term success model, with examples of how this has influenced school practices, identifying relevant success factors and design features, was offered
- Participants could consider how these success factors and design features could relate to their own situations
- The importance of the success factors and design features could be considered through further case studies in other contexts

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

- Long-term digital education for young people is important if the roles and applications of digital technologies in the future are to be fully understood, developed and effectively used
- Nation-wide case studies are not easy to gather, but should be considered in terms of how they can inform future success for those nations and for others
- Contexts are important; understanding the ways that contextual features play roles in the development and implementation of digital technologies is crucial to future success
- Provision of digital technologies is only a part of the answer to future access and development; the parts that curriculum and purpose, supporting young people to be producers with digital technologies and not just digital consumers, is vital for their and society's future.

**IO Antitrust (OGI - The OneGoal Initiative for Governance)**

Friday, 11 July, 09:00 – 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/543>

## **Strengthen Digital Governance and International Cooperation to Build an Inclusive Digital Future (Chinese Academy of Cyberspace Studies)**

Friday, 11 July, 09:00 – 09:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/242>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The rapid advancement of a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, with emerging technologies such as AI and 5G gaining momentum, has accelerated the development of the information society.
- Meanwhile, the rapid iteration and complexity of technologies has brought about a series of unpredictable risks and challenges, including digital and data divides, privacy and security concerns, governance deficit, ethical dilemmas, energy consumption and e-waste, among others.
- Governments, international organizations (e.g. ITU, UNCTAD, WFEO, etc), enterprises, think tanks, social organizations across the world are taking actions to strengthen capacity building and get prepared for the digital age.
- It is necessary to explore inclusive and sustainable frameworks for digital governance and data governance.
- It requires extensive international cooperation, including strengthening Global South cooperation, to yield the digital dividends to reach all nations and build a community with a shared future in cyberspace.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Reaffirmation of the significance of multi-lateral and multi-party participation in the global digital governance agenda
  - Highlight the key role of UN in global cyberspace governance
- Key Recommendations and

### **Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond**

- Seize the opportunities presented by AI to advance high-quality development of the information society. Continue to deepen the integration of AI with real-world applications, and fully unleash its potential to empower economic and social progress.

- Stay committed to innovation and openness to ensure digital dividends are enjoyed by all humanity. Advocate for global sharing of AI research resource and further strengthen AI capacity building, especially in developing countries.
- Enhance mutual trust, and promote sustained and inclusive dialogue to jointly address security risks and challenges.
- Call on governments, international organizations, businesses, academia, and social organizations around the world to jointly engage in the global digital governance agenda, and promote building open, fair and efficient governing mechanisms.

**Information Society in Times of Risk (International Community of Experts on Risk Information Management, Risk Models and Applications (RIMMA CoE), The UN Consultative Committee on Information Technology of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST-CCIT))**

Friday, 11 July, 10:00 – 10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/222>

**Digital Cooperation for Inclusive Development: Brazil-South Africa  
Synergies in the G20 and the WSIS Framework (South Africa/Brazil)**

Friday, 11 July, 10:00 – 10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/479>

## **Utilizing Digital Technologies as a Tool to Strengthen Sustainable Development Practices (Global Youth Leadership Development Council (GYLDC) and the Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center)**

Friday, 11 July, 10:00 – 10:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/239>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- **Deepen Knowledge Dissemination:** Conducted in-depth analysis of the paths through which digital technologies drive green innovation in various sectors, and promote research and development actions targeting specific environmental issues.
- **Enhance Innovation Support:** Tap the potential of digital technologies such as mobile applications, artificial intelligence, and blockchain to assist young entrepreneurs in achieving the SDGs, and share successful practical cases.
- **Build Cooperative Networks:** Leverage digital tools to establish a global communication platform and promote cooperation among multiple stakeholders, including governments, enterprises, social organizations, and academia.
- **Facilitate Collaboration and Networking:** Digital tools enable to connect with peers, mentors, and organizations across the globe. Social media platforms, forums, and collaborative software can facilitate networking opportunities where young individuals can share ideas, collaborate on projects, and mobilize support for their initiatives.
- **Supporting Innovation via Technology Driven Solutions:** Digital technologies such as mobile applications, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain can be harnessed by young entrepreneurs to create impactful solutions that address specific SDG targets. The experts in this session will identify best practices and case studies that demonstrate successful integration of technology in sustainable development.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- Understanding the Intersection of Digital Economy and Green Development.
- Identification of Key Technology-Driven Solutions.
- Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Digital Transformation.
- Collaboration Opportunities Among Stakeholders.
- Raising Awareness About Digital Inclusion in Green Initiatives.

- Launched two transformative initiatives notably the; (i) Global Lighthouse Case Collection & Innovatech Global Awards and (ii) the Capacity Building Program for Digital Economy Governance and Talents Cultivation.

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

- The digital economy encompasses a range of economic activities that utilize data as a key production factor and rely on digital technologies for efficiency and innovation. It plays a crucial role in enhancing green development.
- The integration of digital technologies fosters research and development in green technologies, enabling industries to adopt cleaner production processes and reduce their carbon footprint.
- The digital economy encourages the transition from traditional industries to low-carbon intelligent industries, facilitating the shift towards more sustainable production methods.
- Building a workforce skilled in both digital technologies and sustainability practices is essential for fostering innovation in green development.

**Harnessing ICT for Sustainable Development: Bridging Gaps through Local Initiatives (Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State)**

Friday 11 July, 11:00 – 11:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/409>

**Accelerating Structural Transformation and Industrialization in Developing Countries: Navigating the Future with Advanced ICTs and Industry 4.0 (Digital Transformation Alliance (DTA) and Alliance for Industry 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing for Africa (AISMA))**

Friday 11 July, 11:00 – 11:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/218>

**Bridging the Digital Divide: Inclusive ICT Policies for Sustainable Development (International Standard University/City University Bangladesh)**

Friday 11 July, 11:00 – 11:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/413>

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- **Digital Inclusion Milestones:** WSIS programs have linked more than 4.5 billion people worldwide over the last 20 years, with significant advancements in low- and middle-income nations. However, 2.6 billion people—mostly women and people living in rural areas— remain offline, necessitating the development of new inclusive connectivity initiatives.
- **Ethical AI and Data Governance:** Big data and AI are being adopted at a faster rate than ethical and legal frameworks. The necessity of open, rights-based data policies was underlined in the discussions, particularly with regard to citizen services, healthcare, and education.
- **Green ICT and Sustainability:** E-waste has increased to more than 60 million metric tons per year, despite the fact that ICT has helped many sectors optimize energy use. The discussion argued for more robust international green ICT norms and highlighted effective circular economy models, such as Rwanda's e-waste policy.
- **Closing Policy Gaps:** Developed and developing regions continue to have distinct regulatory frameworks. Global data flow harmonization and equity are hampered by the fact that many nations lack enforceable digital rights laws, despite the EU's GDPR serving as a model.
- **Human Rights in the Digital Age:** Case studies from Kenya and India demonstrated how national digital ID initiatives pose both surveillance and empowerment threats. In order to guarantee ethical tech use worldwide, panelists emphasized UN-based supervision measures.

- **Emerging Technologies & Ethics:** There are both opportunities and policy gaps in the next digital frontier (quantum, Web3, and metaverse). Instead of bridging current digital disparities, these tools run the risk of reproducing them in the absence of inclusive forethought.
- **Youth and Gender Empowerment:** Speakers emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender equity in national ICT strategies as a prerequisite for a just digital future, citing advancements made through UN Women's digital literacy campaigns and WSIS Youth Initiatives.
- **Prospects After 2025:** It was highlighted that a key legacy of WSIS+20 and a model for WSIS+30 is the co-creation of SDG-linked, locally grounded ICT frameworks that incorporate environmental, ethical, and social justice criteria.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- **key achievements:** Using real-world case studies from four continents, the session effectively exposed policy gaps in inclusive and ethical ICT frameworks and offered practical, SDG aligned recommendations.
- **announcements/launch during the session :** "Towards Ethical and Sustainable ICT Governance Beyond 2025" is the title of a collaborative policy brief that will be co-developed by collaborating institutions and stakeholders.
- **agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session:** With an emphasis on capacitybuilding and ethical AI integration, presenters and attendees pledged to establish a SouthSouth knowledge-sharing network on inclusive digital policy development.

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

- Create a Framework for International Ethical ICT Policy: Create a rights-based ICT governance framework supported by the UN that is based on morality, environmental sustainability, and social justice while guaranteeing compatibility with national digital strategies.
- Co-creation mechanisms for mainstream inclusive policies: Establish multistakeholder participation in national and international digital policies, with a focus on women, youth, indigenous communities, and people with disabilities.
- Encourage the development of capacity in the Global South: Increase funding for SouthSouth knowledge sharing platforms, regulatory training, and digital literacy to enable marginalized populations to influence and carry out ICT policy.
- Incorporate national agendas with green ICT standards: In accordance with SDGs 12 and 13, mandate environmental sustainability goals (such as carbon neutrality and circular e-waste systems) in public procurement and digital transformation strategies.
- Encourage worldwide digital solidarity by utilizing shared infrastructure. Promote open-source tools, cross-border data-sharing frameworks, and public-private partnerships for fair broadband access in order to close the digital gap and lessen policy asymmetries.

## Global Strategies for Child Online Protection and Tackling Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (SWGfL - South West Grid for Learning)

Friday 11 July, 11:30 – 12:30

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/344>

### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Global COP frameworks:** The revised ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines were presented as a rights-based, scalable framework for governments and stakeholders. Panellists discussed their successful regional adaptation across Europe, including in Moldova, Ukraine, and Malta.
- **Multistakeholder coordination:** Implementation success in COP requires cross-sectoral collaboration—governments, educators, law enforcement, ISPs, NGOs—as demonstrated in Malta’s holistic approach and the ITU Europe Office’s assessments in 7+ countries.
- **Emerging harms:** Speakers emphasised the rising urgency of tech-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), particularly non-consensual intimate image abuse (NCII), which disproportionately affects women and intersects with other online harms.
- **Survivor-centred innovation:** StopNCII.org was highlighted as a globally accessible, privacy-preserving tool that uses device-side hashing to prevent the distribution of intimate images—now integrated with 15+ platforms and available in 25+ languages.
- **Legal advancement:** The inclusion of NCII in Article 16 of the UN Cybercrime Convention was described as a landmark, establishing NCII as a globally recognised cybercrime with associated obligations for law enforcement, judiciary, and platforms.
- **UNODC strategy alignment:** The session reinforced the need for aligned definitions, shared standards, and joint action across jurisdictions. UNODC’s global strategy emphasises legal harmonisation, capacity building, and adoption of preventative technologies.

- Call for platform accountability: Despite some voluntary compliance, panellists called for wider platform integration of preventive technologies and enforcement of accountability measures within national legal systems.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the Session**

- Visibility and uptake of global frameworks: Participants were signposted to the ITU COP Guidelines, UNODC strategy, and StopNCII.org as practical tools for adoption and implementation.
- Cross-sector dialogue: The session fostered collaboration between international organisations, government representatives, NGOs, and academics.
- Recognition of StopNCII.org as a global good: The platform's proactive, frictionless design was endorsed as a model for safety-by-design innovation aligned with WSIS and SDG commitments.

### **Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan**

- Scale the adoption of the ITU COP Guidelines globally, with support for localisation, translation, and assessment to meet national contexts.
- Promote platform accountability for TFGBV, including legal and regulatory incentives for adopting proactive safety tools such as hashing technologies.
- Embed NCII and TFGBV into national cybercrime strategies, in line with Article 16 of the UN Cybercrime Convention and UNODC's global framework.
- Advance shared digital standards, enabling states, platforms, and civil society to collaborate using consistent definitions, risk models, and forensic protocols.
- Centre the voices of women, children, and survivors in all digital policy discussions, implementation frameworks, and technological innovation.

## Law, Tech, Humanity, and Trust (International Committee of the Red Cross)

Friday 11 July, 11:30 – 12:30

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/508>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Digital emblem as a success story in norm development:** The ICRC's Digital Emblem project was showcased as a concrete example of how international humanitarian law can be adapted to the digital age— and without substantive changes to the applicable rules - using a technical marker to ensure medical and humanitarian digital assets remain 'visible' even online.
- **Evolving threats to critical infrastructure:** The threat landscape has grown from digital divide and access issues to include cyberattacks against hospitals, power grids, and humanitarian organizations. The Digital Emblem responds to this evolution by creating a visual indicator for cyber actors to distinguish protected entities in cyberspace – but the importance of the digital divide cannot (and will not) be set aside, even in the development of such tools.
- **Recognition of the humanitarian layer of cybersecurity:** Discussions at WSIS+20 highlighted a growing consensus on the need to account for humanitarian impact in the design of cybersecurity norms, standards, and capacity building. The digital emblem is helping to frame this space.
- **Cross-sectoral support and momentum:** The Digital Emblem project has received strong backing from both governmental and private sector actors. Its development in consultation with States, technology companies, and technical standardization bodies (like the IETF) is increasingly recognized as a model for inclusive, multistakeholder norm-making.
- **Figures of reach and engagement:** At the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which brings together all 196 States party

to the Geneva Conventions as well as all 193 components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Resolution II was adopted by consensus, encouraging the ICRC's work on a digital emblem. The Cybersecurity Tech Accords adopted, in December 2024, the "Digital Emblem Pledge", similarly pledging support. At WSIS + 20, the Global Cybersecurity Forum also voiced support for the project.

- **Operationalizing protection in cyberspace:** A key takeaway from the session was recognizing the difficulty of ensuring respect for protective symbols in cyberspace, particularly given the challenges of attribution, proxy actors, and automated systems. The project underscores the need for complementary technical, legal, and policy tools to buttress the respect and trust in a digital emblem.
- **Beyond 2025:** As the WSIS process continues, the ICRC offered the Digital Emblem as an example of how WSIS principles can be applied to emerging issues.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- The session positioned the Digital Emblem as a leading example of humanitarian innovation in cyberspace, earning praise from diplomats and participants for its clarity, credibility, and relevance. The ICRC team—Joelle, Samit, and Mauro—effectively conveyed the seriousness and technical grounding of the initiative, reinforcing the ICRC's role as a critical voice in digital governance where it relates to armed conflict and other situations of violence.
- During the session, both the ITU and the Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) publicly voiced support for advancing technical discussions on standardizing the digital emblem. Notably, Luxembourg's Ambassador for Cybersecurity and Digitalization also expressed explicit support for the project, marking a new diplomatic ally in the process.
- Several stakeholders signaled their interest in collaborating with the ICRC in the next phase of the project, particularly on issues related to Internet

standards (notably the ITU), protection mechanisms, and resilience. Follow-up discussions have been initiated to convene technical and policy actors, with the emblem now seen as a concrete point of convergence for humanitarian and cybersecurity communities.

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

- **Embed humanitarian protection into digital policy frameworks:** As digital infrastructure becomes increasingly entangled with conflict dynamics, the protection of humanitarian digital infrastructure should be recognized as a strategic objective.
- **Advance inclusive norm- and standard-setting for digital protection:** The WSIS process should catalyze and support multistakeholder mechanisms—especially those involving humanitarian actors, States, industry, and technical bodies—to co-develop standards that enable the identification and protection of medical and humanitarian actors in cyberspace. Building on momentum from WSIS+ 20, this could include encouraging collaboration and harmony with standards bodies (including notably the ITU and IETF), integrating humanitarian use cases into cyber norm dialogues, and promoting interoperability between legal frameworks and technical protocol

# HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

## WSIS+20 High-Level Dialogue: WSIS Legacy in Motion: Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

**Monday, 7 July 2025, 09:30 – 10:30**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/133>

### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- 20 years of digital transformation: Since WSIS began, global Internet use has grown from 1 billion users (16%) in 2003 to 5.4 billion (67%) in 2025, marking significant progress in digital access and development.
- A robust multistakeholder ecosystem: WSIS has convened over 50,000 participants from 160+ countries across governments, the private sector, civil society, technical communities, and youth, reinforcing inclusive cooperation.
- Persistent digital divides: 2.6 billion people remain offline, and gaps in affordability, digital skills, gender, and meaningful access continue to hinder equitable progress, especially in the Global South.
- A dual digital reality: While some regions embrace AI, digital finance, and smart infrastructure, others lack basic connectivity—underscoring a need for urgent, inclusive investment.
- Call for an updated WSIS vision: Participants emphasized evolving WSIS into a “WSIS 2.0” framework—aligned with today’s challenges such as AI governance, platform accountability, and sustainability, while supporting SDG and Global Digital Compact objectives.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

- *Key Achievements:*
  - WSIS reaffirmed as the longest-standing global platform for digital cooperation, with 20 years of institutional continuity and impact.
  - Recognition of the WSIS+20 process as a crucial contributor to the 20-year UNGA Review of WSIS and the Global Digital Compact.
- *Announcements/Launches:*
  - The WSIS+20 process will feed into the General Assembly High-Level Meeting in December 2025.
  - Renewed emphasis on leveraging the WSIS Forum for shared ownership and inclusive dialogue on future digital priorities.
- *Agreements/Commitments:*
  - Broad consensus to carry forward WSIS as a people-centered, multistakeholder platform for digital cooperation beyond 2025.
  - Commitment to align WSIS with emerging issues—AI, digital trust, misinformation, rights-based governance—and avoid duplication across UN processes.

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

- Support the UNGA WSIS+20 Review as a milestone moment to renew global commitment to inclusive, rights-based digital development and multistakeholder governance.
- Modernize the WSIS framework (“WSIS 2.0”) to address emerging technologies, sustainability, platform accountability, and the future of digital rights and safety.
- Strengthening coherence with the Global Digital Compact and SDGs, ensuring WSIS remains action-oriented, avoids duplication, and maximizes impact.
- Bridge the remaining digital divides by prioritizing investment in infrastructure, affordability, local content, and digital skills, especially in underserved regions.

- Maintain and enhance the multistakeholder approach, engaging youth, civil society, the private sector, academia, and technical communities to co-shape the future digital agenda.

## Multilateral Intergenerational High-Level Dialogue: Youth Special Track

Monday, 7 July, 14:00 – 15:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/141>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- The session emphasized that meaningful youth engagement is not just about "having a seat at the table" but about having a real voice and agency in digital policy-making processes.
- Speakers underscored the need to redesign institutional systems to ensure genuine intergenerational collaboration, built on mutual respect and shared responsibilities.
- A recurring theme was the importance of fostering empathy, trust, and shared values across generations to ensure inclusive digital transformation.
- The dialogue highlighted how youth bring energy, curiosity, and a questioning mindset, critical for responsible innovation and systemic change.
- The lack of sustainable funding mechanisms for youth-led digital initiatives was identified as a major challenge; participants called for targeted support.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- The session formally captured youth input to feed into the WSIS+20 Youth Outcome Report, supporting the review process toward the UN General Assembly.
- The session served as a platform for young leaders to commit to strengthening regional cooperation, especially through local SDG-focused digital actions.
- Initiatives mentioned during the panel will be spotlighted at the WSIS Youth Outcome Session and in the closing report, amplifying youth-driven efforts globally.

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

- Institutionalize youth engagement as a permanent, co-decision-making role within WSIS and digital transformation frameworks.
- Establish targeted funding, mentorship, and capacity-building mechanisms to support youth-led digital solutions.
- Promote a culture of empathy, transparency, and shared purpose in intergenerational collaboration, aligned with common values.

## Partner2Connect High-Level Dialogue

Monday, 7 July, 15:00 – 16:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/162>

### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- P2C has mobilized over USD 73 billion in digital investment pledges, bringing global momentum to universal meaningful connectivity.
- The critical role of partnerships and multi-stakeholder action to close the digital divide.
- The rise of responsible AI, device affordability, satellite connectivity, and sustainable infrastructure as drivers of inclusion.
- Success stories from South Africa, Kyrgyzstan, and beyond showcase how pledges are delivering real impact.
- Emerging focus areas include AI for development, digital skills training, resilient infrastructure, and rural inclusion.
- WSIS and P2C offer complementary frameworks, principles and action, for digital transformation beyond 2025.
- Countries and companies reaffirmed their commitment to the \$100B pledge target by 2026.
- WSIS+20 provides a springboard for future commitments and a global vision for inclusive digital growth.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

- New Pledge from China Unicom: USD 1.38 billion investment from 2025–2029 to expand mobile and fixed networks, aiming to reach 110 million people and support the “Early Warnings for All” initiative.
- New Pledge from Cisco: USD 1 billion Global AI Fund focused on secure, reliable, and responsible AI, including a Global AI Hub in France and investments in leading AI ventures.
- Pledge Updates:
- South Africa: SA Connect Phase 2 aims to connect over 5.8 million households and community institutions.

- ZTE: Commitments include reducing ICT's climate impact, expanding global AI ecosystems, delivering 50,000 hours of ICT education, and bridging the digital divide.
- Amazon: Project Kuiper and AWS digital skills initiative to reach 29 million people by 2025. • Google: Over USD 1 billion pledged toward digital transformation, device affordability, AI for SDGs, and global upskilling through "Grow with Google."
- ISOC: Support for 100 local connectivity projects and training 10,000 people in infrastructure deployment.
- UNDP and UN System: Highlight of 61 pledges from 29 UN entities totalling nearly USD 170 million, including UNDP's 3 digital transformation pledges.

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

- Continue mobilizing high-value pledges through P2C to reach the USD 100 billion milestone by 2026.
- Foster inclusive digital partnerships that match national priorities with private sector innovation.
- Scale up investment in emerging technologies, especially AI, satellite internet, and green ICT, for development.
- Expand the visibility and impact of existing pledges through transparent reporting and cross-sector collaboration.
- Integrate P2C more closely with WSIS beyond 2025 to align principles with action and deepen global cooperation.

## Safe Smart Cities and Climate Frustration

Tuesday, 8 July, 14:00 – 15:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/282>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- The WSIS+20 process offers – among others – the possibility of harnessing emerging digital technologies for the localization of SDGs, especially local climate-resilient development, and addressing the global challenge of climate action and ICTs.
- The WSIS+20 High-Level Events is the very place for creating a platform for mayors and city leaders to brainstorm and discuss the contributions of smart city developments to overcome emerging urban challenges.
- Smart City Leaders Talk would be the adequate framework for forward-looking thematic discussion to share best practices on smart city development projects that incorporate both goals of achieving sustainable development and fulfilling the duty of safety and security for the inhabitants.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Discussed the paradox of smart cities facing climate emergency. Enlightened opportunities Smart Cities bring to social, economic and environmental development and ways to overcome the limitations local leaders continue to face in disaster risk reduction.
- It elaborated on how the vision and expectations of the youth can be incorporated. Smart city development needs to co-develop smartness and impact in generational equity.
- Discussed the questions of people-centered, climate resilient smart city development and the necessary urban imagination for sustainable, connected and eco-friendly infrastructure.

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

- The WSIS process is multistakeholder in its nature and we recommend that the WSIS+20 review process puts even more emphasis on this aspect and institutionalizes the participation of LRGs.
- Promote the use of high-tech and low-tech to offer different solutions to different local needs.
- Address critical local data needs to enable smart city technology to advance socio-economic development.
- Involve local leaders through institutionalized engagement in policy-making at the global level.

## **Celebrating 20 Years of Multistakeholder Engagement: WSIS Forum, IGF, and the Road Ahead**

Tuesday, 8 July, 15:15 – 16:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/265>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- The endorsement of multistakeholder governance and collaboration mechanisms represents one of the central innovations of the WSIS process.
- The IGF and WSIS Forum have emerged as two distinct models of multistakeholder engagement in digital governance, evolving over the past two decades.
- Significant work has been done to improve and develop these models, with NETmundial and NETmundial+10 as significant milestones and the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines providing valuable direction.
- The past two decades have demonstrated the importance of local- and national- level work, facilitating engagement on issues of direct relevance and bridging the gap to global digital policy discussion. The global network of more than 170 National, Regional, and Youth Internet governance initiatives (NRIs) is a major success story in this regard.
- We also understand the importance of coordination across different initiatives, reducing the potential for duplication, while allowing for non-decisional spaces for the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

- The session foregrounded the voices of youth and of the broader community, with a strong focus on evolving the models of multistakeholder collaboration going forward to remain current and relevant.
- Key points made by speakers and audience members
  - Multistakeholder models need to reflect the public interest and public good
  - Work done within these processes need to be highlighted and shared more effectively

- We must avoid siloing different stakeholders away from each other - open, inclusive conversation is key
- We need to move beyond the tension between innovation and privacy, rights, and safety.
- We need to evolve mechanisms to transition from non-decisional discussion to policy
- Multistakeholder venues can serve an essential role as early warning systems for the challenges of new technologies, implementations, and divides multilateralism and multistakeholder approaches can and have been co-existing. WSIS and its two "arms" - high-level events and the IGF - is a good example of that.
- Looking forward, and towards the evolution of said spaces, there's a lot more to be done as well on improving representation and making sure some of these fallacies or alleged tensions are eliminated. And addressing these issues starts with bringing these spaces closer to real life issues - and improving the reporting mechanisms and focusing more on accountability around them.

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

- The outcomes of this session come at a critical moment, and should serve to inform the work of the WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators, UN Member State in their negotiations, the ongoing work of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group, and the multistakeholder communities that are ultimately responsible for these multistakeholder venues.
- There was agreement in the room around the renewal of the IGF mandate, and countries like the UK reinstated their support for a permanent mandate.

## **The Digital Imperative: The Critical Role of School Connectivity - ITU/Giga**

Wednesday, 9 July, 09:00 – 10:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/232>

### **Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025**

- Benefits of school connectivity in Brazil? Could you also present the challenges that Brazil is facing in its efforts to achieve digital inclusion, particularly in remote areas such as the Amazon?
- Main regulatory issues involved in achieving school connectivity in the Caribbean region, and in St. Kitts and Nevis in particular?
- Digital inclusion and accessibility, particularly regarding children with disabilities? What issues or areas of focus need to be addressed to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness?
- Priorities for achieving school connectivity in the digital age?
- How to catalyse and accelerate national efforts from different private and public stakeholders? How can school connectivity become a real priority in each country's political agenda?
- Is financing the key challenge for school connectivity? Are there any other issues that are more urgent?

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

- The importance of collaboration across Ministries, enabling policy and regulation, and technological strategies for advancing connectivity in the hardest-to-reach areas such as the Brazil's Amazon region, where the strengthening of culture and local identity contributes to the drive for connecting schools.

- Fostering sustainable school connectivity, including mandating government funded operators and exploring corporate social responsibility (CSR) for entities such as commercial banks
- The importance of having documented government policy on school connectivity in place to ensure continuity across administrations.

## **Bridging the Digital Skills Gap: Strategies for Reskilling and Upskilling in a Changing World**

Wednesday, 9 July, 09:00 – 10:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/448>

## High Level Dialogue: Strengthening the Resilience of Telecommunication Submarine Cables

Wednesday, 9 July, 16:45 – 17:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/478>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025 The Growing Demand for Submarine Cable

#### - The Growing Demand for Submarine Cable Connectivity

Submarine cables remain the backbone of global communication, supporting over 99% of international data traffic. The demand for connectivity is expected to rise significantly in the coming years, driven by the increasing need for heavy data technologies, such as AI, IoT, and digital economies. This growth presents both opportunities and challenges in terms of infrastructure, security, and sustainability.

#### - Threats to Cable Resilience

Panellists highlighted the risks to submarine cables from fishing activities, anchoring to natural disasters. These risks demand enhanced resilience measures and a more robust international collaboration framework.

#### - Innovation in Submarine Cable Design and Technology

There was a focus on the technological advancements that can improve the resilience of submarine cables, including the use of AI, predictive maintenance, and real-time monitoring systems. These innovations promise to enhance operational efficiency, speed of repair, and overall resilience.

#### - Public-Private Partnerships as Key to Resilience

The importance of fostering partnerships between governments, private sector companies, and international organizations (ITU, IMO) was emphasized. Collaboration will be essential to drive investments, standardize best practices, and ensure a coordinated response to disruptions. The success stories from countries like Singapore and Portugal demonstrate the potential of this model for building resilient infrastructure.

#### - The Need for Data Transparency and Collaboration

Panellists discussed the need for transparency around submarine cable data—such as cable locations, disruption frequencies, and maintenance efforts—for global

resilience. By improving data visibility and sharing insights, stakeholders can work together more effectively to prevent, detect, and respond to disruptions.

### **Tangible Outcomes of the session**

#### **Key Achievements :**

- The panel successfully brought together global experts, governments, and industry leaders to discuss the critical issue of submarine cable resilience. The session highlighted the need for international cooperation, transparency, and innovative solutions to ensure the continued functionality of submarine cable networks.

#### **Announcements :**

- The session included the announcement of the current initiatives aimed at improving submarine cable resilience. This includes the establishment of three thematic working groups within the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience (Timely Deployment and Repair; Risk Identification, Monitoring and Mitigation; and, Fostering Connectivity & Geographic Diversity).

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

- The session discussions will also help inform the work of the three thematic working groups of the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience that are kicking off their activities in July 2025 (Timely Deployment and Repair; Risk Identification, Monitoring and Mitigation; and, Fostering Connectivity & Geographic Diversity).

## United Nations High-Level Leaders' Dialogue

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 11:00 - 12:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/131>

### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- WSIS as a proven model of multistakeholder cooperation: Over the past two decades, WSIS has enabled collaboration among governments, civil society, private sector, academia, international organizations, and the UN system—proving that coordinated digital development is possible and effective.
- Reaffirming WSIS values: The dialogue highlighted the continued relevance of a people-centered, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society, especially as global digital challenges grow more complex.
- Alignment with global processes: The WSIS+20 process was presented as part of a broader global digital governance effort, including the Global Digital Compact and the UN 2.0/UN 80 process, which seek to modernize and coordinate the UN system's digital actions.
- Sustainable and inclusive digital transformation: Leaders reiterated the need for infrastructure investments (including submarine cable resilience), equitable access to digital tools, and green digital action.
- Urgency to connect the unconnected: An estimated 2.6 billion people remain offline. Reaching them is central to the next phase of WSIS.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

- Recognition of WSIS achievements over 20 years as a foundation for future digital cooperation.
- Institutional commitment by UN entities to leverage WSIS+20, the Global Digital Compact, and UN 80 initiatives to align efforts across the system.

- Endorsement of submarine cable resilience and green digital action as key future-oriented focus areas by ITU and other UN leaders.

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

- Leverage WSIS+20 and UN 80 milestones to drive a more inclusive, efficient, and digitally capable UN system that serves all people.
- Expand investment in digital infrastructure to bridge persistent divides—especially through scalable models like green digital initiatives and submarine cable security.
- Advance implementation of the Global Digital Compact to ensure coherence across digital governance frameworks and sustain momentum through the December UNGA review.
- Reaffirm and revitalize multistakeholder cooperation as the bedrock for WSIS beyond 2025, recognizing that effective digital policy requires collaboration across all sectors and geographies.

## How a growing space ecosystem can be better leveraged to achieve the SDGs?

Friday, 11 July 2025, 09:00 - 10:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/475>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Space security, which deals with the prevention of deliberate harm in outer space as opposed to space safety, which looks to prevent accidental damage, is a key element for ensuring peaceful and stable operations of satellite systems and applications.
- While there is no specific treaty on space security, space security is connected with the Outer Space Treaty and several other international instruments. Moreover, several multilateral discussions on specific aspects of space security are on the UN agenda.
- Following the recent blossoming of space applications and actors, more and more countries develop national space laws, even if the overall number remains limited (about 50 worldwide).
- National space laws have historically been developed in three phases:
  - Compliance with international law, i.e. national implementation of space treaties
  - Providing a legal framework for national projects (even small university projects)
  - Increasing national competitiveness in the field of space.
- Thanks to these stable frameworks, new space applications and services can be developed:
  - Constellations of nanosatellites are ideally suited to provide low data rate services (IoT, M2M, AIS, etc.) to support monitoring fishing and maritime activities, alerting on fire starts, tracking containers and train wagons...
  - The multiplication of launch offerings has democratized access to launch opportunities: launch brokers now accompany their customers to find the

best launch slot and to navigate the regulations associated with the launch of a satellite.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Better understanding of the relationship between technical or commercial innovations and policy or regulatory frameworks
- Focus on the capabilities of satellite narrowband connectivity solutions to assist in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Introduction of novel solutions to improve actual access to space for newcomers, be they countries wishing to get first access to outer space or companies launching their space-based solutions.

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

- Develop models of regulatory frameworks for narrowband connectivity solutions, addressing the issue of the limited number of gateways worldwide and the need for regulatory fees commensurate with the business cases.
- Promote greater coherence and consistency across national space laws through dialogue and exchange of information, seek ways to encourage mutual recognition of national space laws.
- Develop capacity-building offerings on:
  - The novel space applications for institutional actors and regulators to better understand how they function and what they provide,
  - The existing regulatory frameworks for satellite companies to be trained how to apply them
  - Historical institutional arrangements that have fostered the start of the space era and could serve as examples for new entrants wishing to cooperate in getting access to space.
- Ensure terminology is not a barrier to reach consensus in multilateral discussions on space (the Lexicon for Outer Space Security available at <https://spacesecuritylexicon.org/> is a good example of such endeavour).

# Leaders TalkX

**High-Level Track Inaugural Leaders TalkX: Forging partnerships for purpose: advancing the digital for development landscape**

**Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 09:00-09:30**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/378>**

**Leaders TalkX: Information and communication infrastructure: a foundation for universal, sustainable and affordable access**

**Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 09:30-10:00**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/379>**

**Leaders TalkX: Accelerating global access to information and knowledge in the digital era**

**Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 10:15 - 10:45**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/417>**

**Leaders TalkX: Future-ready: enhancing skills for a digital tomorrow**

**Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 10:45 - 11:15**

**Please find the session details here:**

**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/419>**

**Leaders TalkX: Towards a safer connected world: collaborative strategies to strengthen digital trust and cyber resilience**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 11:30 - 12:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/421>

**Leaders TalkX: Building inclusive and knowledge-driven digital societies**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 14:00 - 14:30

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/430>

**Leaders TalkX: ICT application to unlock the full potential of digital - Part I**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 14:30 - 15:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/427>

**Leaders TalkX: Local to global: preserving culture and language in a digital era**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 15:15 - 15:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/428>

**Leaders TalkX: When policy meets progress: paving the way for a fit for future digital world**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 15:45 - 16:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/428>

**Leaders TalkX: Moral pixels: painting an ethical landscape in the information society**

Wednesday, 09 July 2025, 16:45 - 17:15

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/431>

# Knowledge Café

## Youth building the digital future - WSIS+20 Review and Beyond 2025

**Monday, 7 July 2025, 12:15-13:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/139>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

During the session, four on-site groups and two online breakout rooms discussed the following key points:

- **Need for Long-Term and Structural Youth Inclusion:** Participants emphasized sustained and structured youth engagement, including permanent representation at WSIS plenaries and decision-making bodies.
- **Broadening WSIS Scope Beyond Technical Focus:** There was a strong call to incorporate social, cultural, economic, and human rights dimensions into WSIS discussions.
- **Connectivity as a Human Right:** Youth advocated recognizing internet access as a fundamental right for equitable participation in education, the digital economy, and governance.
- **Digital Literacy, Safety, and Equity:** Challenges around misinformation, algorithmic bias, online safety, and the need for accessible digital identity systems were highlighted.
- **Digital Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship:** Participants encouraged WSIS to promote digital skill-building and support youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Inclusive Definitions and Representation:** The current age range defining “youth” (18–30) was seen as too narrow; participants advocated for the inclusion of those under 18.
- **Grassroots Participation and Local Access:** Youth noted low awareness of WSIS and called for more localized outreach, simplified language, and funding mechanisms to engage communities.

## Tangible Outcomes of the session

### Key Achievements:

- Cross-group consensus on the need for WSIS to structurally integrate youth into all aspects of its processes.
- Introduction of ideas such as Youth Co-Chairs, Youth Rapporteurs, and Youth Satellites.

### Proposed Initiatives:

- A “WSIS Youth Grassroots Fund” to support youth-led activities at the local level.
- A “WSIS Youth Track” program for continuous youth engagement and leadership development.

### Commitments:

- Participants expressed commitment to raise awareness of WSIS in their own regions and support initiatives that enable more inclusive participation.

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

- **Formalize Youth Roles:** Establish institutional youth positions in WSIS working groups and plenaries with decision-making authority.
- **Launch a WSIS Youth Grassroots Fund:** Provide financial and mentorship support to youth organizations for local engagement, storytelling, and digital inclusion projects.
- **Develop a WSIS Youth Track:** Create a multi-year program to train, mentor, and involve youth in shaping digital policy and innovation.
- **Recognize Connectivity and Digital Equity as Human Rights:** Embed rights-based approaches in WSIS action lines, including data privacy, online safety, and access.
- **Foster Intergenerational Collaboration:** Create platforms that encourage co-creation of digital policies between youth and senior stakeholders.



## IEEE Knowledge Café: Strong Sustainability by Design, Place-based Policy and the SDGs

Monday, 7 July 2025, 12:15-13:45

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/149>

### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

Through participatory dialogue and shared readouts, the session surfaced insights and pathways for embedding sustainability-by-design into real-world systems—bridging global goals and global standards with specific local community-centered issues, goals and opportunities to arrive at local context-based solutions that align with the WSIS Action Lines. This was a unique multi-stakeholder opportunity for policymakers, technical professionals, civil society, standards experts and others to co-create knowledge on how to develop local sustainable solutions and scale sustainability through standards, innovation and policy alignment.

- The discussion included key issues around strong sustainability principles, technical standards, and policy approaches that are people and place centered, and that can work together to advance progress toward the UN SDGs looking at the local issues in order to grow and map solutions at the national and international level, such as:
  - AI and the energy it uses were discussed, and the depletion of resources by frontier technologies. It brings inequality. This should be addressed by government and regulations, but standards can offer a way forward.
  - e-waste, direct and indirect impacts were discussed, incl. the ability/right to repair and make sure that hardware can carry new software.
  - Oil & Gas extraction, which needs to be sustainable at the local levels and technology can be instrumental in that. Oil & Gas technology shall not aim at maximizing extraction, but at safeguarding local communities.

- Polarization of the debate. Sustainability needs to be on the political agenda of all countries at the local levels. Increasing awareness and work of not-for-profit organisations, such as IEEE, at the local, section level is important.
- Increase awareness of the sustainability footprint of products/services we use and what the degree of responsibilities of the different parties involved is. Technical standards can offer a way forward, becoming norms or soft law and being widely accepted.
- New methodologies for Life cycle assessment based on new standards are needed. Environmental Impact Assessment should be based on new standards: Standards are not developed by Government and Technical communities, but in a multi-stakeholder approach. Big tech companies need to be pooled to work on these standards, without having them setting those standards unilaterally.
- Looking at sustainability issues through the lens of the local community in order to identify the key issues and needs to support the advancement of the global sustainability ecosystem and address the WSIS Action Line implementation to meet the 2030 goals.

### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Table outcomes included:
  - The commitment to standards, technology design and local governance as they can advance strong sustainability by addressing regenerative systems, ecological integrity and long-term resilience; enable locally grounded solutions reflecting place-based realities and priorities. These can support measurable progress toward the SDGs.
  - It was agreed that standards and policy tools can work together to scale solutions globally while remaining grounded locally.
  - Opportunities for collaborative initiatives were identified that help align standards development with sustainability targets.

- Actionable insights were highlighted that help inform the IEEE Planet Positive 2030 sustainability initiative and its engagement with communities.

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

- Concrete actions and key recommendations related to SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities); SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production); and SDG 13 (climate action) included:
  - Poor e-waste management and water pollution can be addressed if local governments partnered with youth groups, and offered incentives. National policy should support producer responsibility, where sellers help collect old devices. Public education through radio, schools, and social media should emphasize e-waste dangers and solutions. This approach creates green jobs, protects health, and promotes a circular economy. It's low-cost, people-powered, and scalable.
  - To adapt strong sustainability by design to local social and cultural contexts, we need to start by redefining what 'sustainability' means to our people. In many communities, sustainability is embedded in our traditions: we fix before we throw, we share land and water, and we respect nature.
  - When strong sustainability by design is applied at the local level, communities can become not just passive beneficiaries, but active creators of solutions. It can lead to cleaner, healthier environments because the solutions are culturally accepted and designed for long-term use. It can also open up opportunities for job creation, especially for youth and women whether in green construction, local recycling, or sustainable agriculture. It can strengthen social cohesion, as people work together around shared values and community-driven projects.

- A mindset shift is required, because when sustainability is not seen as a foreign idea, it becomes part of everyday life. This transformation builds real resilience, pride, and dignity from the grassroots up and that's where true development begins.

## WSIS+20 Consultation: Two Decades of WSIS: Advancing Digital Cooperation Through Action Lines

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 12:00-13:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/440>

### Key Issues Discussed – “Looking Beyond 2025”

- Mainstream youth voices: embed youth participation and co-creation mechanisms within every Action Line.
- Sharper measurement: tighten national and regional reporting—leveraging IGF and Global Digital Compact channels—to enable comparable metrics.
- Cybersecurity & AI integration: ensure digital safety, trustworthy AI, and algorithmic accountability are visible across Action Lines.
- Multistakeholder legacy: acknowledge two decades of collaboration as WSIS’s signature achievement and a non-negotiable governance norm.
- Persistent digital divide: connectivity gaps, affordable access, and limited digital skills remain the largest obstacles to inclusive transformation.
- Language & localisation barriers: meaningful access hinges on content and interfaces in local languages; English-dominant resources limit uptake.
  - Infrastructure bottlenecks: last-mile networks and resilient backbone capacity continue to trail demand, constraining data-intensive services.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

#### 1. Key achievements acknowledged

- Endorsement that the original eleven Action Lines remain fit-for-purpose, adapting from dial-up connectivity to cloud-scale AI without losing clarity.
- Validation of the multistakeholder cooperation model as a catalytic force for SDG progress and digital transformation.

Agreements / commitments

- Commitment by youth-led networks to produce annual “Youth Scorecards” evaluating Action Line implementation country by country.
  - Civil-society coalition will curate a multilingual repository of best-practice resources on cybersecurity and responsible AI for dissemination.

### Key Recommendations & Forward-Looking Action Plan

- Institutionalise youth co-leadership by mandating a minimum 20 % representation of youth organisations in every Action-Line steering group and review panel.
- Codify an integrated measurement framework that aligns Action-Line indicators with the WSIS-SDG Matrix, IGF outputs, and Global Digital Compact benchmarks; publish open datasets annually.
- Embed cybersecurity and AI ethics check-lists into all Action-Line project guidelines, ensuring proactive risk assessment and human-rights safeguards.
- Strengthen regional implementation by pairing Action Line leads with local authorities and Regional Commissions to co-design context-specific targets and financing plans.
- Boost last-mile capacity through public-private partnerships that bundle infrastructure roll-out with community-level digital-skills programmes and multilingual content incentives.

## WSIS+20 Consultation: Strengthening Multistakeholderism

Wednesday, 9 July 2025, 12:15-14:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/452>

### Key Issues Discussed (Looking Beyond 2025)

- The continuity of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the rapid growth of National & Regional IGF Initiatives (NRIs) demonstrate the enduring value of the multistakeholder (MSH) model.
- Inclusive, rights-oriented policy-making: participatory cybercrime-treaty negotiations and national bodies such as CGI.br show that MSH approaches improve legitimacy and compliance.
- Diversity remains paramount—civil society (especially from the Global South), youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and neuro-diverse groups all need funding, language support and reliable connectivity to participate meaningfully.
- Power asymmetries persist: major private-sector actors and senior officials often attend but do not always engage, while grassroots stakeholders face resource, visa and visibility barriers.
- Echo-chamber risk: without a shared definition and metrics for “meaningful multistakeholderism”, forums can become “birds-of-a-feather” gatherings that sideline public-interest perspectives.
  - Foundational enablers—affordable connectivity, electricity, devices and digital skills— remain prerequisites for any digital-development engagement.

### Tangible Outcomes of the Session

#### Key achievements

- Mapped the achievements of the MSH model into three clusters—policy & regulation, innovation/problem-solving, and inclusion & diversity—creating an evidence base for the WSIS+20 review.
- Produced a consolidated barrier-solution matrix (funding, access, power balance, process design) to feed directly into upcoming WSIS Action-Line updates.

### Agreements / commitments

- Agreement to draft a “Meaningful Multistakeholder Participation” guideline set—including a call for a permanent IGF mandate and formal recognition of NRIs.
- Commitment to explore a pooled funding mechanism prioritising Global-South civil-society and youth groups to support travel, remote-participation infrastructure and capacity development.

### Key Recommendations & Forward-Looking Action Plan

1. Reaffirm Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) commitments and embed a rights-oriented, public-interest baseline in all digital-development processes.
2. **Codify multistakeholder principles & metrics. Develop a living “MSH Playbook”, aligned with NETmundial guidelines.**
3. Establish an Inclusive Participation Fund to provide grants and micro-scholarships for under-represented stakeholders, particularly from the Global South, older persons and neuro-diverse communities.
4. Empower local champions. Support national community leaders to translate global digital-policy discussions into actionable local agendas, e.g., “Girls in ICT Day” grassroots campaigns.
5. Strengthen accountability. Require annual human-rights impact assessments from private-sector actors involved in WSIS processes and integrate results into follow-up reviews.

## **WSIS+20 Consultation: Sharing Stories from the Ground - Showcasing Impact through WSIS Prizes 2025**

**Thursday, 10 July 2025, 12:00-13:45**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/467>

## **WSIS+20 Consultation: Towards a Vision Beyond 2025**

**Friday, 11 July 2025, 12:00-14:00**

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/480>

# UNGIS

## UNGIS High-Level meeting

Thursday, 10 July 2025, 08:00-09:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/130>

## UNGIS Working Level Meeting

Friday, 11 July 2025 11:00-12:30

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/494>

### 1. Opening remarks by the UNGIS Chair

Torbjörn Fredriksson (UNCTAD) welcomed everyone to this year's UNGIS working level meeting. He thanked UNESCO for its excellent work as chair in the past year and ITU for hosting the WSIS+20 HL Event and the AI for Good. He furthermore welcomed ESCWA as the new rotational vice-chair for the period 2025-26.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda

The adoption was adopted with no changes.

### 3. Tour de table

A quick tour de table was undertaken, covering 24 UNGIS members and observers: ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA (remote), IFAD, ILO, ITU, ODET, OECD, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNJSPF, UNU, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO and WBG.

### 4. Work plan for 2025-2026

Four items were discussed under this agenda point: UNGIS inputs to the Elements Paper circulated by the Co-Facilitators of the WSIS+20 Review; UNGIS at the High-Level Political Forum; an exercise for self-reflection on UNGIS in view of its 20-years anniversary in 2026; and other ideas.

#### a. WSIS+20 Review Elements Paper

Under this item, Deniz Susar (UNDESA) introduced the process. Based on, inter alia, the inputs received from the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and ITU, the Co-Facs had prepared a short Elements Paper on which they are seeking comments and suggestions, including from UNGIS and its members and observers. The deadline for submitting comments is 25 July 2025. Inputs received will be considered when drafting the zero draft for the negotiations.

Feedback can be provided using the digital form especially prepared for this purpose, or by sending an email to [ungawsisreview@un.org](mailto:ungawsisreview@un.org).

Based on a rich discussion involving many agencies, it was stressed that each UNGIS member may wish to make a submission highlighting those areas that are of particular concern to it. Meanwhile, the chair and vice-chairs agreed to propose a draft joint submission on behalf of UNGIS by 18 July. This draft will be circulated for comments by all UNGIS members and observers before being submitted on 25 July at the latest. As time is limited, it was stressed that we will need focus on the most important areas and those on which consensus can be reached in the joint statement.

Aspects mentioned during the discussion included:

- UNGIS' growing network of organizations
- growing importance of effective collaboration and coordination within the UN on issues related to digitalization
- importance of effective alignment of WSIS and GDC
- the [WSIS- GDC matrix](#)
- wording highlighting interagency cooperation, WSIS prizes
- concrete examples of cooperation in action
- UNGIS role in the context of monitoring and evaluation
- Language /perspective on human rights
- Already conducted work by regional commissions and the importance of stating clear and renewed mandate for the regional commissions
- Any critical areas that have not yet been included in elements paper, including the need for financing of capacity-building activities and actions on the ground

b. UNGIS @ HLPF 2025

UNGIS has in recent years been visible during the HLPF in New York. Gitanjali Sah (ITU) explained that in order for a side event to be considered, two member states need to support a motion (1 developed, 1 developing). Deniz Susar (UNDESA) would follow up with colleagues in New York, but noted that since the HLPF would be happening next week, it would be difficult if not impossible to get a spot in the last minute this year.

c. UNGIS self-reflection ahead of its 20th anniversary 2026

UNCTAD proposed to use the present year to reflect on how UNGIS can be made more impactful and useful. Thomas van Giffen presented the idea of undertaking a “survey” of UNGIS members and observers. The objective would be to reflect on UNGIS’ role up to now and explore possible avenues to reaffirm and strengthen it. The survey would be launched in January 2026, to also be able to take the WSIS+20 Review into account. The result of the exercise could then be compiled in an internal report by May/June 2026, which could also be shared with HLCP and the CEB.

Overall, the proposal was positively received by participants, as long as it is framed as a response to the result of the WSIS+20 Review, with a view of seeking ways to strengthening the work of UNGIS and presenting a vision for where we would like it to be. Some participants recommended to keep the process flexible to allow UNGIS members and observers the possibility to submit ideas in various ways (not necessarily in the form of a survey).

It was decided to move forward with the proposal and that the chair and vice-chair in the coming months to prepare a concept note for all UNGIS membership to comment on before launching the “self-reflection process” once the WSIS+20 Review has been completed.

d. Other ideas

Under the last part under this agenda item the chair invited other ideas and comments from participants.

- UNITAR called for more time to interact in both High-Level and Working Level meetings of UNGIS: 1 hour and 1.5 hour once a year was considered insufficient. More frequent meetings, including online, could also be useful. UNESCO noted that during the past year several online meetings had taken place. ECA proposed to hold one online meeting of UNGIS every quarter.
- UPU requested more information on the plans for the WSIS+20 Review and if we could hold an UNGIS side event in that context. The chair, vice-chairs and UNDESA agreed to explore this suggestion further.

5. Any other business

No other business was tabled.

## 6. Closing by the Chair

The chair thanked everyone for a productive session and closed the meeting.

# WSIS Prizes 2025

## WSIS Prizes 2025 Winners' Ceremony

Monday, 7 July 2025, 10:30-11:45

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/135>



In 2025, marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the [WSIS Prizes](#) celebrated two decades of leveraging ICTs for sustainable development and inclusive digital transformation. This milestone edition honored impactful ICT initiatives tackling global challenges and advancing the SDGs. A total of 973 submissions were received, leading to 360 nominated projects and a record-breaking 2 million votes cast globally. From these, 90 projects were recognized as champions—five in each of the 18 categories. Notably, this year's edition awarded 19 winners, as two exceptional projects were jointly selected in WSIS Action Line C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, reflecting the high quality and relevance of the submissions.

The nineteen winners of the WSIS Prizes 2025 were announced at the special WSIS Prizes Ceremony that took place during the [WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025](#) on 7 July 2025 in Palexpo, Geneva. The winners were celebrated at the main stage of the Plenary room and awarded by Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the ITU (International Telecommunication Union). All the nineteen winners attended or were represented during the ceremony, underscoring the ceremony's global significance.

This ceremony is crucial as it not only recognizes excellence in ICT initiatives but also serves as a vital platform for sharing best practices and inspiring further innovation. By highlighting successful projects, the WSIS Prizes encourage collaboration and the adoption of ICTs to drive societal progress and digital inclusion worldwide.

For additional information, please see the press release here: [Press Release](#)

Please find the list of WSIS Prizes winners below:

CATEGORY	PROJECT	ENTITY NAME	COUNTRY
Category 1 – AL C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development.	Situational-Analytical Complex	Engineering and Technical Center of the President's Affairs Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Category 2 – AL C2. Information and communication infrastructure	"Internet para Todos" in Peru	Telefónica del Perú	Peru
Category 3 – AL C3. Access to information and knowledge	Digital Awareness Programme	Nigerian Communications Commission	Nigeria
Category 4 – AL C4. Capacity building	National Information Dissemination Centre	Malaysian Communications And Multimedia Commission (MCMC)	Malaysia
Category 5 – AL C5. Building confidence and security in use of ICTs	Anti Online Scam Operation Center	Centre for Development of Telematics	Thailand

Category 5 – AL C5. Building confidence and security in use of ICTs	AI & Facial Recognition Powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification	Centre for Development of Telematics	India
Category 6 – AL C6. Enabling environment	Digitech	Dept. of Communications and Digital Technologies	South Africa
Category 7 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-government	TAMM AI Assistant: The AI-Powered Government Agent Redefining Public Services	Department of Government Enablement	United Arab Emirates
Category 8 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-business	From Weeks to Minutes: How Occidental Mindoro Revolutionized Business Permitting	Department of Information and Communications Technology - MIMAROPA Region	Philippines
Category 9 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-learning	Madrasati Learning Management System	Ministry of Education	Saudi Arabia
Category 10 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-health	Title: A New Era in Zanzibar's Healthcare: The Game-Changing Role of Digital Unique IDs	PHARMACCESS	Tanzania
Category 11 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-employment	Graduates Employment Ranking	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population	Azerbaijan

Category 12 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-environment	"Rapid, accurate and secure production, dissemination and communication of early warning for meteorological disaster"	China Academy of Information and Communications Technology	China
Category 13 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-agriculture	Agricultural Market Information System	Ministry of Agriculture and Forest	Bhutan
Category 14 – AL C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life – E-science	Improving brain proteostasis as a strategy to reduce the adverse effects of aging on the cognitive decline of the elderly	Biomedical Neuroscience Institute (BNI), University of Chile	Chile
Category 15 – AL C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	Empowering Youth Through Digital Innovation: Enhancing Capacity, Opportunities, and Participation in Civic Life	BASAibu	Indonesia
Category 16 – AL C9. Media	Girls Speak Out	The Usawa Institute	Zimbabwe
Category 17 – AL C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	Cyber Security Education Curriculum - 2025	National Cyber Security Agency	Qatar
Category 18 – AL C11. International and regional cooperation	One Health Data Alliance Africa	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Germany

## WSIS Prizes Champions' Ceremony

Monday, 7 July 2025, 16:00-18:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/287>

The special ceremony celebrating the achievements of the [WSIS Prizes 2025](#) Champions, as runners-up to the WSIS Prizes 2025 Winners, was held on 7 July 2025 during the [WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025](#) in Palexpo, Geneva. During the Ceremony, 71 Champion project was celebrated and representatives were awarded on the main stage of the Plenary room by Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Mr. Seizo Onoe, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, and Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau.

For further information on the champion projects, please visit [Champion Projects – WSIS Prizes 2025](#).

## WSIS Prizes 2025 Nominees' Ceremony

Friday, 11 July 2025, 10:00-12:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/515>



During the WSIS Prizes 2025 Nominees Ceremony, all officially nominated projects were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the use of ICTs in advancing sustainable development. Nominees were awarded with certificates of recognition, celebrating their achievement as top-voted projects in their respective categories among over 970 global submissions put towards the [WSIS Prizes 2025](#). Following the Nomination Phase, 360 projects were nominated for the online voting phase, with over 2 million votes cast. Out of 360 nominees, 90 Champion projects were selected. The remaining 270 Nominees were celebrated during this special ceremony on 11 July 2025 during the [WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025](#).

The certificates were presented by Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department (SPM), in Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland. This informal yet meaningful ceremony brought together nominees from various regions, showcasing the diversity, innovation, and real-world impact of grassroots and institutional ICT initiatives worldwide. For further information on the nominated projects, please visit: [Nominated Projects – WSIS Prizes 2025](#)

# WSIS Photo Contest 2025

The WSIS Photo Contest 2025 received 246 submissions, with 43 finalists and 10 winners selected: 1 from International Organization 1 from Arab States, 2 from Europe, 3 from Asia, and 3 from Africa.

Finalists are from Kenya, Indonesia, the Philippines, Senegal, Algeria, Thailand, Türkiye, Malaysia, Zimbabwe , Botswana, Eswatini, Bangladesh, International Organization

Please see the winners and other photos here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/PhotoContest>

# Exhibition Inauguration

**Monday, 7 July 2025, 11:45-12:15**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/137>

The Exhibition Inauguration took place on 7 July 2025 at 11:45 AM (UTC+02:00) in the open space of Palexpo. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted by Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), alongside H.E. Mr. Solly Malatsi, Minister of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) of the Republic of South Africa; H.E. Eng. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Director General of the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) of the United Arab Emirates; H.E. Mr. Ahmad Fahmi Mohamed Fadzil, Minister of Communications of Malaysia; and all ITU elected officials.

More than [50 exhibition spaces](#) showcased innovative digital initiatives from UN agencies, WSIS partners, and regular exhibitors, highlighting digital solutions for sustainable development. The exhibition inauguration set an energetic tone for the week, with interactive photo booths and engaging displays inviting participants to explore and connect around key digital themes.

# CLOSING CEREMONY

## WSIS+20: Vision of WSIS beyond 2025 | Closing Ceremony | Chair's Summary

Friday 11 July 2025, 16:00 – 17:00

Please find the session details here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/488>

### Key Issues Discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- Celebrating two decades of impact: There was emphasis on the evolution of WSIS since 2003–2005, from a vision to a lasting global platform for inclusive, multistakeholder digital cooperation.
- Continuity of the multistakeholder model: Repeated emphasis was placed on WSIS as an inclusive, action-oriented, bottom-up process that must remain central to global digital governance.
- Participants recognized the WSIS+20 outcomes as vital contributions to the upcoming UN General Assembly high-level meeting and the broader Global Digital Compact process.
- Youth, civil society, and regional voices rising: The event elevated diverse stakeholder voices, with youth, LDCs, and regional perspectives playing a more visible and impactful role in shaping WSIS beyond 2025.

### Key Achievements:

- Strong reaffirmation of WSIS as a global digital cooperation platform, rooted in a people-centered, rights-based vision.
- Recognition of 20 years of WSIS implementation and documentation of contributions across Action Lines, SDGs, and thematic tracks.

### Agreements/Commitments:

- Commitment by ITU and partners to carry forward outcomes of WSIS+20 into the UNGA WSIS review in December 2025.

- Continued support for the multistakeholder WSIS Forum as a permanent and evolving process.

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

- Support the December 2025 UNGA Review as a decisive moment to reaffirm the WSIS mandate and align it with current and future digital challenges.
- Continue WSIS as a UN process with a dedicated resourcing and coordination to ensure its continuity beyond 2025.
- Integrate the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture, ensuring a unified approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes resource efficiency.
- Strengthen regional and stakeholder inclusion by expanding participation, funding mechanisms, and digital capacity-building—especially for LDCs, youth, and civil society.

### WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025: Chair's Summary:

The Chair's Summary is available here:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Files/outcomes/WSIS20HighLevelEvent2025-ChairsSummary.pdf>

# WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 Sponsors

The success of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 was made possible through the commitment and generous support of various partners:

- WSIS Long-Standing Partner: United Arab Emirates
- Platinum Partner: Malaysia
- Gold Partners: Saudi Arabia, South Africa
- Silver Partner: Japan
- Contributing Partners: CAICT, EY, ICANN, IEEE, ISOC, TakingITGlobal
- Supporting Partners: Rwanda, United Kingdom, Wallonia-Brussels in Geneva, Afnic, IFIP, ICNM-World Summit Awards
- Youth sponsors: Microsoft, Global Youth Leadership Development Council

					
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# Social Events

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/SocialEvents#agenda>

EVENT	DATE & TIME
WSIS Youth Networking Reception (WSIS)	Monday 7 July, 2025 18:30 - 21:00
Gold Partner's Lunch (Saudi Arabia)	Monday 7 July, 2025 12:15 - 14:00
Reception by Poland (Poland)	Monday 7 July, 2025 19:00 - 21:00
High-Level Lunch (United Arab Emirates)	Tuesday 8 July, 2025 12:00 - 14:00
High-Level Lunch (Malaysia)	Wednesday 9 July, 2025 12:00 - 14:00
Japan's Coffee Break (Japan)	Wednesday 9 July, 2025 16:30 - 16:45
ITU 160th Anniversary Dinner (ITU)	Wednesday 9 July, 2025 19:00 - 22:00
Yoga: Wellbeing and mindfulness session with professional instructors (Sponsored by the Permanent Mission of India)	Monday 7 July, 2025 18:00 - 18:30 Tuesday 8 July, 2025 18:00 - 18:30 Wednesday 9 July, 2025 18:00 - 18:30
Swiss Reception   Partners Certificate Ceremony (Switzerland/ITU)	Thursday 10 July, 2025 17:45 - 20:30
High-Level Lunch (South Africa)	Friday 11 July, 2025 12:00 - 14:00

# Documentation

## Recordings:

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

## Video Highlights and Interviews:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh5wUlXznUUWOocsiFb1GgYPCMXRsitGp>

## Photographs

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/itupictures/collections/72157723933173511/>

## Quick Links

- WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 Official Website: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/Forum/2025/>
- Highlights and Outcomes of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Home/Outcomes>
- Open Consultation Process: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Home/Consultations>
- Agenda: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda>
- Facebook WSIS Process: <https://www.facebook.com/WSISprocess>
- WSIS Flash: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Flash/Newsletter>
- X WSIS Process #WSIS: <https://x.com/wsisprocess>
- WSIS on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/wsisprocess>
- WSIS Stocktaking: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking>
- United Nations Group on the Information Society: [www.ungis.org](http://www.ungis.org)
- Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/>

For further information please write to the WSIS Secretariat at [wsis-info@itu.int](mailto:wsis-info@itu.int)