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Session Outcome Document

Redefining Digital Citizenship: Safeguarding and Empowering Citizens in the AI Age

UNDP Egypt & Ministry of Communications and Information technology, Egypt

July 6, 2026 09:00-09:45 CEST

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/126>

Key Issues discussed:

- Digital citizenship should evolve beyond digital access to encompass the safe, ethical, inclusive, and responsible use of AI and digital technologies.
- Capacity building should target citizens across all age groups - including children, youth, educators, public servants, journalists, and vulnerable groups - to strengthen AI literacy, critical thinking, and responsible digital participation.
- Information integrity requires empowering citizens to critically assess online content while addressing misinformation through education, innovation, and AI-enabled solutions.
- Digital Public Infrastructure should be designed with inclusion, privacy, accountability, interoperability, and user trust embedded from the outset through multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Trusted digital citizenship depends on resilient internet infrastructure, cybersecurity, adaptive regulatory frameworks, and transparent governance.
- Young people should be recognised as active contributors to digital transformation and engaged in policymaking, awareness, and community digital adoption.
- AI governance should move beyond high-level principles toward practical implementation through readiness assessments, audit mechanisms, regulatory sandboxes, and institutional capacity building.
- Collaboration between development organizations and the technical community is essential to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for trusted digital transformation. As an example, RIPE NCC highlighted its partnership with UNDP and Jordan's Telecommunications Regulatory Commission on regional Internet infrastructure and IPv6 capacity building, with Egypt's National Telecom Regulatory Authority set to host the next phase for Arab and African countries.

Key Outcomes of the session:

- key insights and findings
 - Speakers reached broad consensus that digital citizenship in the AI era requires combining digital skills with trustworthy infrastructure, inclusive governance, ethical AI, and institutional readiness.
 - Capacity building remains a cross-cutting priority for governments, regulators, educators, and citizens to safely adopt AI and digital technologies.
 - Practical implementation mechanisms - including AI readiness assessments, AI audit laboratories, and regulatory sandboxes - are increasingly important to operationalize responsible AI governance.
- announcements, launches, or new initiatives presented during the session
 - Co-Develop announced the forthcoming launch of a practical guide on multi-stakeholder collaboration for governments implementing Digital Public Infrastructure.
 - Egypt shared progress on establishing an AI Audit Lab, supported by UNDP, GSMA, GIZ, and Datasphere Initiative, as an initial step toward a future AI sandbox for responsible AI testing and implementation.
- agreements, collaborations, or commitments made
 - Speakers consistently highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration among governments, international organizations, academia, civil society, and the private sector for trusted digital transformation.
 - Participants emphasized continued collaboration on AI governance, institutional readiness, digital public infrastructure, and responsible AI implementation through practical partnerships and shared learning.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions:

- Strengthen digital citizenship through inclusive AI literacy, digital skills, and online safety programmes for all segments of society
- Embed trust, privacy, inclusion, and accountability into the design and governance of digital public infrastructure and AI systems.
- Promote practical implementation of responsible AI through institutional capacity building, readiness assessments, and collaborative testing environments.
- Foster multi-stakeholder collaboration among governments, international organizations, academia, civil society, youth, and the private sector to advance trusted and human-centred digital transformation towards WSIS 2035.