



WORKING DOCUMENT: WSIS 2026 SESSION PREPARATION (ITU)

Project: HandiConnect RDC

Session Date: Tuesday, July 07, 2026 (17:00 - 17:45 CEST)

Location : Palais des Nations, Geneva (Room G1)

PART 1: DATA TO SUBMIT ON THE ITU PORTAL

1. "Description" Tab

Session Title: HandiConnect: Eradicating Algorithmic Exclusion through Offline Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Session Description: This session explores how the Democratic Republic of Congo is redefining digital inclusion for vulnerable populations and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). By converging existing offline telecom networks (USSD) with Soundex AI phonetic verification, HandiConnect provides a sovereign DPI that bypasses the need for smartphones, 4G internet connectivity, and complex biometric sensors.

Attendees will discover how this 'Offline-First' architecture eliminates algorithmic exclusion, secures social protection distribution (G2P), and creates an equitable digital identity system. The session highlights the multi-stakeholder coalition driving this initiative in the DRC, offering a scalable blueprint for the Global South.

Session Flow (45 Minutes):

- **17:00 - 17:10 | The Vision & Technology:** Keynote by **Fabrice Batapi Ndimba** on redefining Digital Public Infrastructure using USSD and AI.
- **17:10 - 17:30 | Multi-Stakeholder Panel Discussion:** A strategic dialogue featuring representatives from the Ministry of Telecommunications (PTNTIC), the Ministry of Persons with Disabilities, and the National Solidarity Fund (FONA) on aligning technology, policy, and funding for absolute inclusion.
- **17:30 - 17:45 | Interactive Q&A:** Engaging with global stakeholders and potential partners in the audience.

2. "Panellists" Tab

1. Fabrice BATAPI NDIMBA (Moderator & Lead Speaker)

- **Title:** Project Lead, HandiConnect RDC (JSE NGO)

- **Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Bio:** Fabrice Batapi Ndimba is a Congolese tech leader and operations management expert. As the Project Lead for HandiConnect, he coordinates a sovereign DPI initiative leveraging offline telecom protocols (USSD) and AI to ensure absolute digital inclusion for marginalized communities.

2. Representative of Minister

- **Title:** Representative, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications
- **Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Bio:** Representing the DRC's telecommunications authority, focuses on the regulatory framework, network infrastructure leverage (USSD), and the national strategy to deploy digital public infrastructures (DPI) to bridge the digital divide.

3. Representative of Minister

- **Title:** Representative, Directorate for the Promotion and Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
- **Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Bio:** Representing the Ministry delegated to Persons with Disabilities, brings vital public policy expertise on disability rights, social protection, and the strategic deployment of accessible services for vulnerable populations in the DRC.

4. Office Member of FONA DRC

- **Title:** Representative, National Fund for Assistance (FONA)
- **Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Bio:** As a representative of FONA, provides critical insights on the financial mechanisms and national solidarity funds required to sustain and scale digital social protection programs across the country.

PART 2: STRATEGIC MODERATION ROADMAP

MODERATOR'S GOLDEN RULE: Brief the speakers in advance. Their responses must be **2 to 3 minutes maximum** to maintain the session's momentum and capture the UN audience's attention.

1. The "Infrastructure" Axis (Ministry of PTNTIC)

- **Objective:** Prove the State's technological support and the "Digital Public Infrastructure" (DPI) aspect.
- **Guiding Question:** *"Instead of waiting for 4G to cover 100% of the territory, how does the Ministry perceive the strategic use of the existing USSD network as a true, sovereign Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)?"*
- **Posture to highlight:** Technological pragmatism and sovereignty.

2. The "Dignity and Rights" Axis (Ministry of PWDs)

- **Objective:** Demonstrate the human impact, ethical approach, and absolute inclusion.
- **Guiding Question:** *"The requirement for biometric sensors often excludes people living with severe physical disabilities. How does HandiConnect's phonetic identification restore the dignity and autonomy of PWDs when accessing State services?"*
- **Posture to highlight:** Defense of human rights and the end of exclusion.

3. The "Transparency and Funding" Axis (FONA)

- **Objective:** Reassure international donors regarding good governance and traceability.
- **Guiding Question:** *"The leakage of social funds is a global scourge. How does a deduplication technology like ours, which eliminates 'ghost beneficiaries', allow FONA to guarantee that financial assistance goes directly to the true beneficiaries?"*
- **Posture to highlight:** Integrity, financial efficiency, and anti-fraud innovation.