

Second IGF 2024 Open Consultations

26 June 2024

[Transcript] UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO

Thank you, Chair. From UNESCO, and given the limited time, I will highlight a few main points.

At UNESCO, we firmly believe in the role of global digital cooperation in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and in building an inclusive, open, safe and human rights-based digital future. We continue to actively contribute to relevant UN processes, including the IGF, discussions on the Global Digital Compact and the WSIS+20 review.

Digital capacity-building is also an important work stream for UNESCO. In the area of digital transformation, UNESCO has been implementing a programme on capacity-building for the judiciary on artificial intelligence, which has trained over 8,000 judicial actors on AI and the rule of law. The programme has developed a global toolkit on AI and institutional capacity-building, and recently conducted a regional training session in Africa, with another planned for September 2024.

This is an important year for us in further advancing our work in digital transformation. We will launch UNESCO's second-generation Internet Universality Indicators during the IGF in December. The Internet Universality Indicators are at the heart of UNESCO's efforts to close digital divides, including the digital gender gap, and to promote a universal internet that is human rights-based, open and accessible to all, governed through multistakeholder participation and attentive to cross-cutting issues such as gender and the environment.

These are the ROAM-X principles of Internet Universality, with the "X" representing cross-cutting issues. The indicators have helped fill a standard-setting gap as an internationally recognized, comprehensive framework and tool relevant to all stakeholders and countries. They support the assessment and improvement of national internet policies and foster digital cooperation at international, regional, national and local levels.

Last year marked the five-year milestone since the launch of the Internet Universality Indicators framework. We have therefore initiated a revision process to ensure the tool continues to empower stakeholders to address contemporary challenges in internet governance and remains relevant in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

As part of ongoing global consultations to inform this revision process, with the support of the IGF Secretariat, we will convene a meeting in this room and online tomorrow, 27 June, from 14:00 to 15:00 Central European Summer Time to collect feedback from the IGF community. I invite all participants, both in person and online, to join this process and share their valuable input.

Thank you very much.