

IGF 2017 Report: WSIS Forum 2018 Open Consultation Process, 1st Physical Meeting.

- Session Title: WSIS Action Lines advancing the Achievement of SDGs (WSIS Forum 2018 Open Consultation Process, 1st Physical Meeting)

- Date: 20 December, 2017

- Time: 10:10 – 11:10

- Session Organizer/ Moderator : Gitanjali Sah, Coordinator WSIS, ITU

- Chair: Mr Catalin Marinescu, Head Corporate Strategy Division, ITU

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Mr Matthew Greenspan, WSIS Project Officer, ITU

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

Ms Gitanjali Sah, ITU (Presentation)

Ms Xianhong Hu, UNESCO

Ms Scarlett Fondeur Gil, UNCTAD

Ms Minerva Novero-Belec, UNDP (Remote Intervention)

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

The event focused on informing stakeholders, and soliciting their suggestions regarding preparations for the 2018 WSIS Forum.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

Ms Gitanjali Sah, WSIS Coordinator, updated participants regarding preparations for the 2018 WSIS Forum. She outlined the status of the Open Consultation Process, Registration, Format, Venues in focus, WSIS Prize and WSIS Forum 2018 Photo Contest, Stocktaking efforts, and more. She encouraged participants to submit contributions through the online Open Consultation Process, and explained logistics including deadlines and visa support.

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

Participants provided input on the potential themes for thematic workshops for the upcoming WSIS Forum. They reflected on past events and proposed ideas on additional interactive formats for the event. They discussed how to best implement the WSIS process, in an effort to align the WSIS Action Lines with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The coorganizers of the WSIS Forum updated participants on the status of preparations so far. They described current ideas for special tracks for the event including Virtual Reality, youth engagement, and the Hackathon.

This was followed by a vibrant discussion by the multistakeholders present. Comments were made by government representatives, private sector stakeholders, members of civil society organizations, UN agencies, and others. Those contributions were taken into account and will be incorporated into planning for

the 2018 WSIS Forum. Video of the full session can be found here:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2017-day-3-room-xii-of88-wsis-action-lines-advancing-the-achievement-of-sdgs>

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Participants expressed enthusiasm for WSIS Forum 2018. Several noted their long-time support of the WSIS process. The group highlighted a desire to focus on innovative technologies, and their impact on societies and economies.

Some specific issues raised included food security, digital privacy and human rights, youth engagement, and sustainable business practices.

More information on contributions to the Open Consultation Process will be available in the outcomes of the Open Consultation process to be released once the agenda for the 2018 Forum has been completed.

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 55

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 25

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

Organizers noted that participants should strive for gender balance in their delegations, contributions, and panels.

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

See above.