WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Template for Submission of Executive Summaries for

<mark>Thematic</mark>**/Country Workshop/ Action Line Facilitation Meetings/ Interactive Sessions/ High Level Dialogues/Publication Releases/Briefings**

Deadline: Thursday 22 March, 2018
Exception: For sessions on Friday 23 March, please send at the latest 2 hours after the session
*Please note that the WSIS Forum 2018 Outcome Document will be released on the **23rd of March***
(the last day of the Forum)

1) **Title of your session:** The Need for Evidence Based Approach to Tackle the Gender Digital Divide
2) **Name of Organization/s organizing the session:** EQUALS

3) **Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines**
   - WSIS Action Line 1 - The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
   - WSIS Action Line 2 - Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive information society
   - WSIS Action Line 3 - Access to information and knowledge
   - WSIS Action Line 11 – International and regional cooperation

4) **Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (these will be reflected in the press release and Outcomes Document of the WSIS Forum 2018)**

   - The goal of the session was to raise awareness on the need to collect sex-disaggregated data to tackle the gender digital divide, and overall the need for evidence to drive policy. This workshop invited participants to eagerly engage with the panellists, to share gaps in research, to evaluate their successes and challenges, and to discuss the benefit of joint forces to bridge the gender digital divide in the tech sector.
   - The session also called for collaboration on the EQUALS Action Map, which helps to democratize and promote information exchange, and identify potential synergies among stakeholders to maximize impact.

5) **Main outcomes highlighting the following:**

   a. **Debated Issues**
      i. How to turn research into policy? How do we actually push research into implementation? How do we see change happen?

    ii. We need a more nuanced understanding of gender, and of intersectionality - this is where we see a divide

    iii. The gaps in data

        1. Data in the global south is largely unavailable

        2. National supply side data done by governments often is not sex-disaggregated

        3. Informal sector is neglected

        4. Overlapping forms of oppression and how this shapes engagement/experiences with technology

    iv. The need for crowdsourcing: to share, learn from practitioners, share best practices and key lessons learned.

  b. Comments from the audience

    i. Life-long learning:

        1. A participant from the audience raised a concern on the lack of focus on the intersection of age and gender. She called for a life course approach where mature and older women are integrated in discussions concerning digital training and education.

    ii. Quantifying the qualitative:

        1. A representative from the Centro Regional de Estudos para o Desenvolvimento da Sociedade da Informacão, and EQUALS Research Group member, asked to share their experiences in conducting, addressing, and measuring more complex issues, such as privacy and online violence.

II.   Quotes

    i. "We need meaningful data. I'm astonished when I realize not only in the emerging areas, but in Germany and Switzerland, how few people understand that there is a problem"- Beate Degen, EY Germany

    ii. "We really need new understanding of what privacy means to women and people with intersectional identities. in-depth evidence of how to realize these obligations and rights. It's not simply the responsibility of the institutions from top-down. What the reality is on the ground?" – George Anthony Giannoumis, Oslo and Akershus University of Applied Sciences

    iii. "When we look at local communities, different chapters around the world, working on digital literacy projects, what they often face is that they have no ground to work on, the baseline is very different. When we look at the variety of research that have very relevant data but very different, and they have different approaches, what EQUALS

does is to pull these data together and drill down to specific access-related issues and look beyond connectivity" – Joyce Dogniez, Internet Society.

I. **Overall outcomes of the session highlighting**
- We need to promote a culture of collaboration
- Lack of female participation and inclusivity –digital systems constructed without the input of women
- Consistent, robust, actionable evidence that is comparable is key.
- The value of partnership to bring diversity of stakeholders and actors together to address this challenge
- More nuance is needed for policy makers to create the correct interventions.

II. **Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals**
    i. This session is linked most closely to SDG 5B and 17. EQUALS is a ground-breaking global network delivered by a committed partnership of corporate leaders, governments, non-profit organizations, communities and individuals around the world working together to bridge the digital gender divide – by bringing women to tech, and tech to women – and in so doing, bettering the lives of millions worldwide.

III. **Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting**
    a. Issue of meaningful data
    b. Intersectionality
    c. The need for collaboration

IV. **Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019**
    a. The importance of bridging the gender digital divide.
    b. Data-driven and evidence-based approaches to tackle the gender digital divide
    c. Intersectional research agenda to address digital inclusion

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