



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Template for Submission of Executive Summaries for

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

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

“Global and Local Women Technopreneurs; Journey to Success”

2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session

eWorldwide Group

3) Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11

- i. C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development**
 - Through sharing of global experiences and personal recommendations for creating an enabling environment to promote ICTs for development
- ii. C3. Access to information and knowledge**
 - Through sharing global experiences, lessons learned and recommendations for government, women and industry to encourage, promote and enable women’s participation as ICT professionals and technopreneurs
- iii. C4. Capacity building**
 - Through specific recommendations for the enhancement of curriculum in STEM and entrepreneurship in education institutions (schools and universities) to ensure the successful engagement of women as ICT professionals and technopreneurs



WSIS FORUM

19-23 MARCH 2018

Geneva | Switzerland

iv. C6. Enabling environment

- Through specific recommendations for policy enhancements for governments and industry to enable women to successfully and safely engage with STEM as ICT professionals and technopreneurs

v. C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

- Through sharing global experiences and recommendations to enable women's holistic inclusion and engagement across digital ecosystem and STEM

vi. C11. International and regional cooperation

- Through specific recommendations for governments, policy makers, development agencies, development practitioners, industry and civil society to cooperate for the design and implementation of key initiatives, programs and interventions to holistically include and engage the women at the local, national and regional levels

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 Institute of Federal Telecommunication (IFT) and the eWorldwide Group agree to collaborate to promote gender equality, diversity and inclusion;
 - Identifying and promoting gender role models working as technopreneurs/ ICT professionals
 - Designing interventions with stakeholders to encourage the study of ICT/STEM by girls in secondary schools
- The General Women's Union and the eWorldwide Group agree to collaborate to identify and promote gender role models working as technopreneurs/ICT
- eWorldwide Group join hands with Empowerment lab to promote girls inclusion in STEM through innovation and creativity programs across the MEA region
- eWorldwide Group and International Commission on Cyber security Law agree to join hand to establish a series of cybersecurity centric accelerator to promote cybersecurity innovations and cyberpreneurs & start-up in partnership with regional stakeholder



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

I. Debated Issues

- Please capture highlights of the main issues debated and interactions with audience
 - Low enrollment of females in engineering & IT fields, even in developed countries
 - Cultural, traditional and social barriers for the inclusion of women in the economic sector
 - Lack of self confidence
 - According to World Bank, in 155 countries out of 193, there is at least 1 law which makes it difficult for women to do business as compared to men
 - Retention of women in ICT sector
 - Lack of opportunities for women in ICTs
 - Lack of women role models
 - Challenges at work place for women
 - Women participation in ICT labor force is low (18%-30%)
 - Lack of access to free and secure internet
 - Gender digital divide
 - Job environment is challenging
 - Equal pay is not accepted in society
 - Gender exclusion in IT a global issue
- Please highlight key achievements and challenges shared by the audience and/ or panelists
 - Lack of assistance and funding from governments for women centered programs
 - Lack of Government support in creating strategic opportunities and as a result, most qualified women end up in low positions



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

II. Quotes

- Please provide two important quotes from the session and the names & organization of the person you are quoting

Haidar Fraihat, Director, Technology for Development, UN-ESCWA

‘ICTs help enhance women productivity’ ‘Women and ICTs are intertwined together’

‘Digital economies provide a borderless opportunity for women and girls, as well as empowering home bound ‘people’

‘We need to agree on a regional approach for addressing gender and technology, stressing the importance of multisector cooperation to reach gender equality through ICTs, where every stakeholder has a designated role’

NK Goyal, Professor, Technological University, India

‘We need special training for life balance’

III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- Main Outcomes of the Session
 - ICTs can enable home bound workforce to be more productive
 - Internet freedom means smart economics
 - Increase access without limiting human rights
 - Government, families & society need to work together to support women’s in ICTs
 - Special trainings are required to enable women to maintain work & life balance
 - Whole system in a country should encourage both men & women to enroll in universities



WSIS FORUM | 19-23 MARCH 2018

Geneva | Switzerland

- ICTs provides new opportunities for women's & reduces gender bias
 - Universities & schools should focus more on technical education for women
 - Government should provide more specific & tailored programs for women's
 - Bridge educational divide in universities and colleges
 - Women should create a network to create space for women in the field of IT
 - Government & private sector should create enabling environment
 - Girls should focus on long term goals
 - Governments needs to create tailored strategies for ICTs specifically for women
 - Governments needs to facilitate women technopreneurs to establish their businesses
 - Abandon the idea of quota system in ICTs as women are equally capable
 - Women should focus on long term goals & plan their careers
 - Maximize the potential of human capital
 - Keep cataloging women who are doing good in different fields to create more visibility for female role models
- main conclusions reached during the discussion
 - Great opportunity to promote female role models as technopreneurs/ICT professionals
 - Governments and industry should create jobs opportunities for female ICT professionals and support female technopreneurs
 - Cataloguing women technopreneurs/ICT professionals
 - Create space for girls to enhance their capabilities in the field of ICTs at schools and universities
 - Ensure gender consideration in trade policy and e-commerce



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

i. **Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

- Through engagement of women technopreneurs/ICT professionals in economic and civic engagement to promote sustainable livelihoods, sustainable economic and financial well-being and reduction in poverty

ii. **Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

- Through specific recommendations for the enhancement of curriculum in STEM and entrepreneurship in education institutions (schools and universities) to ensure the successful engagement of women as ICT professionals and technopreneurs

iii. **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

- Through women technopreneurs/ICT professionals inclusion into the economy, ensure reduction in gender inequality and empowerment of women at grassroots

iv. **Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all**

- Through policy enhancements for governments and industry to enable women and girls to successfully and safely pursue their careers as ICT professionals and technopreneurs

v. **Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

- Through specific recommendations for governments, policy makers, development agencies, development practitioners, industry and civil society to cooperate for the design and implementation of key initiatives, programs and interventions to holistically include and engage the women at the local, national and regional levels



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

V. Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting

C3. Access to information and knowledge

- Need for greater sharing of global experiences and lessons learned
- Need for greater industry collaboration and participation during WSIS and the need for innovative programs to promote and enable women's participation as ICT professionals and technopreneurs

C4. Capacity building

- Need for the enhancement of curriculum in STEM and entrepreneurship in education institutions (schools and universities) to ensure the successful engagement of women as ICT professionals and technopreneurs

C6. Enabling environment

- Need for specific recommendations for policy enhancements for governments and industry to enable women to successfully and safely engage with STEM as ICT professionals and technopreneurs

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

- Need for sharing global experiences and recommendations to enable women's holistic inclusion and engagement across digital ecosystem and STEM

C11. International and regional cooperation

- Need for governments, policy makers, development agencies, development practitioners, industry and civil society to cooperate for the design and implementation of key initiatives, programs and interventions to holistically include and engage the women at the local, national and regional levels

VI. Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019

- Dedicated session on AI for SDGs
- Dedicated session led by University student from 4 regions of the world discussing the development agenda and the role ICT & AI can play to achieve the SDGs



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

Please complete this document and send to Matthew L. Greenspan,
Matthew.Greenspan@itu.int AND Gitanjali Sah, Gitanjali.Sah@itu.int