



WSIS FORUM | 19-23 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

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 - **E-Environment: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and Role of ICT**
- 2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session: **WMO and ITU**
- 3) Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines: **The Action Line C7 – e-Environment**
- 4) Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (these will be reflected in the press release and Outcomes Document of the WSIS Forum 2018)
 - **Launch of the updated MHEWS Checklist – for the World Meteorological Day – 23 March 2018**
 - **Commitments were made by all panelist that the organizations they represent will continue work in the area of development and implementation of Early Warning Systems through providing the required support through financing, technical support, capacity building, development of solutions to meet the needs, awareness creation and providing the connectivity to the last mile.**
- 5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:
 - I. **Debated Issues**
 - Launch of the MHEWS Checklist¹: Going Forward - Relevance and Importance

¹ MHEWS Checklist is a key outcome of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC) held from 22 to 23 May 2017 in Cancún, Mexico. It updates the original 2006 document Developing Early Warning Systems: A Checklist which was developed as an outcome of the Third International Conference on Early Warning: From concept to action (EWC III) held



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

- Importance of Digital Radio in the dissemination of early warning messages to the last mile
- Highlights in the new developments in the area of IoT, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.
- Importance of working together to create ecosystems of solutions and provide more compelling solutions at better costs
- Continued improvement of international processes delivers better results on the ground.

II. Quotes

- Radio is the last mile of resistance – Mrs. Ruxandra Obreja, DRM Consortium
- Challenges are often policy considerations, not the technical solutions – Daniel Kull, World Bank Group
- Rapid growth on commercial players in weather market is both a challenge and an opportunity. – Daniel Kull, World Bank Group
- ITU does design and deploy early warning systems, at ITU our motto is technology neutrality - there is no technology that is superior over another technology, it all depends on the situation on the ground – Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, ITU
- Internet of Things, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence have got a great potential in Saving Lives, not only in early warning but also in Disaster Management, search and rescue” – Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, ITU

III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- There should be a harmony among technology considerations, operating procedures/processes and capacity building (institutional and human capacity building)
- We need to bring resources together, together we can do more in the implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 11, SDG 12 and SDG13

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

- High competition in the area of satellite communications on broadband services is driving cost decrease satellite services.
- Terrestrial communications remain key to continued sustainable development.



WSIS FORUM | 19-23 MARCH 2018

Geneva | Switzerland

- Human and institutional capacity in the area of policy, legislation and management is key to ensure that acquired innovative technologies and services bring value to national challenges and further fuel sustainable development

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

- Environmental monitoring: Technological Accidents and Development

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