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>> GITANJALI SAH: Good afternoon, dear colleagues. Participants, thanks for joining us today afternoon. It has been a very hectic week. And we are close, very close to the closing. However, this session of the WSIS Action Line facilitators is the most important session of the WSIS Forum because pursuant to Article 109 of the Tunis Agenda the WSIS Action Line facilitators meeting is to be held in collaboration with the UN agencies, co-organizers and the WSIS Action Line facilitators to not only report on what has been done for the year but also to plan ahead.

So to make this discussion interesting we are planning to align our discussion today to the topic of the High-Level Political Forum 2019 which is contributing towards empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. So all of our Action Line facilitators will target their conversation towards this topic.

So the goals and focus for 2019 are goal 4 for quality education, goal 8 for sustainable economic growth, goal 10 reducing inequalities, goal 13 combat climate change, goal 16, promote peace and inclusive societies and goal 17 for partnerships and sustainable development.

I would like to start by my colleague on the right, Denise who is from UNDESA. UNDESA facilitates Action Lines C1, C7, C11. What is the role of Action Line C1 in promoting ICTs for development to ensure inclusiveness and empowerment of people?

>> Dennis: Thank you, Gitanjali, for the question and thank you to everyone who is still here Friday afternoon and following the meeting. So C1, promotion of ICTs for development and as you know everyone, every agency who is here is contributing to that Action Line in one way or another. In our facilitation meeting we have just -- we just tried to capture the recent developments. And one thing that I can mention here is the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies. This was launched in September after the WSIS meeting in 2018. So this is something new that we shared with participants here. It is to define how the United Nations system will support the use of new technologies like Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, blockchain and robotics to accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda. If you haven't seen it, please check and I am sure all -- any agency or any Member State who is present or who checked that will get some ideas for their own strategy for their own promotion of new technologies. And there are already many interesting initiatives from the UN family in this area such as ITU's AI for good global summit.

And I will mention only two other things that came out in our facilitation meeting. One is the importance of data again and the other one is adoption and use of these emerging technologies in the public sector. So I will talk about more in the C7 eGovernment, but last year we have asked all 193 Member States how do you use these new technologies in your Government and the most common response we got was this chat bots. When you open a website, this is very common in private sector. There is a chat bot who helps you. It is not -- it is a machine. And who tries to direct you to the right part of the organization. And this is also what the Governments are trying to do. So when you go to a Government portal what we found out is the Member States are trying to implement this chat bot by using AI. Something simple but I think it is important to start somewhere.

Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much. It is really important that we promote all these activities that we have been conducting and implementing on the ground. From the discussions we heard during the WSIS Forum this was something that emerged

in most of the sessions that promoting your activities for further collaboration is extremely important. I would like to now move on to Action Line C2, ICT infrastructure. This is facilitated by ITU. We have our colleague Esteban representing the Action Line. How can emerging technologies contribute towards inclusiveness and equality?

>> So good afternoon, everyone. Now I learn that next time I don't need to join to any other sessions because you said this is the most important. So I don't need to go for the others.

So we had some discussions on the different technologies where we can connect the rural areas and especially the last milestone. These were the main discussions, what we had. We had two sessions. One was done for hybrid infrastructure and technologies for affordable access and the other one was 5G. Nobody was interested on 5G. So we had 50 people in the room which was 4:30 and they stayed most of the time. These infrastructures are very different.

We cannot say that this is the unique infrastructure. What we can do with this is the unique tool. What we can use, for example, satellite, mobile communication, high altitude platforms and so on. So these were the discussions. And we presented also one of our planned projects where we want to connect the last mile. So for this we are going to have a big project where we can collect all the possibilities and we can provide some guidance to the countries. Based on the guideline they can decide what is the best solution. It can be technical, regulatory, financing. So this is I think what we can provide the best. I think it is within the three minutes.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much. Yes, you had some very interesting discussions around emerging technologies for ICT infrastructure. And it is very important to ensure that everyone is included in this digital revolution. Thank you very much. We are now moving on to UNESCO. So our colleague, Sasha, is representing several UNESCO Action Lines because her colleagues could not join her to be here because something important is going on in UNESCO.

We would like to invite Sasha to please talk about Action Line C3, access and C7, e-learning. So, of course, Sasha, both these Action Lines are extremely crucial for inclusiveness. Can you please share some of the activities that you have been conducting in this area?

>> Thank you very much and very happy to be here. There is something important going on in Paris is that we currently have our executive board where we are making decisions as it concerns the work going forward that UNESCO will undertake in the domain of Artificial Intelligence. Happy to be here to be co-organizing the WSIS Forum and supporting this work going forward as it

concerns information and knowledge societies. I will talk about C3 and C7 and connecting it to the work that will be discussed at the High- Level Political Forum, looking specifically at the work we are doing in promoting access to information to support inclusive and equitable societies. Very specifically over the past year and highlighted in the framework of this Forum we have launched our global observatory of science and technology called ghost bin. This is an online platform intended to backstop and support Governments in developing policies that support technology and innovation that can accompany them in the elaboration of their digital transformation strategies.

We have initiated work toward a recommendation on open science based on the recommendation on science and scientific researches adopted in November 2017 by UNESCO. Every year we celebrate the International Day for Universal Access to information on the 28th of September. And I invite all present here to participate in these celebrations this upcoming year in 2019. And in 2018 we specifically evaluated contexts of information in the growing relevance and how this is changing the way in which knowledge is accessed, processed and utilized. We have also continued to support our work on the open scholarly initiative which looks to encourage open access to scientific information at an international level.

One of the flagship projects that UNESCO has undertaken in the past year is our work as it concerns software heritage and our work with regards to software source code as heritage for sustainable development. In partnership with India and France we have looked specifically also in the framework of our memory of the world program how software source code is a kind of documentary heritage that must be preserved in the digital environment. And the outcome document of the partnership that we have established with INRA is called the paradise -- it looks at questions of open source software. And it is direct relationship to sustainable development.

In line with Action Line C3 we have continued our youth mobile program which looks to equipping young people with the necessary digital skills as consumers but also as producers of local content. And this is based on our conviction that local solutions to local problems are best solved through digital solutions by people on the ground. We have been focusing on training young people and specifically young women in Developing Countries to develop Mobile Applications through open source software.

As it concerns Action Line C7 with regards to e-learning and e-science we have been building on the King Dao Declaration which was adopted in 2015 on leveraging ICTs for education and was followed by the King Dao statement which is designed to

guide implementation of strategies for unleashing the potential of ICTs to reach SDG 4.

One of our global priorities is also gender equality. And we have in this regard in the past year developed gender assessment tools for teacher education to help Governments and ministries of education identify gender gaps in your educational strategies and in their educational programs. For UNESCO this gender mainstreaming is at the heart of all the work that we are doing and the global ICT and education policy platform that takes this in to consideration it is a part of this. We have also in follow-up to the second world OAR Congress in Slovenia adopted the Lubian OA action plan and the executive board as well discussing the possibility of developing a standard setting instrument as it concerns open educational resources.

And this is accompanied in our work with the development of indicators and policy guidelines as it concerns how to develop open educational resource policies and programs at the national and regional level. In this regard we have already provided assistance and support to more than 15 countries to develop teacher training initiatives based on these open educational resources.

In closing we have also continued our flagship mobile learning week. And this is done in partnership with many UN agencies including ITU. This past year's mobile learning week focused specifically on the way in which Artificial Intelligence is changing the way we think about education and the necessary skills to equip young people for the job market of tomorrow. And this is one of our flagship programs that we will continue to work in cooperation with other UN agencies to allow the intersection of emerging technologies and the changing role of education in everyday life.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Sasha. Of course, this links it really well to the next Action Line, which is C4, capacity building. So during the Forum there was several discussions on digital skills, on training, capacity building, on e-education. And also I observed there were some discussions on how the educational system is going to adapt with the emerging technologies. So Hali, if I could invite you to please tell us a bit more about is it excluding people? What is happening in this area? Could you please update the room?

>> Thank you very much. And I'm glad that you asked the question in that specific fashion. Because every time when we talk about the use of ICTs or technology in education, we look at how it facilitates inclusiveness and equality. But during our discussions we had quite interesting angles to this debate. One of them was the forming exclusion that is to be discussed by the introduction of technologies in the classroom.

One is social exclusion which is caused by the use of
technologies by young people, particularly as we all know young
people get addicted to these technologies. They focus so much on
the technologies that they do not interact socially with their
peers and creating forms of exclusion. And those children are
not able to form relationships outside the classrooms or on
their own they miss out on the opportunity to build social
networks within the classroom.

    The second form of exclusion suggests -- relating to
modernization of the classrooms. The specific concern was that
if the classrooms are not modernized at lower levels of
education, when children get to the secondary level they find it
very difficult to cope with highly modernized environments. And
this does not just end between the lower levels of learning and
higher levels of learning. It is a form of exclusion that can be
realized in Less Developed Countries and Developing Countries in
the sense that learners who have studied within the Less
Developed Countries environments and with less modernized
facilities and the -- and tools may find it very difficult to
find space or to be able to cope if they have to then take their
higher learning in with countries that are highly, highly
developed. The session therefore was encouraging the ITU
specifically to assist members to be able to address the
negative impacts that can be brought about by introduction of
ICTs in the education sector. Thank you, Gitanjali.
        >> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you for touching upon these
challenges because, you know, though we are looking at new
technologies but we have to look at inclusive approaches so that
it benefits everyone.

     The Action Line C5 and building confidence and securities is
facilitated by ITU. And, of course, ensuring trust and security
is extremely crucial for inclusiveness. Can you please share
some of the work that's done in this area to ensure that the
confidence and trust is being developed makes the environment
more inclusive?
        >> Thank you, Chairperson. I think as many of my colleagues
have already said that. We are in an era of many promising
technologies and the whole great promise. It could revolutionize
the way we live. There are significant challenges ensuring trust
and confidence ranks highly on this list. The stakeholders do
associate the issue of trust very closely with that of
inclusiveness, particularly in technologies of AI where the
issue of inclusiveness is very high on the agenda. We saw, for
example, the high level dialogue on AI and trust that ITU
organized and in many other sessions throughout the WSIS Forum.
I counted at least ten sessions where these related issues were
discussed. And some of these issues which constantly came up

are, of course, issues of privacy and security of data, concerns about bias and security and inclusiveness of models. And, you know, another area where a lot of emphasis was made was ensuring the young, marginalized, they were protected and benefit from the new technologies. And ensuring all this, you know, we need reliable metrics and indicators to measure how well we are doing and how much we can improve. And this is not just important in terms of knowing how well a country is doing but also in terms of how will the tools performing benchmarking the different tools and algorithms.

All these came up during the WSIS Forum and a key take-away message was constant, there are many organizations and stakeholders addressing these issues and collaboration and cooperation among the stakeholders was important. It is also important to focus on the linkages between the processes right from the design phase designing the collaboration. Action Line C5 provides a fantastic framework for facilitating this collaboration. We have several activities going on. I will just name a few. You know, developing and deploying international security standards.

Looking at many of these technologies such as digital ledger technologies which is being tried out in many, many different domains. Quantum is also showing a lot of promise. We are working on quantum key distribution, many different aspects. So on quantum, quantum computing itself is probably five to seven years away in the true sense. There are properties that quantum offers. You measure the state of particles and then you see if the status changed. And maybe some tampering is happening. These are properties that we are leveraging right now. We are waiting for the big break in quantum to happen. We are also working on foraging meaningful partnerships to help countries define the national cybersecurity strategy, setting up national certs. We had a C5 action line facilitators meeting on this topic and we have global cybersecurity index and protecting children online. And we facilitate global dialogue through the WSIS Forum on Action Line C5. But we also have dedicated forums such as the AI for good summit which is from 28th to 31st of May. Many of these issues of trust are, you know, trust in AI are discussed. And we do a deep dive in to many of these issues. Thank you.

        >> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much. Of course, again what comes across is collaboration and partnership. This links in well to the next question. Actually Sophi is the Action Line facilitator for enabling environment. ITU facilitates this Action Line. And, of course, Sophi, you know, how does collaborative regulation contribute to inclusiveness and equality?

>> Thank you, Gitanjali. This year I am going to talk a little bit about the facilitation meeting and the initiatives. It was evident from our facilitation meeting and for many of the panels that the digital transformation is really upon us. Half the world is connected, but how do we get the other half online and how do we make sure that the other half can benefit from the opportunities that the Digital Economy offers us. And for that it was in many, many sessions including in our sessions the word collaboration came up. Collaboration within nations. Collaboration across stakeholders. Collaboration across sectors. And collaboration across nations. So regional and international collaboration as well.

We did hear how do we get the other half connected and how do we get them to benefit from the opportunities of the Digital Economy. And I think there are -- a number of words came up time and time again. We need to be innovative and think out of the box in terms of enabling environment, regulatory solutions that we can test and try. We need to be innovative and we need to be collaborative. And we need to be flexible yet offer stability. We need to balance innovation with incentives.

So we need to connect use and trust. And there is lots of good initiatives out there in terms of regulation, in terms of enabling environment. And in our facilitation meeting we heard some examples of regulation by data. Data is key. Data is key to know how to adapt your regulatory frameworks. We heard about mapping in our C6 as well as my colleague from Action Line C2. The last mile, middle mile and first mile connectivity are key and regulatory solutions that connectivity are essential. And again for that we need to collaborate across the sectors, across the stakeholders and across the regions. We need to have a wholistic view because it is not just about the wires and the ducks, but it is also about the applications riding upon it.

If we want to achieve digital financial inclusion you need to think about the digital aspect and how to bring it together with the financial inclusion and address issues such as quality of service, Consumer Protection and work together to be able to address those issues in the most effective way.

So what have we and what could we do in terms of ITU to support the enabling environment? Let me talk about a few initiatives. Obviously data is a key word. So we offer valuable data in terms of data research and analysis. We have our ICT regulatory tracker and measuring regulatory society. All of those tools can really help to achieve better data and better evidence-based decision making. We also work on research and publications, responding to the requests and the needs of our membership. To address some of the regulatory issues surrounding some of these emerging technologies that Pretam just mentioned.

So address and get regulators and stakeholders across the sector, nations and regions to really get in to the discussions. We have our AI for good summit that's coming up in the month of May. Some of these publications and some of these events help to enlighten and to bring information to the table. To reach that collaboration, that discussion and come to an inclusive and equal society. So that's what I wanted to add to that, Gitanjali. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Sophi. Of course, one of the discussions that also took place was on how regulation keeps up with the emerging technologies. That was something that was also -- okay.

>> Yes, and how regulation keeps up and needs to keep up with emerging technologies but how some good innovative regulatory measures and activities to address some of the regulatory challenges can help us be inclusive and reach equality.

>> GITANJALI SAH: We would like to move on to Action Line e-business. We have representing e-business -- so actually, e-business and e-commerce provides an equal platform for men and women to have equal rights to economic resources by selling online. And this ensures inequality and equality and empowers people. But could you please, you know, give us some more examples of what all three of you are doing in this area?

>> Thank you very much. Indeed e-business and e-commerce tools serve as an equalizer for many small entrepreneurs in Developing Countries, small traders as well. And what we have found in the recent work of the cofacilitators is that collaboration is the most viable model for advancing quickly in inclusive e-commerce and to maximize the contribution of our Action Line to empower entrepreneurs. ITC conducted a study recently and published the results on small African firms succeeding with collaborative business models. And among the different business models that they studied it showed that cooperatives were the most suitable for quickly and effectively bringing African SME to cross-border e-commerce. And these models also encourage formalization which was identified as one of the barriers to e-commerce. And as you might know ITC, UP and UNCTAD are also partners for the e-trade for all initiatives which is another example of a collaborative model in this case from the side of the international community. It brings together 30 international agencies. And it is able to channel technical assistance to Developing Countries to increase their participation in digital trade.

And a new product under this initiative is the e-trade for women network which aims to support female digital entrepreneurs in Developing Countries by sharing experiences and peer

mentoring and sharing a voice in domestic and international policy processes because they are not always able to influence the way that policy affects them. And this, of course, is a contribution to SDG 5.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Scarlet. I would like to move on to Action Line C7, agriculture, which is facilitated by FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization in collaboration with ITU. James, in one of the discussions and the report which is available online you had mentioned that hunger is on the rise. And the situation is worsening in South Africa and most regions of Africa. We need to pay attention towards this. What does e-agriculture -- what kind of e-agriculture strategies are you planning to help fight this situation?

>> By 2050 the world population project to rise to around 10 billion in agriculture in the same year we will need to produce almost 50% more food and biofuel than it did in 2012 despite overimprovements in agriculture efficients. 821 million people go hungry today. And malnutrition affects one in three people in all nations. Innovation in agriculture cuts across all measures of production cycle along the entire value chain. It is about social, economic, institutional and policy process and having an impact on the lives of family farmers. A shift from the interventions focusing on single components of agriculture, innovation, towers, systemic approach including knowledge sharing and networking. The potential of data science and innovation to produce sustainable and scaleable solutions for achieving the SDG 2, hunger, are enormous. Artificial Intelligence should be addressed in an ambitious and wholistic manner promoting use of AI in the tool of the implementation of SDGs while addressing Human Rights and technical and social challenges. Digitalization can strengthen the food and agricultural sectors in terms of viability, resilience and consumer orientation. Data analytics adds to the traditional food, able to bring farmers, suppliers, Governments, private partners, Civil Society and international organizations together based on human centered design approach.

Mention the areas could benefit from greater digital cooperation we should focus on inclusive development and closing the digital gap. We know that access to the tools and knowledge related to digital innovation and technologies is not equitable across genders, age groups, geographical distribution and other physical and socioeconomic characteristics. While the most obvious barrier to closing the digital gap is the lack of infrastructure in the least developed areas of the world, there are far more intractable challenges that must be addressed through the disciplinary approach beyond cost, barriers to mobile ownership, tend to be related to the local context. With

low digital literacy and literacy extending out in several markets and safety and secured concerns in Africa and Latin America.

   For each tend to affect women disproportionately. In the context of sustainable development we must also consider the rural digital divide which rural populations are affected. They more frequently lack the infrastructure to enable access and use of digital technologies due to the lower rates of education and transfer of skills and knowledge of the potential use of digital technology to support themselves and their families. The WSIS community needs to advocate for the strategic deployment of digital technologies business models. When digital technologies are required for inclusion programs to be successful it is critical that we support those groups which access problems to leapfrog old-fashioned technologies and approach to digital technologies that can be customized to suit their needs as well as ensure that we require the infrastructure is in place to allow them to optimize all available options. Thank you.

      >> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, James. We would like now to move on to eGovernment, Action Line C7, facilitated by UNDESA. Dennis, we heard quite a bit about the whole of Government approach and how eGovernment services can actually play a role in being inclusive and providing an inclusive and equal environment. Can you please share some of the activities that are planned in this regard?

      >> Thank you. So as I mentioned when I introduced C1 the development since the last facilitation meeting was the Secretary-General's new technology, on C7, eGovernment since the last WSIS UNDESA launched the United Nations e-Government survey in which where we look at eGovernment development of 193 UN Member States. In our facilitation meeting we discussed this survey together with other actors in eGovernment and also with Member States. The trend, what we have seen, for example, since 2003, since the first launch of this survey is a number of Middle East and ex-USSR countries stand out. They made a lot of progress in the last 10 or 15 years. All countries are making progress, but we have seen a bigger jump in that area. And also in the analysis done by the United Nations University the survey rankings are found to be highly correlated with the ease of doing business and negatively correlated with the corruption in the public sector. These are different indexes from the private sector.

   So that was one interesting finding. Within the eGovernment survey one thing that we look at inclusion is e-participation. That's how we can engage citizens in Government affairs. And we look at that e-participation in three stages, e-information, e-consultation and e-decision making. And you can go online and

look at further details when you search for the United Nations eGovernment survey, further details, how actually eGovernment, Governments can engage citizens via technology. And also about your question, I don't have time I know to go in to details, but I would like the audience to look at chapter 2, digital inclusion. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Dennis. Our colleagues from WHO and ITU who facilitate the WSIS Action Line C7 on e-Health unfortunately could not be with us here but they sent me their message. To be fair I will just read it out. In the area of e-Health there is a lot of work and collaboration happening. Collaboration and cooperation between different stakeholders is growing. Lots of projects and initiatives to promote digital health at scale and how to introduce the digital transformation for the health sector services and products is ongoing. A well-designed systematic approach is required. Design of wholistic and systematic type of changes is key to success, solution design guidelines, must be user centric and investigation of the level of evidence we have to assess if technology is feasible for implementing the right system. This will allow policymakers to make the right decisions for investment in e-health and adopting sustaining business models capable to self-sustain themselves. The delivery of health services on platforms one backed with the support from Government and public/private partnership is the future for a sustainable model.

While talking about the be healthy be mobile initiative, which is in partnership with WHO and ITU, it is helping scaling up the use of mobile technology in countries to deliver health messages including smoking cessation campaigns in Costa Rica and help for people in Portugal to manage diabetes. They are making efforts to promote the new technologies in transforming health at the grassroots level. Thank you.

So this was about WHO and ITU's efforts in the area of e-Health.

I would now like to move on to actually Dennis to talk about C11 and then leave Sasha to complete the rest of the Action Lines that she is representing today. Dennis, if you could please let us know about the work that is happening in the area of international and regional cooperation.

>> Sure. I'll be very brief. C11 is international and regional cooperation and again the session focused on new developments. One big new development in this area is the Secretary-General's high level panel on digital cooperation. So this panel is -- has very prominent members and coheaded by Melinda Gates and Ali Baba. So the panel will raise its report in the first two weeks of June. And I think this is something

important for the entire community to follow up closely.

   And the second thing that I want to mention under this Action
Line is the upcoming Internet Governance Forum which will take
place in November in Germany, November 25 to November 29 in
Germany. Internet Governance is the United Nations
Secretary-General's Forum on discussions related to Internet
policy. The Chancellor Angela Markel already confirmed her
participation. And last year it took place in Paris hosted by
UNESCO. And we had the honor of the Secretary-General and
President Micron in the opening. The Forum will have three main
teams; one is data governance, /second is digital inclusion
which is very much related, and the third one is security,
safety, stability and resilience. This is also another Action
Line that our colleague Pretam mentioned. And the Forum will
discuss these issues in great details. I invite you to check the
Internet Governance, IGF.
      >> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you. As part of our collaboration
we have a WSIS Action Lines side event every year at the IGF and
we will be there for sure. I would like to move on to Sasha to
talk about all the different Action Lines that UNESCO
facilitates.
      >> Thank you very much. And thank you to Dennis for
highlighting the cooperation between UNDESA and UNESCO in the
framework of IGF. We look forward to cooperating in this
upcoming IGF.

   So I'm warning the timekeeper I am going to take more than
three minutes. So I will start with Action Line C8 that looks at
UNESCO's work on cultural diversity and local contents. And
first and foremost I would like to highlight the high level
dialogue that happened in the framework of this Forum
coordinated by UNESCO in the framework of international year.
This year was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly and UNESCO's
lead agency coordinating this work. We both access, use and
preserve indigenous and local languages. UNESCO continues its
work through specific recommendations that were adopted by our
Member States regarding the preservation of indigenous languages
online. In the framework of the Convention protection and
promotion of diversity of cultural expressions which was adopted
in 2005 we published a global report on reshaping cultural
policies and advancing creative. And a chapter of this
publication is dedicated to the way in which the digital world
changes the way in which both artists but also consumers of
cultural content both produce and then also interact with
cultural goods.

   And so in this framework we have developed policy guidelines
to accompany Member States, their Ministry of Culture and other
ministries because it touches because culture is so transversal

on other ministries such as the Ministry of ICT but also the Ministries of Education to accompany these ministries in reminding of the way different cultures contributes to GDP and the possibilities for intercultural dialogue and contemporary creativity.

And in this regard we have launched a workshop called empowering creative women in partnership with an entrepreneur named Ms. Sabrina Ho with the participation of young women in the digital cultural sector. Specific project notably Retina Latina through supporting access to Latin America cinema and being very passionate about Africa cinema.

In order to buy a lot of the these films I had to buy them in France and not on the continent. One of the things that we are working on is to make sure that the digital potential of access to creative industries is harnessed not only to promote the flourishing of creative exercises in developing countries but at the international level.

In the framework of our Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage we have developed several tools which allow young people specifically at a distance to engage with intangible heritage thanks to ICTs. This includes accessing through virtual reality, for example, and intangible heritage and different cultures. And this part of our initiative to harness intangible heritage through ICTs is a key lever for sustainable development, global understanding and peace building.

In the framework of our work on world culture and natural heritage, we have specifically looked at how ICTs can be harnessed to safeguard world heritage specifically in post conflict/post disaster situations. This includes notably our work in the framework of the reconstruction of Mosul where we have been working with organizations and startups such as ECONAM not only in engaging with world heritage that is no longer accessible geographically, but also helping in reconstruction initiatives so that through 3D imaging we protect architecturally what needs to be done in order to preserve in the long run world heritage.

Also been harnessed in the framework of this Convention to monitor world heritage and danger in spaces that were otherwise unaccessible. So we are making sure that ICTs become a crucial part of the way in which we look at preserving natural and world heritage.

With regards to our work in support of museums to ensure the young people specifically are engaged in going to museums. So that there is this access so when I am sitting in the car I can have a virtual tour of the Palais Versai.

This has been a main access. I would like to underline in

the framework of when Action Line specifically with regard reconstruction of Iraq, we have held an international conference in Kuwait in February called reviving the spirit of Mosul which is one of UNESCO's most significant undertakings looking at completely restoring the city's cultural heritage. So this is just kind of a highlight of the way in which we have harnessed these different ICT tools to make sure that our work on culture is mainstreamed in sustainable development.

     >> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you. A lot of stuff going on there. All of it is aimed at ensuring equality. Aligned to the theme of HLF. We will hear more probably during the United Nations group on Information Society session at the High-Level Political Forum. We are also submitting a report of the session which is already online in to the formal discussions of the High-Level Political Forum as part of the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2019. Last but not least we were just joined -- Sasha, you would like to say something.

     >> There are two more Action Lines.

     >> GITANJALI SAH: Okay.

     >> C10 and -- C9 and C10. Depends when you would like me to speak about them.

     >> GITANJALI SAH: You can continue.

     >> We are working very hard and we have all these wonderful Action Lines. And I would like to recognize the presence of the director of Geneva who is a huge support. As it concerns our work in Action Line C9 which is the Action Line dedicated to media we have developed a framework called International Universality Framework. And it was adopted by our 195 countries. And it is based on the idea that the Internet should be rights based, open access and multi-stakeholders. And we have developed indicators that we are implementing on the ground in to your field offices to accompany Member States to measure their infrastructure as it concerns Internet Governance and propose pathways forward to ensure Internet governance is inclusive and equitable for all.

  One of the priorities of UNESCO is our work on Freedom of Expression. And in this regard and in the framework of our international date to end impunity for crimes against journalists we have emphasized translating fundamental Human Rights from the offline to the online environment. It changes not only the way in which we think about how -- what a journalist is but how we access news and journalistic content. UNESCO is working to translate these human natures in to the digital environment but also looking at the impact of Artificial Intelligence in the way in which we relate to news. And we have been undertaking research with regards to fake news and disinformation and the ways in which ICT and emerging

technologies change the way we engage with media. And in this regard we are working very actively to develop capacity building, open -- massive open online courses of young people so that they can engage in the critical way not as media -- not only as media consumers but also as media producers.

We have also worked, and thank you again to UNDESA in partnership with the IGF, to make sure this aspect of Freedom of Expression and access to information as it concerns media is mainstreamed across the conversations that happen in the IGF cognizant that Internet Governance and media development nowadays are intricately linked.

And I would like to close in talking about our last Action Line on C10 which looks at ethical dimensions of Information Society. And in this framework we have worked very actively on looking specifically at the ethical dimensions of Artificial Intelligence. And right now in Paris at the executive board we are discussing with our Member States the possibility of developing an international standard setting instrument as it concerns the ethical dimensions of Artificial Intelligence. No single international standard setting instrument in this domain. And UNESCO is looking to coordinate action on the ground by regional organizations such as the OECD but also the European Commission and Council of Europe to ensure platforms for dialogue and conversations and building on what has been done by these organizations. And also the IEEE to map principles and policies that could guide the development of an ethical and human centered AI.

And in that regard I invite all of you here today to consult to the publications that came out last week by UNESCO. First is our World Commission on ethics of science and technology report on the ethical dimensions of Artificial Intelligence. And second is a recently published report called AI ROAM primer that looks at translating this international universality framework in to the development of an ethical AI. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Sasha. It is a tough job to cover all the different Action Lines, but thank you very much for the presentation. It is very informative. And we would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Chairman of WSIS Forum 2019. Thank you for joining us.

Last but not the least we have the Action Line C7 on e-environment that just joined us. This is an Action Line that is facilitated by WMO in collaboration with ITU, Basel Convention and quite a few other agencies. So could I please invite you to please, you know, inform the room about what are the actions that are taking place in this Action Line?

>> Thank you. And this as you mentioned this is facilitated by the WMO, but our colleagues from the WMO could not be here.

So I am representing them also a facilitator of these environment.

So when we talk about e-environment and the use of ICTs to monitor the environment, we are talking about at the end to save lives. So this meeting has been focusing on discussing the need to monitor the environment and to use new technologies to be linked to monitor not only the environment but also monitor what people are doing on the ground relating to the increasing of disasters and increasing of very severe hazards that we are experimenting now.

So the meeting provided an overview of different activities and initiatives related to multi-hazard early warning systems that different organizations are approaching from different aspects and sites like such as the International Federation of Red Cross is very active in using ICTs on multi-hazard or early warning systems. We saw a lot of progress using Big Data to gather a lot of information. And this data is being analyzed in a faster way that provides a lot of faster decision-making processes that at the end become reducing in vulnerability of people and also enhancing their resilience of communities and reduce economic losses.

And there are many motivating issues that many people still lack on connectivity. So ITU and other UN organizations are keen to reach the last mile and to reach the last mile is not only focusing on infrastructure but also educating communities because there is still the possibility of using the technologies that are available at ICTs, like broadcasting, radio, the TV as well. But whenever they receive an alert, an early warning alert coming from the monitoring of environment they do not know how to act. So we are very focused on enhancing all our activities in reaching the last mile so they can take actions when an alert is given.

So on this regard, there are a lot of outcomes that I want to highlight. For example, the improvements in the disaster risk related services rely not only on science, progress such as the science of climate change and extreme events and the use of cutting edge ICT technologies, data process and product generation, services and dissemination. Data is key for all decision-making processes. If we don't have data or we have the data but we don't have the way to analyze the data and provide a service, then we are not doing the correct actions.

So the multi-hazard early warning systems are increasing leverages, ICTs as a means of communication of warning. And it is a growing need for communities to have access to affordable ICT technologies. We have had a lot of discussions ongoing, not only the Government is providing that support but also the private sector is very well engaged in collaborating with the UN

organizations and also with the Governments to provide, for
example, satellite connectivity to reach the last mile people
and also to help to monitor, better the environment. And these
will at the end save a lot of people's lives.

   We also as I mentioned before there is a need for efficient
capacity building strategies that involved education for
vulnerable communities, to increase their resilience, protect
themselves from the impact of hazards and to understand National
Disaster Management and for their actions. We can have all the
policies there, all the regulatory frameworks in place, but if
no action is taken there is -- we are not doing anything. So
this is our focus now on using ICTs to save lives at the end. So
there is a need as well for strong partnerships at a global and
regional level as between public and private sector to drive
positive impacts on communities.

   WMO, ITU, IFCR and other UN entities are really ready for
enhancing their partnerships in dealing with multi-hazard early
warning systems for monitoring the environment as well and
serving communities and also reaching the last mile. So these
are some aspects that we -- that we have discussed during the
meetings and that we really want to address at the end on these
Action Lines.

      >> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you. And I would like to
congratulate all my colleagues because this is the first time in
ten years that we have finished on time.

  (Laughter).

      >> GITANJALI SAH: So we can open the floor for a couple of
questions. We have ten minutes. If anyone would like to ask a
question, the floor is open to our UN Action Line facilitators.

   Okay. Yes, sir. Would you like to speak? Your mic is on.
Professor Minkin.

      >> VLADIMIR MINKIN: Thank you very much. Thank you very
much all Action Line facilitators. I have some questions, maybe
a proposal concerning our preparation to 2025. Now we have 15
years after the Geneva plan of action. And maybe it is time to
consider in each Action Line what are our results of our work
for each Action Line in comparison with the goal and target that
we had from Geneva or three from WSIS+10 Forum, overall review
in '15, seven targets from broad body commission. Where are we?
Because it is not one day point, but maybe we already start
thinking and then the direction to be ready to 2025 to consider
what we reached at -- it is enough. We complete that. We
already develop Information Society or it is not the case as I
hear now, we are not at the end of this job. But we should
realize where we are and what we are going to do. Thank you very
much.

      >> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Professor Minkin.

We have noted your comment. And we will try to include in the open consultation process of the WSIS Forum 2020 some questions to understand what has been done towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines. Thank you very much. Do we have any other questions? Yes, sir, please.

>> Thank you very much for your efforts. Just to build on what was addressed by Professor Minkin, in 2020 when we ask our consultation on what has been achieved it is important that on each facilitation track we should have some measures. I mean at least certain KPIs that we can at least say that whatever we try to facilitate, there was something that we can measure at the end in order to achieve the SDGs. And I would appreciate there should be some more focus on the Developing Countries in terms if we really were able to make change in ten years or not. Thank you very much.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much for your comments. Yes. Please.

>> Thank you very much. My name is Kofia from Ghana. My concern is with the fact that the issues that we have raised some countries are more of a challenge than others. And in addressing this issue, I think that we need to identify areas or zones where we can have champions. Some countries can access champions to help others carry them along. In doing this we will be able to monitor periodically to see where achievements have been made.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much. This is noted. Please Marilyn.

>> Thank you very much. I would like also to support Professor Minkin with whom I was working since a lot of years here preparing MPPs process and WSIS+10. Also to evaluate what we make after the Geneva plan and to evaluate that with macro economic models or economic models as the last speaker says. And I think we will make a lot of success for the next WSIS process. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much. And thank you for your support towards the WSIS process. If there are no more questions, maybe we could invite the Chairman of the WSIS Forum to please give a few remarks about the WSIS Action Lines and to motivate all the UN Action Line facilitators to perform better. We are already doing our work, but maybe to perform better in the implementation of the Action Lines.

>> A very short time. So many items could be discussed. And the situation which I have found is definitely fast moving actions. Probably the whole world is moving so fast that WSIS is definitely looking at the changes, all the important issues, and I personally feel that the world which now we are discussing calling it a digital world, calling transformation of digital

activities, in fact, we are terming everything a digitization process.

But I probably feel that the end result of the whole action is to build a knowledge based Information Society. And I feel challenges are there. Opportunities are there. And it is not equal to every nation of the world. But in these circumstances we will have to fight our own world. And I believe that the human civilization when it has come to its third stage it is important that we go through our restless work. And it is set in that we will be successful. I read a book of Alvin Dofler which is the third wave published in 1980. Probably if I can remember correctly that was the first time that I realized the world is really going towards an information age. Now it is almost a reality and we all are working on that.

I thank all the persons here who has described the action plans and audience and special thanks to Gitanjali for coordinating the whole efforts. Many, many thanks, Gitanjali. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much for those concluding remarks and motivating us and encouraging us to work harder towards next year's implementations. This meeting is closed. We will now prepare for the closing ceremony of WSIS Forum 2019. Please stay with us. Thank you very much.

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