

Template – Session Outcome Document

Summary of Session:

[IEEE Knowledge Café: Beyond Strong Sustainability - Catalyzing a Planet Positive Future for Generations to Come](#)

IEEE

13 March 2023, 12:30-13:45 CET

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- This interactive session explored opportunities to build a flourishing planet that goes beyond sustainability and builds upon the UN SDGs and related declarations.
- As we step closer to 2030 and embrace and navigate the complexities in the pursuit of the SDGs and in addressing climate change and related challenges, there is a need to take into account the large diversity in culture, in local, regional and global conditions and needs, and the varying contexts around the globe. This requires flexibility and a diversity of approaches to creating a ‘planet positive society’. It also requires practical guidance on decisions, e.g. decisions impacting GreenHouse Gas levels in the atmosphere, resource use, and many others, and the implementation of these decisions by individuals, communities, companies, organizations, and governments.
- Through the lens of a set of guiding principles that prioritize flourishing ecosystems and human well-being, we explored ideas and solutions that can be designed, innovated upon and deployed to reach a Planet Positive by 2030 – and, more so, catalyze a Planet Positive future for generations to come.
- Specifically, participants discussed these guiding principles to frame the discussion and identify tomorrow’s challenges, innovative solutions and imaginative concepts through a focus on energy and smart cities, policy and an accountability framework.
- Participants envisioned a world in 2030 where our actions to prioritize the health and well-being of the planet are realized—where we have arrived at a major milestone toward a Planet Positive future, and exchanged views on the following questions:
 - What were the key factors or drivers that contributed to this milestone?
 - What actions or innovations were taken by individuals, organizations, governments – practical solutions, new modes of cooperation or collaboration? In short, what were the building blocks?
 - What is your short headline for how we catalyzed a flourishing world that went beyond sustainability?

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date

(5-8

bullets)

In line with WSIS Action Line 6 - Enabling Environment and WSIS Action Line 11 - E-Environment, participants highlighted opportunities for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, including government investment, crowdsourcing and standardized tools for sustainability.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

In line with the appreciative inquiry statement of this session, the Knowledge Cafe outcomes focused on the building blocks that need to be overcome in order to address climate change and related challenges.

As it concerns the area of Energy, points needing to be addressed include a stronger investment by government and organizations, a transforming education system that educates the future workforce including in sustainability, innovation and associated risks, taking note that risk managing decisions do not just shift risk, but truly mitigate risk, and inclusion of young people, their voices and creativity.

Concerning energy technology, participants agreed that the achievements of technology include the creation and distribution of sustainable power, providing food and other resources from local production. This will minimize transportation, increase the capability of remote collaborative tools to reduce travel with improved productivity and increase the availability of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to address human needs in a connected world with minimized energy consumption.

As it relates to issues on accountability needing to be overcome, participants agreed that these relate to a required cultural change to be transparent, accountable and liable, to trust, to a much needed responsible use of technology. Reports need to be trustworthy and correct. That also requires standard and concrete tools. Potential crowdsourcing of 'solutions', reviewing of such 'solutions' and a standardized tool/platform to share curated knowledge, best practices, technical know-how, e.g. metrics and reporting tools - all accessible through common language - are suggested to accelerate deployment decisions and implementation of technological and other 'solutions'.

Discussed outcomes related to policy considerations that will catalyze a Planet Positive future for generations to come, highlighted knowledge preservation when storing data digitally, the need to address institutional as well as generational bias, a lack of regulation and the linked human impact, as well as a requirement 'green' regulations - environment first - and for interoperability: interoperability not only of technology, services and standards but also of regulation and policy between jurisdictions...

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

To create a flourishing planet that goes beyond sustainability and meets the needs of well-being of the people, a number of actions were proposed, such as:

- Standardized tools, technology, services
- Interoperable regulation
- Sustainability by design from the outset - applicable to services, technology, infrastructure, to name a few.



- Accountability by design from the outset - evidence-based decisions, including metrics, reporting tools and liability considerations from the outset
- New sources of funding, incl. government support and crowdfunding

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Given that the global response to the UN Secretary General’s short survey leading up to the UN75 celebration was that the environment is the number one priority issue to be addressed, Action Line 20: Addressing e-environment issues and challenges, developing Green IT and using ICTs to adapt to and mitigate climate change, would be a strong candidate for a discussion. Specifically, how can we design for a smaller footprint? With our data storage and processing needs, the topic of greener ways to code could be addressed, for instance. Another topic that could be addressed is document and data proliferation. A discussion of digital building blocks for eGovernance could be another topic. This would cover Action Line 21: Recognizing the importance of maintaining open ICT standards development processes for innovation in the ICT sector as key enablers for an inclusive information society.

*** **