



Template – Session Outcome Document

(2 pages max)

Summary of Session: High-Level Dialogue on the Implementation of the UNESCO Open Educational Resources (OER) Recommendation (UNESCO)

UNESCO

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

15.00-16.30 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/398>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- In the development of open digital platforms, focus must be on the development of a people-centred, inclusive and development focused information society where everyone can create, access, use, and share information and knowledge, in line with the objectives of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER. Accessibility must guide all design decisions, teaching must be interactive, media fit for purpose, promote gender equality, the learner must be at the centre, and the learner may be a teacher.
- The OER Recommendation is the essential instrument that can catalyze this organization that we have in terms of collaborating and strengthening access to information as a public good as well as strengthening and advancing the right to education and digital skills around the world which is the foundation on which Knowledge Societies rest. Inclusive Knowledge societies should aim not just to create knowledge, but to pass it on.
- This normative instrument is relevant to the theme of WSIS 2023: WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs as it has the potential to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities within and across countries), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).
- To solve the most fundamental problems globally, including solutions to achieve SDGs, knowledge must be open. OER can support lifelong learning, and skills training at low cost and with high impact.
- OER is vital for those in vulnerable situations, for this reason, it is important that OER materials are put together, bearing in mind issues of privacy, not showing information that is less inclusive, less helpful. This is also relevant when designing OER platforms, it is important to ensure that responsible data protection policies apply the same way that libraries look to apply responsible data protection for their users: minimizing data collection, being clear about what you are collecting, really offering users a transparent and meaningful choice when using OER platforms



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)

- Emerging trends include the extended use of platforms for curating, finding and sharing learning resources and the related need to ensure that these resources are effectively openly licensed.
- Further emerging trends include the use of ChatGPT, Metaverse, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality use for learning and teaching
- Challenges include privacy issues, ensuring that data collection and use is in line with the highest standards of privacy to protect users and developers of materials . This is particularly important as OER is an effective tool for ensuring knowledge sharing and learning opportunities for vulnerable groups. Security embedded throughout the process for creation Ethical conduct in terms of content provision and permissible usage must be clear to all users
- Opportunities include the possibility to ensure learning and knowledge sharing for low cost with very large reach to support the effective development of inclusive knowledge societies.
- Opportunities also include the possibility to use OER to support lifelong learning at scale in order to support the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030.

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

- Key achievements: identification of best practices in the use of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER to support lifelong learning with a focus on platforms for learning
- Agreement on the importance of ensuring the highest level of privacy measures for data and cyber security when using OER
- Agreement on the key role of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER for supporting the effective development and use of platforms , and the importance of OER on these platforms

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- The importance of leveraging the UNESCO Recommendation on OER 2019 to guide Governments through the crucial digital ecosystems needed for the establishment and maintenance of free, high quality open educational resources and platforms
- This would necessitate a multistakeholder approach bringing together collaborative links between Governments, institutions (e.g. educational, cultural – including libraries) and civil society with a view to supporting the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030 by fostering lifelong learning.

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

- Use of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER to support the building of inclusive Knowledge Societies