



Summary of Session: Post truth on Open Data, Disinformation and Climate Change: Can Technology help?

UNESCO

Friday, 17 March 2023

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 (UTC +01:00)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/333>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- In today's digital world, data has become one of the most valuable assets for individuals, organizations, and societies. The amount of data that is being generated is increasing exponentially, and it has become crucial to understand the importance of data and how it can benefit the humanity in various ways.
- Climate change is also intrinsically linked to the availability of quality data and – emphatically put, the presentation thereof, as accurate and reliable information is essential for understanding the problem and developing effective responses.
- The use of open data has emerged as a powerful tool in addressing climate change, enabling greater transparency, and facilitating collaborations across sectors. However, open data can also be susceptible to disinformation, leading to harmful consequences for climate action.
- The quality and availability of climate data can vary widely depending on the region and the type of data being collected. Even when data is collected, often the way data is presented ensues several structural and procedural fallacies. These can result in significant gaps in our understanding of climate change, making it more difficult to develop effective policies and strategies to mitigate and adapt to its effects.

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)

- Big data analytics is a growing trend in the field of e-Science. With the growing amount of data generated by scientific experiments and simulations, advanced analytics tools are required to process and analyze this data. Large datasets are analyzed using machine learning algorithms, artificial intelligence, and other data-driven techniques to uncover new insights.
- Cloud computing is becoming an integral part of e-Science. It facilitates collaboration and data sharing by allowing scientists to access and share data and applications from anywhere in the world. Cloud computing provides researchers with on-demand access to computing resources, enabling them to scale up or down as needed.
- Open science is a movement that encourages open access to research data, publications, and software. Open science aims to make scientific research more transparent, collaborative, and accessible, enabling researchers from diverse disciplines and backgrounds to collaborate and build upon one another's findings.
- The prevalence of interdisciplinary research in e-Science is increasing. Scientists from diverse fields, including physics, biology, and computer science, are collaborating to solve complex scientific problems requiring a multidisciplinary approach. This trend is producing new discoveries in numerous fields, including medicine, climate science, and materials science.

- Cyberinfrastructure and interconnected processes are emerging. Cyberinfrastructure consists of high-performance computing, data storage and management systems, scientific instruments, and network infrastructure. Cyberinfrastructure is advancing, allowing scientists to conduct simulations and experiments that were previously impossible.
- As the use of sensors are becoming an integral part of all scientific experiments, scientific e-waste can soon become a major environmental nuisance.

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

- ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) and data-driven disinformation have a close relationship because ICTs are typically the platforms and tools used to disseminate disinformation.
- In the modern digital age, disinformation campaigns have become more prevalent due to the availability of information online. By disseminating incorrect or deceptive information, these campaigns intend to sway public opinion or affect behavior.
- ICTs such as social media, search engines, and messaging applications are frequently used as the primary distribution channels for disinformation. On these platforms, disinformation can spread rapidly and widely, reaching a large audience with minimal effort.
- Through the use of data analytics and targeting tools on these platforms, disinformation campaigns can be modified to target specific groups or individuals, thereby increasing their efficacy.
- Preventing misinformation based on data requires robust data governance and control of ICTs. By promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible data use, we can prevent the misuse of these technologies to disseminate false information and harm society.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Develop fact-checking tools: Fact-checking tools can verify the veracity of climate change-related information. These tools use artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to identify false claims and misinformation, thereby preventing its spread.
- Create monitoring tool for social media: Social media platforms can utilize AI-based algorithms to monitor climate-related posts and comments and identify false claims and disinformation. These platforms can then take the necessary measures, such as flagging the content, removing it, or limiting its reach.
- Use citizen journalism to address climate change disinformation: Citizen journalism can help promote accurate climate change information. Platforms that permit users to submit their own stories and experiences can aid in the dissemination of accurate information and the promotion of climate change awareness.
- Create new platforms for collaboration and partnerships: Collaboration between technology companies, governments, and civil society organizations can aid in the development of effective responses to climate change misinformation. The strengths and expertise of each stakeholder can be leveraged through partnerships to develop and implement effective solutions.

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



- It may be useful to organize at least a session by combining the e-environment and e-science together.