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WSIS FORUM 2023
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HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SESSION 7:
ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF INFORMATION AND
KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES/BRIDGING DIGITAL DIVIDES
ROOM A

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/145

        >> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Hello. Hello. Hello. So
test is working.
        >> Yes.
        >> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: We are missing some
speakers. So I guess we need to wait for them, in particular
the High-Level Track facilitator, sorry. No, you don't need,
you don't need. Is everything automatic. Yeah. Yeah. Can you
ask how, Tawfik Jelassi, we can't start without him. So who is
missing? Otherwise Karamjit is there. Away need to speak much
faster. Good morning, Mr. Tawfik Jelassi. So can we start?
That's excellent.
    So Excellencies, gentlemen, ladies, good morning, and good
afternoon and good evening, to the remote attendees from all
over the world. I welcome you to session No. 7, ethical
dimensions of information and knowledge societies, bridging
digital divides.
    This session is addressing crucial opportunities and
concerns that are horizontal to all WSIS Action Lines and
essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
    But before starting, some organizational details, I will ask
the panelists two questions simultaneously. And you have
exactly four minutes to respond. At the end of the session,
time permitting, we will have some Q and A, question and answer

with the audience. Allow me to remind the panelists to send the written statements directly to the WSIS Secretariat.

So that they will be in a position to publish your messages. Now it is my pleasure to start the session and give way to our WSIS action line facilitator, Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director General for Communication and Information at UNESCO. The floor is yours.

>> TAWFIK JELASSI: Thank you very much. Good morning to all of you and welcome to this session. As you know the title as introduced by the Moderator is on ethical dimensions of the information and knowledge societies. Of course, the key word here is ethical. And here I want to briefly mention some of the work that UNESCO has been conducting on this specific theme.

In November 2021 in a first move of its kind, the 193 Member States of UNESCO have adopted the UNESCO recommendation on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Today everyone is talking about ChatGPT. And generative AI. Of course, these systems are so powerful, they can outsmart the human in a way we cannot almost control them. And we are amazed by their outputs. I have colleagues who have asked GPT to write poems for them. This is not just text. Now we are in to creativity and innovation to write the poem. It is not to pick or pull some data pieces from datasets and put them together to an algorithm. But how ethical is some of those outputs? How biassed or unbiassed are these algorithms and automated systems? So again with the recent advance in emerging technology such as AI, the ethical dimension becomes more than ever at the center of our discussion of our debate.

So this is one piece that UNESCO has done. This groundbreaking UNESCO recommendation on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence in terms of design, development and use of AI based applications.

The second brief mention I would like to make is the work that UNESCO has been doing for years is the ROAM; R, Human Rights Based Approach. O standing for open. A for accessible and M for multi-stakeholder participation. So we have been advocating for digital development that's respectful of Human Rights, of human dignity. That's open to all. Accessible by all. Including by people with disabilities and that follows a truly inclusive multi-stakeholder approach and governance.

So just to mention a couple of pieces which we believe are at the center of what you are doing, finally, a third mention is the UNESCO global conference that took place last month, trying to come up with a regulatory Guidelines for digital platforms.

We don't want these digital platforms to become the global online Wild West. Because they have become a global online Wild

West with this information, misinformation, hate speech, online harassment, conspiracy theories, cyber bullying and so on and so forth. The youth spend two, three hours a day navigating digital platforms. They spend more time on them than in the classroom or doing their homeworks. But what information is there? Is it fact checked? Is it biassed or unbiassed? How can we ensure that there is a proper source for what is being shown there. I'm looking at my colleagues from Brazil. And they are here. And again I speak under their control. I was told last June that in Brazil a country of over 200 million people, 78% of Brazilians take WhatsApp as their primary source of information.

78% of them take WhatsApp as their primary source of information.

What information do we find on WhatsApp or on other platforms? And you can see here how you can influence voters, how you can maybe hinder the integrity of electoral processes or how to influence people in their daily behavior and decision making. So let me close here, Madam Moderator to say we see -- sorry, I'm fine. We are in Switzerland. We see that ethics today has taken a front seat in any future discussion of digital development. I think we have to walk the talk, not to agree on the principle. We have to integrate that in our effort. Thank you.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much for bringing the topics to the point. I think there is very, very well done and essential. We are now connect online with His Excellency, Sok Puthyvuth, the State Secretary of post and telecommunication from the kingdom of Cambodia. Can you hear us? Are we connected?

>> SOK PUTHYVUTH: Yes, I can hear you.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Your Excellency, my question, can you share your experience on what are the ethical practices for using technology to bridge digital divides in Cambodia? The floor is yours.

>> SOK PUTHYVUTH: Thank you very much. Thank you for inviting me to be part of the high level policy session 7 on ethical dimensions of information and knowledge society. This is definitely a very difficult area. Digital journey. But we understand that we have to foresee and anticipate what is happening at international level, especially with technology and AI, which I brought many attention. I think it has brought many attention, many years ago. But it just recently, I think with ChatGPT, has definitely made this front stage in today's discussions.

Now Cambodia -- before I go in to the topic of ethical, Cambodia is still pushing connectivity very strongly.

Especially in area of education. And, you know, our global, our coverage in the country for Internet access is more than 90%. And mobile subscription is more than 100% in Cambodia. And affordability of Internet is less than 5% of disposable income per month. So we are doing what we can to make connectivity and affordability accessible to all citizens in the country.

But as you mentioned, as technology becoming more advanced and progressive, and right now we're pushing to building our own digital society for Cambodia, we are Prime Minister set directions in 2050 that Cambodia would join as high income country for our citizens.

Which means that we have to focus on this digital society and how it is going to look like for Cambodia. And this means that we have to digitize our government, and pushing awareness among our private sectors on digital -- digital transition, transformations and also raising more awareness to our citizens as well.

I know that ChatGPT at this stage is not available globally. In Cambodia I think we still need access to VPN to get access to, you know, some of the current (inaudible) ChatGPT. But we also raise a lot of awareness on this. I personally use it myself. And I can see that definitely this is something that we need to think about on how we could I guess capture the benefit side, the beneficial side of this technology. And I think Cambodia very much would like to keep in touch on the current progress, and like you mentioned about the ethical Committee, I know this has been discussed in many years. And I hope that this time there will be more traction and Cambodia will be part of this discussion as well in terms of how we could prepare for Artificial Intelligence and especially on the ethical side.

So without further ado, I would like to answer most of your questions, if there is anything I'm missing. Feel free to let me know.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much. Also for keeping to the time and for your insightful opinion on the situation in Cambodia. Let me now switch to Portugal. Mr. Joao Cadete Matos, sitting behind me or near here. The questions, can you tell us your vision about how a regulator in the field of information and knowledge societies can encapsulate an ethical dimension in its activity, also bridging digital divides? And can you give us examples of concrete measures that have been taken by ANACOM to bring digital connectivity to the most vulnerables? The floor is yours.

>> JOAO CADETE MATOS: Thank you for -- hello. Good morning. Thank you very much for the questions and for the invitation to be here participating in this very important event. I would like to compliment all the participants.

Our participation intends to share the experience of the country as Portugal, concerning this very relevant goal today.

And the goal is to guarantee that everyone in the country, even people with lower resources, lower income, and people living in isolated areas, namely in rural areas can have access to Internet.

So it is a question of inclusion, and from our point of view, what we are doing and this is the experience I would like to share with you, is to combine three main actions. First, guarantee that in all the countries, the high capacity networks, the optical fiber, is covering all the countries. All the offices, all the buildings. And this is not an easy task as you can imagine. But from the point of view of the regulator, but also from the Portuguese government, we consider this a priority.

And the compromise is during the next three years to guarantee this coverage, this complete coverage of high capacity networks, of optical fiber in all the buildings in all the countries. The second goal is to guarantee the same for the mobile broadband coverage, high capacity, also mobile coverage. At least 100 mega bits per second. For all the small rural areas.

And how we did that, including this obligation, in the compromises of our last option to -- for the license, namely for 5G. Also facilitating the entry of new operators in our markets. But at same time more important to receive money from the spectrum that was regulated in the option. It was to guarantee these obligations.

Second relevant dimension of this coverage of the country, is to guarantee that our islands, Portugal is also composed not only of the mainland but two groups of islands in middle of the ocean. So to guarantee the coverage of these islands with good fiber optical coverage implies to innovate the submarine cable linking the mainland to these islands. And this is very important project namely because we will include in these cables what we call smart submarine cables. To include the seismic earth and other sensors to facilitate the research climate changes in the oceans.

Two other actions will be to guarantee the access to low income households. And we are taking measures in this direction. To guarantee low cost, low prices for the Internet access. And finally, it is very important from our point of view everything we can do to improve the knowledge of the households that today don't have digital knowledge. And so this is the third action that we are working now.

Four minutes are finished. So I will be happy to answer any other questions. Thank you very much.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: It is perfect, Mr. Joao Cadete Matos. And I see your key word is inclusion. And you have also big challenge in bringing the broadband to all old ancient buildings, which I think is quite a strong challenge.

Thank you very much. Let's now again connect with Pakistan. Mrs. Aisha Humera. Mrs. Aisha Humera, are you with us? Can you hear us? Mrs. Aisha Humera? We seem not to have a connection.

What we can do is to skip to the next speaker while technology can try to get -- to get the problem solved. Okay.

Let's switch to Mr. Henri Monceau, director of digital and economic Department of The Organization Internationale de la Francophonie. The two questions are, the OEF recently conducted a study on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis of the digital divide.

What are the main conclusions that you draw? And how to make the struggle against the digital divide more effective? Over to you, Mr. Henri Monceau.

>> HENRI MONCEAU: Thank you. I will express myself in French. Indeed we don't always want to come back to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we hope that it is over and behind us, we hope that we are back to normal life, especially in terms of the functioning of our institutions. But it is very important to look back and see what happened, especially in terms of the digital divide.

And what the study demonstrates, a study we carried out with Foundation for research on international development, are three things. First of all, quite surprisingly the debate around the digital divide was not at the heart of the preoccupations of international institutions or the international community in a general manner. Very early we realized that in the crisis turning to digital technology was very important. And what we realize is that in 2022, for example, there was just as much exchange as there was up until 2016.

And this has been continuing in to now. What we also observed is an important impact of the crisis on Developing Countries, especially the LDCs. And these two elements were not really studied together and regarding the recovery plans, we hadn't anticipated that it was important to include the fight against the digital divide.

And that we had to equip countries. And secondly, of course, this was important and should have been a priority because there were three leverages that the states had in order to fight the pandemic. First of all, we had the physical distancing and other way of fighting the pandemic. Then there was medical research. And thirdly, vaccination.

And then, of course, we turned to funding and financing. But for Developing Countries, and LDCs in particular, among

these it seems that the African LDCs were the one that suffered most. And there was only one accessible tool. And this was social distancing.

And, of course, this was later not to taken in to account in the global debate.

And then thirdly, the countries that did try to make efforts to counter COVID-19, like Niger and Benin, for example, were very up to date on the situation. But the study of the companies in the country demonstrates that the companies that were not connected prior to COVID-19 and hadn't developed websites in order to be able to access sales, online sales, et cetera, were the only ones, the ones that were online were the only ones that were able to survive the pandemic.

The ones that were not, of course, did not survive the pandemic. So this demonstrates that connectivity is essential.

And I think I will stop here. Thank you.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much for your intervention. And now in case the technical problem has still going on, I would pass the floor now to Mrs. Moira Roche, vice-president of IFIP, the International Federation for Information Processing.

The two questions, in the wake of IFIP's launch of code of ethics in 2021, is there a need for a separate code for AI? And what is IFIP's position on the ethical implications of generic AI? And IFIP's technical committees undertook research and published papers on educational learning. Has this borne fruit in any recent educational projects? Over to you.

>> MOIRA ROCHE: Thank you. IFIP is committed to working with governments and organizations. Our mission is to achieve the world wide professional and socially responsible development and application of information and communication technologies. IFIP is firm in its belief that there should be one code of ethics. The creators of Artificial Intelligence platforms and products should abide by the same code. We must guard against having too many codes. It dilutes the concept and allows people to pick and choose. We can and must debate the requirements for an Addendum to major code that is specific to AI.

Quoting from the report to UNESCO, finally, engineers and software developers should be appropriately trained to ensure responsible design and implementation of AI. IFIP agrees with the statement. Similarly the Australian Human Rights and technology fund report 2021 recommended that designers and developers of AI informed decision making systems need to be able to predict the likely impact of their work, including how to incorporate Human Rights in the design process. The accreditation or certification of professionals to design AI

should be considered. The advent of generative AI is an entirely different matter. Users and consumers can't be hold to code of ethics in the same way that a professional is bound to. Therefore we will consider the guidance and education we must provide to all users of the technology in both business and education about good practice. In the same way that we do for intellectual property and data privacy. We will investigate the requirements for standards and a framework to use for the use of generative AI.

IFIP is pleased to announce had projects sustaining relevant useful education for young people between 5 and 18 years of age, led by the Chair of technical Committee 3, computers in education. The project will consider key questions that arose from the UNESCO Summit highlighting the need to commit to four areas, addressing educational exclusion, transforming the teaching profession, renewing curricula and pedagogies. Practice and actions have been identified. Notably the task force includes Presidents and leaders of our member societies across five continents to ensure that the outcome is representative of the diverse requirements in the developed and developing world.

The task force short and long term plans include actions to a systematic approach, enabling evolutionary rather than transformational approaches, digital education is mandatory and an integrated element. Focusing on inclusion, gender needs and special needs. Ensuring schools have infrastructures to support learning, the most urgent action, of course, is for the developing world to narrow the digital divide or digital gap. We need to also include the parent views. So we can't just do it with as educators but we need to consult more broadly. We need to address digital versus IT perceptions, the softwares as the heart, intelligent versus the Nerd. The task force will report on current outcomes at a workshop object Thursday at 9 a.m. I hope you can attend. If you can't, but contribute, contact myself or the Committee 3. Thank you.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much, Mrs. Moira Roche, for this comprehensive view that you brought and you gave us.

Now I pass the floor to Mr. Luis Neves, CEO and managing director of Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative. And the questions, as an industry Association, focusing on sustainability and digital, contribute to the planet, economy, and society.

What concrete actions can the ICT sector take to deliver on its responsibility around fundamental values and ethics? And what role do corporates play in bridging digital divides? Over to you, Mr. Luis Neves.

>> LUIS NEVES: Thank you so much. Good morning. I think the fundamental change that needs to take place today is for companies to embed purpose in its corporate strategy.

And by purpose, I mean sustainability. We know that most of the companies today have their corporate responsibility operations in a small department, mainly for communication purposes. Companies are very good to communicate. But if we need and if we want to make a fundamental transformation to address ethics and values in the companies, we need to have sustainability top down in the companies. Companies need to be purpose driven. And if that translation is not happening, is not taking place, we are missing the point as corporates.

And this change needs to take place very soon. Because values and ethics are becoming extremely relevant to our industry. It has been here already at the opening session. And therefore, it is important that companies acknowledge that and really start to embed purpose across every single unit of its operations.

And for that of course they need, you know, to understand how it works. They need to run materiality analysis. They need to find the right people. They need to challenge themselves internally. Define targets. And be ambitious as well. Because without ambition, we will not get there.

And we know that the digital companies and telecommunications companies are really very wealthy. But we still have a problem. We have many people, billions of people that are not connected. And without connectivity and access, we will never be able to bridge the digital divide.

And this is the fundamental change that needs to take place that requires policy intervention, that requires private investment, so policy in the private sector, they need to go together to ensure that everyone has access to telecommunications and benefits from telecommunications. We cannot continue to afford to have so many people disconnected from the world. And without possibility through telecommunications infrastructure, to have better education, better health, and better living.

We are developing a tool called digital access index that covers almost 160 countries. We have on that tool, 17 indicators on telecommunications from 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G, IoT, price, affordability. In looking all those indicators what we see is that those countries that are on the top are those that really have a strong coverage of telecommunications. And those countries leave a tracker. When we connect those indicators with the sustainable development goals, we see that those countries that have a better infrastructure are better off in terms of having a good quality of living for the citizens living

in those countries.

So we have evidence from many reports, the famous smart reports that we have with ITU. ITU is sitting at the GeSI board and we have been working together closely. We see how powerful telecommunications. We use that power to create a better world for all.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much, Mr. Luis Neves. Now not losing time, I would like to call for professor Alfredo Ronchi, Secretary-General of EC MEDICI Framework. And the questions are how is the new role impacting and how would it impact ethical principles?

And to what extent are we keen to give up Human Rights to embrace innovations? Over to you, Mr. Alfredo Ronchi.

>> ALFREDO RONCHI: Thank you, Chair. It is working? Okay. Yeah. So recently, some messages show impact on society as a fix of incumbent strategies, like global warming, lack of food and water, pandemic and so on. And an ongoing flourishing of society.

Furthermore, the consultation movement and the negative impact of man on nature are pushing the most radical thinkers of the 21st Century to face the prospect of the actual extinction of homosapiens, fight of antihumanism. It glorifies scientific and technological progress. Genetic engineering and nanotechnology will allow us to alter our brain and bodies, but will exceed human limitations.

General Artificial Intelligence will improve itself to think faster and deeper. Such terms -- sorry, basically consider human's disappearance on one side distinction, on the other side cyber. Digital transformation is often seen as significant partner, helping us to solve or at least mitigate our problems. Digital technology is intertwined with almost all the life sectors.

Posing several ethical issues as we already know, thanks to our speakers. While increasingly leave the analog face to face, based -- paper based worlds to enter the intangible one, digitally mediated. Metaverse it will succeed, will progressively create a clone of our environment. Cyber loneliness, one of the foreseeable risks is a kind of addiction to this parallel life, training users to shift from real to meta life. This may happen as much as the number of service and duties will be transferred to the other side of the mirror.

Metaverse can propose a new normal, but once accepted in the meta life might be accepted in the real life as well.

Concerning the second question, the challenge for the -- I'm sorry -- upcoming years, are the ways to substain the human's role. The need to find the proper balance between managers and technologies, is Omni presence.

Social science and humanities must establish a tight cooperation in designing and cocreating of the cyber technologies, always keeping humans in the focus. The WSIS can play a key role in this process.

Thank you very much for your attention.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you, Professor Alfredo Ronchi. I think you got to the point as well. So thanks a lot. We are keeping in the time, which is very good. And I -- it is my pleasure now to hand over the floor to Professor Karamjit Gill, Professor Emeritus and editor-in-chief of AI&Society, Springer Editors. Should we be concerned with ethics and culture?

>> KARAMJIT GILL: Good morning. The question was when we think of ethics, what we think of? We think of governance, justice, and accountability. When we think of culture, we think of diversity, which is welcoming. And we think of culture as hospitality and in the sense of not hospitality, too, but expect hospitality from the other.

So hospitality is two ways. From this point of view, we can start thinking of ethics as a glue to the evolutionary systems. And culture as a glue of the context is the culture in which the technology makes any sense.

Just as we mix hard and soft glues to mend the broken piece of glass or broken piece of wood, we mix ethics and culture to fix the broken prospects of digital divides. So culture becomes a glue on the top of ethics. We had very high hopes of common good, health, medicine, agriculture. If we had this high hopes, then what makes us nervous? What is the culture in society? Why we are concerned?

To me, one paradigm which sums up our culture and society is the social media platform. We have breadth, the deep cultural anxieties, toxic deceptions of families, of communities and societies, ranging from spread of conspiracy theories, prejudice, posterity, racism, intolerance, xenophobia and at the end of the, the crisis of identity coming off one paradigm. But how can we change it?

We have to debunk the belief of politics, that politics and social relations are engineering problem.

We are to get over it. We need to design machines with purpose. Not machines with instrumental reasoning. But to do so, we need to cultivate interventions. But trustworthy with the platform. But what are the challenges? What are the dilemmas we face? What do we move beyond the machine thinking and engage with the difference.

Second, how to grasp digital gaps that can be lost in culture translation. So we always talk about digital divide. Without considering that it can be lost in culture translation,

what we mean by digital divide? Then the last one, how do we
avoid the early attraction of Governments by numbers in the
guise of scientific objectivity?

In summary, technology is a very narrow way of thinking.
What we need to do is what can be, what should be, and what
ought to be done is not a question of seeing the other from our
side, which is easy thing to do. But it is about engaging with
the difference.

So we should act as architects of our future and of our
faith, but not -- we just follow the route of (inaudible) or
acceptance.

The challenge is how to constrain AI systems with ethical
and cultural groups. We used to think recently in the academic
world that what is to be human. But now a question is where is
the human. Thank you.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much,
Professor Karamjit Gill, with your perspective on ethics and
culture, which is very, very important.

I have been informed that Pakistan has joined us. It is my
very big pleasure to announce Mrs. Aisha Humera, additional
secretary of the Ministry of IT and telecom of Pakistan. Can
you hear me?

>> AISHA HUMERA: Yes. Thank you very much.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Excellent. So my questions,
oh, bear with me just one second. I lost the page, which
means -- yeah. The order was disrupted. So how can the smart
village concept helping Pakistan to address digital divides?
And what are the best ethical practices for using technology to
bridge digital divides in Pakistan? Over to you, Mrs. Aisha
Humera.

>> AISHA HUMERA: Thank you very much. First of all, I
would like to congratulate WSIS team for organizing this
successful event. And making this global galaxy, you know,
possible to learn and share from each other. Just to answer the
questions that you have indicated, I think the ethical issue is
an underlying theme whenever we talk about digitalization and
ICT. So smart village is actually an initiative, which is an
effort to ensure to remote and rural areas are integrated. It
is an integrative approach to digital rural areas through
scaleable and sustainable services that involve the use of
improved ICT infrastructure. The Ministry of IT and telecom
through universal service fund launched a smart village Pakistan
project through ITU. It is designed for the whole of Government
and whole of society approach. Developed through the program
can be used by various socioeconomic sectors such as education,
health, agriculture and business.

The first smart village is currently being implemented in

Burkina. So under this project, 120 participants in three community sessions with 90% women representation have benefitted during the short period of less than a one month. And the approach has been to engage housewives and women who remain in the household, and the girls who are going to the school by connecting them with the best online education possible. Youth is now getting high quality education. And even person with disabilities have been able to access those facilities of education and health.

So if we talk about, you know, that how we are addressing the ethical area -- issues under to this project, and the digital divide is being addressed, I would say that one part is the infrastructure through which these things are addressed. And another dimension, very important dimension is the public policy.

So in Pakistan, if you look at the indicators of telecom sector, 193 million mobile subscribers with almost 99% teledensity. Although we have been able to give connectivity to almost across Pakistan, but again the issue is to what extent it has been used, to what extent broadband is being used. And to what extent online education and health services have reached to the rural communities and remote areas. So for us the ethical question is that whatever policy making has done, it has to be inclusive.

Rural areas have to be made part of the policy making process. Whether it is data protection act, cybersecurity policy, or Artificial Intelligence policy, the involvement of the communities plays a very important role.

So stakeholder consultation and stakeholder involvement is one of the primary focus of the Government to ensure that no one is left behind.

Do I still have time? We have started several initiatives, especially to include women. For example, digi skills is a program which is focused on giving skills to women. And similarly there are youth programs which ensure access to equipment. And then there are programs under Universal Service Fund which provides connectivity to the underserved and unserved areas.

So these are the three key initiatives through which we are trying to ensure that rural communities are part of the digital infrastructure. They take full benefit of these facilities and become active members.

So --

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you. Thank you very much. I hope I didn't interrupt you. But we have been reminded that the four minutes has passed. So thank you very, very much. And we are now coming to closing the session. I hope we had a

very comprehensive view at different layers and really from
technology to culture, to philosophy, to broadband and so on. I
will put all this in to three minutes' resume for this afternoon
between 5 and 6 where we will present the outcome. And now I
would like to pass the floor to Dr. Tawfik Jelassi. Would you
provide a closing food for thought to all of us?

>> TAWFIK JELASSI: Thank you very much. I think we all
agree that digital technologies should not be today just an
enabler for value creation.

It's very clear to me that they should become a lever to
enforce ethical principles among individuals, organizations and
societies. And I think we should integrate this ethical
principles going forward.

Second, I do believe that the ethical issues should be
thought of and integrated in the design, in the development, in
the deployment, use and governance of IT systems and
applications.

They should be integrated throughout the entire lifecycle of
an IT system or application. They should not be an
afterthought. Once we have developed the system to say now does
that really work, does that promote ethics. I think it should
be from the very beginning. And I think this requires a greater
attention, meaningful action by the international community.
And finally, I can say that UNESCO is determined to continue its
work in my intervention at the start, I shared with you three
key groundbreaking initiatives of UNESCO. The latest of which
is the UNESCO recommendation on the ethics of Artificial
Intelligence. That goes back two years ago.

So we will continue what we have started a number of years
ago. The work through, of course, advocacy, policy advice,
capacity building, and normative setting. This is the work that
we continue to promote, ethical principles, with one compass in
mind, international Human Rights laws. This should be our
guiding principles to create a better future for all. Thank
you.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much. And
knowing that UNESCO is really the keeper of the values of the
tradition of culture and that is doing quite a lot now to
bringing it in to technologies, I would like and coming from an
Italian city called Bergamore, that is the cultural city in
Italy this year. And the President of Province asked me to hand
over to you this -- it is a symbol. But it is the
representation compass of old maps that represent the culture of
Italy. So he asked me personally to hand it over to you as a
thank you. And it is a symbol for future good work jointly, all
of us together.

(Applause.)

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Now I think we came to an end. Tomorrow we will have another session from 9 to 10. And we will deepen on ethics and AI in health care.

The WHO representative, Dr. Aradis will be with us. In case of interest, you can join us. You are we welcome. So I think we can close now unless you have a question. We have I guess a place for one, maximum two very quick questions. Yes. Please.

>> Thank you very much. I guess this debate on the ethical information, represent as urgent call for action for a wide range of stakeholders as was already said, including policymakers, legislator regulators and industry. It was highlighted by Mr. Tawfik Jelassi that the dangers deriving from this information and the undesired consequence when a very large portion of population relies on information or disinformation, being spread through social media. And when it comes to digital divide, it the ethical dimension is not properly and urgently addressed, we have here a paradox. The more we bridge the digital divide, the more connected individuals face potential online threats. So I have here three questions so we can reflect upon. First, how much does the information cost to society and to Democratic values? Who pays the price of information? And third, how long we as a society are going to pay the price of this disinformation? And this in my opinion highlight the importance of this unethical dimension. Thank you very much.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: These are four questions in one. It is a challenge and I would like maybe to ask Dr. Tawfik Jelassi if you would like to answer.

>> TAWFIK JELASSI: I first question I don't think anyone has an answer as to how much this information cost. I wish we did. Certainly a huge sum. But it is beyond money. People who commit suicide because of online harassment, what price can we put to that. So the cost is a huge for sure. Who is responsible? All of us. All of us are responsible. It is not only the regulator. It is not only the tech companies who operate the platforms. Not only the authorities. It is us as well. Why? We are users of these platforms. What do we do when we see a piece of news? They like and they share. They become an amplifier of the harmful content. That's why I'm saying all of us are responsible for the current situation. And that's why again we need to have a global dialogue in a truly multi-stakeholders way as you put it. This is not just Member States or tech companies. Civil Society is involved, academia, research institutions. All of us have a stake to create a safer digital space.

>> CATERINA BERBENNI-REHM: Thank you very much. I see other show of hands. Now my question is to the organizers, do

we have time for one additional question? No. No. No. They
are strict. So -- and it is rightly so. Thank you very much
for your lively participation as panelists and for you as
audience. Thank you so much. And we see each other this
afternoon.
    (Applause.)

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