Template – Session Outcome Document
(*2 pages max*)

Summary of Session: WSIS Action Line C3: Access to information: UNESCO Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information 2022

UNESCO

13 March 2023 15:30 – 16:30

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/250

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The new version of the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information is an important tool to assist Member States in not only adopting Access to Information Laws, but to implement Access to Information laws in a comprehensive way.

- In assuring the right to information, it is important to adhere to governance principles of independence and transparency of oversight bodies to assure the implementation of Access to Information Laws.

- In rolling out the guidelines, it is important to assure an inclusive approach so that vulnerable groups can exercise their right in an inclusive citizen centric approach.

- The right to information is an important prerequisite for the private sector and the civil society to operate in an environment of trust and increased efficiency of the public sector.

- In assuring the right to information a robust information management system needs to be in place to retrieve information and respond to information requests.

- The private sector may be interested to contribute towards the roll-out of the guidelines by embarking on digital skills development initiatives that enable citizens to access proactive released information and formulate information requests online.

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 view of the changing digital ecosystem, it was important to update the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information to account for

recent trends related to the development and strengthening of the right of information through legal and policy frameworks and the application of new technologies in the field of Access to Information.

- The data collected by UNESCO on SDG 16.10.2 provide important trends in implementing Access to Information laws and this permit a better alignment of the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information with realities in Member States.

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

- Launch of the Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information to be used in Member States to assist in the implementation of Access to Information Laws.

- Advocacy for skills and resources for the implementation of Access to Information laws.

- Support by the private sector in the policy development realm by providing technical expertise for establishing a policy environment for the right to information.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Piloting the guidelines in Senegal to support the advocacy for an Access to Information Law in the country.

- Involving law libraries to make public information available to the public.

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

- Civil and political rights as the basis of inclusive societies.

- Free flow of data as a critical enabler of digital transformation, innovation, economic growth and social benefits.