Template – Session Outcome Document

(*2 pages max*)

Summary of Session: [Workshop on "What is Web3 and how can it further the SDGs?]

[UNITAR and Berexia]

[Monday 13 March 2023, 11:15am – 12:15pm]

[https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/363]

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Building blocks of Web3 – overview of AI, big data, blockchain

- Applications of AI and Blockchain in addressing the SDGs

- Practical examples: how Web3 is improving financial inclusion, waste management, water purity tracking and financial transparency

- The adoption of a "problem-solving-first" approach to tech innovation

- Practical examples: blockchain role in social impact tracking, reducing deforestation, carbon footprint and preventing illegal fishing.

- Smart cities and their benefits for the SDGs

- How international organizations can ensure ethical and beneficial Web3 development, and Berexia's current role in facilitating the achievement of the SDGs

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)

- Blockchain technology has evolved enormously, as has our understanding of its potential. The world is changing in subtle but important ways; this generation cares deeply about impact. They understand that *any acceptable version of the future will need some sort of infrastructure to protect us from monopolies and corruptible authorities*.

- Current blockchain implementations go beyond business efficiency, entering the social sector and expanding the horizons of both. Although digital solutions, blockchain included, still present application challenges and face scepticism. A deeper understanding of individuals'

needs (as well as their active involvement), wider technological literacy and access, and better integration are still required. *But, blockchain and related solutions can bring added value if developed with a defined vision, such as those outlined by the SDGs and WSIS Action Lines.*

- The best innovation reaches impact by changing apparently unrelated industries: climate change, supply chain, finance, charity, to name a few.

- Blockchain-based tools have the opportunity to transform existing systems, making them more *accessible and inclusive for unprivileged and unbanked individuals and communities*.

- While blockchains have the potential to introduce disruptive forms of innovation that take organisations forward into a new era of connected digitization, they do not replace well-balanced governance nor considered policy intervention. Blockchains will probably not replace banks or governments – but it will encourage them to change.

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

- UNITAR signed a strategic partnership with BEREXIA in order to explore the possibilities of Blockchain based solutions supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

- UNITAR is currently exploring NFTs as a fundraising tool for a Fellowship Program benefiting LDC candidates for the Master Programmes developed jointly with the University for Peace.

- Berexia are exploring initiatives of their own to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Exploring further partnerships and collaborations to further the WSIS Action Lines, in line with the SDGs

- Continuing to foster new technologies to benefit society, the planet and the economy.

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

- To include discussion around the moral and ethical aspects of AI and new technologies, such as blockchain, NFTs, and big data. This could include how these technologies can be harnessed for the good of society, and how concerns and scepticism surrounding their use can be reduced through their secure application.