

**Template – Session Outcome Document**

*(2 pages max)*

**Summary of Session:** WSIS Action Lines C7: e-Learning: Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER)

**UNESCO**

Thursday, 16 March 2023

9:00-10:00 CET

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/190>

**Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- How the 2019 UNESCO OER Recommendation can be used as a theoretical foundation/conceptual framework for public digital ecosystems/platforms and its five action areas
- The necessary conditions to foster the development of national, multinational and global OER platforms that are open and publicly funded at systems level?
- The identification key capacities of stakeholders needed from successful platforms: deeper knowledge of educational potential of OERs; technical expertise in open licensing; policy integration; platform maintenance and content curation; programme planning and oversight
- Examples of existing best practices in the development and use of OER platforms and their development
- Presentation of a UN initiative on public platforms for learning being launched which includes a focus on OER

**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)**

- OER are recognized as powerful solutions for transforming education, since they enable the expansion of access to quality, innovative, free, accessible, educational resources in different languages, for teachers and learners.
- Platforms for learning need to include multistakeholder collaboration and include a focus on inclusiveness and accessibility
- A systems or institutional approach is needed for the development of portals, in a manner which is contextualized and relevant to user needs
- International cooperation in the creation of content, capacity, infrastructure) is of great value, in the context of OER, where knowledge is created and shared openly.
- The UNESCO Recommendation on OER provides a key guidance tool for all stakeholders in the development of inclusive, accessible quality platforms for learning.

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

- Identification of the characteristics of inclusive and accessible OER platforms: high quality and multilingual content, designed for accessibility and a readily available framework for quality and standards alignment’.
- Core features of platforms from best practices: user-friendly navigation, a safe creation and updating process, accessibility, use of subject matter experts, an established ethical code of conduct and clear permission to use as well as good stewardship for OER platform. This includes content and tools designed for interoperability, widely shared, refined, translated metadata, secure and noncommercial data for learners, Adherence to ISO Standards and GDPR compliance and collaboration to enable adaptation and relevance to different contexts and relevance. Resources are allocated and policies adopted that support an institutional or system approach
- Outcomes of a study on the state-of – art of national platforms for education undertaken by UNICEF
- 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
- Need for 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