WSIS+20 Review
Action Lines
Milestones, Challenges and Emerging Trends beyond 2025

Action Line C7 - eLearning

The Evolution of Context - Action Line C7 eLearning

TECHNOLOGY and LEARNING

Integration of Technology

- Mobile Learning, leveraging smartphones and tablets.
- Cloud Computing facilitating easy access to learning resources.
- Virtual and Augmented Reality for immersive learning experiences.
- Big Data and Learning Analytics to personalize and enhance the learning experience.

Content Creation and Access

- Increased creation and use of Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Rise of User-Generated Content, allowing learners to contribute to the learning ecosystem.
- Development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) providing accessible education globally.

Social and Collaborative Learning

- Growth of Social Networking platforms to foster peer-to-peer learning and collaboration.
- Development of Social Learning Platforms enabling social polling, rating, and sharing content.
- Utilization of Games and Gamification to enhance engagement and motivation.

Innovative Learning Approaches

- Emergence of Flipped Classroom models, - traditional homework and in-class activities are inverted.
- Adoption of Microlearning and Microcredentials for focused, bite-sized learning and certification.
- Implementation of Intelligent Assistants and Chatbots to provide immediate support and guidance.

HUMANS and LEARNING

Global Digital Learning Evolution

- **Enhanced Global Connectivity : Connecting educational institutions worldwide to the internet, increasing access to digital learning resources.**
- **COVID-19 pandemic revolutionizing and 'mainstreaming' digital learning.**

Embracing Lifelong Learning

- **Establishing the principle that learning is lifelong and knowledge should be open and collectively built, utilizing technology to construct inclusive knowledge societies that foster continuous education.**

Transforming Education Summit UN SG 'Our Common Agenda'

- **UN movement to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- **Commitment 1 'Leave no one behind – Digital Inclusivity**
- **Commitment 7 'Global Digital Compact' – Digital Commons as a global public good**

Key Milestones: 20 years of Achievements

2002

Term 'Open educational Resources' (OER) coined at UNESCO's 2002 Forum on the Impact of Open Courseware for Higher Education in Developing Countries

2011

UNESCO ICT CFT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT CFT V2) published, providing an international revised framework to support teachers' use of technology in their professional practice

2012

Paris OER Declaration First UNESCO World OER Congress (UNESCO HQ, Paris) which advanced **the** principle and practice of open access to publicly funded resources

2015 - 2017

Qingdao Declaration on ICT in Education on how technology can be used to achieve educational targets for SDGs adopted

UNESCO ICT CFT Version 3 published, addressing emerging challenges including AI, OER

Ljubljana OER Action Plan adopted at the 2nd UNESCO World OER Congress (Ljubljana, Slovenia September 2017). This Action Plan charted the basis of the UNESCO 2019 Recommendation on OER

2019 - 2021

UNESCO 2019 Recommendation on OER adopted by 193 UNESCO Member States at UNESCO's 42nd General Conference. First UN Normative instrument in the area of technologies and education

Beijing Consensus on AI and Education 2019 on guiding principles to leverage AI for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Rewired Global Declaration on Connectivity for Education 2021 on connected technology for education, drawing from lessons learned after COVID

2022 - 2023

Transforming Education Summit 2022

Action Track 4 outlining Digital Transformation of Education Systems, narrowing the digital divide, platforms for learning and open digital content

Guidance for generative AI in education and research 2023 guidance on GenAI in education to support countries for short and long- term actions and policies and develop human capacity to ensure a human-centred vision

2024

UN Summit of the Future (Sept 2024) Commitment 1 'Leave no one behind – digital inclusivity and reinforcement of education; Commitment 7 – Global Digital Compact – towards a digital commons as a global public good

3rd UNESCO World OER Congress 'Digital Public Goods: Open Solutions for Inclusive Access to Knowledge' (November 2024)

Challenges in implementing the Action Line

Challenge 1: Leave No One Behind: Ensure global connectivity and create inclusive digital learning spaces for all, irrespective of background or ability.

Challenge 2: Quality of Content and Lack of Multilingualism on the Internet: Addressing the need for high-quality, diverse, and multilingual digital educational content to ensure equitable access and usability for all learners.

Challenge 3: Teacher Training: Overcoming the challenge of providing continuous and effective professional development for educators to integrate ICT into their teaching practices.

Challenge 4: **Improve Digital Cooperation**: Bridging the digital divide by addressing disparities in technology access, content quality, teacher training, cybersecurity, and securing sustainable funding for e-learning initiatives.

Trends and Opportunities Beyond 2025

TRENDS

Trend: Global Connectivity and Inclusive Digital Learning Spaces

- Creating enabling environments that embed and sustain digital inclusion is essential. This involves ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or abilities, has access to digital learning opportunities.

Trend: Digital Public Goods

- UNESCO's Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OERs) urges governments, educational authorities, and institutions to support open licensing and adopt open formats. This facilitates the reuse and repurposing of educational resources, ensuring equitable access, co-creation, curation, and searchability for all, including persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. This requires the use of platforms with metadata interoperability, open-source authoring tools, libraries, digital repositories, search engines, and advanced technologies such as AI tools for OER processing and language translation.

Trend: Digital Capacity Building and Global Digital Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing

- Based on concepts like interdependence, interconnectedness, multilateralism, and multi-stakeholderism, the focus is on enhancing digital capacity. The implementation of the ICT Competency Framework for Teachers, along with the use of OERs, facilitates the contextualization of training materials globally, making them accessible to teachers, including those with disabilities. Initiatives such as the UNESCO /UNICEF Gateways project provide avenues for supporting the use of public platforms to share educational content.

Trends and Opportunities Beyond 2025

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity: AI and Machine Learning Integration

• By leveraging AI algorithms, educational platforms can dynamically adapt content delivery based on individual learning needs and preferences, aligning with the goal of creating an inclusive and personalized digital learning environment accessible to all learners worldwide. X5GON is a Cross Modal, Cross Cultural, Cross Lingual, Cross Domain, and Cross Site Global OER Network powered by Artificial Intelligence.

Opportunity: Governmental and Institutional Support:

• In line with the principles outlined in the Global Digital Compact, governments and institutions worldwide commit to providing increased support and funding for the development and adoption of OER. Guyana is one of such countries, committing to digitizing the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to support policy.

Opportunity: User-Generated Content Empowerment:

• By engaging in the co-creation process, educators not only tailor resources to meet the diverse needs of learners but also contribute to a collective repository of knowledge that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. Wikipedia is a prime example of user-generated content empowerment.