

Session Outcome Document

Trust in Tech: Navigating Emerging Technologies and Human Rights in a Connected World

International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Date and Time: Tuesday, 28 May 2024, 15:30–16:30 (UTC+02:00)

Session Page Link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/246>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The integration of human rights considerations into technical standards.
- The importance of technical standards in ensuring interoperability, safety, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of digital technologies.
- The necessity of multi-stakeholder collaboration in developing inclusive technical standards.
- The human rights challenges posed by emerging technologies such as AI
- The role of regulator in embedding human rights into national policies

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)

- Trend: Growing emphasis on embedding human rights into technical standards development.
- Challenge: Ensuring inclusivity and equitable participation in standards development, particularly for stakeholders from developing countries.
- Achievement: Increased collaboration between standard development organizations, OHCHR and civil society to integrate human rights considerations.
- Opportunity: Strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration to bridge the gap between technical and human rights communities, and policy makers

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

- Launch of initiatives to integrate human rights into technical standards.
- Need to translate human rights into technical terms to integrate human rights into technical standards
- Need to build the capacity of technical communities concerning human rights
- Recognition of the need for increased involvement of civil society organizations in the standardization process.

Actionable plan and key recommendations (2-5 points)

- Underline the necessity for collaboration between standard development organizations, civil society organizations, and OHCHR to ensure human rights are embedded in technical standards.
- Promote awareness and understanding of the human rights implications of technical standards among all stakeholders.



- Encourage broader participation from diverse and interdisciplinary experts in the standardization process.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2025 (one paragraph)

The WSIS Forum 2025 should include thematic discussions on the intersection of emerging technologies and human rights, with a focus on practical approaches to embedding human rights into technical standards. Special emphasis should be placed on the necessity for collaboration between standard development organizations, national regulators, civil society organizations, and OHCHR.

Additionally, sessions should highlight the role of organizations like ISO, APC, ITU and national regulators in promoting human rights in digital policies, showcasing success stories and best practices from different regions and sectors.