Session Outcome Document
(*2 pages max*)

The Future of Digital Public Infrastructure for Environmental Sustainability

United Nations Environment Programme

May 29, 2024 17:00 to 17:45

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/456

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Relevance of DPI for Environmental Sustainability with a growing emphasis on data transparency, interoperability, and governance to support environmental decision-making.
- Promoting data-driven decision-making and policy formulation through effectively utilizing DPI for environmental monitoring, analysis, and reporting.
- Enhancing governance frameworks for DPI implementation, focusing on data privacy, security, and ethical considerations.
- Discussion on various technology innovations like open data discovery, privacy-enhancing data sharing, and transparent design as crucial for DPI implementation.
- Regulatory complexities surrounding DPI implementation, including data privacy concerns, standards harmonization, and cybersecurity risks.
- Importance of involving the private sector in DPI initiatives for addressing environmental challenges and fostering collaboration between governments and private entities.

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)

- Digital Public Infrastructure has gained momentum since 2022 as an emerging area of interest to countries.
- ICTs are the backbone of Digital Public Infrastructure and this agenda will shape societies in fundamental ways. WSIS action line 1 will gain particular importance as countries and regions adopt digital transformation agendas with digital public infrastructure as an element.
- For Digital Public Infrastructure to be scaled up, information and communication needs to be widely available. The digital divide must be closed to achieve development and environmental goals in the next few years, following WIS action line 2.
- The adoption of the Global Environmental Data Strategy in 2025 will be a key contributor to WSIS action line 3 as it will have an impact on the accessibility of information and knowledge worldwide.
- The implementation of WSIS action line 6 is key for Digital Public Infrastructure as countries will need to transform and nurture enabling environments ideal for innovation.

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

- The United Nations Environment Programme announced the launched of the report 'Digital Public Infrastructure for Environmental Sustainability', accompanied by the leading institutions on DPI for the occasion.

- UNEP is in the process of developing a global environmental data strategy aimed at harmonizing environmental data standards and improving data governance, quality, and accessibility.
- There are concrete opportunities on Digital Public Infrastructure for Environmental Sustainability, such as aiming to go from design to prototype with the Golf Stack initiative as tangible platform for DPI implementation.

Actionable plan and key recommendations (2-5 points)

- Commitments to enhancing policy frameworks and regulatory environments to support DPI implementation, including considerations for data privacy, security, and ethical use of technology in environmental governance.

- Collaboration between public and private sectors, academia, and international organizations for DPI initiatives, fostering inclusive decision-making and knowledge exchange.

- Establish a comprehensive framework for digital public infrastructure (DPI) for environmental sustainability, encompassing data governance, interoperability standards, and privacy protections.

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

- Organize a session on the success stories of Digital Public Infrastructure for data exchange systems.