

Session Outcome Document

Space for Sustainable Development: the case of connectivity

Organizer: International Telecommunication Union

27 May 2024, 17h-18h

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/491>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- How to address lack of technical expertise in satellite technology
- Ways to address connectivity gaps, notably in remote areas (rural-urban divide)
- Ways to achieve universal connectivity at affordable prices (including by assessing the costs of not being connected)
- Convergence between terrestrial and satellite networks
- Radio spectrum management as an enabler of more connectivity options
- Space sustainability and management of outer space as global commons
- Technological autonomy
- Policy and legal aspects of transitioning between various telecom legal frameworks

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)

- Achievements: several satellite systems are now used to provide connectivity to underserved or unserved communities but also to geographical areas otherwise not connectable
- Emerging trend: increasing integration, beyond geographical complementarity, between terrestrial and satellite connectivity systems
- Challenges: lack of technical expertise, financial constraints, how to achieve optimal policy frameworks
- Opportunities: use the WSIS framework to share information and discuss about policy and regulatory frameworks



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

Success stories:

- [Connect Angola](#) to provide connectivity to remote areas in Angola
- [Unico Demanda Rural](#) to guarantee a broadband service offer with a download speed of 100 Mbps for all households and at an affordable price (35 € per month) in remote areas of Spain where operators have not deployed their networks
- [EDUSAT](#) to use satellite connectivity for distant class room education from school level to higher education in India

Actionable plan and key recommendations (2-5 points)

- Increase offer in capacity building related to satellite technologies
- Work on metrics for affordable connectivity for all (consumer price is important but opportunity costs for governments should also be taken into account)
- Focus on challenges to legal and regulatory frameworks brought by new satellite technologies
- Include sustainability in the consideration and development of ICTs
- Maintain, encourage and foster multi-stakeholder cooperation in the field of ICTs

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

- Instead of a session focusing on satellite connectivity, include satellite technologies in several thematic sessions about services/applications requiring connectivity to show how they can also deliver such services
- Satellite remote sensing and Earth observation for sustainable development
- Space sustainability