

Session Outcome Document

Pioneering Responsible Global Governance for Quantum Technologies

EUI, Sciences Po, and UNESCO

31 May, 09:00 to 09:45 am

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/164>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Key Issues Discussed in the Session:
- Challenges and Opportunities of Quantum Technologies (QT): Examination of the disruptive potential of QT and the need to address both their benefits and associated risks.
- Responsible Global Governance: The importance of establishing robust frameworks for international cooperation to manage the sociotechnical challenges posed by QT.
- Socioeconomic Impacts: Addressing concerns about structural inequality and the uneven impact of QT on different regions and communities, ensuring equitable distribution of technological benefits.
- Safety and Security: Discussion on the critical need to prioritize safety, cybersecurity, and ethical considerations in the development and deployment of QT.
- Inclusive Frameworks for Cooperation: Emphasizing the creation of inclusive policies that facilitate meaningful international collaboration and equitable access to quantum technologies.
- Digital Public Goods: Exploring the role of QT in supporting access to digital public goods and services, and the implications for global digital inclusion.
- Stakeholder Engagement: The necessity of involving a diverse range of stakeholders, including governments, private sector, academia, and civil society, in the governance process of QT.
- Policy Recommendations: Presentation and discussion of the draft policy brief on "Advancing Information for All through Responsible Global Governance of Quantum Technologies," focusing on actionable recommendations to guide future governance efforts.

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)

1. Emerging Trends

Rapid advancements in digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and quantum computing, are transforming industries and societies. The expansion of broadband networks and mobile internet access, particularly in developing regions, is significantly increasing global connectivity.

2. Challenges

Persistent disparities in access to digital technologies and internet connectivity between urban and rural areas, and between developed and developing countries. There are also growing concerns over cybersecurity risks, including cyberattacks, data breaches, and digital privacy issues, pose significant



threats to information security. Navigating the complex regulatory landscapes and ensuring coherent policies across different jurisdictions remains a significant challenge.

3. Achievements

The WSIS process has fostered greater international collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships, leading to more coordinated efforts in addressing global ICT challenges. Significant strides in capacity-building initiatives have empowered many communities and individuals with digital literacy and skills.

4. Opportunities

Opportunities to further bridge the digital divide through targeted initiatives that promote digital literacy, affordable access, and inclusive technologies, including through aligning ICT initiatives with the SDGs to harness technology for sustainable development, poverty reduction, and environmental protection.

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

- Pre-Launch of the Draft Policy Brief: Presentation and discussion of the draft policy brief on "Advancing Information for All through Responsible Global Governance of Quantum Technologies," providing a comprehensive framework for future governance efforts.
- Success Stories Highlighted: Sharing success stories and best practices from current quantum technology projects and collaborations, demonstrating the potential benefits and real-world applications of responsible quantum technology governance.

Actionable plan and key recommendations (2-5 points)

- Initiatives for Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement: Create platforms and initiatives to involve diverse stakeholders, including underrepresented communities, in the decision-making processes related to global quantum technology governance.
- Enhance Capacity Building and Education: Invest in educational programs, awareness raising, and capacity-building initiatives to ensure various stakeholders have a broad understanding of quantum technologies and their implications, enabling informed participation in governance efforts.
- Foster Meaningful International Cooperation: Strengthen international collaborations and partnerships to address the global nature of quantum technology challenges, ensuring equitable access and shared benefits.

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

The WSIS Forum 2025 could include a dedicated track on "Quantum Technologies and Future Digital Governance," focusing on the intersection of emerging technologies and global governance. This theme could explore the ethical, legal, and socio-economic implications of quantum advancements, promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration. Key aspects might include cybersecurity in the quantum era, equitable access to quantum benefits, international regulatory frameworks, and the role of quantum technologies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such discussions would ensure that the global community is prepared to navigate the transformative potential of quantum technologies responsibly and inclusively.