

The future of Digital Public Infrastructure for Environmental Sustainability WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event

29 May 2024

17:00-17:45 (CET)

International Conference Center Geneva

Background

To tackle the interconnected triple environmental planetary crises, it is critical to have accessible, timely, credible, and insightful information that can support environmental sustainability decision-making. Developing interconnected data exchange systems for environmental data has become a necessity, but sole reliance on private solutions will likely fail to comprehensively address the challenges and may result in further data fragmentation. A blend of private and public solutions as building blocks for Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is essential. The integration would enhance the flow of information with improved data quality and inter-operability, which empowers stakeholders by facilitating informed decision-making and promotes greater inclusiveness.

Currently, there is a notable gap in DPI that impedes the efficient exchange of environmental sustainability information to various stakeholders. This session will focus on potential solutions to bridge that gap at the technical, policy and financial levels.

Objective

This session aims to spark meaningful dialogue and collaboration amongst experts, policymakers, and international organizations. It will focus on integrating diverse perspectives and expertise on the potential of DPI for national agendas and explore its future role in supporting environmental sustainability decisions. The session will include:

- Showcasing UNEP's proposal for data exchange systems as DPI, focusing on six technology innovations;
- Identifying priority areas to advance DPI for environmental sustainability at the national and global level; and
- Aligning efforts to enhance the effectiveness of DPI for environmental sustainability.

Event Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Description
17:00-17:02	Opening of the session	<p>Welcome participants and speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowan Palmer, Lead of the Infrastructure Investment team, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP
17:02-17:07	Keynote presentation on DPI	<p>Key concept and elements of Digital Public Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer, UNDP
17:07-17:15	Setting the stage: DPI for environmental sustainability	<p>A concise overview of the UNEP's key findings and insights from the 'DPI for environmental sustainability' report, delving into its methodology and conclusions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ana F. Vergara, Consultant, UNEP Kurt Stockinger, Computer scientist, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
17:15-17:40	Roundtable discussion: the future of DPI in supporting environmental sustainability decisions	<p>Panel discussion with experts, policymakers, and representatives of international organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golestan (Sally) Radwan, Chief Digital Officer, UNEP Yolanda Martínez, Lead of the GovStack Initiative, ITU Prof. Dr. Menna El-Assady, Associate Professor, ETH Zurich Ms. Noémie Bürkl, Head of Unit Digital Technologies, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
17:40-17:45	Q&A and Closing Remarks	<p>Open floor for audience questions followed by closing statements.</p>