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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

## **Regional Workshop on “Resilient ICT Connectivity for the Knowledge Economy, SDGs and the WSIS goals”**

### **Session III: “Knowledge-based Economy, WSIS and SDGs”**

**Almaty, 21 September 2016**



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## **Knowledge-based development & innovation are drivers across all SDGs**

- For example, all SDGs require access to appropriate information/knowledge (action line C3)
- UNECE Programme of Work particularly oriented towards achievement of certain goals.
- E.g. Link between UNECE work on innovation and PPPs and SDG9.
- SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
  - 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder
  - 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
  - 9.3 Increase access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services, and integration into GVCs
  - 9.4 Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes
  - 9.5 Enhanced scientific research



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## Innovation for development

- Framework of UNECE Innovation Performance Reviews has been modified to reflect the “innovation for development” approach embedded in the SDGs
- This is the case for SDG 9.1-9.5, and also for SDGs 9.a-9.c
  - 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries
  - 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries
  - 9.c Significantly increase access to ICT; strive to provide universal/affordable Internet access



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## **No SDG where KBD is not relevant**

- SDG1 End poverty
- SDG2 End hunger, food security, sustainable agriculture
- SDG3 Healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages
- SDG4: Quality education and lifelong learning opportunities
- SDG5: Gender equality
- SDG6: Sustainable management of water and sanitation
- SDG7: Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- SDG8: Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, decent work
- SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, inclusive/sustainable industrialization, innovation



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## **No SDG where KBD is not relevant**

- SDG10: Reduce inequality within/among countries
- SDG11: Make cities/human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable
- SDG12: Sustainable consumption and production
- SDG13: Combat climate change
- SDG14: Conserve/ sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
- SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development
- SDG17: Strengthen/revitalize Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



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## **WSIS and the regional commissions**

- Renewed commitment towards WSIS Process after WSIS Review by UN General Assembly (2015).
- UNRCs - important role for regional WSIS follow-up activities. As key regional arm of UN Secretariat, UNRCs well placed to assist member countries in harnessing ICTs for SDGs, strengthening socioeconomic development ecosystem.
- Activities of SPECA WG on KBD highly relevant to promoting both Information Society objectives and SDGs in Central Asia.
- UNGA WSIS overall review invites UNRCs to continue implementation of WSIS Action Lines.



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## How to proceed?

- Annual UNRC meetings at the WSIS Forum to report on regional WSIS related activities and present work plans. Annual meetings have served as a unique platform for exchange of experiences amongst UNRCs and other stakeholders.
- ITU facilitates meeting organization, acts as Secretariat.
- In light of UNGA overall review, role of UNRCs in WSIS implementation and alignment with SDGs is highly relevant.
- Various challenges – e.g. need to produce regional work plans on the effective implementation and review of the WSIS Action Lines at the Regional Level including action plans aimed at covering challenges and trends for 2016-2025, Possible focus for the annual Regional Commission meeting at the 2017 WSIS forum.





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## Link between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs

- Recent SDG consultation (during World Government Summit in Dubai 2016), ICT deemed most important vehicle for SDG implementation, esp. Goal 17 (Global Partnerships for SD). Also discussion on role of digital economy, smart societies, innovations and finance in accelerating achievement of remaining 16 Goals.

But...

- In many regions, linkages between SDG and WSIS communities still weak. Even within WSIS community, linkages between ICT Sector and administrative development sector (e-Gov) remain weak, let alone other sectors. For effective implementation of SDGs, needs to be full ownership of the WSIS-SDG process by aforementioned sectors.





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## **Moving towards integration of goals and action lines**

- SDG-WSIS matrix linking the 11 action lines with the 17 SDGs has been produced. Matrix reinforces relevance and importance of ICT in the 2030 Agenda. Financing is a key challenge, as is buy in from both private sector and policymakers.
- Measurement of progress is important, with a key role from national statistical offices, the ECOSOC Statistical Commission (SC) at the global level and statistical divisions of UNRCs.



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## **Actions under consideration**

- Provide regional platforms to share best practices
- Ensure enabling ICT dimension, which cuts across all SDGs, is reflected in UNDAFs.
- Effective coordination between UNRCs and other UN agencies, e.g. by active participation in UN Group on Information Society at WSIS Annual Forum.
- Ensure effective collection of information on ICT-related projects, and awareness-raising on implementation progress, including through mechanisms such as SPECA WG on KBD.



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# Thank you!

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