United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Aide memoire

2019 Annual Africa Regional Review of WSIS Implementation

Theme: "Information and Communication Technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals"

Date: 3 to 6 December 2019

Venue: Yaoundé, Cameroon

Aide-memoire

2019 Annual Africa Regional Review of WSIS Implementation

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1. Introduction

The UN General Assembly, in its Overall Review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (UNGA Resolution 70/125), reaffirmed the continued implementation of the WSIS outcomes for the next ten years and called for a "close alignment between the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting ICT's cross-cutting contribution to the SDGs." The resolution also invited UN Regional Commissions to continue their work in WSIS action line implementation, their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews." In this context, the ninth Joint AUC-ECA Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of the Economy and Planning held in March 2016, adopted a resolution (941(XLIX)) requesting ECA in collaboration with other partners to take all the necessary steps to organize an annual basis an African regional review of progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU's Agenda 2063.

ECA, pursuant to relevant mandates, proposes to organize the 2019 Africa Regional Review of Progress in the Implementation of the WSIS Action Lines on the theme **"Information and Communication Technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".** Consistent with paragraph 15 of Agenda 2030 which notes that "The spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy". Furthermore, the 2019 WSIS Regional Review Meeting will provide an opportunity to serve as a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analyses of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005. The WSIS Regional Review Meeting 2019 will therefore facilitate the discussion of best ways of harnessing ICTs to support implementation of the SDG . Of particular importance, will be an open debate on, and discovery of, realistic mechanisms capable of helping African countries to implement the 2030 Agenda SDG and AU Agenda 2063.

ECA has been carrying out Africa Regional Reviews of WSIS action lines implementation as part of its mandate since 2005. It has produced several reports that document Africa's steady progress in the implementation of the Action Lines. Emphasising the importance of data and statistics to support ICT for development, ECA as member of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development is also mandated to continue its valuable contribution to data gathering and dissemination including through annual follow up and review of the WSIS implementation in Africa.

2. Objective

The main objective of the 2019 regional WSIS follow up and review is to assess progress in Africa in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines in furtherance of efforts to achieve the targets of Agenda 2030-Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The WSIS-SDG Matrix, developed by UN WSIS Action Line Facilitator and presented at the WSIS Forum 2015, will serve as the mechanism to map, analyze and coordinate the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, and more specifically, ICTs as enablers and accelerators of the SDGs. ECA has also adopted this WSIS-SDG matrix and expanded the matrix aligning the WSIS in turn to the African Union Agenda 2063 targets.

Specifically, the annual WSIS follow-up will address the following:

- The degree to which member States are aligning their implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to the 2030 Agenda and the AU's Agenda 2063;
- Surface emerging issues and challenges in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines in Africa;
- Review, based on a set of ICTs indicators, progress made by African countries in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes,

3. Outcomes

The outcomes of the Regional WSIS follow up and review meeting will be as follows

- A meeting report summarized the proceedings and containing recommendations for policy makers and identifying additional (further) areas of work for ECA and her partners;
- A shared understanding and experience, among participants, of progress in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines in Africa, the challenges and prospects.

4. Documents

The main documents of this regional consultation meeting will be a draft report on the Implementation of WSIS Action Lines in Africa, the Aide-memoire and brief national presentations. All documents will be posted on the ECA website as they become available.

5. Date, Venue and Participants

The meeting will take place from 3 to 6 December 2019, at the, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The meeting will be attended by policies makers, ICT experts, RECs and IGOs, representatives of regional and international organizations, Telecommunications operators, private sector, civil society, academic and research institutions, and others.

6. Outputs

The main output of the Review will be a report of the proceedings containing policy recommendations on scaling up WSIS Action Lines implementation in Africa. Another output will be a finalized WSIS progress report. Policy briefs will be written later based on the outcome of the review.

7. Working language

English and French are the working languages of this meeting. There will be simultaneous interpretation into the other.

8. Contacts:

For further information, including registration information, please contact:

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