COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

Eighteenth Session
Geneva, 9 to 13 May 2016

Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2015 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 18th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

WSIS report 2015 from UNIDO

Executive summary

This year's report from UNIDO focuses on a new ICT application initiative, the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and energy Efficiency (ECOWREX). The initiative was developed in response to a need to increase the flow of accurate information on existing and planned resources. Reliable and updated energy information is vital for strategic planning and development and is a pre-requisite to an enabling environment for investors and project developers in the energy sector.

Action lines

C7: ICT applications

ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and energy Efficiency (ECOWREX)

http://www.ecowrex.org/

The ECOWAS region has been facing similar challenges in the collection and distribution of usable data. The existing country data is in most cases not easily accessible and not updated. Different systems, resource maps, exist with various models and data sources. For investors and companies, it is difficult to identify cooperation partners due to the absence of specialised platforms for exchange of information and experiences. Information on good practices or successful (or unsuccessful) projects is not readily available for decision makers and experts. Given this situation, significant opportunities are lost for sustainable energy development in the region.

As a response, the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and energy Efficiency (ECOWREX) therefore aims at improving existing knowledge as well as mitigating information barriers towards the development of the energy sector in the ECOWAS region. More specifically, the main objectives of ECOWREX are to:

- support in decision making by providing targeted and timely statistical information on energy resources, including renewable energy resources, policies, projects, power plants and other relevant information pertaining to the ECOWAS Region,.

- build up a network of energy experts and cooperation among key local and international players to share knowledge and experience on best practices and technical know-how from around the world

- support decision makers, project developers, investors and other stakeholders with tailored information and planning strategies to boost knowledge management, networking, advocacy and strengthening of capacities on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

ECOWREX is a web-based platform that presents data through three main forms:

1) Through the "map viewer", which provides over 40 different layers related to energy resources and other infrastructure relevant for planning, in the energy sector. Users can query and search by well-structured attributes, overlay and analyse these resources together. Also, it is possible to view information on the interaction among key energy stakeholders and locations of power plants and other energy related projects. In addition, a metadata catalog is available, which links each layer on the map viewer to its corresponding metadata record. It stores data documentation and make it searchable. Through the metadata catalog other projects and initiatives will be able to directly harvest the ECOWREX metadata and push them into a global visibility.

2) A second feature is the "country profile" which displays country level data on various aspects of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

3) Through the "analysis and trends" section, users are provided with a tool to observe, analyse and predict the pattern of development of all available energy indicators on the

observatory. Here users can analyse and compile customised reports in different formats based on the particular indicator selected in varying formats, compare data of the 15 ECOWAS countries with indicators on the observatory, and follow changes and trend as the energy sector continues to emerge.

ECOREX is maintained by the ECREEE Secretariat and National Focal Institutions (NFIs), and is a component of the UNIDO-GEF Project "Promoting Coordination, Coherence and Knowledge Management under Energy Component of the Strategic Program for West Africa (SPWA)" , with additional support from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).