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ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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Contribution by ITU

to the CSTD 2023-2024 priority theme on “Data for Development”

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PRIORITY THEME 1: Data for Development

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

To whom it may concern

The [26th CSTD annual session](#) selected “Data for Development”, as one of the priority themes for its 27th session (2023-24 period).

Data, including for scientific and research purposes, are becoming a key strategic resource for sustainable development. If well managed, data can help overcome major global development challenges, such as poverty, food security, climate change, disaster risk management, and pandemics. If badly handled, they can generate unequal development outcomes. General Assembly’s resolution 77/150 of 14 December 2022 noted that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development could explore the connection between data and sustainable development, including data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data. The development implications of data, including data quality, data capabilities, and responsible data handling should also feature prominently in discussions about the Global Digital Compact and in the Summit of the Future, adding to the relevance of the CSTD’s perspectives on this issue as the UN focal point for STI for development.

Under this theme, the Commission will consider issues such as major contributions and risks of data in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; how to ensure that developing countries benefit from the data revolution while considering risks; national and international policies and support measures that can help address the challenges of the developing countries in the area of data relevant for sustainable development, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data.

The CSTD secretariat is in the process of drafting an issues paper on the theme to be presented at the CSTD inter-sessional panel meeting to be held in the second half of October 2023 in Portugal. In this context, we would like to solicit inputs from international organizations, UN entities and agencies, and regional commissions on this theme. We would be grateful if you could kindly answer the following questions based on your organization’s work at the global, regional, and/or national levels:

CSTD 2023-2024 PRIORITY THEME 1: Data for Development

What are the major contributions and risks of data in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The 2023 edition of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-23) emphasised the need for quality and timely data to measure universal and meaningful connectivity. The Symposium, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) brought together around 300 participants, including international experts, policymakers, and data practitioners to shape and advance the information and communication technologies (ICTs) statistical agenda. Under the theme, Advancing the measurement agenda to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity, participants discussed emerging trends, challenges, and collaborative solutions to improve the measurement of meaningful digital connectivity – the possibility to enjoy a safe, satisfying, enriching, and productive online experience at an affordable cost – globally. “Achieving universal and meaningful connectivity is key for enabling digital transformation and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. The discussions and outcomes from WTIS will help to galvanize these global efforts,” said Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of ITU’s Telecommunication Development Bureau. “By fostering collaboration among stakeholders and promoting the need for quality timely data for

better decision-making in policies and strategies, the Symposium set the stage for a more inclusive and sustainable digital future.”

- **Data gap:** In many countries, reliable ICT statistics remain rare, as collecting such data is often complex, costly, and time-consuming.
Closing the gap: ITU provides technical assistance to countries and works with experts, regulators, and operators around the world to harness the power of big data and develop new statistics that are more accurate, granular, faster and cheaper to produce through its [data science practice](#).
- **Capacity gap:** Data gaps also exist due to limited statistical capacity. And when data are available, they are often poorly understood and used due to limited data literacy.
Closing the gap: Through on-the-ground and online activities, ITU helps administrations around the world to develop their statistical capacity and data literacy.
- **Knowledge gap:** Innovation and the rapid diffusion of technologies are causing profound and widespread societal and economic disruptions that are often poorly understood, preventing decision-makers from anticipating, planning for and acting on these disruptions.
Closing the gap: ITU conducts world-class research and disseminates its data through various channels. It organises high-level events, workshops and webinars to raise awareness and engage with various stakeholders.
- ITU collects and curates various sets of data. ITU maintains databases on radiofrequency allocations, national and international telephone numbers and some sets of big data.
- For example, cities worldwide are evaluating their progress towards smart city objectives and the SDGs using [U4SSC Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities](#) based on ITU standards developed by Study Group 20. The results of the KPI evaluations are shared by [city snapshots, factsheets and verification reports](#). The [United for Smart Sustainable Cities \(U4SSC\)](#). The ITU is a key part of the U4SSC, a global UN initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat, and supported by CBD, ECLAC, FAO, UNDESA, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNEP, UNEP-FI, UNFCCC, UNIDO, UNOP, UNU-EGOV, UN-Women, UNWTO and WMO. U4SSC provides an international platform for information exchange and partnership building to guide cities and communities in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and accelerating their digital transformation. The initiative supports the achievement of SDG11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.
- ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) collects two sets of data: 1) Telecommunication/ICT data from national telecommunication/ICT ministries and regulatory authorities, including supply-side data on fixed-telephone networks, mobile-cellular services, Internet/broadband, traffic, revenues and investment, and prices. 2) Household ICT data collected from national statistical offices, including demand-side data on household access to ICTs and individual use of ICTs.
- Data are released twice a year via the [World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database](#) and its [website](#), and various [publications](#), including the flagship series [Facts and figures](#) and [ICT price trends](#). The [Digital Development Dashboard](#) provides an overview of digital development.
- ITU is responsible for the international statistical standards for ICT indicators, through the [Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators](#) (EGTI) and [Expert Group on Household Indicators](#) (EGHI). ITU regularly publishes the standards, the definitions, the collection methods for over 200 indicators in two practical guides, freely available in six

languages, that represent the ultimate reference for statisticians and economists seeking to measure digital development: The [Manual for Measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals](#) and the [Handbook for the collection of administrative data on telecommunications/ICT](#). These publications are complemented by capacity development activities on the ground. To reach a broader audience, ITU develops online training courses on ICT statistics. [Measuring digital development: Telecommunication/ICT Indicators](#) is available for free on the ITU Academy platform.

- ITU actively contributes to advancing the statistics agenda within the UN system: ITU co-chairs the Roundtable on Global Connectivity of the UN Secretary General's [Digital Cooperation Roadmap](#); chairs the [Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science](#)'s task-team on mobile phone data; is a member of UNSD's [Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities](#); and is co-founder and member of the [Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development](#)'s Steering Committee.
- ITU is the custodian of several [Sustainable Development Goals](#) indicators (4.4.1, 5.b.1, 9.c.1, 17.6.1 and 17.8.1) and responsible for monitoring them.
- ITU tracks the Connect 2030 Agenda to monitor progress towards a set of key indicators agreed by ITU membership, as well as the [WSIS](#) and [Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development](#) targets.
- The "[World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium](#)" (WTIS) is the main global forum for discussing the latest trends and advancing the ICT measurement agenda.
- ITU also publishes the [Global Connectivity Report](#), which assesses the current state of connectivity and how close the world is to achieving universal and meaningful connectivity, using a unique analytical framework. It showcases solutions and good practices to accelerate progress. The report also contains deep dives on infrastructure, affordability, financing, the pandemic, regulation, youth, and data.
- ITU maintains a data platform featuring some 200 statistical indicators on digital connectivity, trust, markets, governance, sustainability, and affordability. The [ITU DataHub](#) offers an intuitive, mobile-friendly interface complete with country and regional profiles and data tables, allowing users to quickly find, view, compare, and download statistics on all aspects of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

ITU's technical assistance in establishing CIRT/CERT teams contributes significantly to strengthening cybersecurity and ensuring the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, it is essential to be aware of potential data risks and take proactive measures to safeguard critical data and infrastructure against cyber threats. Collaborative efforts, international cooperation, and ongoing capacity building are crucial in addressing these challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The major contributions and data risks in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in the context of ITU's assistance to Member States in establishing CIRT/CERT (Computer Incident Response Teams/Computer Emergency Response Teams), can be further elaborated as follows:

Enhanced Security and Resilience: By establishing CIRT/CERT teams, Member States can significantly enhance the security and resilience of their national infrastructure and related data. These teams play a crucial role in identifying and responding to cyber threats and incidents, thereby reducing vulnerabilities and ensuring the continuity of critical services.

Effective Incident Response: CIRT/CERT teams act as a centralized point for handling and coordinating responses to cyber incidents. This coordinated approach allows for faster detection, analysis, and mitigation of threats, reducing the impact and potential damage caused by cyber-attacks.

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building: ITU's technical assistance facilitates knowledge sharing and capacity building among Member States. Training and workshops provided by ITU help CIRT/CERT teams to develop the necessary skills and expertise in cybersecurity best practices, incident handling, and threat intelligence.

International Cooperation: ITU promotes international cooperation and collaboration among Member States in addressing cyber threats. By fostering information sharing and cooperation, CIRT/CERT teams can tackle cross-border cyber incidents effectively.

Data Risks include:

Data Breaches and Unauthorized Access: One of the significant risks in the context of the 2030 Agenda is the potential for data breaches, where sensitive information related to sustainable development initiatives could be exposed or accessed by unauthorized individuals or groups. This can lead to reputational damage, loss of trust, and misuse of critical data.

Disruption of Critical Services: Cyber-attacks targeting national infrastructure or essential services can disrupt operations, leading to social and economic impacts. For instance, attacks on power grids, communication networks, or transportation systems could hinder progress towards sustainable development goals.

Privacy Concerns: As the collection and analysis of data play a vital role in achieving the 2030 Agenda, there is a risk of compromising individuals' privacy rights. CIRT/CERT teams must be vigilant in protecting personally identifiable information (PII) and ensuring compliance with data protection regulations.

Misinformation and Disinformation: The dissemination of false or misleading information can undermine efforts towards sustainable development. Cyber adversaries might use social media and other online platforms to spread misinformation, leading to confusion and hindering public support for initiatives.

From the WSIS perspective, data offers significant contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The major contributions include:

- a) **Informed decision-making:** Data provides evidence and insights necessary for informed decision-making at all levels, from local to global. It enables policymakers to identify development gaps, monitor progress, and evaluate the impact of interventions, leading to more effective and targeted policies.
- b) **Monitoring and evaluation:** Data plays a crucial role in monitoring the progress of sustainable development goals. It allows for the measurement of indicators, tracking of trends, and identification of areas requiring additional attention and action.
- c) **Evidence-based policies:** Data facilitates the development of evidence-based policies that address specific development challenges. It helps in identifying priorities, designing interventions, and allocating resources effectively.

However, there are risks associated with data in relation to the 2030 Agenda. These risks include:

a) Data inequality: The digital divide and unequal access to data and information can exacerbate existing inequalities, making it difficult for certain populations and regions to benefit from the data revolution.

b) Data privacy and security: The collection, storage, and use of data raise concerns about privacy and security. Inadequate safeguards can compromise individuals' privacy rights and expose sensitive information.

c) Data quality and biases: Poor data quality, biases, and inaccuracies can lead to flawed policies and decision-making, hindering progress towards sustainable development.

How can developing countries benefit from the data revolution while considering risks?

1. Data is critical to our goal of connecting the world. It tells us where we were, where we are, what works and what doesn't. It is a key ingredient of empirical research for establishing correlation, determining causality, identifying good practices, and formulating policy recommendations. Since the advent of the Internet, data volumes have grown exponentially. And yet, reliable and meaningful data remain surprisingly scant, because producing such data is often complex, costly, and time-consuming.
2. Through a range of tools and activities, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been supporting Member States and other stakeholders at every step of the data life cycle, from setting standards and methods for data collection to promoting the use of data in decision making.
3. To enhance its offerings, ITU has released three new tools: various online [training courses](#); a new edition of [ICT price trends](#); and the [Digital Development Dashboard](#).
4. Developing statistical capacity: ITU is responsible for setting the international statistical standards for ICT indicators. The [Manual for measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals](#) and the [Handbook for the collection of administrative data on telecommunications/ICT](#) describe approximately the 200 or so standards maintained by ITU.
5. These practical guides, freely available in six languages, represent the ultimate reference for statisticians and economists seeking to measure digital development.
6. These publications are complemented by capacity development activities on the ground. To reach a broader audience, ITU is also creating several online training courses on ICT statistics. The first, [Measuring digital development: Telecommunication/ICT Indicators](#), is now available for free on the ITU Academy platform.
7. The cost of connecting to the Internet partly is one of the key reasons why some [3.7 billion people are still offline](#) and prevents many of the 4 billion who are connected from harnessing the potential of the Internet.

Developing countries can harness the benefits of the data revolution while mitigating risks by focusing on two essential aspects: capacity building in Cyber Security and the promotion of open data to increase transparency. ITU (International Telecommunication Union) plays a pivotal role in offering technical assistance to Member States in achieving these objectives.

Capacity Building in Cyber Security:

Developing countries often face challenges in dealing with cybersecurity threats due to limited resources and expertise. By prioritizing capacity building in Cyber Security, these nations can strengthen their defence against cyber threats while taking advantage of the data revolution. ITU's

technical assistance provides training, workshops, and knowledge sharing opportunities to empower local cybersecurity professionals and organizations. This includes:

- a. **Training Workshops:** ITU conducts workshops and seminars focused on cybersecurity best practices, incident response, and risk management. These sessions equip participants with practical skills to safeguard critical data and systems.
- b. **Establishing CIRT/CERT Teams:** ITU assists in establishing Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRT) or Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in developing countries. These teams act as a centralized point for handling and coordinating cybersecurity incidents, enabling swift responses to cyber threats.
- c. **Collaboration and Information Sharing:** ITU fosters international collaboration and information sharing among member states. Developing countries can benefit from access to threat intelligence and cybersecurity expertise from more advanced nations, helping them to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats.

Promotion of Open Data to Increase Transparency:

Embracing the principles of open data can bring several advantages to developing countries, promoting transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making. ITU's technical assistance aids in establishing open data policies and practices by:

- a. **Data Governance Frameworks:** ITU assists in developing robust data governance frameworks, ensuring that data is collected, managed, and shared ethically and securely. This builds trust among citizens, businesses, and investors.
- b. **Data Sharing Platforms:** ITU supports the development of data-sharing platforms that allow governments, businesses, and civil society to access and analyze data to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities for sustainable development.
- c. **Stimulating Innovation:** By making data accessible, developing countries can foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Open data can serve as a foundation for creating new solutions to address social and economic challenges.
- d. **Informed Policy Decisions:** Access to comprehensive and reliable data enables governments to make informed policy decisions based on evidence. This leads to more effective and targeted interventions to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

By ensuring capacity building in Cyber Security and promoting open data, developing countries can harness the potential of the data revolution while considering and mitigating the associated risks. ITU's technical assistance plays a crucial role in supporting these efforts, fostering sustainable development, and promoting inclusive and resilient digital societies.

Developing countries can benefit from the data revolution by adopting strategies that take into account the associated risks. Here are some approaches:

- a) **Capacity-building:** Developing countries should prioritize building data capabilities, including data collection, analysis, and utilization. This involves investing in skills development, training programs, and infrastructure development to enhance data literacy and expertise.
- b) **Collaboration and partnerships:** Developing countries can benefit from collaborations with other stakeholders, such as international organizations, private sector entities, and civil society organizations. Partnerships can facilitate knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and access to data resources.

c) Inclusive data policies: Developing countries should adopt inclusive data policies that promote equitable access to data and information, particularly for marginalized communities. These policies should address data privacy, security, and ethics, ensuring the protection of individuals' rights.

What national and international policies and support measures can help address the challenges of the developing countries in the area of data relevant for sustainable development, including scientific and research purposes, data quality, data capabilities and data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data?

The recent Broadband Commission report takes stock of progress towards the [UN Broadband Commission](#)'s affordability target for 2025, according to which entry-level broadband services – i.e., the cheapest data-only broadband mobile or fixed subscription available – should amount to less than two per cent of monthly gross national income (GNI) per capita.

Although ICT services have become more affordable in general, in many countries entry-level broadband services remain prohibitively expensive and the two per cent affordability a distant prospect.

The report features new measures of affordability that reveal vast disparities within countries: even where the target has been met at country level, services often remain unaffordable for the 40 per cent poorest. As a complement to the report, a new [ICT price app](#) enables users to compare prices of various ICT services across countries and regions and visualise trends going back 10 years. ICT price trends follow a massive [data collection effort](#) by ITU, its Member States, and the Alliance for Affordable Internet ([A4AI](#)).

The newly launched [Digital Development Dashboard](#) provides a user-friendly overview of digital development for 196 economies.

The Dashboard features 37 indicators related to infrastructure and access, Internet use, and enablers and barriers. It presents 10-year trends and comparisons with regional peers. A 'light' version is available for mobile and low-resolution devices, while two-page country profiles can be downloaded as PDFs. The underlying data can also be downloaded in Excel format. We welcome your [feedback and suggestions](#) on the dashboard. Your input will help inform our future data dissemination strategy. Be sure to check out other resources such as the ITU statistics [website](#), the [ICT Eye](#) platform, and the [World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database](#).

- It is often said that what gets measured gets done. Data is critical to our goal of connecting the world. It tells us where we were, where we are, what works and what does not. It is a key ingredient of empirical research for establishing correlation, determining causality, identifying good practices, and designing effective interventions.
- As the UN specialized agency for information and communication technology (ICT), ITU is the official source of international ICT statistics. The ICT [Data and Analytics team](#) collects, verifies, harmonizes, and disseminates ICT statistics for about 200 economies and over 200 indicators. It conducts world-class research to contextualize and make sense of the data.
- Through a range of tools and activities, ITU supports Member States and other stakeholders at every step of the data life cycle, from setting standards and methods for data collection to promoting the use of data in decision-making.

Addressing the challenges of developing countries in the realm of data relevant for sustainable development requires a multi-faceted approach, combining national and international policies along with supportive measures. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) plays a crucial role in

this endeavour, offering Member States a valuable platform through its Study Group Questions. This platform allows Member States to share good practices and experiences, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

At the national level, governments can implement policies that promote data collection, analysis, and dissemination for scientific and research purposes. Investing in data infrastructure, such as reliable internet connectivity and data centres, will enhance data capabilities and accessibility. Additionally, establishing data standards and quality assurance mechanisms will improve the reliability and credibility of the data collected.

Furthermore, data governance is of paramount importance to ensure responsible and ethical use of data. Developing countries can work on formulating robust data governance frameworks that safeguard privacy, protect against misuse, and foster transparency and accountability in data handling processes. Engaging stakeholders from various sectors, including civil society and academia, will help create inclusive and comprehensive data governance policies.

On an international level, cooperation and collaboration are essential. International organizations, like the ITU, can facilitate knowledge-sharing platforms, workshops, and capacity-building programs, enabling developing countries to learn from the experiences of others. Establishing partnerships between developed and developing nations can promote the transfer of technology and expertise, further supporting sustainable data initiatives.

Moreover, international policies can advocate for open data principles, promoting the sharing of non-sensitive data for research and development purposes. This would enable developing countries to access relevant information and contribute to global efforts in achieving sustainable development goals.

To address the multiple dimensions of data challenges, it is crucial to recognize that data is diverse in nature. Hence, any policy framework must be flexible and adaptable to accommodate the unique needs and contexts of individual countries. Emphasizing inclusivity and empowering local communities to actively participate in data-related processes can lead to more accurate and contextually relevant data outcomes.

By leveraging the ITU's platform for Study Group Questions, Member States can collaborate, exchange best practices, and collectively develop comprehensive policies and support measures to tackle data challenges. Through a combination of national efforts and international cooperation, we can foster sustainable development and harness the power of data to address the needs of developing countries effectively.

To address challenges in the area of data relevant for sustainable development, several national and international policies and support measures can be implemented:

a) National data strategies: Developing countries should develop comprehensive national data strategies aligned with sustainable development priorities. These strategies should focus on improving data quality, ensuring data interoperability, and strengthening data governance frameworks.

b) Funding and technical assistance: International support in terms of funding and technical assistance is crucial. This support can help developing countries strengthen their data capabilities, build necessary infrastructure, and promote research and scientific purposes.

c) Data sharing and open data initiatives: National and international policies should encourage data sharing and open data initiatives. This promotes collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation in the field of sustainable development.

d) Capacity-building programs: Capacity-building programs should be tailored to meet specific country needs, providing training on data collection, analysis, and utilization. This includes enhancing research and scientific capabilities to generate high-quality data for evidence-based policymaking.

What could be the role of the CSTD as part of the overall work on the UN in the field of digital data?

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) can play a crucial role within the overall work of the United Nations in the field of digital data. Its collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) can be instrumental in ensuring data security through capacity development and the establishment of resilient connectivity infrastructure.

As part of its role, the CSTD can actively advocate for the importance of data security in the digital era. By raising awareness among UN member states and other stakeholders, the CSTD can highlight the significance of safeguarding data to foster trust, protect privacy, and mitigate potential risks associated with digital data usage.

Working in tandem with the ITU, the CSTD can focus on capacity development initiatives that empower developing countries to harness the potential of digital data effectively. This includes providing technical assistance, training programs, and knowledge-sharing platforms that enhance the data-related skills and capabilities of individuals and institutions in these nations. By equipping them with the necessary expertise, developing countries can leverage data for sustainable development, research purposes, and evidence-based policymaking.

Moreover, the CSTD, in partnership with the ITU, can work towards establishing resilient connectivity infrastructure. This involves promoting investments in reliable and robust internet connectivity, especially in remote and underserved areas. A strong and stable digital infrastructure is vital for ensuring data flows smoothly and securely, thereby facilitating data-driven initiatives for sustainable development.

In addition to capacity development and connectivity infrastructure, the CSTD can advocate for the formulation and implementation of comprehensive data security policies and frameworks. These policies should address issues like data governance, cybersecurity, data protection, and ethical data use. By promoting the adoption of best practices and standards, the CSTD can help create a safe and trustworthy digital ecosystem for data-driven activities.

Furthermore, the CSTD can act as a conduit for collaboration between the UN and various stakeholders, including governments, private sectors, academia, and civil society organizations. Through constructive partnerships, joint research, and knowledge-sharing, the CSTD can foster a collective effort to address challenges and explore opportunities in the realm of digital data.

CSTD's role in the UN's work on digital data, in collaboration with the ITU, is vital in ensuring data security through capacity development and resilient connectivity infrastructure. By actively engaging in these efforts, the CSTD can contribute significantly to the global drive towards harnessing the potential of digital data for sustainable development while prioritizing the protection and responsible use of data.

Finally, here are some WSIS-related examples on data for development, taking into account outcomes and highlights from annual WSIS Forum events and the WSIS Stocktaking best practice repository:

1. **Data-driven policies for sustainable development:** The WSIS Forum has showcased numerous examples where data has been used to develop policies and strategies for sustainable development. For instance, countries have implemented data-driven approaches to tackle poverty, improve healthcare services, enhance education outcomes, and promote digital inclusion. These examples highlight the importance of data in shaping effective development policies.
2. **Data-driven initiatives for SDG monitoring:** The WSIS Forum has highlighted initiatives that leverage data to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These initiatives involve the collection, analysis, and visualization of data to track indicators and provide real-time insights on SDG implementation. They showcase how data can enhance monitoring and accountability mechanisms.
3. **Data partnerships for development:** The WSIS Forum has emphasized the significance of partnerships and collaboration in leveraging data for development. It has showcased examples of multi-stakeholder collaborations involving governments, private sector organizations, civil society, and academia. These partnerships aim to pool resources, share expertise, and promote data-driven solutions to address development challenges.
4. **Data sharing and open data initiatives:** The WSIS Stocktaking best practice repository features several examples of data sharing and open data initiatives. These initiatives promote transparency, knowledge exchange, and innovation by making data accessible to a wide range of stakeholders. They highlight the potential of open data to drive evidence-based decision-making, foster economic growth, and empower citizens.
5. **Capacity-building programs on data literacy and skills:** The WSIS Forum has emphasized the importance of capacity-building in data literacy and skills development. It has showcased best practices where countries have implemented training programs, workshops, and educational initiatives to enhance data capabilities. These capacity-building efforts help individuals and organizations better understand and utilize data for development purposes.

Overall, the WSIS Forum and the WSIS Stocktaking repository serve as valuable platforms to share knowledge, exchange best practices, and promote the use of data for development. They highlight successful examples, lessons learned, and innovative approaches that demonstrate the transformative power of data in achieving sustainable development goals.

Please indicate contact person(s) responsible for projects/policies and international collaboration in this context in case we need clarification on the inputs.

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Please send your responses and any further inputs on the theme to the CSTD secretariat (stdev@unctad.org) by **15 August 2023**. We look forward to receiving your valuable inputs.