

UNESCO Contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2024

Main Recent Actions, Key Trends, and Challenges

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C3 - Access to Information and Knowledge

Key Trends:

- - Increased use of modern tools and technologies.
- - Focus on monitoring, enforcement, and appeals review.

Recent Actions:

- - Promoted establishment of oversight bodies for ATI laws.
- - Digitalization of access to information requests.
- - Introduction of ICT tools in 43 countries.

Challenges:

- - Insufficient publication of annual reports.
- - Underdeveloped mediation roles.

C4 - Capacity-Building

Key Trends:

- - Emphasis on digital upskilling.
- - Development of AI guidelines for judicial systems

Recent Actions:

- - Workshops for national regulatory authorities.
- - Capacity building for over 80 regulators.
- - AI Needs Assessment Survey in Africa.

Challenges:

- - Lack of public sector capacity for digital transformation.
- - Need for guidelines on AI use in judicial contexts.

C7 - E-learning

Key Trends:

- - Adoption of blended learning models.
- - Growing partnerships among governments and private-sector actors.

Recent Actions:

- - Expansion of digital public infrastructure.
- - Implementation of ICT in education.
- - Launch of UNESCO-UNICEF Gateways to Public Digital Learning initiative.

Challenges:

- - Digital divide and inadequate internet connectivity.
- - Need for high-quality digital content and innovative pedagogies.

C7 - E-science

Key Trends:

- - Investment in open science infrastructure.
- - Use of AI and digital technologies in scientific research.

Recent Actions:

- - Development of IHP-WINS platform.
- - Launch of global consultation on Diamond Open Access.
- - Establishment of Open Quantum Institute.

Challenges:

- - Ensuring equitable access to scientific data.
- - Addressing gender gaps in science.

C8 - Cultural Diversity and Identity

Key Trends:

- - Increasing use of AI in cultural content distribution.
- - Emphasis on linguistic diversity and local content.

Recent Actions:

- - Advocacy for cultural rights in the digital space.
- - Publication of reports on the status of artists.
- - Digital tools for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Challenges:

- - Inadequate national regulatory frameworks.
- - Ensuring fair remuneration and representation for artists.

C9 - Media

Key Trends:

- - Focus on human-rights respecting approaches.
- - Multi-stakeholder dialogues on digital platform governance.

Recent Actions:

- - Implementation of Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms.
- - Launch of Global Forum of Networks.
- - Development of Risk Management Framework for journalists' safety online.

Challenges:

- - Addressing online safety for journalists.
- - Ensuring effective governance of digital platforms.

C10 - Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society

Recent Actions:

- Implementation of the 2021 Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.
- Establishment of Business Council on the Ethics of AI.
- Production of major knowledge products on AI governance.

Key Trends:

- Global debate on AI governance.
- Partnerships with prominent organizations.

Challenges:

- Managing ethical risks associated with AI.
- Ensuring inclusive and equitable AI policy development.

Conclusion 1/2

Key trends and challenges

- **Digital Transformation and Technological Integration:**
Significant emphasis on the adoption and integration of digital technologies: access to information, ICT in education, use of AI and digital tools in scientific research and heritage preservation.
- **Capacity Building and Upskilling:**
Strong focus on building capacities and upskilling individuals and institutions (regulators, judicial systems, civil servants, and educators and cultural practitioners)
- **Ethical and Inclusive Governance:**
Growing importance of ethical considerations and inclusive governance in the digital age.
- **Ensuring Equitable Access**
Addressing the digital divide by expanding digital public infrastructure and promoting meaningful connectivity to ensure equitable access to internet and digital devices for all communities.
- **Promoting Gender Equality**
Gender Gaps in Science, in AI and : Implementing initiatives to promote gender equality in education and science, to dismantle barriers and promote the full participation of women and girls.

Conclusion 2/2

UNESCO's action and the **Global Digital Compact**

- **Digital Literacy and Skills Capacities** (Objective 1, para 12)
- **Multilingualism and Cultural Diversity in the Digital Space** (Principles, Obj 3 and 5)
- **Access to Knowledge / knowledge sharing** (Obj. 2 and 3)
- **AI Ethics and Governance** (Obj. 5)
- **Information integrity and Media and Information Literacy** (Obj. 3)
- **Gender Equality in the Digital Space** (Principle)
- **Internet Universality and Governance** (Obj 3)
- **Data Governance** (Obj. 4)