AGENDA

IGF Workshop #271

“Civil Society & Private Sector Build ICT Support for SDGs”

Garland T. McCoy for

Technology Education Institute

Union of Informatics Professionals of Cuba (UIC)

World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA)

Global Information Infrastructure Policy Commission (GIIC)

The Arab ICT Organization (IJMA3)

**Setting the Stage**:

Manu Bhardwaj, Senior Advisor on Technology and Internet Policy to the Under Secretary of the US Department of State will deliver opening remarks highlighting and condensing the following:

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative describes itself as an “action plan for people, planet and prosperity.” The SDG agenda includes aspirations across a wide range of issues; spanning poverty, hunger, education, justice, economic growth and infrastructure, to name a few. In all, the SDG outlines 17 goals and 169 specific targets.

Given the role of critical enabler that the Internet has taken on for both developed and developing economies, civil society and private sector interests must build bridges with government officials and be as inclusive as possible in order to have any chance of achieving any of the SDGs. If partnerships can be built and maintained it will greatly increase the chances that robust information infrastructure (ICTs and the Internet) will be built and used. This will lead to highlighting the enabling role of the Internet as demonstrated with the following examples:

SDGs 1. & 8. “No Poverty and “Decent Work and Economic Growth”

Information Infrastructure is proving to be powerful driver of economic growth, which in many countries, has begun to lift citizens out of the clutches of poverty through job creation.

SDGs 9. & 12. “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” leads to “Responsible Consumption and Production”

ICTs and the Internet contribute to innovation, expansion of industry and critically important infrastructure all of with contributes to the production of goods and services to be responsibly consumed.

SDGs 2. & 3. & 4. “Zero Hunger”, “Good Health and Well-Being” need to be a given before “Quality Education” can begin.

Information Infrastructure is an important enabler of good health. It has been clinically proven children and adults who are hungry or in poor health have difficulty learning; the value for education is self-evident. Additionally, ICTs and the Internet have proven their value in education time and time again.

ICTs and the Internet have been recognized as basic building blocks for social, cultural and economic growth in both developed and developing countries to the point they have gained “human rights” status. They are critical elements in any business from global multinational corporations to small in-country start-up.

Global supply chains are the interdependency of the world’s distributed large, medium and small businesses that distribute as well as create goods and services, which in turn contribute to increased e-trade and e-commerce and support off line commerce. For example, while placing an order online for delivery of a product is an online/Internet event, the physical delivery mechanism, including updates of export and import requirements, and the physical delivery of the product at the end requires the engagement of multiple parties, from updating of customs; to availability of reliable physical delivery mechanisms, especially in countries where postal services, and other commercial delivery mechanisms are lacking.

*“E-commerce can become a powerful driver of economic growth, inclusive trade and job creation across the developing world. While some developing countries have make significant inroads into e-commerce, most are still lagging behind.”* UN Conference on Trade and Development “Unlocking the Potential of e-commerce in developing countries.” March 18, 2016.

This workshop will bring in several new IGF participants and build on existing participants expertise. The workshop will be participative in its nature and drive exchange and engagement between speakers and the audience. Speakers will be required to submit pre event one - three pagers with high-level summaries that will be posted online as background materials.

The workshop will identify successful strategies from speakers and participants and develop a set of messages for further action to business, civil society and IGOs in particular that will be published in the workshop report. Particular attention will be paid to cross cutting applications targeting relevant UN sustainable development goals.

We will showcase work being done by civil society leaders in Cuba where they recognize that the information society cannot achieve a sustainable growth from isolated efforts. It is necessary to advance toward higher models of inclusive integration, where the civil society should play a determining role. We will present and discuss a Cuban initiative of a new civil society organization created to have impact on the policies impacting the information infrastructure (ICTs and Internet) at the national and local levels of the country. The Union of Informatics Professionals of Cuba (UIC) is founded with the commitment to serve as a permanent platform to enable the establishment of communication bridges between diverse stakeholders in an inclusive and transparent way. It is aimed to reduce the digital divide, increase the culture for the use of Internet and ICTs, and in support of sustainable development. Fostering innovation information projects is a priority as well as strengthening the involvement of communities, and encouraging participation by vulnerable groups. The main disruptive trends of ICT mark the UIC strategy, while the method is the innovation.

**Format**:

This is a highly participative approach with a mix of short presentations/statements (Lightning Talks); followed by pre-identified respondents with special expertise, followed by an open mike to the participants (in the room and remote); and then a summing up statement to the participants by the co-moderators, seeking broad agreement to key messages to provide into the IGF2016, and beyond. It relies on highly engaged rapporteurs and co-moderators who will work pre IGF along with a required pre-submission by the invited speakers of their 3-5 key messages that they plan to present. Efforts to have geographical and gender diversity are embodied in the proposed program.

There will be four core areas (countries and regions) of focus for the workshop:

1. Cuba
2. Afghanistan
3. Africa
4. MENA (Middle East & North Africa)

* Setting the stage –Manu Bhardwaj
* Moderator-Marilyn Cade
* Lightning talks [4 minutes each to present case examples, -- NGOs; civil society, governments, and businesses]
* 4 Highlighted talks lead by …UIC officials discussing how their professional organization is building communication bridges with stakeholder communities in Cuba to address the UN SDGs , case studies from the MENA region, a view from Afghanistan, and finally challenges and opportunities in Africa.
* Open dialogue with Participants
* Summing Up with “Messages to the IGF and beyond that can contribute to Connecting the Next Billions: Phase II “

**Invited Speakers**:

* Manu Bhardwaj, Senior Advisor on Technology and Internet Policy to the Under Secretary of the Department of State, Government, USA (**confirmed**)
* Sarah Wynn-Williams, Director of Public Policy, Facebook, Private Sector, USA (**confirmed)**
* Marilyn Cade, President, ICT Strategies, Private Sector, USA (**confirmed**) *Moderator*
* Dr. Ailyn Febles, President, Union of Informatics Professionals of Cuba, Civil Society, Cuba (**confirmed)**
* Tatiana Delgado, Vice President, Union of Informatics Professionals of Cuba, Civil Society, Cuba (**confirmed)**
* Ivan Barreto, Vice President, Association of Pedagogues of Cuba, Civil Society, Cuba (**confirmed**)
* Yarina Amoroso, President, Society of Right of Informatics in Cuba, Civil Society, Cuba (**confirmed**)
* Salam Al Waeli, Director of Programs-IJMA3 and Board member-WAVE, NGO, Iraq, (**confirmed remote participation)**
* Anders Halvorsen, Vice President, WITSA, NGO, USA. (**confirmed remote rapporteur**)
* Sam Paltridge, Directorate of Science, Technology and Industry, OECD, IGO, France (**confirmed**)
* Ellen Blackler, Vice President Global Public Policy, The Walt Disney Company, Private Sector, USA (**confirmed)**
* Jimson Olufuye, Chair, African ICT Alliance [AfiCTA], NGO, Nigeria (**confirmed)**
* Gonzalo Lopez-Barajas Huder, Manager Public Policy & Internet, Telefonica, Private Sector, Spain (**confirmed)**
* Ms. Iffat Gill, CEO, The Code to Change, Civil Society, Pakistan **(confirmed remote participation*)***
* Wahab Sadaat, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and IT, Afghanistan, Government, (**confirmed)**
* Garland T. McCoy, President, Technology Education Institute, Civil Society, USA. (**confirmed onsite rapporteur**)