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Internet Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals

Salam Yamout
Regional Director – Middle East
yamout@isoc.org

In Sept 2015, UN Member States and the United Nations General Assembly adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” which includes a set of goals to **end poverty**, **protect the planet**, and **ensure prosperity for all.**

SDGs Framework

- SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals
- 17 Goals; 135 specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years
- Not legally binding, still they create expectations
- UN is responsible to track achievement of the SDGs (annual reports)
- Countries have voluntarily incorporated the SDGs into their national plans
- Other players have also incorporated the SDGs into their daily work

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Relationship between ICT and the SDGs

- ICTs and the Internet are recognized as horizontal enablers to all the SDGs

- ICTs can provide new solutions to development challenges, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion

- SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)

SDGs Topics Most Relevant to ICTs

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city-building

economy

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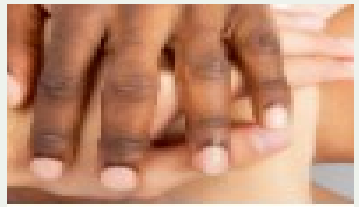
and social protectio



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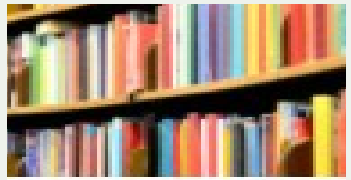

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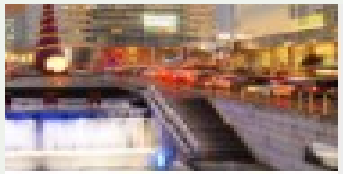

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Examples of ICTs Contributions to SDGs

- Financial inclusion (biometric identification system called Aadhaar in India allowing digital payments)
- Combat Hunger (No-Food Waste India, FoodCloud Ireland and UK, Cheetah Ghana)
- Saving Premature Babies (Integrated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit India)
- Address the Gender Divide (Girls in Tech– Singapore)
- Connecting Schools (Comoros)

Some SDGs Activities

- ITU’s
  - Mapping Tool for the SDGs http://itu.int/ICT4SDG
- Facebook
  - Internet.org, Free Basics
- Google
  - Project Link, Project Loon
- SpaceX and Virgin Galactic
  - Satellite network

Discussion Pause
How can ICTs and the Internet Contribute to the SDGs in the Middle East?

IG and SDGs

- Why was the Internet able to make substantial contributions to the socio-economical development agenda and the SDGs?

- Multistakeholder participation

- Open, universal, interoperable standards

- Collaborative Security Approach

MS and the SDGs

- How to achieve the SDGs?
- All stakeholders must align their activities with the SDGs objectives
- Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia, and technical community members

How to Integrate the SDGs in the IG Framework

- Until the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, essentially Internet Governance and development were operating in relatively parallel paths.

- Purpose of the WSIS Summit’s was to create an Information Society for all, leaving no one behind

- □ Integration of the SDGs into the IGF’s work

- □ Enabling technologies must support achieving the 2030 SDGs Agenda

Policy Questions

- What are the development priorities which the Internet Governance community should be responding to?
- How should the Internet community interact (or improve its interaction) with the mainstream development communities?
- What opportunities and threats to the goal of “no one is left behind” with the Internet age?
- Is the Digital Divide shrinking or widening?
- How can the IGF further incorporate awareness about the SDGs into its planning, and into the IGF program in following years.
- Are the SDGs being highlighted in your national or

ISOC and SDGs

ISOC SDGs Activities

- SDGs not new… for the past 25 years we have always worked with the understanding that access to the internet was always for the benefit of the people
- to develop **infrastructure**
  - **International connectivity, domestic connectivity, IXPs, Local/Relevant Content and data centers hosting,**
- to foster **skills and entrepreneurship**
  - Training, capacity building, Beyond the Net
- Supportive **governance**
  - Multi-stakeholder governance, building communities, chapters

Beyond the Net and Chapterthon 2017

With **Beyond the Net Grants**, ISOC will support the work of Internet professionals in developing countries to build stronger understanding and partnerships with other stakeholders to advance the SDGs.

The Chapterthon is a global projects competition.

- It is open to all ISOC Chapter members who choose to compete for the best project (voted by the community)
- ***Overall topic of the competition:*** Digital schools
- ***Read more:*** http://www.internetsociety.org/chapterthon-2017-digital-schools

ISOC References

- Access Enabling Environment https://www.internetsociety.org/doc/policy-framework-enabling-internet-access
- Internet and Sustainable Development White Paper http://www.internetsociety.org/sites/default/files/ISOC-ICTs-SDGs-201506-1.pdf
- The Internet, an opportunity for Sustainable Development http://www.internetsociety.org/sites/default/files/ISOC-Internet-opportunity-for-sustainable-development.pdf
- Beyond the Net Impact report https://www.internetsociety.org/doc/beyond-net-impact-report-2015

Get involved.

There are many ways to support the Internet. Find out today how you can make an impact.

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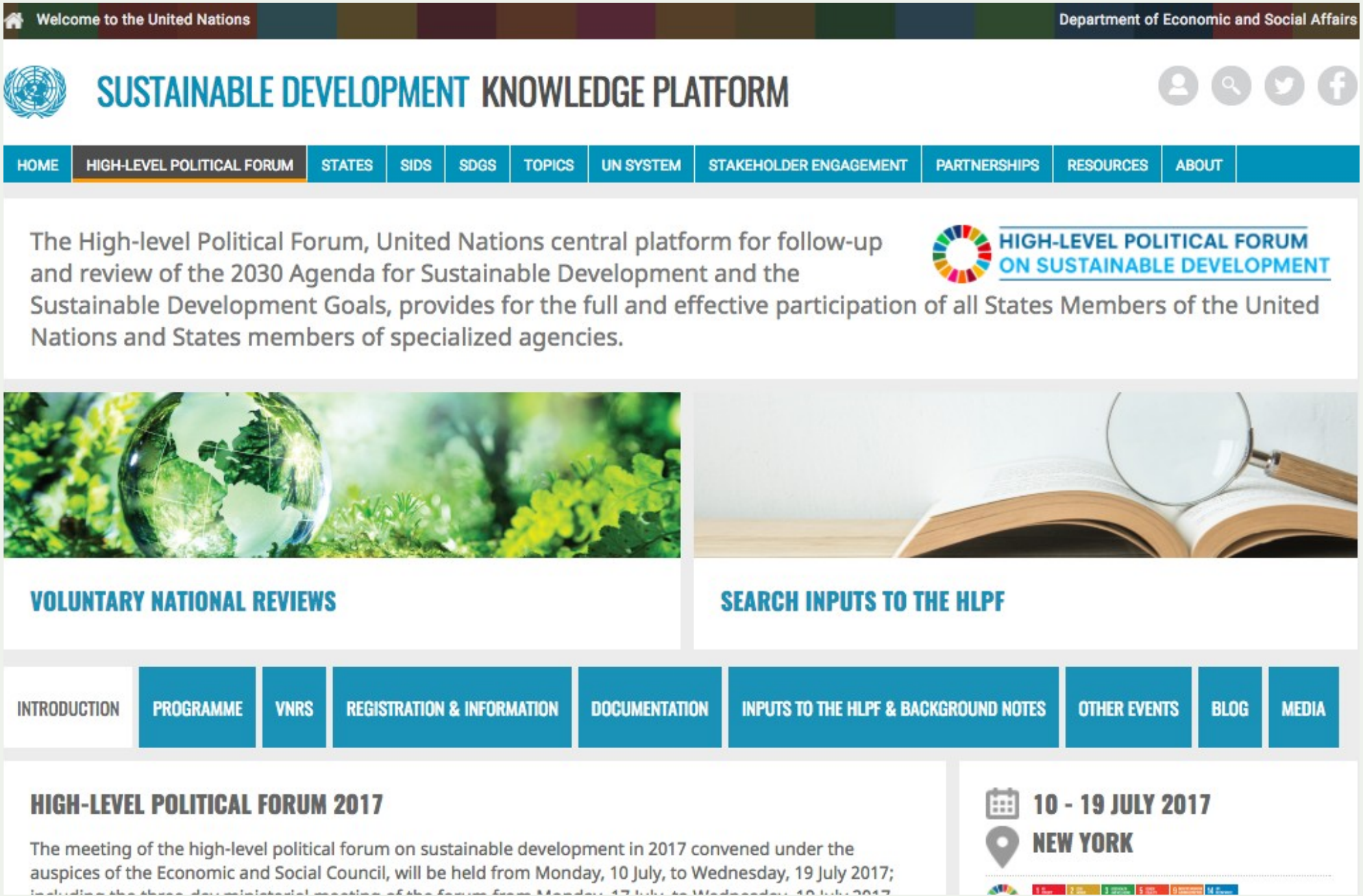
@internetsociety

Galerie Jean-Malbuisson 15,
CH-1204 Geneva,
Switzerland.
+41 22 807 1444

1775 Wiehle Avenue,
Suite 201, Reston, VA
20190-5108 USA.
+1 703 439 2120

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf



Thank you.

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Galerie Jean-Malbuisson
15,
CH-1204 Geneva,
Switzerland.
+41 22 807 1444

1775 Wiehle Avenue,
Suite 201, Reston, VA
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