

Session Outcome Document

Case Studies on Connectivity: Young Practitioners in the Forefront

IEEE

Monday, 06 July 2026, 11:00-11:45 CEST, Innovation Hub, Montbrillant Building, ITU HQ, Geneva

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/195>

Key Issue: Session explored how emerging leaders leverage digital connectivity, AI, data-driven infrastructure, and capacity building to advance sustainable energy transitions, culminating in practical recommendations for youth to advance sustainability objectives.

Key Outcomes

Panellists provided audience members with practical recommendations on how to advance sustainability objectives through their professional capacity outlined in the themes below:

1. **Lifelong Learning:** Building a future ready workforce that can tackle sustainability and energy challenges requires embedding digital literacy, AI data analysis, and advanced concepts like digital twins into education at every level. One approach is micro-credentialing which can help young professionals regularly upskill to adapt to evolving job markets and challenges.
2. **Tech Integration Skills Energy Transition:** Modernizing energy systems will require vital enablers such as integrating AI and digital infrastructures into processes. Equipping young professionals with skills to apply these technologies to grid flexibility, power optimization, and renewable integration directly accelerates decarbonization and the creation of resilient, low-carbon energy systems.
3. **Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions:** Young professionals need to be sensitized to the role of standards, eco-design and energy efficiency principles in addressing sustainability challenges to help them better integrate such principles into their professional practice
4. **National Labor Retention Strategies:** Panellists identified that governments play a critical role in ensuring that they are appropriately investing in a future workforce that can help solve complex sustainability challenges by developing national youth development strategies. Approaches need to focus on investing in young professions through initiatives around connectivity and responsible AI use.

Key Recommendations

1. **Advanced Digital Literacy and AI Training:** Young practitioners, employers and educational institutions need to integrate AI literacy, data analytics and other modern tools and concepts into curricula at all levels and take a life long approach to learning.
2. **Expand Eco-Design and Standards Education:** Young professionals, employers and educational institutions should integrate standard education and eco-design principles and practices into

education early on to sensitive young practitioners to these critical concepts and tools. These tools operate as the key tools and blueprints to help address emerging sustainability challenges.

3. **National Strategy for Youth Development:** National policymakers must prioritize building a workforce capable of tackling modern sustainability challenges. This requires a comprehensive, lifelong learning approach that equips young professionals with the essential digital and environmental tools needed to deploy effective, real-world solutions.