

Session Outcome Document

The 2nd Interregional Dialogue on Digital Cooperation: Regional and Inter-regional pathways for the WSIS 2035 and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance

ESCWA and MCIT of Egypt, in partnership with ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ECE

Wednesday, 8 July 2026, 13:15-14:00 (UTC+02:00), Room E, Palexpo, Geneva / hybrid

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/en/Agenda/Session/388>

Key Issues discussed:

- WSIS+20 implementation to 2035 and the reinforced role of UN Regional Commissions as regional implementation and follow-up mechanisms, connected with IGF processes, the Global Digital Compact and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance.
- Regional AI governance consultation outcomes from the Arab region, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, and how they can inform global-level dialogue and regional action.
- Areas of interregional convergence, including inclusive and human-centred AI governance, digital inclusion, trust and safety, data governance, capacity building, and enabling policy environments.
- Persistent differences across regions in infrastructure, skills, institutional readiness and resources, requiring practical cooperation rather than one-size-fits-all approaches.
- The need to move from one-off exchanges toward sustained interregional coordination, shared learning and feasible joint workstreams across WSIS- and GDC-related priorities.
- The importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships involving Member States, UN entities, regional organizations, the technical community, private sector, academia and civil society to deliver implementation on the ground.

Key Outcomes of the session

- The session stressed the unique role of the **United Nations Regional Commissions** as the primary UN entities supporting the regional implementation and follow-up of **WSIS 2035** and the **Global Digital Compact (GDC)**, while contributing to the evolving global dialogue and regional implementation of **AI governance**.
- Reaffirmed the importance of translating global digital and AI governance mandates into **regional visions**, and further into **national policies, strategies and implementation actions**.
- Recognized the **Global Dialogue on AI Governance** as a platform not only for building international consensus, but also for strengthening regional capacities, fostering knowledge exchange, and promoting practical cooperation among stakeholders.
- Emphasized the need to translate global AI governance principles into **regionally interoperable AI governance frameworks and models**, while respecting regional priorities and national contexts.
- Highlighted the shared priority across regions to preserve **Member States' sovereignty** in defining strategic pathways for AI development, while collectively addressing AI capacity gaps and bridging AI divides.

- Noted the commitment of **Egypt** and other Member States to advancing regional progress on AI governance within the Arab and African regions.
- Showcased successful regional cooperation models, including the strategic partnership between **ESCWA** and the **League of Arab States** through the **Arab Digital Agenda**, the collaboration between **ECA** and the **African Union** on the **African Digital Strategy**, as well as initiatives such as **eLAC** in Latin America and the Caribbean and the **Asian Superhighway** in Asia and the Pacific, illustrating the comparative advantage of the UN Regional Commissions in regional digital cooperation.
- Identified opportunities to strengthen **interregional, bilateral and triangular cooperation**, particularly among neighboring regions such as **ESCWA, ECA and ECE**, to advance coordinated approaches to digital transformation and AI governance.
- Reaffirmed broad convergence across regional AI governance processes on promoting **responsible, inclusive, human rights-based and development-oriented AI**, supported by capacity building, digital inclusion, digital infrastructure, data governance, cybersecurity, digital skills, and effective monitoring of implementation.
- Encouraged continued collaboration among the UN Regional Commissions and stakeholders through practical joint workstreams and coordinated regional contributions to future global AI governance processes, including preparations for the **2027 Global Dialogue on AI Governance**.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions

- Establish a light interregional coordination mechanism among the UN Regional Commissions, building on existing regional cooperation frameworks, to facilitate bilateral, triangular and multiregional cooperation, exchange updates, map regional consultations and identify joint inputs to WSIS 2035 and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance.
- Develop initial joint workstreams at the intersection of WSIS 2035 and the GDC, beginning with AI governance, capacity building, data governance, digital inclusion and enabling infrastructure, while supporting the translation of global commitments into regional frameworks and national implementation.
- Create a shared evidence and knowledge base of regional AI governance priorities, interoperable governance approaches, good practices and implementation gaps to inform policy dialogue, technical assistance and future WSIS Forum sessions.
- Prepare coordinated regional contributions for the 2027 Global Dialogue on AI Governance and keep the next phase inclusive by engaging Member States, regional organizations, youth and women, the private sector, the technical community, academia and civil society, while respecting national priorities, sovereignty and different levels of digital readiness.