

Session Outcome Document

IEEE Knowledge Cafe: Meaningful Connectivity by Design: Exploring Practical Pathways and Solutions Together

IEEE

Wednesday, 08 July 2026, 12:00-13:00 CEST, Room Alpha, Palexpo

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/445>

Key Issue: The Knowledge Cafe created a highly participatory space for WSIS stakeholders to exchange practical experiences and co-develop ideas on enabling meaningful connectivity by design, such as reliable, secure, affordable and usable access that is sustainable over time

Key Outcomes

Participants explored the topic of meaningful connectivity through thoughtful conversation through prompts, the following key themes emerged:

1. **Defining Meaningful Connectivity:** Participants identified meaningful connectivity as being multidimensional with emphasis placed on being inclusive, affordable and reliable for all communities rural and urban.
2. **Barriers to Connectivity:** Participants identified an ecosystem of barriers they determined needed to be addressed to achieve meaningful connectivity which included infrastructure, energy sustainability and greater education around digital safety and trust on how to utilize connectivity without compromising privacy.
3. **Evolution of Meaningful Connectivity:** The next generation of meaningful connectivity will require on a practical level sustainable connectivity hardware, updated networks to support increased demand from AI applications and greater approaches to delivering connectivity that factors in the most effective approaches given a region's geographic challenges.

Key Recommendations

1. **Expand & Modernize Connectivity:** From a practical lens; connectivity standards, infrastructure and frameworks currently existing need to be modernized factoring in new demands on networks and sustainability while also diversifying deployment approaches including community and low cost architecture.
2. **Inclusive, Community-Centric Technology Frameworks:** Connectivity solutions need to be universally available and accessible. Governments and providers need to develop purposeful solutions that serve the distinct needs of the target populations rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all implementation. This means factoring in what the target community actually uses connectivity for and the appropriate technology that can provide that. Identifying societal barriers that may prevent individuals from utilizing connectivity solutions such as a lack of trust and language access.