Dynamic Coalition on Internet and Climate Change

Submitted by Maria Cristina Bueti on Thu, 2012-08-09 19:25

Meeting type:
Dynamic Coalition

Meeting Description:

The theme of this year Dynamic Coalition on Internet and Climate Change will be dedicated to Green ICTs for Sustainable Development.

Today's world faces major challenges crucial for human advancement.
Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can play a critical role in stimulating economic activities, advancing social development goals and promoting sustainable development.
With innovations such as smart grids, smart metering, smart billing and electro-mobility, ICTs have brought new ways of managing energy distribution, improving efficiency and savings in all areas of production and consumption, where energy savings are particularly envisaged for the ICT infrastructure.

Tools as mobile communications, videoconferencing, e-government and dematerialization have enabled new ways of working, learning and operating a business, transforming our society.
Revolutionizing business models and behavior, making management of energy distribution more efficient, enabling new ways of working, learning, and providing healthcare, helping countries adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk, ICTs can be an opportunity for a sustainable and inclusive future.

This session will present ICT Sector's major achievements and efforts in improving its role as enabler for sustainable change, providing an overview on how green ICTs can help achieve the long-term balance between human advancement and planet's preservation.

Transcript:
📄 08 Nov 2012 IGF DC on Internet and Climate Change.docx
Report
Reported by:
Ms Maria Cristina Bueti, Programme Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union
A brief substantive summary and the main events that were raised:

The meeting began with an introduction to the DCICC followed by a review of the objectives and membership. The agenda was agreed.
The meeting then held a tour de table during which each person present introduced themselves and identified their key interests in the area of ICT and climate change.
Two presentations were then made by Ms Nevine Tewfik (Egypt) and Ms Verada Weber (OECD).

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can play a critical role in stimulating economic activities, advancing social development goals and promoting sustainable development.

- With innovations such as smart grids, smart metering, smart billing and electro-mobility, ICTs have brought new ways of managing energy distribution, improving efficiency and savings in all areas of production and consumption, where energy savings are particularly envisaged for the ICT infrastructure.
- Tools such as mobile communications, videoconferencing, e-government and dematerialization have enabled new ways of working, learning and operating a business, thus transforming our society.
- Revolutionizing business models and behavior, making management of energy distribution more efficient, enabling new ways of working, learning, and providing healthcare, helping countries to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects and reduce disaster risk, ICTs can be an opportunity for a sustainable and inclusive future.
- This session presented ICT Sectors' major achievements and efforts in improving its role as enabler for sustainable change, providing an overview on how green ICTs and green ICT standards can help achieve the long-term balance between human advancement and planet's preservation.

As facilitator of the meeting, Ms. Nevine Tewfik, Director of Research, Studies and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt and Rapporteur of Q23 of ITU-T Study Group 5, opened the floor for discussions and the following key issues were raised during the discussion:

- Climate change response within a country should be coordinated between the different key stakeholders. ICTs are a vital tool to enable countries to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. In this regard, there are various potential ways to tackle climate change to be discussed.
- Climate change related issues are very urgent and challenging. However there are some mismatches between the climate change commitments and actions. In recent studies, one of the urgent issues put on the table would be to reduce the climate impact of ICTs and the Internet. One possible way of framing this issue might be to look at the possibilities for Internet Service Providers to provide products with zero carbon or carbon free in the foreseeable future.
- Climate change related issues remain out of reach for many countries, especially rural areas of those countries. Some research shows that climate change policy would be attractive to those areas only if it is financially attractive/beneficial to them (based on some economic benefit).
- Mismatch between actions and policies for the issue of climate change happens in many countries. It is important to have common standards to make some positive progress, especially for energy efficiency.
- Among other countries, the Pacific Island countries in particular are looking at ways to foster adaptation strategies to tackle climate change-related issues. There is lack of awareness and policies addressing issues such as e-waste, reducing ICT carbon footprint, etc. It is important for these countries to build partnerships using the Internet and ICTs to tackle climate change issues.

Consensus was reached on the follow up actions listed below:

- Raising Awareness is a key component of any strategy that aims at tackling climate change. Information is crucial and ICT can help to connect people, especially during emergencies or disasters.
- Sharing relevant information, especially national case studies (i.e., Green ICTs in the Republic of Korea) are highly required in many countries.
- It is particularly important to raise awareness about "Climate Change" in the Internet Governance communities. Members agreed to propose "Climate Change and

Sustainable Development" as a main agenda for IGF main sessions so that the topic can be more actively discussed at the next IGF.

The follow up actions will be shared via email with all participants that attended the meeting and the full DCICC list which is managed by ITU-T/TSB. These issues will be the basis for future next steps to be undertaken.

Provide the name of the speakers and their affiliation to various stakeholder groups:

Moderator: Ms Nevine Tewfik, Director of Research, Studies and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt and Rapporteur of ITU-T Q23/5
Keynote speaker: Ms Verena Weber, OECD

Provide the name of the organiser(s) of the Meeting and their affiliation to various stakeholder groups:

Ms Maria Cristina Bueti, Programme Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union