



**Statement by Dr. Maike Luiken, IEEE Head of Delegation  
At the High-Level Dialogue (18 May 2021) with WSIS Forum 2021 Partners  
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*“Distinguished Guests and Attendees, I am honored to be here today and speak on behalf of IEEE as a Specific Activity Partner of the 2021 WSIS Forum.*

*Innovations change the world we live in - technical and social innovations like electrical power, online communications, artificial fertilizer - all have had a profound impact and will continue to drive change.*

*In particular, **information and communications technologies (ICTs) and accessible electricity supply, among others, have long been valuable tools for achieving many of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** They hold the promise of providing - for all - clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, and hold the promise of promoting economic growth, responsible consumption and production, and other goals.*

*Powerful technical solutions are necessary to greatly advance many of the SDGs, they may also pose **environmental, ethical, and equity-related challenges**, and hinder advances in sustainable development. ICT devices, for example, may contribute to increased levels of emissions caused by their production, energy consumption, and associated electronic waste. The use of ICTs also surfaces new requirements around issues of systemic risk, diminishing trust, privacy challenges, and issues of data transparency, ownership, and agency.*

*It is clear that developing technical solutions is not sufficient - successful deployment and use of technology requires:*

- *Analysis of the impacts of its use*
- *Policy and regulation*
- *Oversight*
- *Financing etc.*



*The scientific, technical and engineering community does not stop with providing technical solutions. Many members make it their responsibility to consider the expected and potential unanticipated impacts of the use of technology on people and the environment, such as the safe use of online learning for children or the addition of autonomous vehicles to our roads. Technologists often provide guidance on the ‘appropriate use of technology’. And the user community plays an important role in ensuring that technology is implemented and used appropriately.*

***Aligning technical innovation with sustainable development is an integral part of IEEE’s mission of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. IEEE is the world’s largest technical professional organization. With about 400,000 members in more than 160 countries, IEEE is a leading authority in ICTs and other technology areas supporting sustainable development - such as all aspects of power and energy technology - from generation of renewable energy to energy consumption.***

***In fact, IEEE is actively addressing issues at the intersection of technology and sustainability.***

***Activities and initiatives include:***

- ***Publications*** focused on sustainable technologies such as ‘Computing’ and ‘Energy’
- *Bringing stakeholders, including policy makers, together at **conferences** and events discussing technologies in support of sustainable development*
- *Engaging IEEE volunteers and community members in **community projects** under programs such as SIGHT, HAC, and Smart Village, among others*
- *Forming **technical communities** to discuss specific technologies for Sustainable Development*
- *A **society** focused on studying the Social Implications of Technology on Society (SSIT)*
- ***Standards Development*** – including energy efficiency for various devices and the groundbreaking development of the P7000 series of standards focused on ethics in design and use of AI, for example P7004 on Child and Student Data Governance
- *An emphasis on **education** – from STEM education to life-long learning*
- ***Partnering*** to share knowledge with, for example:
  - o *The Global Power Systems Transformation Consortium*



- *The Digital Cooperation and Diplomacy Group and*
- *UNESCO to provide education*

*To conclude - In order to secure a successful trajectory of sustainable development we need collaboration, cooperation and commitment from inspired leaders in all sectors across the world. I firmly believe, together, we will succeed and make technology benefit humanity.”*

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