SESSION FORMATS

Different modes of delivery are encouraged besides panel discussions to ensure effective interactive exchange with the audience and for the Forum to be as participatory as possible. Below are descriptions of the possible formats.

The expected duration of each session is 1 hour and 15 minutes. There will be approximately 80 sessions.

Please review the information below and include a description of the requested format for the proposed session, including the IT requirements and room setup.

The Secretariat in collaboration with the host country will try to accommodate any additional session format requests.

Panel discussion: A panel discussion composed of moderator and experts, followed by a Q&A session. A polling app, such as sil.do, could also be used to engage with the audience. It is possible to have two sub-panels within each discussion. The moderator will summarize the key points and action points evolving from the discussions at the end of the session. In an alternative set-up, questions can be collected from the audience before the event for the Q&A session.

Roundtable dialogue: The dialogue is composed of a moderator and experts (panelists). The moderator introduces the topic and facilitates a free-flowing discussion, providing panelists an opportunity to make oral interventions. Panelists would have only 2-3’ to address each question and there are no presentations. A significant amount of time would be devoted to taking questions and comments from the audience.

Beehive/Round tables:

Scenario 1: The room is divided into three roundtables. Each roundtable is provided a sub-topic on a related theme. Three topic experts/subject area specialists spend 20 minutes on each of the roundtable to engage in an informal and intimate discussion with participants on each sub-topic. There is also a round table lead at each table who moderates the interactions among the experts and the participants at the table and provides a summary to the room at the end. All session participants engage in the roundtable discussion; there is no additional audience.

Scenario 2: Similar to scenario 1, except that there are no experts/subject area specialists circulating and there is a larger audience. Participants will break into three to four small groups to encourage deeper discussion on specific aspects of the topic covered. One participant acting as rapporteur from each group will then present in a plenary session moderated possibly by a professional moderator/interviewer. The larger audience will also be able to ask questions and provide additional comments.
**Fish bowl**: Four to five chairs are arranged in an inner circle, referred to as a “fishbowl”. The remaining chairs are arranged in concentric circles outside the fishbowl. A few participants are selected to fill the fishbowl, while the rest of the group sit on chairs around the fishbowl. In an open fishbowl, one chair is left empty. In a closed fishbowl, all chairs are filled. The moderator introduces the topic and the participants start discussing the topic. The audience outside the fishbowl listen in on the discussion.

In an open fishbowl, any member of the audience can, at any time, occupy the empty chair and join the fishbowl. When this happens, an existing member of the fishbowl must voluntarily leave the fishbowl and free a chair. The discussion continues with participants frequently entering and leaving the fishbowl. Depending on how large your audience is you can have many audience members spend some time in the fishbowl and take part in the discussion. When time runs out, the fishbowl is closed and the moderator summarizes the discussion.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishbowl_(conversation)

**Long table**: The set-up is similar to regular panel session but has only a couple of official speakers. The remaining panel seats are for the audience who can join the table if they want to contribute to the discussion.

**Initiative focused session**: This session is dedicated to showcase initiatives on specific topics and themes followed by a Q&A session. To be held in a small room or in a large setting where we allow multiple initiatives to be showcased (similar to an interactive poster session).

Scenario 1: Initiatives on similar topics share the space to provide presentations/demonstrations on the initiatives.

Scenario 2: One or more presenters from the same organization give a short presentation/demonstration of tool and take questions from the audience.

**Debates**: Similar to the privacy debate at the GPSDD data festival, a statement will be provided by the moderator. Each side of the debate will have three speakers presenting pro and con point of views. The debate is led by moderator, who performs the role of a judge, providing a fair chance for each side to debate the topic in an orderly manner, a summary of the conversations, and at the end announcement of the winning of the debate. In a more advanced debate, Speakers can be asked to argue the other position during the debate.

**Competitions for seed investment for new ideas (judging panel, presentations), innovation challenges, hackathon.** Individuals/agencies/companies or other entities present their cutting-edge tools, methodologies and product or services to a panel of judges and the audience. Audience also gets a chance to vote for these ideas. Proposals for this format require the provision of some funds from a specific entity.

**Workshops/Data labs**: The workshops/data labs are a place for audience members to learn new skills. The labs will be facilitated by a team of experts based on a set of presentations and/or training modules and hands-on exercises. This could take the form of group exercises, followed by presentations from each group. The outcomes of the exercises could contribute to an upcoming strategy/report or add value in terms of skills for the users of data and statistics. Examples include, showcasing how statistics/data can be used to resolve problems – entire value chains, hands-on demonstrations of tools,
problem solving workshops (i.e., to identify challenges and propose solutions in groups), data visualization workshops (i.e., to showcase tool and engage with various users attending the Forum. Participants would need to bring their own computers for use in the demonstrations.

**Ted talk type presentation:** Short solo presentation on a key idea/topic, followed by live questions from the audience. Alternatively, a few presentations could be packaged together in a series on a specific topic.

**Paper presentation:** Through an open call for academic papers on each thematic area, selected papers could be presented in a special academic presentation. This provides academia an opportunity to present their latest research on topics related to the six thematic areas.

**Book/report/knowledge platforms launch:** These launch events could include book readings by authors, discussions on newly released reports, and demonstrations of knowledge sharing platforms. The session would be an hour-long session, and provide an opportunity for the authors/developers and audience to engage on the main themes in their work/platform. In the case of the knowledge sharing platform.

**Short films:** Small rooms of up to 25 people capacity showing short documentaries on innovations, and the use of data to transforms lives. The documentaries can also be an outcome of a documentary competition.

**Ignite sessions/lightening talks:** Speakers have a short time to speak and share ideas or experiences. More time is dedicated to audience participation.