The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) frameworks will be both completed in 2015. Following the recent report “Realizing the Future We Want for All” to the United Nations (UN) Secretary General, the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda recognized: that the “implementation of a post-2015 development agenda will depend, critically, on effective governance capacities at national, local and municipal levels”; that “science and technology and information derived from their application, will be a major source of innovation for development”; that “development enablers” such as “good governance” and “access to technology and knowledge” could be used to address the existing gap in the MDG framework between the goals and the means of achieving them; and that there are no blueprints for effective enablers and “ample space would need to be ensured for experimentation and adaptation to local settings”. As a consequence, technology-enabled governance or Electronic Governance (EGOV) is potentially an important “development enabler” for implementing and governing the post-2015 process. However, the topic is arguably underrepresented in the current discussion.

Following the call for an “open, inclusive and transparent consultation process, to take stock and encourage contributions from a wide range of stakeholders”, this session will host presentations and discussion by high-level representatives from government, academia, industry and the UN system on how technology-enabled governance can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda, including the required improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of governance processes. While EGOV is traditionally discussed from the "mechanics" point of view –
how to design, implement, monitor, sustain, etc. technology initiatives that transform the working of governments and their interacts with citizens, businesses and other non-state actors, this session will concentrate on the "value" of EGOV for advancing public policies post-2015.

The discussion will be guided by four key questions. 1) What can we realistically expect from technology-enabled governance today? 2) What is required from technology-enabled governance post-2015? 3) What is the gap between today's governance capabilities and tomorrow's governance needs? 4) How to fill this gap through UN-coordinated efforts across UN member states including research, development, innovation, education and others?

List of Panelists in this order:

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