Side event during the 28th CSTD: *Workshop on building a WSIS plus fit for purpose*

9:00 – 9:50, 9 April 2025, Palais des Nations

Introduction

As the world approaches the 20-year milestone of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the WSIS+20 Review provides a critical opportunity to evaluate and build on the progress made since 2003 in advancing global Internet governance and digital policy processes. This review process also offers the opportunity to reflect on the adoption of the Global Digital Compact (GDC), which underscores the need for inclusive, people-centric, and development-focused digital cooperation. The WSIS+20 Review offers a platform to assess the WSIS mechanisms, including the CSTD, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the WSIS Forum, UNGIS, and the WSIS Action Lines, and to explore how the GDC commitments can best be integrated in them.

Objectives

- Discuss the subject-matter and institutional updates required to adapt the WSIS mechanisms to current global digital policy challenges.
- Ensure the inclusion of multistakeholder perspectives in shaping the WSIS+20 outcomes and the integration of GDC outcomes.

Guiding Questions

1. What digital policy issues need to be included in an updated WSIS set of commitments, which integrate GDC outcomes, and how? (Subject-matter perspective; focus on substance, e.g., content of Action Lines)
2. What updates are needed to the WSIS mechanisms to better deliver on the updated WSIS vision and goals? (Institutional perspective, discuss UNGIS, CSTD, WSIS-Forum, IGF…)
3. How can the WSIS+20 Review Process be framed in order to best include all stakeholders' views and interests, especially from the Global South? (WSIS+20 process perspective)

Target Audience:

This event will bring together representatives of UN Member States, international organizations, civil society, academia, private sector, and technical communities to contribute to a comprehensive dialogue on the future of Internet governance and digital policy. There will be a panel session, to be followed by questions from the floor.

Reference Materials:

- **Pact of the Future** Annex I. Global Digital Compact ([A/RES/79/1](A/RES/79/1))
- NetMundial+10 **São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines**: OutcomeDocument-20240430.docx

- 2024 **WSIS HLE Chairman's Summary**: https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Files/outcomes/draft/WSIS20ForumHighLevelEvent2024-ChairsSummary.pdf
- **WSIS+10 Review**: Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/RES/70/125)
- **Tunis Agenda** for the Information Society (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6)
- **Declaration of Principles "Building the Information Society**: A Global Challenge to the New Millennium (WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/4)
- **Geneva Plan of Action**: https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=1160|0