

**Intersessional Panel of the United Nations Commission on Science and  
Technology for Development (CSTD)**

**Geneva, Switzerland  
26-28 November 2014**

Contribution by

**The United States of America**

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**CSTD WSIS+10 Report**  
**US Statement**  
**As delivered 11/28/2014**

- Thank you, Madam Chair.
- Let me begin by joining other delegations to thank the Secretariat for its great effort in providing such a comprehensive draft report for our consideration.
- In assisting the ECOSOC as the focal point for the overall WSIS review, the CSTD is the best venue to provide an objective, evidence-based, and data-driven document about WSIS implementation to the UN General Assembly.
- We believe this evidence-based document represents an excellent milestone in providing just such a review. We commend the CSTD Secretariat for its ability to distill ten years' worth of work in a complicated environment, including the viewpoints of WSIS stakeholders, into a comprehensive, cogent, and readable report of WSIS implementation.
- The report astutely captures the growth and expansion of the Information Society in ways unimaginable ten years ago at the inception of WSIS. At that time, mobile telephony, social media, and cloud computing were still in their infancy by today's standard. Now, many of us cannot imagine life without our mobile phone or favorite social media site.
- We would like to offer some specific observations and comments.
- Reflecting on the observations made by David Souter during the discussion of Theme Two (Digital Development) yesterday, we should all remember that the entire WSIS process has been evolutionary since its inception and that any goals we set in the past have been, and must remain, flexible and adaptable. Mr. Souter pointed out, for example, that the MDGs were amended in 2010 to embrace "all" assets, include broadband technologies.
- This is particularly important as we transition from MDGs to whatever Sustainable Development Goals are decided upon to help guide the post-2015 development agenda.

- The United States agrees with the comments made by our EU and UK colleagues that WSIS is not the appropriate place to address issues such as content regulation, data sovereignty and cybersecurity.
- We believe the report touches on, but could never fully capture, the role of private investment, open markets, and the creativity and entrepreneurship of people all over the world in making the Information Society the dynamic and ubiquitous engine for economic and social growth that we have today.
- However, the report also captures the existence of a lingering digital divided between and within countries, including between rich and poor, men and women, and urban and rural communities. It highlights gaps and challenges across all the Action Lines that require continued focus and work.
- It is important that the international community look for ways to address these lingering issues in 2015 and beyond, including through discussions on the SDGs and WSIS.
- Finding ways to use ICTs as a cross-cutting enabler to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is paramount. So is continuing to develop the Information Society and the foundation of the ICT community, as WSIS has facilitated, that will allow the international community to focus on *outcomes* to achieve the SDGs and other development goals that might be identified as we go forward.
- Thank you for this opportunity to comment.