

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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**Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes at the regional
and international levels**

Statement submitted by
Portugal

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Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels, and the WSIS+20 review.

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[As delivered]

As this is Portugal's first time taking the floor in this year's Intersessional Panel, we would like to congratulate The Gambia on assuming the Presidency of the current Commission on Science and Technology for Development's (CSTD) cycle and assure of Portugal's full support.

We would also like to add our voice in regretting the untimely passing of the Ambassador of Peru, Her Excellency Ana Cecilia Gervasi, and offer our sincere condolences to the Permanent Mission of Peru.

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by Hungary on behalf of the European Union and wishes to add the following in its national capacity:

Since Geneva, in 2003, and Tunis, in 2005, the digital landscape has changed drastically. Technology is now deeply rooted in our society, playing a key role in empowering communities and driving economic and sustainable development. It serves as a catalyst for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, despite progress, vast and profound digital divides persist - both within and between countries. If left unaddressed, technology and the digital transition can enlarge inequalities, rather than fostering sustainable and inclusive development.

Just last month, the United Nations adopted, by consensus, the Global Digital Compact (GDC), representing a shared vision for a fair, open, safe and sustainable digital future for all. It is a proof that together we can guide technology innovation towards the common good, through a human-centric and multistakeholder-approach. Portugal welcomes this agreement.

The GDC reaffirms the need to protect Human Rights both online and offline, upholds the multistakeholder model, and promotes digital literacy and meaningful participation of everyone. Additionally, it also highlights the importance of digital cooperation and connectivity to overcome remaining digital divides.

The adoption of the GDC was not an end point – the work is only now starting. In implementing the Compact, it is of the utmost importance that we ensure cooperation throughout the entire UN-system. Geneva's expertise must be reflected in this, avoiding unnecessary duplications.

Importantly, the GDC recognizes this Commission as the United Nations' home for Science and Technology, acknowledging its mandate within the WSIS process and in the implementation and review of the Compact itself, while also giving the CSTD a relevant mandate in Data Governance. We look forward to tomorrow's panel on the setting-up of the CSTD Working Group on Data Governance and for the Group to begin its important work as soon as possible.

We also welcome the GDC reaffirmation of the Internet Governance Forum, one of the main outcomes of the WSIS process, as a core multistakeholder platform for discussing internet governance, alongside its essential role in the Compact's implementation.

The GDC sets the tone for the upcoming WSIS+20 review process. We must perceive this review as interconnected with broader efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda. It is also an opportunity to uphold the Tunis Agenda, while identifying ways to contribute to a fair, just, open, safe and sustainable Digital future for all.

Portugal is committed to collaborating with all partners to achieve an ambitious and forward-looking outcome in the WSIS review.

We firmly believe that technology must benefit everyone.

Thank you.