

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

**Geneva, Switzerland
21-22 October 2024**

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

Statement submitted by
Switzerland

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.

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

Thank you, Chair

We want to **thank the secretariat for planning this important discussion.**

Switzerland has been a **key supporter of the WSIS process** since the beginning, when we **had the privilege of hosting it's first phase in Geneva in 2003.**

The **WSIS outcomes have proven to be more and more crucial over the years**, especially as **new and complex technologies** have emerged and have become **a central part of all our lives**. The WSIS framework, grounded in **transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration**, remains as relevant today as it was 20 years ago. With AI becoming an increasingly critical aspect of digital transformation, the WSIS architecture must be **well-equipped to address the challenges and opportunities** that AI presents.

Switzerland remains **a strong advocate of the multistakeholder model**, which has proven to be indispensable in addressing the increasing complexities of digital governance.

As we look toward the future, I wish to share **some of Switzerland views.**

Switzerland is convinced that WSIS, with its **vision and the inclusive approach of cooperation among ALL stakeholders**, in their respective roles, has worked well. The WSIS architecture, including the leading UN departments, agencies, as well as the WSIS Forum and especially the UN **IGF offer useful platforms and mechanisms to further international cooperation.**

We therefore would like to work with you all in order **to strengthen the**

WSIS process and its architecture, and update them into a “**WSIS Plus**”, fit for purpose for the task of enabling global progress in putting digital at the service of the improvement of our lives and that of future generations.

This means to:

- strengthening our **multilateral system**, in particular of the **UN specialized agencies** as facilitators,
- updating the **CSTD as system-wide focal point** for WSIS follow-up,
- strengthening of the **WSIS Forum** as the forum to assess progress made in achieving the WSIS goals
- strengthening of the **IGF** as the **biggest global MS platform** to discuss all issues related to internet and digital governance. It remains an essential forum for promoting inclusive dialogue and fostering international cooperation in shaping our digital future.
- strengthening of the **multistakeholder approach**: making it more Inclusive, more **accountable** and more **impactful** for the people on the ground

The WSIS+20 review is a **key opportunity to modernize and update our international cooperation architecture**:

the WSIS+20 process should **be innovative in bringing all stakeholders together** within an open, inclusive and transparent process. The Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, adopted by the multistakeholder community last April, should serve as inspiration for such a process.

Thank you.