

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

**Geneva, Switzerland
17 November 2025**

**Progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes at the regional and international
levels, with focus on 20 years' review at the General Assembly**

Statement submitted by

ITU

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Statement by
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

CSTD Inter-sessional Panel 2025-2026

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Monday, 17 November 2025, 15:00-18:00 CEST

ITU thanks the WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators, Ambassador Suela and Ambassador Lokaale, for their steady stewardship of this important WSIS+20 process. Thank you for the opportunity to present our observations.

We would like to recall that ITU member states resolved at its Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis in 1998 (Resolution 73) to hold a World Summit on the Information Society and to place it on the agenda of the United Nations.

ITU also served as the Secretariat for the two-phased Summit held in 2003 (Geneva) and 2005 (Tunis), as endorsed by UNGA Resolution 56/183, which accorded ITU a lead role in cooperation with all relevant organizations and partners.

As the United Nations specialized agency for digital technologies, over the past twenty years, ITU has been at the forefront of global digital cooperation with the UN and all stakeholders—enabling partnerships, creating enabling environments, strengthening capacity building, and fostering digital transformation in alignment with the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda.

Change has been the only constant in the WSIS process, and ITU—as well as the broader WSIS community—has continuously adapted right from the Millenium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals and now the Global Digital Compact (GDC) objectives.

This includes the evolution of Action Lines and their alignment with emerging technological developments, which have been reporting annually to the WSIS Forum and WSIS Stocktaking Database.

ITU remains committed to its responsibilities as a WSIS Action Line Facilitator as do the other UN agencies involved. We also wish to acknowledge the contributions of all facilitators—across UN Regional Commissions and UN entities—in sustaining a dynamic and inclusive WSIS ecosystem.

We would like to invite you to use as much as possible the agreed language from ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2025/18, particularly its recognition of the importance of integrating the implementation of GDC commitments into the WSIS architecture to avoid duplication and ensure coherence in digital cooperation.

On UNGIS paragraph 119, we underline its current effective functioning as an autonomous inter-agency mechanism built on mutual respect and trust, with ITU serving as its permanent secretariat. We have served as such since its inception and have a dedicated WSIS team in place backed by ITU resolutions.

Paragraph 85 - acknowledge that the Global Dialogue on AI Governance will take place in the margins of existing relevant United Nations conferences and meetings, such as the ITU AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2026.

We further highlight the key role played by the inter-agency working group on AI (IAWG) co-chaired by ITU and UNESCO, which brings together over 50 UN entities and that it stands ready to support implementation of any AI proposals in the outcome document, such as on AI research and capacity building, leveraging existing capacities and existing resources.

We would like to highlight the core mandate of the CSTD, to continue inviting key UN agencies involved to present and showcase their work on the implementation of WSIS.

On paragraph 107 on the GDC, specifically it is the Working Group on Digital Technologies co-chaired by ITU and ODET, with Vice chairs relevant to all objectives of the GDC that has been coordinating implementation of the GDC action points on the UN System. We suggest that this be referenced there instead, noting also that the current language in the paragraph is not consistent with the GDC.

Lastly,

We note instances where “WSIS” is replaced by “World Summit,” which may introduce inconsistency, particularly where the text refers to specific WSIS paragraphs (e.g., paras 3, 6). We respectfully suggest maintaining the term “WSIS” throughout for clarity and coherence.

I am excited to announce that ITU and UNDP will host the Digital@UNGA - WSIS+20 Edition on 15 December 2025, in New York, on the sidelines of the WSIS+20 High-Level Meeting by UNGA. ITU will also organize a dedicated WSIS session on the Action Lines. UNGIS will coordinate an UNGIS side event during the High-Level Review, in close collaboration with UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, and ESCWA.

As the WSIS+20 review progresses, ITU remains committed to working closely with all partners and turning shared commitments into real, lasting impact for communities all over the world.

Co-Facilitators, ITU remains committed to supporting an ambitious, coherent, and future-ready WSIS+20 outcome that continues to serve all stakeholders and ensures that digital technologies advance sustainable development for everyone.

Thank you.