

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-fourth session  
Geneva, 17-21 May 2021**

**Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the  
World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international  
level**

Statement submitted by

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INTERVENTION BY JUAN FERNÁNDEZ, SENIOR ADVISOR IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AT THE INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA ITEM 2 “PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL” OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN THE HYBRID MODALITY (PRESENCE IN GENEVA AND VIRTUAL FROM THE CAPITALS) ON MAY 20, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The Covid-19 pandemic has proven to be a global challenge, it has had a negative impact on health systems, the world economy and the security of countries; and it has exacerbated the existing digital divide between developed and developing countries.

This situation highlights the need for a global ICT infrastructure that allows equal access to reliable sources of information and that provides assistance to health entities and public services.

To address the effects of the pandemic, it is necessary to strengthen global unity, solidarity and international cooperation, putting aside political differences and eliminating unilateral coercive measures imposed by some countries, which violate International Law, the Charter of the United Nations and limit the ability of States to effectively face this crisis.

Cuba reiterates its support for the implementation of the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society, while advocating an increasingly universal and secure access to telecommunications and ICT services, as key tools for the development of our peoples and the effective confrontation of present and future crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you.