

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-seventh session
Geneva, 15-19 April 2024**

**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 by

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- Event** : 27th Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- Date & Time** : 17 April 2024, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PH time)
- Venue** : Geneva, Switzerland (Virtual Participation)
- Speaker** : Secretary Ivan John E. Uy

INTERVENTION

AGENDA ITEM 2: *High-level panel on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) at the regional and international level & Discussion on WSIS+20 review*

(3 - 4 MINUTES)

- To Mr. Peter Major, Vice-Chair of the CSTD;
- Your Excellencies, esteemed delegates, and panelists, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant day to all of you.
- Today, as we convene to deliberate on the critical imperative of fostering people-centric, inclusive, and development-oriented information and knowledge societies, I am deeply honored to represent the Philippines—a nation steadfast in its commitment to progress and resilience in the ever-evolving landscape of ICT. Our journey within the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) has been marked by significant milestones, emblematic of our steadfast dedication to harnessing the transformative power of digital technologies for the betterment of



our society. From heightened awareness of ICT opportunities to invaluable networking with global stakeholders, we have not merely observed progress but actively shaped it.

- As we approach the 25th anniversary of WSIS, it is incumbent upon us to reflect on our achievements, recalibrate our strategies, and fortify our collaborative efforts to realize the objectives set forth, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The path ahead is fraught with challenges, but it is also illuminated by the boundless potential of digital innovation to drive positive change. In the domain of emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, we recognize both the immense promise and the inherent risks. While AI holds the key to enriching lives, enhancing productivity, and bolstering competitiveness, it also presents challenges such as the digital divide, data security concerns, and the imperative of ensuring equitable access and opportunity for all. The discourse at WSIS serves as a nexus for dialogue, cooperation, and collective action—a platform where nations, sectors, and stakeholders converge to chart a course towards a more inclusive and sustainable future. In this spirit, the Philippines stands ready to share its national initiatives, not as isolated endeavors but as contributions to a global movement towards progress and prosperity for all.



- At the heart of our endeavors lies the National ICT Development Agenda (NICTDA), a comprehensive roadmap crafted by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), aimed at forging a digitally empowered Philippines. This agenda transcends mere connectivity to encompass economic empowerment, social inclusion, and cultural enrichment, underscoring our commitment to leaving no one behind in the digital age. Our commitment to progress is further exemplified by initiatives such as the establishment of Digital Transformation Centers (DTCs) nationwide, in collaboration with esteemed partners like the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). These centers serve as crucibles of innovation, nurturing entrepreneurship, and fostering economic growth while ensuring inclusivity in the digital economy.
- Moreover, our endorsement of the ITU's Smart Villages project underscores our resolve to bridge the digital divide and accelerate SDG implementation, particularly in underserved communities. By leveraging technology to enhance livelihoods, improve healthcare, and expand connectivity, we strive to create a more equitable and prosperous society for all Filipinos.
- In our relentless pursuit of digital transformation, we have launched initiatives such as Broadband ng Masa and the Digital Government Masterplan (DGMP) 2023–2028, aimed at providing ubiquitous connectivity and delivering efficient,



transparent, and citizen-centric governance. The introduction of the eGov SuperApp PH represents a paradigm shift in how citizens interact with government services, epitomizing our commitment to leveraging technology for the greater good.

- In conclusion, let us reaffirm our collective resolve to harness the power of ICT for the betterment of humanity. Let us transcend boundaries, bridge divides, and forge partnerships that propel us towards a future where technology serves as a catalyst for progress and prosperity for all. Together, let us embark on this journey with courage, conviction, and compassion, knowing that the path ahead may be challenging, but the destination is worth every endeavor.
- Thank you, and *Mabuhay po tayong lahat!*