

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-eighth session
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**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, in particular WSIS+20 review**

Briefing by

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Co-facilitator of the intergovernmental consultations on modalities for the overall WSIS+20
review by the General Assembly
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
To the United Nations- New York

STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK
DURING
THE 28TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT- AGENDA ITEM 2: BRIEFING
ON THE WSIS +20 MODALITIES
ON
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UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

1. It is an honour to address the Commission today in my capacity as Co-Facilitator of the intergovernmental consultations on the modalities for the General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20).
2. Allow me first to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), His Excellency Amb. Prof. Muhammadou Kah, for the invitation to join you at this meeting. Let me also thank the Commission and its secretariat for the pivotal role they have continued to play in sustaining the WSIS process and for the preparation of the background report for this session.
3. The breadth and depth of stakeholder contributions reflect the enduring relevance of the WSIS vision even in the face of the growing complexity of the digital era in which we live today.
4. As you are aware, the General Assembly, in its resolution **78/257**, decided to convene a high-level meeting in December 2025 to mark twenty years since the conclusion of WSIS in Tunis.
5. In response to this mandate, my Lithuanian counterpart, **Ambassador Rytis Paulauskas, the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN in New York**, and I were appointed as co-facilitators by the President of the General Assembly to guide Member States through the consultations on modalities for this review.

6. Following the consultations, I am pleased to report that the modalities resolution was adopted by consensus on 25th March 2025, reaffirming Member States' commitment to an inclusive and transparent multi-stakeholder process.
7. This outcome was made possible through the spirit of cooperation and a shared understanding of the importance of WSIS+20, not only as a moment of reflection but as an opportunity to chart the digital future we want.

Chairperson, Distinguished Colleagues;

8. As we transition from modalities to substance, our focus shifts to the development of an inter-governmentally agreed outcome document.
9. This document should take stock of progress, acknowledge persistent and emerging challenges, and offer concrete proposals for future action that align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the recently-adopted Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact.
10. Informed by the UN Secretary-General's and the CSTD Secretariat's WSIS+20 reports, as well as regional and stakeholder consultations, we hope the review process will address a number of critical themes:

11. First, we must examine how far we have come in achieving a people-centered, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society.
12. While digital technologies have transformed lives, digital divides – between and within countries – remain stark. The promise of universal connectivity and digital equity remains unfulfilled for many, particularly in the Least Developed Countries.
13. Second, the WSIS+20 review must consider the future of key WSIS mechanisms, such as the Internet Governance Forum and WSIS Forum. These platforms must evolve to remain relevant and effective in the face of rapid technological advancements. Governance frameworks should be designed to anticipate and guide developments in new technologies, ensuring they are safe, equitable, interoperable, rights-based, and aligned with global norms.
14. Third, we must explore how to align WSIS Action Lines with contemporary digital realities – expanding their scope to reflect emerging technologies and their societal impacts.

Chair, Colleagues

15. Kenya believes the WSIS+20 review must be both forward-looking and grounded in our collective commitments. It must also ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders – including youth, women, and underrepresented groups – in shaping the digital future.

16. As we await the decision of the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, Kenya remains committed to a process that is inclusive, transparent, and member state-driven.
17. We encourage all stakeholders to engage robustly with the process, share experiences, and help shape an ambitious and actionable outcome document.
18. In closing, I wish to thank the CSTD once again for its invaluable role. We look forward to your continued support and contributions as we embark on this next phase of the WSIS+20 review.

Thank you.