

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 7-11 April 2025**

**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**

Statement by

Mr. Tomas Lamanaukas
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on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes by ITU

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CSTD Annual Session 2025

9 April 2025

Talking Points for 3-Minute Recorded Message by Tomas Lamanauskas, ITU DSG

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

I'm honoured to address the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at this key moment, two decades after the World Summit on the Information Society, as we prepare for the WSIS+20 Overall Review.

I must express my appreciation to Professor Muhammadou Kah, for his leadership – and to the CSTD vice-chairs for their dedication to building strong partnerships.

Let's remember – in 2003, only 785 million people had Internet access – 12.4% of the world's population at the time. By 2024, some 5.5 billion people, or 68%, were online.

That one metric shows the transformation enabled by WSIS.

Yet our job is far from finished.

Thanks to the dedication of UN agencies, Member States, and all stakeholders, WSIS remains dynamic, action-oriented, agile and adaptable.

The United Nations Group on Information Society keeps nearly 50 UN organizations working in concert. The WSIS Stocktaking Database remains an unparalleled repository of more than 14,000 projects — documenting tech solutions for people, planet and prosperity.

The Global Digital Compact – adopted in September 2024 – calls – rightly – for building on the WSIS processes and forums.

We have developed a matrix linking WSIS Action Lines to GDC objectives -- to support coherent and impactful digital development.

The annual Internet Governance Forum and WSIS Forum continue driving the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda.

The WSIS+20 High-Level Event – a special edition of the annual WSIS Forum – will take place from 7–11 July 2025 at Palexpo, Geneva.

Co-hosted by ITU and the Swiss Confederation, and co-organized with UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD, it will provide an inclusive multistakeholder platform to review the two decades of progress on the WSIS action lines – and boost cooperation to build the digital future for all.

We received 300 contributions that will shape the agenda and program. In addition, our call to contribute to the review of the WSIS action lines attracted over 80 contributions.

CSTD – I am confident - will find a way to make sure that outcomes of this extensive multistakeholder work together with the results of the IGF contribute meaningfully to the UN General Assembly's overall WSIS+20 review.

Colleagues,

2025 brings many milestones — 160 years of ITU, 80 years of the United Nations, and two decades of WSIS implementation.

This reminds us of our shared commitment to harness technology for a better world... of our progress... and of the imperative to keep working together, keep innovating, and ensure digital transformation delivers for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you.