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Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development

Statement by

International Telecommunication Union

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CSTD 2024-2025 priority theme on
“Technology foresight and technology assessment for sustainable development”

Statement submitted by
The International Telecommunication Union
During the CSTD 28TH Annual Session

Ladies and gentlemen,

Building on ITU’s input to this priority theme during the inter-sessional panel in 2024, ITU emphasizes the essential role of technology foresight and assessment in advancing inclusive and sustainable digital development.

In a rapidly evolving innovation landscape, continuous foresight equips governments and stakeholders to anticipate trends, assess potential impacts, and shape agile, future-proof policies.

Through initiatives such as the Focus Group on Network 2030, the AI for Good platform, and inter-agency foresight workshops, ITU works with partners like UNEP, UNESCO, WHO, and WIPO to translate emerging insights into concrete action in areas such as health, environment, and resilience—examples outlined in our written contribution.

Furthermore, the WSIS process, including the annual WSIS Forum and WSIS Stocktaking database, remains a key global platform for sharing foresight findings, promoting collective learning, and shaping digital development strategies.

We value the insights shared with the Commission, which underscore both the promise and complexity of foresight and assessment in practice. We invite all stakeholders to bring this important dialogue to the WSIS+20 High-Level Event, 7–11 July in Geneva, co-hosted by ITU and the Swiss Confederation, and co-organized with UNCTAD, UNESCO, and UNDP, featuring sessions like the AI Governance Dialogue.

As the UN prepares for the WSIS+20 Review at the General Assembly in December, technology foresight can offer meaningful input into shaping our shared digital future.

Given the complexity of global digital transformations, collaboration across all available platforms is critical. This theme remains an ongoing priority.

Thank you.