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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**

Statement by

H.E. Ms. Gabriela Montenegro
Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología
Guatemala

Wednesday, 9 April 2025, 10.00-18.00

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 levels (including a dedicated discussion on the World Summit on the Information Society+20 review)

Theme 2: Implementation of WSIS outcomes

The WSIS Action Lines and targets have helped Guatemala make important progress toward a people-centered, inclusive Information Society by promoting digital inclusion, enhancing connectivity, and empowering communities. At the regional level, Guatemala participates in the Central American Digital Agenda to improve broadband access in underserved areas. Nationally, initiatives like the Digital Community Centers (New Sun Road) are empowering women in over 20 remote communities by providing digital leadership, business skills, and gender-based violence awareness. The DCCs offer computer literacy, resources for women entering the workforce, and educational opportunities for youth and girls. The National Digital Transformation Plan focuses on expanding internet access, while open data initiatives promote transparency. E-health and e-education are government priorities.

However, challenges such as limited infrastructure in remote areas, the digital divide, and access to affordable technology remain. Despite these, these initiatives highlight Guatemala's commitment to integrating WSIS Action Lines and targets into national strategies for a more inclusive Information Society. Continued investment in digital literacy, infrastructure, and inclusivity will help Guatemala make further progress toward achieving these global goals.

International governance mechanisms like the WSIS Forum and IGF have an important role for Guatemala's digital policies by fostering knowledge exchange, capacity building, and multistakeholder collaboration. Guatemala has used insights from these forums to align its policies with global frameworks, including the SDGs, and promote digital inclusion through initiatives like the National Digital Transformation Plan and Digital Community Centers, currently implementing. These forums have also facilitated partnerships at regional and international levels, supporting Guatemala's efforts to improve broadband access and digital infrastructure, particularly in underserved areas.

The WSIS+10 Review provided key insights to strengthen WSIS+20, particularly in advancing Guatemala's digital development. A major priority is bridging the digital divide by expanding connectivity and ensuring affordable internet access, especially for rural and indigenous communities. Localizing ICT policies is also essential to reflect the country's linguistic and cultural diversity. Notable initiatives, such as Tzi'b'ma, an app designed for writing in four Mayan languages, exemplify efforts to include indigenous languages in digital platforms.

Enhancing digital skills —especially for marginalized groups— remains critical, alongside fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) to drive innovation and infrastructure expansion. Guatemala is also advancing e-government platforms, aligned with the current administration's vision to improve transparency and accessibility. Additionally, strengthening cybersecurity and leveraging emerging technologies like AI and blockchain will be crucial for sustainable progress.

By integrating these lessons, Guatemala can achieve a more inclusive, secure, and resilient digital transformation.