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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

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Statement by Mr. Mohammad Mohsen Sadr

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Communications and Information Technology and Head of the Iranian
Information Technology Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**before twenty-eighth session of Commission on Science and Technology for
Development**

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Dear moderator,

Distinguished colleagues,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak at this meeting regarding the review of progress in implementing and following up on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). I would like to extend my gratitude to the UNCSTD Secretariat for convening this meeting at such a pivotal moment as we work on 20-Year Review of WSIS and planning for its future. I also appreciate efforts in presenting the report of the Secretary General and Background paper for WSIS+20 discussion.

In this regard, I would like to present some points and comments from my delegation, concerning the WSIS Review and the associated documents, as follows:
The World Summit on the Information Society has been a crucial initiative designed to establish a platform for addressing the challenges posed by information and communication technologies. One of the goals of WSIS is to foster a shared vision and commitment to build an inclusive, development-oriented Information Society

where every country and everyone can create, access, utilize, and share information. Although some progress has been made since 2005 and the Islamic Republic of Iran as a part of the Information Society has made significant progress in accordance with the Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plans, particularly in optical fiber network expansion, widespread implementation of mobile broadband networks in rural and urban areas and advancement of e-services in healthcare, trade, education, agriculture, and science, , realization of the Information Society has encountered numerous challenges and obstacles.

In this regard, not only international mechanisms and approaches designed to provide financial and technological assistance have not been effectively implemented as indicated in the paragraphs 61 and 66 of the Declaration of Principles, but also technology divide has been extended. Furthermore, the World Summit on the Information Society has not successfully advanced the Tunis Agenda. While Paragraph 68 of the Tunis Agenda asserts that all governments should have equal roles and responsibilities in internet governance and paragraphs 69 and 71 call for enhanced cooperation and the establishment of frameworks for internet governance, democratic and fair internet governance remained unfulfilled.

Mr. Moderator,

In addition to the above, despite the age of digital interdependence, Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) imposed by certain countries on others in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, such as restrictions on the provision of hardware and software and barriers preventing developing countries from acquiring technology, pose significant obstacles to realizing the vision of the World Summit. These measures undermine the enabling and competitive environment that is essential for closing digital divide and building an inclusive Information Society.

Dear moderator,

Considering paragraph 70 of the Global Digital compact, the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development should take into account the intergovernmental process that is crucial for the Compact's implementation. In this context, in the implementation of the Global Digital Compact and reviewing WSIS, it is crucial to establish a mechanism to close digital gap and foster international digital cooperation by removing UCMs. In addition, holding transboundary digital and AI companies accountable and responsible for their behavior, observing cultural diversity and multilingualism on big global digital platforms and respecting national sovereignty of the countries must be considered in implementing the GDC by the CSTD.

Thank you,