

**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

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**Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations  
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP**

**Pre-recorded Video Message (as prepared for delivery)**

**High-level panelist**

**UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

**Twenty-Eighth Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for  
Development (CSTD)**

**Agenda 2 - High-level panel on 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**

**Wednesday, 9 April 2025  
10:00 - 13:00 hrs.**

**Pre-recording on Friday, 4 April 2025**

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**Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to deliver remarks at the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

The Asia-Pacific region has made remarkable strides in digital connectivity and innovation, driven by the expansion of online ecosystems and the development of cutting-edge applications.

As highlighted by the theme study presented at the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, the Asia-Pacific region has emerged as a hub of digital innovation.

Notably, digital solutions are increasingly driving productivity improvements and supporting economic growth while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We see examples from a range of sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, biodiversity conservation and disaster risk reduction. This underscores the role of digital transformation in advancing climate resilience through a digital-growth-climate nexus approach.

Yet, digital disparities persist across the region. Scaling up innovation by incentivizing private sector investment and fostering enhanced public-private cooperation is essential to bridging the gaps.

Similarly, enhanced regional cooperation through, for example, the implementation of our Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) Action Plan 2022–2026, can accelerate the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines at both national and regional levels.

The WSIS regional review sessions we have had, notably the one convened in collaboration with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), alongside the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation, provided valuable insights into regional progress and challenges.

I extend my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Chair of CSTD, for his leadership and support in these efforts.

**Excellencies,**

The WSIS vision of a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society remains as vital today as it was two decades ago.

However, the rapid evolution of digital technologies presents new challenges, requiring stronger international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement.

ESCAP will continue to work closely with ITU, UNCTAD, CSTD, OSET and all partners to ensure that the WSIS+20 Review translates into tangible actions that leave no one behind in the digital age and fully supports the implementation of the Global Digital Compact and Pact for the Future.

Thank you very much.