

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twentieth session  
Geneva, 8-12 May 2017**

**Item 2: Panel discussion on Progress made in the implementation of and  
follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes  
at the regional and international levels”**

Statement submitted by

Poland

**Tuesday, 9 May 2017**

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

## **Speech of Ms Anna Rogozińska, Poland**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> session, 20<sup>th</sup> CSTD meeting**

Thank you Mr Chair,

First, we would like to thank the distinguished panelists for their interesting statements done at yesterday and today sessions; referring to the presented statements we would like to underline what is the most important at the WSIS process.

We would like to stress that WSIS process is an important tool which supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is also an instrument which will significantly contribute to the economic development of developing countries.

Over the past ten years, the mobile telephony industry has grown dynamically, and mobile penetration increased from 41% in 2006 to almost 100% at the end of 2016. However, there are still significant differences between regions, between developed countries and developing countries. While the penetration of mobile telephony exceeds 100 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in most regions of the world, it still remains much lower in many places in the Asian, Pacific and African regions.

This proves that there is still a need to continue efforts to overcome digital exclusion, both at the global level (between developed countries and developing countries) as well as at the local level in relation to the population living in sparsely populated areas;

In this context we would like to emphasize the importance of infrastructure and digital literacy development, which are the most important components of the WSIS process.

Although infrastructure is critical, high prices, poor service quality, and other barriers are major obstacles to increasing the number of people entering the digital world. The affordability is the main barrier to widespread use of mobile services.

Many tools are available to maximize access to and use of ICTs. These tools can be broadly divided as actions related to supply and demand. In addition, there are still significantly fewer women than men studying engineering and mathematics, and there are also disproportions in the employment of women and men in ICT occupations such as IT professionals, programmers, web and mobile application developers. Given the global shortage of people with skills in new technologies and the importance of ICT in our daily lives, it should be stressed how important it is to have the same opportunities for development.

Also, accessibility of ICTs for people with disabilities is our priority. Countries that have adopted ICT accessibility strategies for people with disabilities show the greatest progress in this regard, ensuring that disabled people can fully function in all aspects of social life and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

Moreover, we would like to stress the need to develop a good, clear and transparent regulatory framework, and maintaining a balance between investment incentives and consumer protection, promoting local community development policies, and improving digital literacy. In this context, we think that the cooperation of all stakeholders is very important at all levels - local, regional and global. The exchange of best practices can be the key to proper

implementation of the WSIS process. In addition, it is also important to monitor further trends in ICT development, which allows the collection of information and data necessary for good planning and implementation of policies on how to use ICTs for development. At the same time, Poland remains open to the cooperation and sharing experience and good practices in ICT development.

Also, in the era of the growing role of big data, it seems very important to guarantee the free movement of data, including elimination of unjustified restrictions on their location. One of the ways should be the introduction of relevant provisions in international trade agreements. At the same time it is crucial to ensure a high level of security of network and data communications as well as data transmission. Particularly important is the protection of personal data and privacy as fundamental rights.

Finally, as for innovation, Poland is of the opinion that any action in this area should be designed so as not to harm the innovative energy associated with the development of the digital economy.

Thank you.