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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2025 to implement the outcomes of the WSIS

Submission by

UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General 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 levels" (to the 29th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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Submission from the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies
“Progress report on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the
Information Society 2025”

Dec. 2nd 2025

Part 1 – Executive summary

The focus of ODET’s work throughout 2025 was to support implementation of the Global Digital Compact (GDC), and alignment with the mechanisms, existing projects and workstreams relevant to the WSIS.

As a co-chair of the coordination mechanism for GDC implementation, the Working Group on Digital Technologies, ODET ensured the production of an implementation map which provides detailed information on how existing WSIS mechanisms and projects contribute to the GDC. The map also identifies key milestones coming up in 2025 and 2026 which drive GDC implementation. The GDC implementation map is a first step towards visualizing how new mechanisms and existing WSIS-related projects work together towards realizing the GDC objectives.

A presentation on the map was given by the Tech Envoy to the CSTD 28th Session held in April 2025. The GDC implementation map features as an annex to the WSIS progress report 2024 on the website of the CSTD.

Part 2 – Overview of trends and experience in implementation

- C2: ICT infrastructure and C3. Access to information and knowledge

Open-source technologies are not just tools; they are building blocks for inclusive development, transparent governance, and shared innovation. From 16–20 June, ODET and the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) hosted UN Open Source Week 2025. With over 1,000 participants from 75 countries, more than 160 speakers, and close to 100 sponsors and partners, this third edition of UN Open Source Week marked a new milestone in scale, ambition, and impact.

Co-hosted with Germany, the Dominican Republic, and Nigeria, the week highlighted the expanding role of open source and digital public infrastructure (DPI) in driving inclusive digital transformation, strengthening digital sovereignty, and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over five days, the programme combined high-level keynotes, practical hackathons, breakout sessions, and community-led events. Participants co-created open source solutions for UNICEF platforms, expanded Wikipedia’s coverage of global digital policy, debated approaches to ethical AI, shared insights from government OSPOs, and charted pathways for inclusive DPI.

- C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is an enabler of digital transformation – but the right measures must be in place at the technical and normative levels (ethical, legal and regulatory), as well as within institutions and organizations, for trust in DPI to enable population scale adoption for maximum benefit. To build safe and inclusive DPI for societies, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the [DPI Safeguards initiative](#) in 2023. Developed through a multi-stakeholder process, the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework (1.0) serves as a guide to address and mitigate risks DPI may pose to individuals and society. The initiative grew significantly in 2025 -

- ODET partnered with **Women in GovTech** to train 127 women in Digital Governance, with a strong emphasis on building leadership capacity.
- **Accion and the DPI Insights Community** collaborated to strengthen the evidence base for safe and inclusive DPI adoption. Eight research grants of up to USD 40,000 were awarded to six globally diverse research teams advancing knowledge on consumer protection, governance, financial inclusion, equity, and empowerment.
- DPI Safeguards were formally endorsed by nine countries this year, with an additional nine countries actively progressing on implementation. UNDP and UNICEF are working to integrate the framework into Country Planning Documents.
- Twenty-four new Working Group members produced two complementary resources for governments and the broader ecosystem:
 1. [Advancing Adoption: Practical Pathways to DPI Safeguards Implementation](#): A hands-on guide that provides actionable first steps for embedding safeguards across the DPI lifecycle.
 2. [Principles to Outcomes: A Guide to Assessing DPI Safeguards](#): An outcome-focused resource that equips authorities with metrics to evaluate both supply-side governance and real-world impact.

Towards the end of 2025, ODET co-hosted the Global DPI Summit in Capetown, together with the Government of South Africa, Co-Develop Fund, the World Bank, UNDP and the ITU, which featured more than 1,100 attendees.

- C11. International and regional cooperation

One the key considerations for the WSIS+20 Review, ongoing throughout 2025, is how the agenda of the GDC could be further leverage existing mechanisms linked to the WSIS.

This was of particular interest in the regions, where vibrant digital networks of stakeholders have been working together for many years to deliver on the WSIS. In partnership with the UN Regional Economic Commissions, ODET was a contributor to convenings held in Chile, Abidjan and Dubai with national authorities and stakeholders to consider how WSIS networks and projects could adapt and deliver on GDC objectives.

At the 9th meeting of ICT Ministers from Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted by ECLAC in November 2024, the Tech Envoy shared his views on how AI could contribute to tackling the three 'growth quagmires' identified by ECLAC as slowing down economic development in the region. During the WSIS+20 African consultations, held by UNECA in Abidjan in May 2025, and

during the ESCWA-UAE hosted Arab region WSIS+20 consultations in Dubai in November 2025, ODET provided information on how GDC implementation builds on existing WSIS mechanisms at the regional level.

ODET facilitated a closed-door conversation on GDC-WSIS alignment during ‘Digital Cooperation Day’, held in the margins of the UNGA80 High-level Week in New York in September 2025. The session gathered over 50 persons to consider how GDC and WSIS are complementary, and how the WSIS+20 outcome could reinforce synergies between them. Digital Cooperation Day attracted over 1000 participants, online and in-person, acting as a new, important platform for digital themes at the UNGA80.

Part 3 – Future actions or initiatives

- **Launch of the UN Digital Cooperation Portal**

Launching on December 4th 2025, the [UN Digital Cooperation Portal](#) is a tool to support implementation of the Global Digital Compact by all stakeholders. The portal collects information on initiatives relative to GDC objectives from across the UN system and other relevant stakeholders. Data points can be volunteered to the portal by all interested actors starting from September 2024 until the time of the high-level review of the GDC (2027/8), allowing for a general tracking of progress.

The Portal provides:

- A global map of digital initiatives
- Connections between partners worldwide
- Tracking of progress on digital priorities including AI governance, digital public infrastructure, human rights online, and inclusive digital economies

The GDC implementation map, featuring information on UN initiatives, is visible in a user-friendly fashion on the site. The Portal is also searchable by WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, in addition to the GDC framework, which further advances understanding of how the agendas are aligned and complementary.