

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

**Twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 7-11 April 2025**

Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international organizations and other stakeholders on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years

Submission by

International Organization for Migration

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the CSTD secretariat that will inform the substantive discussion at the CSTD on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years during its 28th annual session in April 2025, in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution E/RES/2023/3, to the CSTD to conduct such substantive discussions and to report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly.

<p>DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the UN Trade and Development.</p>

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Twenty years in the implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

WSIS+20 Reporting Template

Name of organization: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Name of respondent: Michele BOMBASSEI

Role of respondent: United Nations Partnership Unit

Date of response: 28 NOV 2024

I. What is your organisation's formal role and responsibilities concerning WSIS implementation?

a. Mandates of your organization relevant to the WSIS implementation

Science and Technology, & Labour Mobility: Labour needs and technology development, skills professional in the science and technology is critical for the future workforce. Therefore, IOM is working on the skills mobility partnership which is taking into consideration of the needs of fast moving world / innovation & technology.

Digital Technology & Remittance: Digital technology offers the potential to make remittance transfers faster, safer, and more affordable for migrant workers and their families. IOM's LMD division actively seeks to foster innovations in digital finance that can streamline these processes, reducing costs and increasing financial security for labour migrants, directly in line with WSIS goals of using ICT for financial inclusion and economic empowerment.

Education (science and technology) / Labour Pathway: With the rapid pace of digitalization, IOM recognizes that technology plays a critical role in enhancing *future workforce preparedness*. By focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and workforce training, IOM contributes to building a globally mobile workforce prepared for evolving labour market needs, which aligns with WSIS goals of leveraging ICT for inclusive economic development.

Digital Migration Governance System: IOM advocates for and assists in the development of digital migration governance systems, which enhance transparency, safety, and efficiency in migration processes, supporting WSIS goals of ICT-driven governance and public administration.

Partnership: IOM's role in WSIS implementation includes building partnerships with governments, private sector actors, and civil society organizations to support the integration of technology in migration policies, which is essential to promote sustainable and effective migration systems.

b. Brief History of your organization's contribution to the World Summit on the information Society (WSIS)

c. Implementation processes and initiatives within your organization and/or in partnership with other organisations

IOM works extensively with the private sector including technology sector.

Global Skills Partnerships bet IOM and Microsoft: With the rising global demand for skilled workers has underscored the importance of labour mobility, leading to innovative approaches like Global Skills Partnerships (GSPs) and Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs), championed by the World Bank, IOM and other stakeholders. Unlike traditional labour mobility, GSPs and other models are centered around a collaborative approach towards migrants' skills development and training ensuring benefits for destination countries, origin countries and migrants alike. The World Bank and IOM partnered to promote the operationalization of Global Skills Partnerships around the world, exploring collaboration between Spain, Colombia, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic.

Exploration of the use of advanced analytics and technology to assess skills and labour market needs more accurately. This tool should be able to provide real time data and facilitate prospective analysis. Developed a data management and advanced analysis tool tailored to identified requirements of the GSP countries. Based on the success of this pilot, this tool could be then adapted to other migration corridors or countries in future GSP/SMPs. Led to solutions for data management and advanced analysis, real-time relational database that integrates various data sources, and dashboard and stakeholder self-service.

Migrant E-nclusion Project: This project addresses the digital divide by improving migrants' access to digital services, enhancing social cohesion, and mitigating isolation. Through initiatives like virtual counselling, online job fairs, and language training, the project provides digital upskilling and connectivity to help migrants integrate more smoothly into new communities. The program also collaborates with stakeholders to gather data on digital needs and best practices for migrant support services worldwide.

Innovation for Digital Remittances: IOM has focused on improving remittance processes through digital technology to ensure that migrant workers and their families benefit from faster, safer, and more affordable options. By supporting digital platforms and financial education for migrants, these initiatives contribute to economic stability and efficiency in migrant communities

Diaspora for Climate Action (D4C): Recognizing the role of technology in addressing climate-induced migration, the D4C initiative partners with diasporas to implement technology-driven projects that address environmental and migration challenges. This includes using digital tools to connect diaspora communities with climate action projects in their home countries, leveraging human mobility as a response to climate change impacts.

II. What have been your organization's main contributions to the direct implementation of the WSIS outcomes and related areas of digital development since the Summit, particularly since 2015?

a. WSIS Action Lines (as lead, co-facilitator or supporting participant)

b. WSIS-related projects

c. Indicators used to measure the impact of ICT in the achievement of the SDGs in your organization's area of work

d. What assessment has your organization made of its engagement in WSIS-related work and digital development in its areas of responsibility?

Develop digital platforms / tools for case management. Improving service delivery to migrants by enhancing digital tools for case management. It is important to assess ongoing challenges such as ensuring equitable access to digital services for marginalized migrants and addressing data privacy concerns in complex operational settings

III. What does your organization see as the main achievements, problems and emerging issues arising from WSIS and from digital development in its areas of responsibility since the Summit, particularly since 2015?

- a. What have been the main achievements of WSIS and digital development?
- b. What problems, obstacles and constraints have been encountered?
- c. What new opportunities and challenges have emerged over the years since WSIS which need to be addressed?

IV. Lessons learned in the implementation of the Summit outcomes in your organisation's specific areas of responsibility

V. Observations or recommendations concerning the future of WSIS and digital development, taking into account the outcomes of the Summit of the Future in September 2024

The Global Digital Compact marks a milestone moment since the WSIS to ensure that the observations and recommendations are fit for purpose in an age of AI and digital inequalities. It is critical that the WSIS +20 is central to efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, including mobile populations. The WG tasked with implementing the Compact and digital recommendations contained within the Pact should work to ensure WSIS +20 is aligned to these efforts.

VI. Please identify publications, reports and other documents by your organisation which you consider can contribute to the work of the review.

Useful reference links:

Geneva and Tunis outcome documents from WSIS -

<https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/outcome/booklet/index.html>

The General Assembly's ten-year review report -

<https://publicadministration.un.org/wsis10/Portals/5/N1543842.pdf>

The CSTD ten-year review - https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstict2015d3_en.pdf

Contributions should be submitted by **15 November 2024** to the CSTD Secretariat at cstd-wsis20@unctad.org. They will be made available on the CSTD website for consideration by the Commission unless contributors specifically request that their submissions should not be published.

