

Rome, 3 October 2025

To:

Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)  
United Nations

Subject: Comments on the WSIS+20 Zero Draft

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to thank the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) for the opportunity to provide comments on the Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 Review Outcome Document

I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the co-facilitators of the WSIS+20 process, His Excellency Mr. Ekitela Lokaale, Permanent Representative of Kenya, and Her Excellency Ms. Suela Janina, Permanent Representative of Albania, for their distinguished leadership and the commitment they have shown throughout this intergovernmental process.

The Zero Draft offers a comprehensive reaffirmation of the principles set out in the Geneva Declaration, the Tunis Agenda, the Global Digital Compact, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also reflects many of the perspectives voiced by diverse stakeholders during the multistakeholder consultations. At the same time, I believe the text could benefit from further refinement to take into account additional insights and perspectives that will emerge as discussions continue.

I share a number of positions and observations expressed by the European Commission, the Swiss Government and the NRIs. As a member of the IGF MAG, I submit these comments in my personal capacity, with particular attention to the section on Internet Governance.

In this spirit, I would like to present a set of observations on the Zero Draft, structured according to its sections. These comments are intended to contribute constructively to the refinement of the final outcome and to help ensure that the WSIS+20 review responds effectively to emerging priorities and the evolving digital landscape.

Best regards,

Concettina Cassa

(IGF MAG Member, Agency for Digital Italy, AGID) – [cassa@agid.gov.it](mailto:cassa@agid.gov.it)

## 1. General Considerations

The Zero Draft is overall quite good and includes strong language on human rights, gender, and the environment. The draft's language on the multistakeholder approach and internet governance is also balanced.

Areas of improvement relate to:

- Guiding Principle: Replacing "people-centred" with "human-centric".
- Governance: Institutionalizing the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) with a permanent mandate and stable funding. Furthermore, enhance coordination and linkages between the IGF and the other UN entities, bodies, and processes dealing with the governance of the Internet and digital technologies.
- Digital Governance: Locking in the multistakeholder governance model as a core and indispensable principle and recall the San Paolo Multistakeholder Guidelines 2024.
- Implementation: Advocating for concrete roadmaps and clear metrics to link WSIS outcomes with the SDGs and the Global Digital Compact (GDC). This effort is crucial for consolidating and improving linkages among the various ongoing processes.
- Emerging Technologies (AI): new proposals should be coherent with existing initiatives and linked to the other UN entities discussing the same issues.
- Suggesting also a tighter integration between the AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Data Governance sections.

## 2. Preamble Considerations

Par. C

A reference to the NETmundial+10 and **2024 São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines** guidelines should be included to strengthen internet governance by fostering inclusive participation, balanced representation, and effective multistakeholder collaboration, whilst supporting equitable digital policies, interoperability, and openness.

Par. D – I suggest to substitute “people centric” with “human-centric”.

## 3. Introduction

Par.1

Replace "**people-centred**" with "**human-centric**" to underline commitment to human dignity and rights in the digital age

Par.3

Acknowledge the importance of operationalizing the **2024 São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines**

Par. 10

Include more attributes with reference to the digital space: **stable, interoperable, inclusive, accessible and peaceful digital space**

Par. 15

Improve the text to make clear the commitment to human rights and establishing clear governance principles for technology development.

#### **4. Information and communications technologies for development**

Par. 17

We are convinced that information and communications technologies have demonstrated great potential to contribute to advancing human welfare and prosperity and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We affirm that Digital transformation, when grounded in inclusivity, a human-centric approach, and a firm commitment to human rights, unlocks the full potential of information and communications technologies to drive sustainable development and shared prosperity

This requires building a comprehensive digital foundation—from robust infrastructure and accessible devices to relevant skills, diverse content, and innovative applications—to ensure that technological progress benefits all.

Through this approach, governments, the private sector, civil society, and all stakeholders can leverage rapidly advancing technologies to create trusted, secure, and sustainable digital public goods. These tools in turn open new frontiers for enhancing productivity, improving quality of life, and accelerating our collective progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

Par. 20

We acknowledge that developing digital public goods and services, alongside digital public infrastructure, are critical drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation. We recognize the need to increase investment in their successful development with the participation of all stakeholders.

##### **Digital Public Goods and Standards**

Digital public goods include open-source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards, and open content, as well as other digital commons. These resources must adhere to privacy and other applicable international laws, including international human rights law, standards, and best practices. They must adhere to the "do no harm" principle, empower societies and individuals to direct digital technologies to their development needs, and can facilitate digital cooperation and investment. We underline the continued importance of international standardization in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) within multistakeholder fora to ensure global interoperability, foster innovation, contribute to safety, and uphold human rights.

##### **Digital Public Infrastructure**

Resilient, safe, inclusive, rights-respecting, and interoperable digital public infrastructure should be trusted and sustainable, ensuring fair and affordable access. It must be developed in a manner that avoids unsustainable debt or unwanted dependencies and contributes to gender equality, linguistic diversity, and climate resilience. This infrastructure has the potential to deliver services at scale and increase social and economic opportunities for all. We recognize that there are

multiple models of digital public infrastructure, and that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its particular priorities and needs.

### **Bridging digital divides**

Par. 25

We note that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirms the right of persons with disabilities to access information and communications technologies, including the Internet, on an equal basis. We are concerned that persons with disabilities nevertheless remain less likely to access the Internet. We call **for concerted action by all stakeholders not only to ensure access, but also to guarantee the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the Internet Governance Forum and all digital governance processes. This requires dedicated funding, accessible tools, and the integration of universal design principles at all stages of organizational planning and implementation.**

Par. 31

We reiterate the necessity for all users of the Internet and digital services to develop the capabilities and capacities, including media, information, and digital literacy skills, required to effectively develop and make more extensive use of information and communications technologies. We recognize that investment in **digital skills and capacity-building is a shared responsibility** among all stakeholders.

### **5. The digital economy**

**Please consider the possibility of including a paragraph after par. 35 to address the main concerns related to the digital sovereignty that in some cases is causing market fragmentation**

Par. 35 bis

**We recognize that policies aimed at strengthening digital sovereignty can serve legitimate public policy objectives, such as protecting citizens' data, ensuring cybersecurity, and fostering domestic digital capacities. However, we note with concern that some of these measures risk leading to digital protectionism and fragmentation of the global digital economy. We commit to promoting policies that support an open, fair, inclusive, and interoperable global digital market. We will strive to avoid measures that unduly restrict cross-border data flows, digital trade, and investment, and we encourage international cooperation to develop interoperable regulatory approaches that mitigate fragmentation while respecting national and regional frameworks**

### **6. Social and economic development**

Par. 47

We recognise that information and communications technologies have helped governments and other stakeholders to address risks associated with natural disasters and facilitate humanitarian assistance at times of crisis through more consistent and remote monitoring of environmental and other hazards, enhancing and developing early warning systems and improving preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. **In this context, we recognise the critical importance of digital resilience and service continuity in fragile and conflict-**

affected states. We support the development of robust infrastructure, crisis response mechanisms, and technical cooperation to ensure that the most vulnerable communities are not left behind during emergencies.

## **7. Environmental impacts**

Par. 49

We welcome the ways in which digital technologies support environmental sustainability by enhancing monitoring and measurement of environmental change and hazards, implementing early warning systems in response to environmental threats, and enabling governments and development partners to prioritise interventions, protect those at greatest risk and forecast priorities for future action. Digital technologies can also enable improvements in the efficient use of energy and other resources through ‘smart’ management of economic, social and environmental systems and facilitating more efficient delivery of public services. Our cooperation will leverage digital technologies for sustainability while minimizing their negative environmental impacts. **Efforts should also be made to raise awareness among consumers about the environmental impact of digital technologies, promoting responsible usage and disposal.**

Par. 50

We are concerned, however, about growing levels of energy consumption arising from digitalisation and consequential impacts on greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, including those arising from growth in the manufacture and use of digital devices, the volume of data traffic, the number and impact of data centres, growing use of the Internet of Things and rapid growth in the energy requirements of artificial intelligence. We call for the development of global reporting standards on environmental impacts and cooperation by all stakeholders to ensure the environmental sustainability of digital transformation. **Industry actors should integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into the design and operation of digital technologies, with transparent reporting on environmental impacts.**

Par. 52

We are further concerned about rapid growth in the volume of electronic waste, including toxic waste. The volume of e-waste is growing rapidly, particularly in developing countries, leading to pollution and risks to human health, while rates of recycling and recovery are low. We call on all stakeholders to improve data gathering, facilitate collaboration in safe and efficient waste management, including sharing of technology and best practices, and ensure compliance with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. **Life-cycle assessment approaches should be applied to digital products to ensure sustainable design, extended lifespan, repairability, reuse, and recycling**

Par. 53

We recognise the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including sustainable lifestyles, and circular economy approaches. We call on governments and the private sector to develop global standards for the design of sustainable digital products as well as for reuse, repair and recycling. **Structured international collaboration should support developing countries in accessing environmentally sustainable digital technologies, sharing best practices, and building capacity for green ICT deployment.**

## 8. The enabling environment for digital development

Par. 59

We support international, regional and national efforts to create enabling environments for digital transformation, including predictable and transparent policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, and the sharing of best practices. We commend the work of the United Nations Regional Commissions and other regional organisations in this regard. We call on all stakeholders, where requested, to provide technical assistance to developing countries in line with national digital transformation policies and priorities, **with particular attention to supporting inclusive access for all citizens, including women, youth, rural populations and persons with disabilities.**

Par. 60

We encourage the international community to promote the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, including ICTs, to adopt policies and programmes with a view to assisting developing countries to take advantage of technology in their pursuit of development through, inter alia, technical cooperation and the building of scientific and technological capacity in our efforts to bridge the digital and development divides. **We also underline the importance of fostering public-private partnerships, promoting the use of environmentally sustainable technologies, and ensuring adherence to open standards and interoperability to strengthen resilient and inclusive digital ecosystems.**

Par. 61

We request the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and Action Line facilitators within their respective mandates and existing resources to work with all stakeholders to support the enabling environment for information and communications technologies and development. **This includes providing demand-driven policy advice, technical assistance, and capacity-building, as appropriate, with a focus on developing local competencies, nurturing innovation ecosystems, monitoring progress through relevant indicators, and ensuring that all countries, particularly developing countries, are equipped to participate fully in the digital transformation.**

## 9. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Par. 62

We reaffirm that strengthening confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies is a crucial driver for innovation and sustainable development. We reaffirm that building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies should be consistent with human rights **and should also incorporate privacy-by-design principles and sustainable cybersecurity practices that are resilient and adaptable to evolving threats.**

Par. 63

We commend the significant efforts that have been taken by governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical community to build confidence and security in the use of digital technologies and to protect infrastructure, services, transactions and other digital activity from the rising threat of cyberattacks. **We encourage enhanced international cooperation and the systematic sharing of threat intelligence, standards and best practices to strengthen the security and resilience of digital infrastructures globally.**

**64.** We recognise that we must urgently counter and address all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, all forms of hate speech and discrimination, misinformation and disinformation, cyberbullying and child sexual exploitation and abuse. We will establish and maintain robust risk mitigation and redress measures that also protect privacy and freedom of expression. **We also call for the development of digital tools and educational initiatives, including media and digital literacy programmes, to prevent and mitigate online violence, hate speech and disinformation.**

## **10. Capacity development**

Par. 66.

We note that lack of capacity is a major barrier to closing digital divides, and recommend that capacity development, including for innovation, be leveraged to empower local experts and local communities to benefit from and contribute to information and communications technology applications for development. **Particular attention should be given to supporting women, youth, persons with disabilities, rural populations and other vulnerable groups.**

Par. 67.

We reaffirm our commitment to the international cooperation of all stakeholders to promote human resource development and training and enhance activities and initiatives at national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support, with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to innovate and participate fully in building an inclusive, **human-centric** and development-oriented Information Society. **Capacity-building programmes should include advanced training in areas such as cybersecurity, data management, artificial intelligence, and digital entrepreneurship, fostering sustainable local innovation ecosystems.**

**70.** We recognise the need to scale up international cooperation and financing for digital capacity development in developing countries. **This includes support for the creation of local content and content relevant to local realities, the development of innovation ecosystems, incubators and start-ups, and the strengthening of multistakeholder partnerships involving governments, private sector, academia and civil society.** Regional Commissions and other regional bodies will continue to play a **key role** in these efforts. **Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be established to assess the impact and effectiveness of capacity development initiatives.**

## **11. Financial mechanisms**

Par. 72

We recognise that harnessing ICTs for development and bridging digital divides will require further sustained investment in infrastructure and services, capacity-building, promotion of joint research and development and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, with contributions from both public and private investment. **We also see value in exploring additional public and innovative financing mechanisms – including through development banks and solidarity initiatives – to help extend access in areas that may not be commercially attractive.** **Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society**

Par. 79

We reaffirm our commitment, set out in General Assembly resolution 69/166 of 18 December 2014, that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. We are committed to fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human right **throughout the entire technology life cycle, from design and development to deployment and use.**

## **12. Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society**

Par. 87

**Reaffirming that any limitations on the exercise of human rights must be applied exceptionally and in strict compliance with international human rights law, we recall** the provisions in article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his or her personality is possible and that, in the exercise of his or her rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society and in accordance with the principles of necessity, proportionality and legality. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Par. 88

We stress the importance for all Member States, and stakeholders as appropriate, to promote universal, free, open, interoperable, safe, reliable and secure use of and access to the Internet by facilitating international cooperation aimed at the development of media and information and communications facilities in all countries, by respecting and protecting human rights and by refraining from **and condemning** undue restrictions, such as Internet shutdowns, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance or online censorship.

After par. 93

I suggest to add a subparagraph:

**We are committed to ensuring meaningful, non-symbolic youth participation in Internet governance. We encourage the creation of mechanisms, such as youth advisory councils and a dedicated connectivity fund, to sustainably integrate youth perspectives into the decision-making processes of the IGF and national and regional initiatives.**

## **13. Data governance**



Par. 96

We note the establishment of a working group of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development **to facilitate** a comprehensive and inclusive multistakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels, as relevant for development. **In this context, we emphasize the importance of building governance models rooted in trust, openness, and democratic values, while countering approaches that may undermine fairness. Based on these principles, the group is expected to advance recommendations towards equitable and interoperable data governance arrangements, including the development of secure and interconnected data ecosystems across sectors and borders, which are essential to fostering innovation and international cooperation.**

#### **14. Artificial intelligence**

Par. 97

We note the significant developments that have taken place in the Information Society with the emergence in the public sphere of artificial intelligence, which significantly advances the pace and scale with which artificial intelligence is expected to have an impact on many aspects of human societies, and also acknowledge concerns about the potential negative impacts on employment, labour, the environment, human rights and information integrity. **We further recognize that safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems must be human-centric, reliable, ethical, and inclusive, and developed in full respect, promotion, and protection of human rights and international law. In this context, we underline that the international governance of artificial intelligence should be firmly anchored in human rights, ensuring that transparency, fairness, and accountability are central in the design and deployment of AI systems, thereby safeguarding civic space, freedom of expression, and democratic values.**

Par. 98

We reaffirm the approach to international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity that was adopted by the General Assembly in the Global Digital Compact, **an approach that includes ethical safeguards, transparency in the use of data, especially concerning children and youth, and the promotion of the safety by design principle to mitigate risks from the outset."**

#### **15. Internet governance**

Par. 103

I suggest to replace 'civil society' with 'the technical and academic communities, and all other relevant stakeholders.

Par. 104

We recognise that the management of the Internet as a global facility **is based on**, transparent, democratic and multi-stakeholder processes, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities. We reaffirm the principle agreed in the Geneva Declaration of Principles that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations,

within their respective roles and responsibilities, as set out in paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda. We reaffirm that effective Internet governance must preserve the open, free, global, interoperable, reliable and secure nature of the Internet, and reject models of state-controlled or fragmented Internet architectures.

Par. 111

I suggest to replace people-centred with human-centric and to emphasize the need that these initiatives are coherent and integrated within the WSIS frameworks as follows:

We recognise that many new initiatives and opportunities have arisen since the World Summit that facilitate discussion and the sharing of experience and cooperation amongst governments and with all stakeholder groups. We call on Member States and other stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities, to cooperate in order to achieve the vision of a **human-centric**, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, **ensuring that these initiatives are integrated and coherent with the WSIS framework.**

Par.112

We applaud the successful development of the Internet Governance Forum, established by the Secretary-General following the World Summit on the Information Society, which **is the primary** platform for multistakeholder discussion of Internet governance issues, including emerging issues, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

It would be valuable to emphasize that the IGF addresses the evolution and use of the Internet and digital technologies, including areas such as AI and data integrity, etc.. Stronger connections should be established between the IGF and newly created fora (e.g., the forum on dialogue on AI and related topics) to facilitate the exchange of outputs and best practices. The IGF should not operate in isolation but it should be closely linked to other UN entities and WSIS processes that share common areas of interest.

Par. 113

We welcome the evolution of the Internet Governance Forum from an annual meeting into an ecosystem that includes a wide range of intersessional and other activities (NRIs, DCs, etc). We particularly welcome the emergence of more than 170 National and Regional Internet Governance Forums, **which serve not only to enhance multistakeholder discussion of relevant issues in all continents, many sub-regions and a majority of Member States, but that could be used also as tools to measure WSIS progress at the local level and to collect data on the implementation of GDC implementation.** We also welcome the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Forum's Leadership Panel **and the MAG , recognizing they play a key role not only in organizing the annual event but also in enhancing participation, engagement, and the overall effectiveness of the IGF ecosystem.**

Par, 115

We decide that the Internet Governance Forum shall be established as a permanent forum of the United Nations, ensuring its long-term stability and capacity to fulfil its crucial role in the digital cooperation architecture. **Its permanence entails a stable mandate and an institutional home within the UN, while fully preserving the IGF's multistakeholder, bottom-up, and**

inclusive nature. The Forum must be supported with adequate funding and a more structured organization capable of sustaining its activities.

Par. 116

We call upon the Forum to report on outcomes of its annual meetings and intersessional work to relevant UN entities and processes, and call, in particular, on the UN Group on Information Society and all relevant UN agencies, Action Line Facilitators, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Global Dialogue on AI Governance and the WSIS Forum to duly take Internet Governance Forum outcomes into account in their work and proceedings to ensure coherence, avoid duplication, and maximize the impact of multistakeholder dialogue

We call on these bodies to actively consider and respond to the policy recommendations and agenda-setting work emerging from the IGF ecosystem recognizing its unique role as a connective tissue between different communities and policy processes

Par. 117

We further call upon the Forum to enhance its working modalities, including by reinforcing its intersessional work and supporting national and regional initiatives, and to apply innovative, open, inclusive, transparent and agile collaboration methods. In this regard, we support the establishment of new participatory mechanisms, such as a Youth Council and a Citizen Council, as well as the creation of permanent laboratories and debate spaces that foster continuous dialogue and collaboration. We emphasize the need to broaden the participation of all relevant stakeholders, with particular attention to underrepresented communities as well as Governments and other stakeholders from developing countries.

We further encourage the formal recognition and support of National and Regional Internet Governance Forums (NRIs) as essential bridges between local realities and the global Internet governance framework, and call for their structured involvement in follow-up processes.

Par. 118

We call for a strengthening and expansion of the Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum to enable it not only to continue its development and implement further improvements, but also to enhance its capacity to engage more actively with Governments, stakeholders, and other UN entities. In particular, in relation to National and Regional Internet Governance Forums, it is essential to establish a structured and reciprocal exchange of information and provide targeted support that can feed into other UN processes linked to the IGF and the work of NRIs (such as WSIS, GDC, etc.). We also request the Secretary-General to make proposals including on stable predictable and adequate funding, to ensure the Forum can effectively fulfil its permanent mandate and support the critical work of the National and Regional IGFs and of the other IGF intersessional activities (DC, etc.)

## 16. The development of the WSIS framework

Par. 119

We note that the arrangements established in the Tunis Agenda provide a sound foundation for continued implementation of the vision and principles established by the Summit. However, experience during and since the Summit, together with the evolution of the Information Society, suggests the need for their further development with **the overarching objective of creating a unified and synergistic implementation framework** to ensure that they continue to support the achievement of the Summit's vision and objectives and integration with the Global Digital Compact.

Par. 120

We recognise that multistakeholder participation has been crucial to the success of the World Summit's implementation framework, drawing expertise and experience from governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, and academia. We reaffirm the values and principles of multistakeholder cooperation and engagement established at the Summit, reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 70/125, and reinforced in the Global Digital Compact, and **emphasize the need to further strengthen and promote the multistakeholder model, taking into account the guidance provided by the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines.**

Par. 122

We recognise the importance of ensuring alignment of implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, building synergies between them to ensure their effective implementation and avoiding wasteful duplication of resources and decision-making processes. We recognize in particular the importance of enabling all countries and stakeholders to play a full part in achieving their fulfilment.

Proposed revision

**We decide to integrate the commitments of the Global Digital Compact into the WSIS implementation framework. The WSIS action lines, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and the WSIS Forum shall serve as the primary vehicles for the implementation, follow-up, and review of both WSIS outcomes and the Global Digital Compact, ensuring a unified, synergistic, and efficient approach to digital cooperation."**

Par. 129

We **further** request Action Line facilitators, **in coordination with UNGIS**, to develop **action-oriented implementation roadmaps** for their Action Lines, **that explicitly align with the relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitments of the Global Digital Compact with clear** targets, indicators, and metrics to facilitate monitoring and measurement. **These roadmaps should be developed through multistakeholder consultations, foster coherence and synergy among ongoing processes, and ensure measurable progress. Facilitators are invited** to report on the outcomes of this review to the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in 2027.

Par. 130

We recognise the importance of human rights to the implementation of all Action Lines and call on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to **have a formal and strengthened role** in the facilitation and assessment and **human rights due diligence** of all Action Lines, **addressing systemic risks to rights, democratic principles, and ensuring the full respect and protection of human rights in the digital space.**

Par. 131

We call on all Action Lines and Action Line facilitators to address gender equality and the empowerment of women as a core theme within their work to implement the outcomes of the Summit, with the full involvement of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other stakeholders. **We further encourage moving beyond empowerment alone, towards a positive and transformative agenda for gender equality, aligned with the vision of a “new gender deal**

## **17. Monitoring and measurement**

### **18. Follow-up and review**

Par. 139

We reaffirm that the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society will require the continued commitment and action of all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical and academic communities, and that regular review of progress of the full set of Summit action lines , **guided by measurable indicators and reporting mechanisms**, will be essential to achieving the vision of the Summit.

Par. 140

We stress the need to ensure convergence between the implementation of the World Summit outcomes and the Global Digital Compact to avoid duplication and enhance synergies, efficiencies and thereby impact. **Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international frameworks should be systematically considered.**

Par. 142

We note with appreciation the matrix prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, which maps the Global Digital Compact objectives to existing World Summit structures, mechanisms and activities, offering a structured approach for effective follow-up and implementation of the Compact. We request that the United Nations Group on the Information Society develop a **comprehensive** joint implementation road map, to be presented **for endorsement** to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-ninth session in 2026, to integrate the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture, ensuring a unified approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes resource efficiency.

**Add a new paragraph** after 142 proposing a help desk function (inspired by the Swiss non-paper):

### **Proposed New Paragraph**

**We encourage the United Nations system, through a lead agency such as UNGIS, to establish a help desk or advisory service to assist Member States, upon request, in navigating the digital**

cooperation architecture. This service would provide guidance on accessing expertise, implementing digital policies, and aligning national strategies with the WSIS outcomes and the Global Digital Compact, with a particular focus on supporting the needs of developing countries."