

Contribution by the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt to the WSIS+20 Zero Draft

We thank the Co-Facilitators for their diligent efforts in preparing the Zero Draft and for ensuring an inclusive, transparent, and participatory process. We note the Zero Draft reflecting the wide range of stakeholders' contributions and welcome the opportunity to provide input on this draft.

In terms of overall structure, we propose the section on "Social and economic development" to be merged with the section on "Information and communications technologies for development". We also believe the following topics are of particular importance to be retained: "Information and communications technologies for development", "Bridging digital divides", "Capacity development", "Data governance" and "Artificial intelligence".

We further offer below detailed input on the following sections: "The enabling environment for digital development", "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs", "Internet governance", "The development of the WSIS framework", "Monitoring and measurement" and "Follow-up and review".

The enabling environment for digital development

Egypt supports retaining the following paragraphs from the Zero Draft on "The enabling environment for digital development", inclusive of the new additional language underlined below.

55. We acknowledge the importance of a positive enabling environment for investment, innovation and technological development in enabling the development and implementation of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.

56. We recognise that science, technology and innovation are integral to digital development, and that rapidly growing capabilities of digital technologies have contributed greatly to research and development across all scientific fields, enabling researchers to explore complex problems using methods that were unavailable before the Summit. We recognise the importance of ensuring that stakeholders in all countries are able to play a part in digital innovation. We acknowledge the importance of standards harmonization and the inclusion of all stakeholders, especially from developing countries, in standards development processes.

59. We support international, regional and national efforts to develop enabling environments for digital transformation, including predictable and transparent policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, and sharing of best practices. We commend the work in this context of United Nations Regional Commissions and other regional organisations, including National and Regional IGFs. We call on all stakeholders, where requested, to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in line with national digital transformation policies and priorities.

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.

Egypt would like to add the following underlined paragraph to the section on “The enabling environment for digital development” as new proposed language.

We note the importance of developing and implementing robust legal frameworks, particularly in relation to combating cybercrime and countering cross-border complexities, as a means to safeguard users, protect critical infrastructure, and preserve trust in digital services.

Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Egypt supports retaining the following paragraphs from the Zero Draft on “Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs”, inclusive of the new additional language underlined below.

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.

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.

64. We recognise that we must urgently counter and address all forms of violence, which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, particularly by new and emerging technologies, as well as all forms of hate speech and discrimination, misinformation and disinformation, cyberbullying and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

65. We recognise the challenges that States, in particular developing countries, face in building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies, especially with respect to cross-border activities. We reiterate the call made by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 for renewed focus on capacity-building, education, knowledge-sharing and regulatory practice, as well as promoting multistakeholder cooperation at all levels and raising awareness among users of information and communications technologies, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable. Frameworks for cross-border cooperation and targeted support for capacity building are needed to enable all countries, particularly developing countries, to improve cybersecurity governance, align regulatory frameworks with international norms and ensure effective cooperation between Computer Emergency and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CERTs/CSIRTs).

Internet governance

Egypt supports the paragraphs in the Zero Draft on "Internet governance". In particular, we would like to retain the following paragraphs, inclusive of the new additional language underlined below.

103. We reaffirm the working definition of Internet governance in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet. This working definition of Internet governance has stood the test of time and continues to be broad and agile, encompassing the constantly evolving digital landscape.

104. We recognise that the management of the Internet, as a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation, includes both multilateral and multistakeholder processes that are transparent and inclusive, 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. In this respect, we believe the NETmundial+10 Multistakeholder Statement provides a solid foundation for shared global principles of collaborative digital governance. 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 further reaffirm that effective Internet governance must preserve the open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, secure, resilient, safe, and unfragmented nature of the Internet.

105. We recognise the need to promote greater participation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders in Internet governance discussions. Measures are needed to ensure broadened and more effective participation by stakeholders from developing countries and under-represented groups, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states.

107. We recognise that the open, interoperable nature of the Internet has underpinned the development of an extraordinary range of services and applications, reaching across the range of human society including governance, economy, development and rights. We reaffirm the need to promote global cross-border cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet.

108. We reaffirm that Internet governance should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis, with the participation of all governments on equal footing.

111. 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 people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Digital Society.

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 provides a unique platform for multistakeholder discussion of Internet governance issues, including emerging issues, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

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, and particularly the emergence of more than 170 National and Regional Internet Governance Forums, which have enhanced multistakeholder discussion of relevant issues in all continents, many sub-regions and a majority of Member States.

114. We recognise the successful steps that have been taken since the ten-year review of the World Summit to improve the working modalities of the Internet Governance Forum, increase and broaden participation of governments and other stakeholders, particularly from developing countries and under-represented groups, build stronger relationships with other digital discussion fora, and enable more substantive outcomes that can achieve greater impact. We call for these measures to continue to improve, particularly to deliver more actionable outcomes and secure more sustainable funding of the Forum, and request the Forum to report annually on progress towards their implementation to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

115. We decide that the Internet Governance Forum shall be made a permanent forum of the United Nations.

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 and the WSIS Forum to duly take Internet Governance Forum outcomes into account in their work and proceedings.

117. We further call upon the Forum to further 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. We emphasize the need to broaden participation of all relevant stakeholders, with particular attention to underrepresented communities as well as Governments and other stakeholders from developing countries.

118. We call for the strengthening of the Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum, to enable it to continue its development, implement further improvements, and support the work of National and Regional Internet Governance Forums and intersessional activities, and invite the Secretary-General to make proposals concerning future funding for the Forum, through consultations with the wider Internet Governance community.

Egypt would also like to add the following paragraph to the section on “Internet governance” as new proposed language.

We call for stronger integration of National and Regional IGFs into global IGF processes, ensuring that their recommendations and outputs are systematically reflected in annual reports.

Egypt reiterates its support for a permanent mandate of the Internet Governance Forum, as a cornerstone of the Information Society, essential to safeguarding the open, global, interoperable, and unfragmented nature of the Internet. We look forward to the inclusion of more detailed modalities for making the IGF a permanent forum of the United Nations, in further drafts of this document.

The development of the WSIS framework

Egypt calls for stronger synergies between WSIS, the 2030 Agenda, the Pact for the Future, and the Global Digital Compact to avoid duplication of resources and processes, most notably with respect to follow-up and implementation.

Egypt supports retaining the following paragraphs from the Zero Draft on “The development of the WSIS framework”, inclusive of the new additional language underlined below.

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 to ensure that they continue to support the achievement of the Summit’s vision and objectives and the integration of the Global Digital Compact.

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 that were established at the Summit, reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 70/125, and reinforced in the Global Digital Compact. In this respect, we believe the NETmundial+10 Multistakeholder Statement and the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines provide a solid foundation for shared global principles of collaborative digital governance.

121. We reaffirm the principle of the sovereign equality of all States. We believe that the equitable participation of all governments on equal footing and stakeholders from all countries is crucial to achieving the goals established at the Summit and to ensuring that no country or community is left behind in the pursuit of a people-centred, inclusive and development oriented Information Society.

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 recognise in particular the importance of enabling all countries and stakeholders to play a full part in achieving their fulfilment.

124. We recognise the important role that has been played by United Nations Regional Commissions in developing regional action plans and coordinating work to implement the Summit's outcomes. We reaffirm the mandates of the Regional Commissions to serve as regional mechanisms for implementation and follow-up of World Summit outcomes and support the operationalisation of the Global Digital Compact, encourage them to continue their work to implement and review implementation of these outcomes in their regions, and call for adequate resources to enable them to scale up technical assistance, capacity building and partnerships. We further invite them to leverage the extended network of the National and Regional Internet Governance Forums to enrich their reach and widen participation.

126. We applaud the work undertaken by the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme to establish the annual World Summit on the Information Society Forum, which has become a central platform for multistakeholder dialogue and collaboration in the implementation of the World Summit outcomes, the development of networks and coordination of initiatives on digital development, as well as the annual review of the Summit's Action Lines. We call for the Forum to be continued annually.

128. We call on Action Line facilitators to ensure close alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the World Summit, according to their existing mandates and resources.

Monitoring and measurement

Egypt supports retaining the following paragraphs from the Zero Draft on "Monitoring and measurement".

132. We acknowledge the importance of data and statistics to support information and communications technology for development and call for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as the inclusion of ICT data in national strategies for the development of statistics and regional statistical work programmes.

135. We are committed to the further development and strengthening of internationally agreed targets, indicators and metrics for universal meaningful and affordable connectivity, including gender-disaggregated targets, indicators and metrics, building on work undertaken by the International Telecommunication Union, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, other United Nations entities, international organisations and other stakeholders. We underline the importance of ensuring that such targets and metrics are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and that they are integrated into international, regional and national development strategies.

136. To this end, we request the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, in cooperation with the Action Line facilitators, to undertake a systematic review of existing indicators and methodologies, and to report its findings to the 29th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in 2026, with a further

consolidated progress report to the 30th session of the Commission in 2027, in order to inform the future development of monitoring and measurement of the Information Society.

138. We recognise the need for further funding and capacity-building of national statistical systems to enable all countries to meet the demand for improved data and statistics, and call on development partners to provide additional resources, share best practices, and support capacity development, particularly in developing countries. We also urge the private sector to contribute by making appropriate data available to support the gathering and analysis of statistical evidence on the development of the Information Society, thereby strengthening research, policy development, and the work of governments, civil society, academia and other stakeholders.

Considering the work done by ITU on WSIS Stocktaking, Egypt would like to add the following underlined paragraph to the section on “Monitoring and measurement” as new proposed language.

We commend the work done by the International Telecommunication Union in maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking platform, a cornerstone for digital cooperation and sustainable development. It supports evidence-based policymaking and fosters inclusive digital societies. We call upon stakeholders to continue contributing to the platform to advance global development goals.

Follow-up and review

Egypt supports retaining the following paragraphs from the Zero Draft on “Follow-up and review”.

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 will be essential to achieving the vision of the Summit.

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.

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 joint implementation road map, to be presented 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.

144. We recognise the role of the Economic and Social Council in overseeing the system-wide follow-up of the implementation of the World Summit on Information Society outcomes and request the Council to further integrate in such oversight implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

145. We recognise the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing and assessing progress made in implementing the World Summit on Information Society outcomes, requests the Commission further to review and assess progress made in implementing the Global Digital Compact commitments, and further call upon the Commission to advise ECOSOC thereon, including through the elaboration of strategic guidance and recommendations aimed at furthering the implementation of these outcomes and commitments.

146. We note that the General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting to review implementation of the Global Digital Compact during its eighty-second session in 2027, based on a progress report by the Secretary-General, with the input and meaningful participation of all stakeholders including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Internet Governance Forum and World Summit Action Line facilitators. We call for the high-level meeting to consider among other issues, progress in alignment between World Summit outcomes and the Global Digital Compact.

147. We recall that the General Assembly determined, in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, that the outcome of its twenty-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society should be an input into the review process for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We therefore resolve to submit this resolution as an input to the high-level meeting to review the 2030 Agenda, which is to be convened by the General Assembly in 2030. We call on the General Assembly to undertake a review of the outcomes of the joint implementation roadmap.

148. We request the General Assembly to hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2035, involving the input and participation of all stakeholders, including in the preparatory process, to take stock of progress and challenges concerning the outcomes of the World Summit and identify areas of continued focus.

In conclusion, Egypt re-iterates its support to the WSIS vision of building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, which continues to guide digital transformation.

We remain committed to constructive engagement in the WSIS+20 review process, ensuring the voices and needs of developing countries and underrepresented groups are fully reflected in its final outcome.