

**PGA special address for the opening of the
Informal Interactive World Summit on the
Information Society stakeholder consultation on
the review of the implementation of the outcomes
of the World Summit on the Information Society
(WSIS+20) - *Virtual*
Delivered by CDC, Monday, 9 June 2025, 8 p.m.
& Tuesday, 10 June 2025, 10 a.m.**

Excellencies,
Honorable participants from tech communities,
non-governmental organisations, the private sector
and other stakeholders,

This year, we reflect on progress made over twenty years since the landmark World Summit on the Information Society.

Your participation in today's stakeholder consultation is critical and deeply appreciated.

The insights, experiences and expertise you bring are central to ensuring this review is inclusive.

And that leads to an equitable, transparent and fair digital future for all.

As you know, our deadlines for the 2030 Agenda for Development are fast approaching.

And the urgency to bridge the digital divide has never been greater.

Digital technologies – when harnessed equitably and responsibly – can be powerful accelerators of sustainable development.

From education and health care to agriculture and climate action, they are already transforming how we deliver services, share knowledge, and uplift communities.

Yet, billions of our fellow citizens still lack access to the tools and skills they need to participate in the digital age.

This is not only a technology gap.

It is a development gap.

It is a gender gap. A generational gap, and often, a geographical gap.

Fortunately, we have strong foundations on which to build a more just global information society.

The recent Global Digital Compact, adopted as part of the Pact for the Future, is another solid framework for improving digital cooperation and closing the digital divide.

It calls on Governments and stakeholders to forge partnerships to realise the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society.

A vision of a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

I thank the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Albania and Kenya, for chairing today's important consultations.

I reaffirm my commitment to ensuring this review process is inclusive and transparent.

I urge all stakeholders to actively participate in today's consultation and engage meaningfully in shaping the future we envision.

I wish you productive deliberations and look forward to your invaluable insights.

I thank you.

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