Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Preamble

A. We, the Ministers and heads of delegations participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in New York on 16 and 17 December 2025:

B. Recalling the outcome document of the high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 on 16 December 2015, which requested that the Assembly hold a further high-level meeting in 2025,

C. Reaffirming resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

D. Reaffirming the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024,

E. Recalling resolution 79/277, adopted by the General Assembly on 27 March 2025, which established modalities for the twenty-year review, to be held in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

F. Welcoming the many inputs made by Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic communities and other stakeholders in the course of the preparatory process for the review,

G. Building on the twenty-year review report prepared by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in April 2025, the outcomes of the Internet Governance Forum held in Norway in June 2025 and the WSIS+20 Forum held in July 2025, consultations conducted by UNESCO in June 2025, other international and regional conferences and contributions from the World Summit on the Information Society action line facilitators,

Introduction

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilise and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. We further reaffirm our commitment to and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

3. We reaffirm the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception, and recognize that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant

stakeholders including youth, with balanced representation of all countries, has been and continues to be vital in developing the Information Society.

4. We reaffirm the principle of the sovereign equality of all States. We believe that the equitable and meaningful participation of governments and other stakeholders from all countries is crucial to achieving the goals established at the Summit and to ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.

5. We recognize that governments and other stakeholders from many developing countries face barriers to participating fully in international digital governance and policy-making processes due to financial, technical, and institutional constraints, and encourage them to ensure that decision-making, governance and standardisation processes concerned with the Information Society enable full and effective participation by all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries. We will pay particular attention to the diverse needs and challenges faced by developing countries including countries in special situations, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

6. We welcome the tremendous growth in connectivity and development of the Internet and online services that has taken place since the World Summit. This has enhanced the ability of all stakeholders to develop and deploy technology and applications that have driven economic growth, social development and innovation.

7. We recognize that digital development and digital inclusion are critical instruments in enabling progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and reaffirm the importance of cooperation to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development.

8. We recognize that the outcomes of the World Summit are anchored in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law, including international human rights law. We are committed to fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space for all that respects, protects and promotes all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

9. We recognize that universal connectivity and meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technologies including the Internet, are fundamental to achieving the WSIS vision.

10. We are concerned with the critical digital divides between and within countries in the development, access and use of digital technologies, which constrain the achievement of WSIS goals. Closing these divides requires investment in infrastructure and connectivity, along with efforts to ensure the affordability of networks and devices, availability of content and services with linguistic diversity, and development of digital skills and capabilities. In this regard, we appreciate the efforts of the United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacities of least developed countries.

11. We reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and their full, equal, safe and meaningful participation in the digital space, are essential to close the gender digital divide and advance sustainable development. Our cooperation will empower all women and girls, encourage their leadership, mainstream a gender perspective and counter

and eliminate all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology. We are committed to catalysing women's economic agency by promoting equitable access to digital infrastructure and skills development, including to financial technologies and skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

12. We are committed to addressing the access and specific information and technology challenges faced by children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people and those in vulnerable situations, and to the needs of future generations.

13. We recognize that the pace and power of emerging technologies are creating new possibilities but also new risks for humanity, some of which are not yet fully known. We recognize the need to identify and mitigate risks and to ensure human oversight of technology in ways that advance sustainable development and the full enjoyment of human rights. We further underscore the importance of applying a human-centric approach throughout the lifecycle of digital technologies, including their design, development, deployment and use.

14. We also recognize that building confidence and security in the use of ICTs is critical to the implementation of WSIS goals, and that advancing digital inclusion requires a predictable and transparent enabling environment that encompasses policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that support innovation, protect consumer rights, nurture digital talent and skills, promote fair competition and digital entrepreneurship, enhance consumer confidence and trust in the digital economy, and contribute to economic and social growth.

Information and communications technologies for development

15. We are convinced that information and communications technologies have demonstrated great potential to contribute to prosperity and sustainable development. Their rapidly increasing capabilities and growing pervasiveness have enabled tremendous growth in the range of applications for development, creating new opportunities to improve productivity, prosperity and quality of life.

16. We are deeply concerned, however, that this development potential remains constrained by persistent inequalities between and within countries, regions and communities. A third of the world's population still does not access the Internet, while many who have access face problems of affordability, limited content including content in locally relevant languages, low digital literacy and skills. We reaffirm the central importance of closing these digital divides as a core priority of the WSIS+20 process. Strengthened international cooperation and enabling policy environments are required to address gaps in these challenges to participation in the Information Society.

17. We acknowledge that developing digital public goods and digital public infrastructure are critical drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation and recognize the need to increase investment in their successful development with the participation of all stakeholders. Digital public goods include open-source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable international laws, standards and best practices. We recognize that there are multiple models and definitions of digital public infrastructure, and we recognize that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its particular priorities and needs.

Closing all digital divides

18. We recognize the critical importance of closing digital divides to fulfil the WSIS vision and ensure that everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge in taking advantage of opportunities to benefit from digital technologies and improve their quality of life.

19. We applaud the significant expansion in access to the Internet and digital services achieved since the World Summit on the Information Society. According to the International Telecommunication Union, more than 93 per cent of the world's population now lives in areas covered by 4G networks. The proportion of people aged ten and above who own a mobile phone has reached 82 per cent globally, while Internet use has risen from just over 15 per cent in 2005 to 74 per cent in 2025.

20. We express deep concern, however, about substantial and persistent digital divides between and within regions, countries and communities, which pose particular challenges for developing countries. The proportion of people reported by ITU as using the Internet in high-income countries (94 per cent) is more than four times that in low-income countries (23 per cent), with the proportion below 20 per cent in some countries. The proportion of the population reported by ITU as accessing the Internet in urban areas worldwide is estimated to be almost 85 per cent, while that in rural areas is 58 per cent.

21. We are particularly concerned by persistent gender digital divides. Only 78 per cent of women and girls aged ten and over worldwide are reported by ITU to use a mobile phone compared with 87 per cent of men, while only 71 per cent of women are reported to be using the Internet compared with almost 77 per cent of men. Women and girls are also under-represented in education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), employment, entrepreneurship and other areas of digital activity. All stakeholders have a part to play in addressing and rectifying these gender digital divides.

22. We note that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirms the need to ensure, on an equal basis with others, that persons with disabilities have access to information and communications technologies and systems. We are concerned that persons with disabilities nevertheless remain less likely to access the Internet. We call for concerted action by all stakeholders to promote accessibility and equal access to the Internet and digital resources as a priority, including through the availability of accessible and assistive technologies and the integration of accessibility-by-design principles in digital development.

23. We are further concerned that other groups that experience disadvantage are under-represented online, including older persons, ethnic and linguistic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, refugees and migrants. We urge all stakeholders to include the perspectives and needs of people in vulnerable situations and those in underserved, rural and remote areas in the development and implementation of national and local strategies for digital connectivity.

24. We recognize that digital divides limit capabilities and opportunities for full participation in society. They reach beyond accessibility and include critical issues of affordability, language, ability, technological and innovation capacity, forming a multi-dimensional and widening challenge to sustainable development, and may exacerbate other social and economic inequalities. Overcoming them is fundamental to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society, and the objective and commitments of the Global Digital Compact.

25. We are committed to renewed impetus to address and close these digital divides. We call for strengthened international cooperation to address the financial and other constraints impeding the achievement of digital inclusion for all including through North South, South-South and triangular cooperation. In particular, we call on governments, multilateral development banks, relevant international organisations and the private sector to develop financing mechanisms and incentives to connect the unconnected to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity.

26. We are committed to achieving entry-level broadband subscription costs that are accessible and affordable. This will require collaboration among all stakeholders and specifically between private and public sectors, including blended finance as well as innovative mechanisms including universal service funds and community networks. We recognize the continued role of public access facilities such as schools, post offices, libraries and hospitals, in making access available, including to those in vulnerable situations.

27. We reiterate the need for the development of local content and services in a variety of languages and formats that are accessible to all people, and recognize the vital importance of multilingualism to reflect the linguistic, cultural and historical diversity of all nations. We commend the work that has been done since WSIS to extend the multilingual nature of the Internet, including the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names and progress towards Universal Acceptance, and urge all stakeholders to ensure that the Internet and digital services become fully accessible and affordable to all, including Indigenous Peoples and speakers of minority languages.

The digital economy

28. We recognize that the digital economy is an important and growing part of the global economy and has become increasingly central to global trade and economic development. Information and communications technologies have created new markets, businesses and employment opportunities in many economic sectors, while international trade and supply chains have diversified. E-commerce has come to play a major part in economic activity at international, national and local levels, while digital technologies have been extensively adopted in all economic sectors, enabling enhancements in productivity, new forms of manufacturing and services and new business models.

29. We emphasize that creating an open, fair and non-discriminatory environment for digital development is a requirement for stronger global digital economic cooperation and integrating developing countries fully into global value chains and innovation networks. We will support the development of digital solutions to expand commerce, connectivity and services to overcome the adverse impacts of remoteness and other geographical and structural constraints in developing countries.

30. We recognize that equitable and meaningful inclusion in the digital economy requires efforts to tackle concentrations of technological capacity and market power in order to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development.

31. We note that financial services have evolved rapidly to take advantage of the capabilities of digital transactions, and that Internet banking, cashless payments and mobile money systems have changed the ways in which many businesses and customers now interact, increasing access to financial services for many who were previously excluded. We will support

developing countries, in line with their national circumstances and priorities, in creating enabling domestic environments for development of digital financial services for all.

32. We are encouraged that growing use of digital services has created opportunities for enterprises in all countries, including micro, small and medium enterprises, to provide digital services to serve both domestic and export markets. We welcome the work of United Nations agencies and development partners to support small businesses in developing countries, including businesses led by women, to take advantage of these opportunities, and urge all stakeholders to foster an inclusive and digital environment that enables micro, small and medium enterprises to thrive, with appropriate financial support and access to capital.

33. We note that digital technologies have had significant impacts on work, including changes in workplace environments and skills requirements, opportunities for more flexible work arrangements and the emergence of digital labour platforms. We note that emerging technologies such as automation, robotics and artificial intelligence are expected to further reshape the labour market, potentially displacing some roles, while also creating new employment opportunities and skill demands. We are determined to ensure that these developments serve to complement and augment human labour.

Social and economic development

34. We recognize that information and communications technologies have contributed to enhancing social welfare and inclusion, providing new channels for individuals, businesses and governments to share and augment knowledge and to participate in decisions that affect people's lives, livelihoods and social welfare. They have had profound impacts on the provision of public services and have transformed the ways in which individuals and communities interact, consume and spend their time. While many of these impacts have been positive, others have raised concerns, including for human rights, health, employment and the welfare of individuals and communities.

35. We are encouraged that many governments have established national strategies to leverage the opportunities of information and communications technologies for social and economic development, drawing on the framework of Action Lines agreed at the World Summit, and that they now provide a wide range of e-government services to citizens and businesses, enabling access to information and advice and, in many cases, the opportunity to undertake online transactions. We commend the role played by United Nations System in e-government development.

36. We recognize that digitalisation has enabled new ways of providing education and training in schools, higher and adult education including innovative educational approaches such as distance learning, open educational resources and online courses. We are concerned, however, that the benefits of digitalisation are not yet available to many children and young people as a result of inequalities in connectivity, digital literacy and educational facilities. We reaffirm our commitment to connecting every school to the Internet by 2030.

37. We recognize that digitalisation has enabled new ways of addressing health and medicine by facilitating dissemination of public health information, including on sexual and reproductive health and protection against communicable diseases, remote diagnosis to support local health workers, improved analysis of health data and improvements in clinical practice. We reaffirm our commitment to building on the opportunities of ICTs to improve access to health, especially in developing countries.

38. We note that information and communications technologies have had substantial impacts on diversity of cultural expression and development of the cultural and creative sectors. We urge all stakeholders to recognize the importance of ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage, including digital content, and promoting access to cultural resources.

39. We recognize that ICTs have helped governments and other stakeholders to address risks associated with natural disasters and facilitated 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.

40. We remain concerned, however, that equitable delivery of social and economic development programmes and opportunities is hampered by digital divides, particularly in countries and communities where access is constrained by poor connectivity, affordability and limited digital skills. Greater international cooperation is needed to promote digital inclusion and digital literacy, including capacity building and financial mechanisms to achieve greater impact and ensure progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Environmental impacts

41. 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 and enabling governments and development partners to prioritise interventions, protect those at risk and identify priorities. Digital technologies can also enable improvements in the efficient use of energy and other resources through 'smart' management of systems and processes. Our cooperation will leverage these technologies for sustainability while minimizing their negative environmental impacts.

42. We are concerned, however, about growing levels of energy demand and consumption arising from digitalisation and the need to address both energy security, access and affordability and impacts on climate change 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 demand from artificial intelligence.

43. We are also concerned about the sustainable use of critical mineral resources, including scarce minerals required in the manufacture of digital equipment, and note the importance of responsible mining and processing practices.

44. We are further concerned about rapid growth in the volume of electronic waste. The volume of e-waste is growing rapidly, particularly in developing countries, leading to pollution and risks to human health, while rates of collection, 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.

45. We recognize the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including sustainable lifestyles, and circular economy approaches. We urge all stakeholders, and particularly governments and the private sector, to develop international standards for the design of sustainable digital products as well as for reuse, repair and recycling.

46. We recognize that an inclusive and integrated approach is needed to enable policymakers to align digital and environmental policies at all levels, thereby enhancing their ability to address complex and interdependent global, regional and national challenges. We urge all

stakeholders to cooperate in leveraging digital technologies for sustainability while minimising their negative environmental impacts, promoting sustainability across the life cycle of digital technologies, including context-specific measures to increase resource efficiency and to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and aim to ensure that digital infrastructure and equipment are sustainably designed to address environmental challenges.

The enabling environment for digital development

47. We acknowledge the importance of a positive enabling environment for investment, innovation and technological development in enabling implementation of the WSIS vision. We recognize that science, technology and innovation are integral to digital development and the importance of ensuring that stakeholders in all countries are able to play a part in digital innovation in order to foster digital development.

48. We recognize that implementation of the WSIS goals requires a predictable and transparent enabling environment that encompasses policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that support innovation, protect consumer rights, nurture digital talent and skills, promote fair competition and digital entrepreneurship.

49. We note the importance of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks concerned with the deployment of digital networks and services including those concerned with market structure, digital transactions, data protection and data privacy, consumer rights and intellectual property, human rights and environmental impacts. 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 call on all stakeholders, where requested, to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in line with national digital transformation policies and priorities.

50. 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.

51. We strongly urge States, in building the information society, to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and to refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development and hinders the well-being of the people of the affected countries.

52. We commend the work of United Nations Regional Commissions and other regional organisations to support the development of positive enabling environments. We call on them and on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and Action Line facilitators, within their respective mandates, to share experience on the enabling environment and support the development of demand-driven policy guidance, technical assistance and capacity-building, as appropriate, to realise them.

Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

53. We reaffirm that building confidence and security in information and communications technologies and their use 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 international human rights law.

54. We commend the significant efforts that have been taken by governments, the private sector, international organisations, civil society and the technical and academic communities to build confidence and security and protect infrastructure, services, transactions and other digital activity, from the rising threat of malicious cyber activities and physical risks to infrastructure.

55. We note the final report of the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 and the establishment of the Global Mechanism on Developments in the Field of ICTs in the Context of International Security and Advancing Responsible States Behaviour in the Use of ICTs.

56. We recognize 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.

57. We recognize the challenges that States, in particular developing countries, face in building confidence and security in information and communications technologies and their use. 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.

Capacity development

58. 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. We recognize the need to scale up international cooperation and financing for digital capacity development in developing countries and to support the development of local content and content relevant to local realities online.

59. We stress, in particular, the importance of capacity development in technological innovation, and in building the policy and technical expertise required to support innovation and address the increasingly complex challenges of governance arising from digitalisation. We commend the work that has been undertaken by the technical community and other stakeholders to build expertise in technical aspects of digitalisation and by United Nations entities and other stakeholders to develop the capacity of civil servants and the judiciary. We call for the strengthening of initiatives to support digital capabilities in these and other critical areas of digital transformation.

60. We recognize the importance of digital skills and lifelong access to digital learning opportunities, taking into account the specific social, cultural and linguistic needs of each society and persons of all ages and backgrounds. We call on all stakeholders to promote digital skills and literacy in order to empower individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to make informed choices about their personal data, identify reliable information that will help them to access opportunities including work and skilling opportunities and improve their quality of life, and take appropriate steps to safeguard their online security and privacy.

Financial mechanisms

61. We recognize that the scope and scale of financial investment in ICT infrastructure have grown enormously since the World Summit as a result of expanding markets, new technological capabilities and new types of service. 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 public as well as private investment.

62. We call on all stakeholders to promote an enabling policy environment for investment and to foster public-private cooperation and partnership for sustainable investment in ICT infrastructure, applications and services, content and digital skills with the aim of ensuring the meaningful connectivity needed to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. We recognize the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services. We also recognize that development partners, including multilateral development banks, and public funding have also played an important role in financing information and communications networks and services, particularly supporting their deployment in areas that have been considered commercially unviable. Innovative mechanisms, including universal access funds and community networks, have also contributed to extending connectivity in remoter areas.

64. We reaffirm the call in the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (the Sevilla Commitment), adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 79/323 of 25 August 2025, for the development of financing plans and coordinated investment in digital infrastructure, including digital public infrastructure and digital public goods, and for international collaboration between national governments, development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, relevant international organisations and private sector actors, to support countries in their design of digital infrastructure, its financing models and impact assessment.

65. We recognize the scale of the problem in bridging and closing digital divides. We call on international financial organisations and development partners to mainstream ICTs in their work programmes and concessional finance, and to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prepare and implement their national e-strategies through existing and new mechanisms for financing infrastructure development, connectivity and the development of ICT services.

66. We invite the Secretary-General, within existing mandates and resources and in coordination with WSIS action lines facilitators and other relevant United Nations entities,   to consider the establishment of a task force to examine future financial mechanisms for digital development, building on and complementing ongoing financing initiatives and mechanisms and involving all stakeholders, including multilateral financial institutions and other development partners, and to report on its outcomes to the 81st session of the General Assembly in 2026.

Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society

67. We recognize that human rights have been central to the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society and that information and communications technologies have shown their potential to strengthen the exercise of human rights.

68. We reaffirm our commitment to the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and to the framework of rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We reaffirm that democracy, sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as good governance at all levels, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

69. 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 recall the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 78/213 on 22 December 2023, which set out principles and actions concerning the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies. We will uphold international human rights law throughout the life cycle of digital and emerging technologies, so that users can safely benefit from digital technologies and are protected from violations, abuses and all forms of discrimination. We commit to establish appropriate safeguards to prevent and address any adverse impact on human rights arising from the use of digital and emerging technologies and protect individuals against violations and abuses of their human rights in the digital space, including through human rights due diligence and establishing effective oversight and remedy mechanisms.

70. We recognize the responsibilities of all stakeholders in this endeavour. We call on the private sector and all relevant stakeholders to ensure that respect for human rights is incorporated into the conception, design, development, deployment, operation, use, evaluation and regulation of all new and emerging digital technologies and to provide for redress and effective remedy for the human rights abuses that they may cause, contribute to, or to which they may be directly linked. We also call on the private sector to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

71. We acknowledge the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' ongoing efforts to provide expert advice and practical guidance on human rights and technology issues.

72. We reaffirm our commitment to article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which it is stated that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

73. We reaffirm our commitment to article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that no person shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, consistent with countries' obligations under international human rights law.

74. We reaffirm our commitment to 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. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

75. 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 respecting and protecting human rights and by refraining from Internet shutdowns and measures that target Internet access. We also call on all business enterprises, including surveillance technology companies and companies responsible for social media platforms, to respect human rights in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

76. We underscore the need to respect and protect the independence and diversity of media, including digital media, which are essential to maintaining information integrity and access to reliable and accurate information. We emphasise the importance of safeguarding journalists, media workers, human rights defenders and other civil society actors. We call on all stakeholders to strengthen independent and public media, support media workers, and ensure the conditions that allow journalism to operate freely, sustainably, and in the public interest without harassment, surveillance or arbitrary detention linked to their legitimate activities.

77. We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation of and interference with information in ways that are harmful to societies and individuals, and negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance and respect in the digital space, as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes. We will strengthen international cooperation to address the challenge of misinformation and disinformation and hate speech online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with international law.

78. We stress the importance of ensuring that women and girls can participate in and contribute to society at large on equal terms and without discrimination and reaffirm that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in the digital age is critical to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. We recognize 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.

79. We recognize that children are among the most active users of the Internet and online services. We commit to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to protect the rights of the child in the digital space, in line with international human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We welcome the comprehensive approach to promoting children's digital rights in the best interests of the child in the digital environment.

Data governance

80. We recognize that responsible and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation and promote economic growth.

81. We reaffirm the approach to data governance that was adopted by the General Assembly in the Global Digital Compact.

82. We note the establishment of a working group of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multistakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development, including on follow-up recommendations towards equitable and interoperable data governance arrangements.

Artificial intelligence

83. 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.

84. We encourage the development of international partnerships on artificial intelligence capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, increase access to resources including open artificial intelligence models and systems, open training data and compute, facilitate artificial intelligence model training and development, and promote the participation of micro -, small and medium-sized enterprises in the digital economy. We will leverage existing United Nations and multi-stakeholder mechanisms to support artificial intelligence capacity-building to bridge artificial intelligence divides, facilitate access to artificial intelligence applications and build capacity in high-performance computing and related skills in developing countries.

85. We request the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (IAWG-AI) to establish an artificial intelligence research fellowship, leveraging existing United Nations system-wide capacities and within existing resources for increasing AI research expertise, with a particular focus on developing countries.

86. We also request the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, to launch an artificial intelligence capacity building fellowship, leveraging existing UN system-wide capacities and within existing resources, aimed at strengthening the technical, practical knowledge and expertise of government officials to enable meaningful participation in global AI governance initiatives, in particular for developing countries.

87. We welcome the establishment within the United Nations of the work that is underway to establish a multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel on AI to promote scientific understanding through evidence-based impact, risk and opportunity assessments, drawing on existing national, regional and international initiatives and research networks, We also welcome the initiation of a Global Dialogue on AI Governance involving Governments and all relevant stakeholders which will take place in the margins of existing relevant United Nations conferences and meetings.

Internet governance

88. 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.

89. We recognize that Internet governance must continue to be global and multistakeholder in nature with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, technical and

academic communities, international organisations, and all other relevant stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities.

90. We recognize the need to promote greater participation and engagement in Internet governance discussions of all stakeholders from all countries. Measures are needed to ensure 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.

91. We recognize that the Internet is a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation. 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. To fully benefit all, it must be open, global, interoperable, stable and secure. We reaffirm the need to promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet.

92. We reaffirm that Internet governance should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits held in Geneva and Tunis, including in relation to enhanced cooperation.

93. We recall the work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, established by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125, to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda.

94. We reaffirm our commitment to maintain and improve the coordination of the activities of international and intergovernmental organisations and other stakeholders concerned with Internet governance.

95. We take note of the NETmundial+10 guidelines for multistakeholder collaboration and consensus-building, endorsed in April 2024, as a contribution to strengthening Internet governance through inclusive participation, balanced representation and openness.

96. We recognize 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 other stakeholder groups. We call on Member States and other stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities, to cooperate in order to achieve the WSIS vision.

97. 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 and global platform for multistakeholder discussion of Internet governance issues, including emerging issues, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

98. We welcome the evolution of the Internet Governance Forum from an annual meeting into a broader ecosystem encompassing intersessional and other activities, including Dynamic Coalitions, Best Practice Forums and Policy Networks. We particularly welcome the emergence of more than 170 National, Regional and Youth Internet Governance Forums, which have enhanced multistakeholder discussion of relevant issues in all continents, many sub-regions and a majority of Member States. We also welcome the work of the Forum's Multistakeholder

Advisory Group and the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Forum's Leadership Panel.

99. We recognize 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 the 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 and request the Forum to report annually on progress towards their implementation to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

100. We decide that the Internet Governance Forum shall be made a permanent forum of the United Nations with continued secretariat by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on a stable and sustainable basis with appropriate staffing and resources, in accordance with United Nations budgetary procedures.

101. We call upon the Forum to report on outcomes of its annual meetings and intersessional work to relevant United Nations entities and processes, and call, in particular, on the United Nations Group on the Information Society and all relevant United Nations agencies, action line facilitators, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the WSIS Forum to take Internet Governance Forum outcomes into account in their work and proceedings.

102. We also 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. 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. The Internet Governance Forum should continue to serve as an inclusive platform for dialogue among all stakeholders, while further strengthening the engagement of governments and other stakeholders from developing countries in discussions on Internet governance and emerging technologies.

103. 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 submit a proposal to the General Assembly during its eightieth session to ensure sustainable funding for the Forum, combining a mix of core UN funding and voluntary contributions.

The development of the WSIS framework

104. We believe 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 to ensure that they continue to support the achievement of the WSIS vision and objectives and integration with the Global Digital Compact.

105. We recognize 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, within their respective roles and responsibilities. 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.

106. We recognize the importance of ensuring alignment in 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 governments and other stakeholders from all countries to play a full part in achieving their fulfilment.

107. We welcome the efforts of United Nations entities and World Summit Action Line facilitators to support the implementation of WSIS outcomes over the past two decades within their mandates and areas of responsibility. We commend the International Telecommunication Union on its establishment of the WSIS Stocktaking Platform and the WSIS Prizes, and encourage all stakeholders to contribute to the Stocktaking database.

108. We recognize the important role that has been played by United Nations Regional Commissions in developing regional action plans to fulfil the WSIS vision. We reaffirm their mandates to serve as regional mechanisms for implementation and follow-up of World Summit outcomes, encourage them to continue their work within their regions, and call for them to scale up technical assistance, capacity building and partnerships.

109. We welcome the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies to facilitate United Nations system-wide coordination on digital cooperation, working closely with existing mechanisms, and to support the follow-up and implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

110. We acknowledge the work of the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 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 an important platform for the sharing of information and best practice and for multistakeholder dialogue and collaboration and for developing networks and coordinating initiatives to implement the WSIS vision. We call for the Forum to be continued annually.

111. We reaffirm our commitment to the framework of Action Lines established in the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. We recognize the value that many governments have attributed to this framework in supporting the formulation of national strategies and approaches to digital development. 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.

112. We recognize the importance of human rights to the implementation of all Action Lines and request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to contribute to their facilitation and assessment. We also call on Action Lines to address gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a core theme within their work, with the full involvement of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other stakeholders.

113. We request the Action Line facilitators, in coordination with UNGIS, to develop targeted and result-oriented implementation roadmaps for their respective Action Lines and the outcomes of the present resolution, linking the WSIS Action Lines with relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets and Global Digital Compact commitments, including potential targets, indicators and metrics to facilitate monitoring and measurement, and to report on the outcomes of this work to the thirtieth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in 2027.

Monitoring and measurement

114. 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. We are committed to strengthening international cooperation to close the current serious gaps on data for development and champion the responsible use and sharing of data within and between countries to advance progress across the Sustainable Development Goals.

115. We note with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, which has made a valuable contribution to the development of indicators, data gathering and dissemination of data on the Information Society. We welcome the work of United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to develop targets, indicators and metrics within their mandates and areas of expertise.

116. We are committed to the further development and strengthening of internationally agreed targets, indicators and metrics for universal meaningful and affordable connectivity and digital development. We call upon United Nations and other relevant organisations and forums to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and share information about country case studies.

117. We request the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, in cooperation with Action Line facilitators and with the support of the United Nations Statistical Commission, to undertake a systematic review of existing indicators and methodologies, and to report its findings to the 30th session of the Commission in 2027.

118. We recognize the need for further funding and capacity-building of national statistical systems and methodologies 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 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.

Follow-up and review

119. 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, youth, the technical and academic

communities, and international organisations, and that the annual review of progress on the full set of Summit Action Lines and the outcomes set out in this resolution will be essential to achieving the vision of the Summit.

120. 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.

121. We call for the continuation and strengthening of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society as the United Nations system's inter-agency mechanism for advancing policy coherence and programme coordination on digital matters, in support of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Global Digital Compact. We request the Secretary-General, in consultation with members of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to enhance the agility, efficiency and effectiveness of UNGIS and expand its membership with further United Nations entities, with a view to fostering dialogue, partnership-building and review of progress on digital cooperation.

122. We note the World Summit process and 2030 Agenda–Global Digital Compact matrix, prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, which maps the objectives and commitments of the Global Digital Compact to existing World Summit structures, mechanisms and activities, providing a structured approach for effective follow-up and implementation. Building on this work and consistent with the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, we request the United Nations Group on the Information Society, within existing mandates and resources, to prepare a joint implementation roadmap, to be presented for consideration by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-ninth session in 2026. The roadmap should aim to strengthen coherence between the World Summit and Global Digital Compact processes, ensuring a unified, resource-efficient approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes synergies across the United Nations system.

123. We recognize the role of the Economic and Social Council in overseeing the system-wide follow-up of the implementation and outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society including the need for avoiding duplication and ensuring coherence of WSIS implementation with that of the Global Digital Compact. We recognize the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing and assessing progress in implementing the World Summit outcomes and request the Commission further to review and assess progress made in aligning WSIS and GDC commitments and to advise ECOSOC, where requested, including through strategic guidance and recommendations aimed at furthering implementation consistent with the joint implementation roadmap.

124. We request the Secretary-General to submit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, a biennial report on progress in the implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, incorporating updates on the implementation of the Global Digital Compact and on the recommendations contained in the present resolution, and request that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council consider the report in line with this biennial cycle.

125. We recall that the General Assembly will convene, during its eighty-second session in 2027, a high-level meeting to review progress in the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, on the basis of the Secretary-General's progress report. The review will draw on

inputs from all relevant stakeholders, as well as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Internet Governance Forum and facilitators of the WSIS Action Lines. We encourage the high-level meeting to consider, inter alia, progress made in fostering coherence and alignment between the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

126. 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.

127. 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.