

Briefing to Member States by the UN Agencies on the WSIS+20 Overall Review by the UN General Assembly

3 November 2025 | 9:00–11:00 a.m. EST | Virtual in MS Teams

At the request of Member States, the Secretariat of the WSIS+20 Overall Review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) by the United Nations General Assembly, housed within the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), is organizing a briefing to exchange views on institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and implementation frameworks relevant to the follow-up of WSIS outcomes, as reflected in the WSIS+20 Zero Draft.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/277 (Modalities Resolution), the overall review *“shall take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and address potential information and communications technology gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as addressing challenges, including bridging the digital divide, and harnessing information and communications technologies for development.”*

The discussion will aim to provide clarity on how existing processes contribute to the implementation and review of WSIS outcomes, their linkages with the Global Digital Compact, and other evolving frameworks for digital cooperation. It will also offer Member States an opportunity to share feedback and identify practical ways to strengthen system-wide coherence and support for implementation in the next phase of WSIS follow-up.

1. Capacity Development and Financial Mechanisms for Digital Transformation (60 min)

- How are current initiatives supporting Member States in building digital capacities and institutional readiness under the WSIS framework?
- Which collaborative approaches have proven most effective in advancing WSIS Action Lines and related goals?
- What financial mechanisms exist to support digital transformation, and how can they be better coordinated or scaled to promote digital inclusion and infrastructure development?

2. System-wide Coordination and WSIS–GDC Implementation Architecture (30 min)

- What mechanisms currently facilitate digital cooperation across the UN system?
- How do these mechanisms promote coherence across digital and emerging technology processes?
- What principles should guide alignment between WSIS+20 follow-up and the Global Digital Compact implementation framework?
- What institutional and reporting arrangements can ensure coherence and complementarity between these processes?

3. Follow-up, Monitoring and Indicators (30 min)

- What mechanisms can ensure coherent follow-up and reporting on WSIS+20 and the Global Digital Compact?
- How can progress in implementing WSIS Action Lines be effectively tracked and reviewed?

- How might existing measurement and indicator frameworks be updated to better capture the digital dimensions of sustainable development?
- What synergies could be strengthened between WSIS Action Line reporting and ongoing measurement initiatives?

Expected Outcome:

The briefing will inform Member States ahead of their upcoming deliberations on the WSIS+20 Overall Review, providing a clearer understanding of institutional roles, coordination mechanisms, and implementation frameworks related to WSIS follow-up and its linkages with the Global Digital Compact. The discussion will also support the Co-Facilitators' continued drafting of Revision 1 of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document and the preparation of forthcoming informal consultations.

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