



Statement by
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

WSIS+20 Virtual Stakeholder Consultation on the Zero Draft

Tuesday 14 October 2025, 10:00-13:00 EDT / 16:00-19:00 CEST

ITU thanks the WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators for presenting the Zero Draft and for leading an inclusive and open process.

As the UN specialized agency for digital technologies, ITU has been deeply engaged in the WSIS+20 review — responding to the Co-Facilitators' calls, including organizing multistakeholder consultations at WSIS Forum 2024 and 2025 high-level events.

ITU contributed to the Zero Draft by highlighting the existing activities and processes ensuring there is no duplication of resources.

The written contributions include strengthening critical digital infrastructure through the International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience, as well as promoting sustainable digital development through Giga, Child Online Protection, Green Digital Action and the Digital Infrastructure Investment Catalyzer.

Since its inception at the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary and 2003 and 2005 WSIS phases, with ITU as secretariat, we have remained fully dedicated.

Over the past 20 years, ITU has led implementation of all WSIS Action Lines, facilitating ICT infrastructure, capacity building, cybersecurity, and enabling environment. Working with more than 50 UN partners, particularly with UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD, ITU has advanced system-wide alignment through annual Action Line meetings and the WSIS Forum—the leading platform for tracking progress and fostering inclusive digital dialogue. ITU remains committed to expanding the Forum's role for even broader engagement and enhanced policy coherence.

Since 2004, ITU has been maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking database, which hosts more than 19,000 entries tracking global progress across WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, now integrated with the Global Digital Compact. A cornerstone of this effort is the WSIS Prizes, through which more than 9,000 projects and initiatives have been recognized — showcasing best practices, inspiring innovation, and driving tangible impact.

We welcome the recognition of United Nations Group on the Information Society in the Zero Draft. As permanent secretariat since 2006, and in its rotating Chair and Vice-Chair roles, ITU has helped ensure that UNGIS remains active, results-driven, and highly visible, strengthening system-wide digital cooperation across the United Nations. As the UNGIS secretariat, ITU coordinates workstreams, facilitates high-level and working-level meetings, maintains the UNGIS website, and helps organize inputs to key global and regional processes. Under ITU's leadership, the Working Group on Digital Technologies developed the GDC Implementation Map, based on the WSIS-2030 Agenda-GDC matrix by UNGIS.

We see the Zero Draft as an encouraging foundation and look forward to seeing these highlighted elements reflected and strengthened in the final WSIS+20 outcome document.

Thank you.