



Statement by
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

WSIS+20 Virtual Stakeholder Consultation on Rev1

Friday 14 November 2025, 08:00-13:00 EDT / 14:00-19:00 CEST

ITU thanks the Co-Facilitators for their steady stewardship of this important WSIS+20 process. Thank you for the opportunity to present our observations with the hope that they will be included in the next iteration.

In the Preamble, we would like to recall that ITU Member States resolved at its Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis in 1998 (Resolution 73) to hold a World Summit on the Information Society and to place it on the agenda of the United Nations.

ITU also served as the Secretariat for the two-phased Summit held in 2003 (Geneva) and 2005 (Tunis), as endorsed by UNGA Resolution 56/183, which accorded ITU a lead role in cooperation with all relevant organizations and partners.

As the United Nations specialized agency for digital technologies, over the past twenty years ITU has been at the forefront of global digital cooperation with the UN and all stakeholders—enabling partnerships, strengthening capacities, and fostering digital transformation in alignment with the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda.

Change has been the only constant in the WSIS process, and ITU—as well as the broader WSIS community—has continuously adapted. This includes the evolution of Action Lines and their alignment with emerging technological developments. ITU remains committed to its responsibilities as a WSIS Action Line Facilitator, and so do the other UN agencies involved. We also wish to acknowledge the contributions of all facilitators—across the UN Regional Commissions and UN entities—in sustaining a dynamic and inclusive WSIS ecosystem.

We would like to invite you to use as much as possible the agreed language from ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2025/18, particularly its recognition of the importance of integrating the implementation of Global Digital Compact (GDC) commitments into the WSIS architecture to avoid duplication and ensure coherence in digital cooperation.

On UNGIS (para 119), we underline its current effective functioning as an autonomous inter-agency mechanism built on mutual respect and trust, with ITU serving as its permanent secretariat. We have served as such since its inception and have a dedicated WSIS team in place backed by ITU resolutions.

Para 85, acknowledge that the Global Dialogue on AI Governance will take place in the margins of existing relevant United Nations conferences and meetings, such as the ITU AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva in 2026.

Highlight the key role played by the Inter-Agency Working Group on AI across over 50 UN entities and that it stands ready to support implementation of any AI proposals in the outcome document such as on AI research and capacity building leveraging existing capacities and existing resources.

We would like to highlight the core mandate of the CSTD, to continue inviting key UN agencies involved in WSIS implementation to present their implementation work.

On para 107 on the GDC, specifically it is the Working Group on Digital Technologies—co-chaired by ITU and ODET, with Vice-Chairs relevant to all objectives of the GDC—that has been coordinating implementation of the GDC action points across the UN system, and we suggest that it be referenced there instead, noting also that the current language in the para is not consistent with the GDC.

Lastly, we note instances where “WSIS” is replaced by “World Summit,” which may introduce inconsistency, particularly where the text refers to specific WSIS paragraphs (e.g., paras 3, 6). We respectfully suggest maintaining the term “WSIS” throughout for clarity and coherence.

Co-Facilitators, ITU remains committed to supporting an ambitious, coherent, and future-ready WSIS+20 outcome that continues to serve all stakeholders and ensures that digital technologies advance sustainable development for everyone.

Thank you.