

Theme: Capacity Building

Thank you for giving the floor. I am Dheeraj Rajput, I am representing Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

India welcomes this dialogue and is pleased to contribute our reflections on capacity building as an essential driver of a people-centred, inclusive Information Society within the WSIS+20 vision.

India wishes to begin by acknowledging that the Elements Paper gives much needed attention to the theme of capacity building. We see this as a positive step, recognising the importance of skills and knowledge development which enables meaningful participation in the Information Society.

At the same time, we believe there is scope to strengthen this aspect in the WSIS+20 vision. In that regard, we propose the following priority actions:

- 1. Capacity building and digital literacy must be treated as a central pillar of WSIS Action Lines, not as a complementary activity.**
- 2. In our submissions for the Elements Paper, we have emphasised the need for targeted digital literacy programmes for rural and tribal communities, for persons with disabilities, and for regional language speakers which addresses the issue of economic barriers to participation.**
- 3. Structured internship and fellowship programmes should be nurtured to create a pipeline of future-ready leaders, ensuring that WSIS Action Lines are guided by an informed and empowered next generation. In this context, we also wish to highlight the India's Youth IGF, which has become a vibrant platform bringing young voices into regional and global governance dialogues.**
- 4. We believe that open knowledge bases, datasets, and multistakeholder platforms can democratise expertise and position capacity building as a cross-cutting enabler. WSIS+20 is an opportunity to embed scalable models into global frameworks, linking them to measurable outcomes.**

Ensuring that capacity building remains a clear legacy outcome of WSIS+20 will allow us to move beyond connectivity towards meaningful, empowered participation for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these reflections.