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Intervention for the July 29, 2025 UN Stakeholder Consult

CCIA Remarks on the WSIS+20 Elements Paper

Thank you, co-facilitators, excellencies, and distinguished colleagues.

I am Gabriel Delsol from the Computer & Communications Industry Association, or CCIA, an international non-profit membership organization representing companies in the computer, internet, information technology, and telecommunications industries.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Elements Paper for the WSIS+20 Review. I also welcome the comments from several of my colleagues on the call today, and want to endorse those of the International Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Council on International Business, the GSM Association, Microsoft, APCO, and the Africa ICT Alliance.

CCIA has submitted written comments in response to the request for input on the Elements Paper. For the sake of brevity, I will focus my comments today on the section on AI, paragraphs 70 through 76, highlighting how to best harness the innovative potential of AI to support the goals of the WSIS process.

First, specific to the WSIS process, CCIA recommends that the review engage on AI through existing mechanisms to avoid duplication and potential friction, and in recognizing the cross-cutting application of AI technologies across a diverse array of sectors. Specific to the WSIS+20 review, discussions on AI do not merit the creation of a new, dedicated Action Line, and instead should proceed through existing Action Lines.

Second, the WSIS review should recognize and build upon existing efforts within the UN to engage on AI. In particular, the process should support and defer to outcomes under the Global Digital Compact, especially the proposed Scientific Panel and Global Dialogue on AI, which remain under development and do not require additional direction from the WSIS+20 review, as well as the recent resolutions passed through the UNGA on this topic.

Third, in recognizing the importance of the UN engaging on AI, given its transformative potential to promote development and innovation, we view the role of the UN as a facilitating agent, in line with the vision established in the Global Digital Compact's Paragraph 54 on the UN's role as enabling and supporting multistakeholder approaches to AI governance. The UN is best served as a forum for convening and information sharing, rather than prescribing specific governance mechanisms, given the diverse applications of AI and the importance of context-specific approaches. As such, we recommend that paragraph 73 in the Elements Paper and future such characterizations of the UN's role avoid reference to the UN as "essential" for "shaping" AI governance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this process, and we look forward to continuing to engage throughout the drafting process.