Theme: Monitoring and Measurement

Thank you for this opportunity. I am Rashi Gupta representing Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, India

We welcome the emphasis in paragraphs 82 to 84 of the Elements Paper on the central role of data in identifying challenges, formulating solutions, and ensuring accountability as we advance towards the Sustainable Development Goals. We also note the acknowledgement that no global targets were set beyond 2015 for the information society.

However, we note with concern that the articulation of targets and milestones beyond 2015 has lacked specificity. While several international agencies have adopted goals on meaningful and affordable connectivity, the Elements Paper document does not indicate which agencies have done so, the nature of these targets, and how they align with WSIS objectives. For greater transparency and benchmarking, we urge that the Zero Draft include a consolidated mapping of post-2015 global targets with references to the adopting bodies, so that these can be harmonised within the WSIS+20 framework.

From our perspective, one of the persistent challenges in implementing the WSIS framework has been the inadequacy of robust, harmonised, and user-friendly mechanisms for data collection, reporting, and progress assessment. The wide scope of the WSIS Action Lines is appreciated, but the absence of a unified and accessible interface for diverse stakeholders limits timely inputs, transparency, and accountability.

There is also a significant gap in domain-specific, quantifiable indicators for example, in areas such as AI readiness, digital inclusion, and capacity building. Without such structured measurement, it becomes difficult to evaluate the impact of our collective initiatives or to make mid-course corrections.

We, therefore, emphasise the importance of creating a transparent, interoperable, and participatory global framework that draws inspiration from the existing UN and ITU indicators and introduces domain-specific metrics for emerging areas. Such a system must facilitate comprehensive and inclusive data gathering, enable evidence-based digital policymaking, and empower all stakeholders including developing countries to measure progress and adapt strategies in a timely manner.

We urge that monitoring and measurement becomes a core pillar of the WSIS+20 outcomes ensuring that our vision is not only aspirational but also measurable and the next phase of the Information Society is inclusive, evidence-based and accountable.