

My name is Titti Cassa, and I work for AgID—the Agency for Digital Italy—under the Prime Minister’s Office. Today, I’m speaking in my personal capacity.

Let me begin by thanking the co-facilitators, the Ambassadors of Kenya and Albania for organizing this important consultation.

The WSIS+20 review gives us a timely opportunity to reflect on how we can strengthen digital governance—making it more coherent, inclusive, and effective for the years ahead.

Over the past two decades, WSIS has provided a strong foundation for global digital cooperation. It has promoted a people-centered approach, grounded in multistakeholder dialogue. One of its most valuable outcomes is undoubtedly the Internet Governance Forum.

The IGF ecosystem has demonstrated its relevance as an open, global platform for inclusive and constructive exchange. Through its intersessional activities—such as the National and Regional IGFs, Dynamic Coalitions, and Policy Networks—it brings forward grassroots perspectives and innovative ideas from around the world.

Yet despite these strengths, the digital governance landscape remains fragmented. Initiatives like WSIS, the Global Digital Compact, and the SDGs often operate in parallel, with limited coordination. This creates overlaps and risks duplication—especially challenging for countries with fewer resources.

To respond to this, we need to move from coordination in principle to coordination in practice. The IGF ecosystem is well positioned to serve as a bridge across the WSIS Action Lines, the GDC priorities, the SDGs, and the broader UN digital policy framework. It already has the architecture. What it needs now is reinforcement and formal recognition.

With that in mind, I’d like to suggest a few concrete steps:

- First, the IGF should be established as a permanent, well-resourced platform within the UN system. This includes strengthening its Secretariat and expanding its structure—with dedicated liaison roles to support coordination among stakeholders, UN bodies, and possibly the introduction of a governmental track.
- Second, we should enhance integration between WSIS, the GDC, and the IGF—through shared roadmaps, regular interfaces, and common follow-up mechanisms.
- Third, we must make inclusivity a priority. That means supporting multilingual participation, integrating gender and youth voices, and ensuring representation from underrepresented regions and communities.

I also believe the IGF should play a more strategic role in shaping the global digital agenda. It should help turn discussions into concrete outcomes—with mechanisms to monitor progress and promote accountability. One proposal is to launch, after each annual IGF, a bottom-up process to formulate concrete calls to action—grounded in the IGF messages—and directed at governments, UN agencies, and stakeholders.

In short, the IGF is already a living infrastructure for digital cooperation. Now is the time to invest in its evolution—so that it can support a digital future that is open, inclusive, and responsive to the digital world’s needs.