**Policy Statement: Dr. Salma Abbasi, Chairperson and CEO, e Worldwide Group**

Reflecting on the challenges and outcomes from WSIS, there is no doubt in my mind that it is essential to have comprehensive, inclusive, cross-cutting and integrated policies that reflect reality to ensure holistic sustainable development.

However, my experience sadly demonstrates that many development policies remain in the ‘theoretical space’ and are often disconnected from the ground reality and practical social cultural constraints that impact the most vulnerable groups in society namely; the children, the women, the people with special needs and the elderly. Thus, the desired outcomes and impact of policies are greatly hindered and missed.

I would therefore like to recommend that for WSIS +10 we pay greater attention to ensure that policies are practical, inclusive, implementable and most importantly measureable. Furthermore, greater consideration needs to be given for consultation and engagement to occur within and across all groups of society during the policy formulation process.

I also believe that it is critical to develop more comprehensive policy implementation frameworks in the local national context. In addition, measureable holistic impact indicators at the social level need to be developed and more importantly reported on a regular basis. This will help encourage Countries to begin monitoring the impact aspects of their policies across the most vulnerable groups of society post implementation.

Lastly, we must remember to keep in mind that policies need to be ‘fluid and dynamic’ to adapt to the ever changing environment of the digital society.