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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C23/100-E** |
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| Contribution from Bahamas (Commonwealth of the), Peru, and Uruguay (Eastern Republic of) |
| Creation of Friends of WSIS |
| **Purpose**The purpose of this document is to propose the creation of “Friends of WSIS” to support and promote the WSIS Process and its implementation activities to reach the last mile.**Action required by the Council**The council is invited to consider this contribution and take the necessary actions accordingly.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

As a multistakeholder process, WSIS has stood the test of time, and the WSIS+20 review process is expected to provide a guidance framework for all stakeholders, based on the WSIS outcome documents, for addressing opportunities and challenges posed by the current digital landscape, having regard to the strategic goals of the Union, i.e. universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

We propose the establishment of WSIS+20 Review support and advocacy group, to be called Friends of WSIS, which provides crucial support and advocacy for the WSIS+20 review process and WSIS beyond 2025. The review process entails a comprehensive assessment of the progress made since the inception of WSIS. The Friends of WSIS will consist of countries that actively contribute to this assessment, working towards shaping the future direction of WSIS and its linkages with other global digital governance processes. The Group will reinforce the central role of the ITU in driving the WSIS+20 review process, which serves as a catalyst for shaping a digital future that benefits all individuals and societies.

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