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**CSTD Roadmap for the WSIS+20 Review**

CSTD Secretariat statement at ITU’s

Council Working Group on WSIS and SDGs,

17 October 2023

The CSTD has been mandated by the ECOSOC and the General Assembly to review and assess annually progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of WSIS action lines, recommendations, and commitments.

In March this year, the CSTD adopted a roadmap for the preparation of its contribution to the overall WSIS +20 review. In July ECOSOC resolution 2023/3 welcomed the road map, and encouraged Member States to provide financial or other support for its implementation. The resolution also requested the CSTD to collect inputs from member States, all facilitators and other stakeholders and to organize, during its twenty-seventh session, in 2024, and its twenty-eighth session, in 2025, substantive discussions on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the past 20 years, and to report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly.

According to the CSTD roadmap, the secretariat will prepare a synthesis report on the process of the implementation of the WSIS twenty years after the adoption of the WSIS outcomes. Issues to be addressed will include the dynamic processes of change in the Information Society that have taken place in technology, in the deployment, access and use of ICTs, and their impact on development including in its economic, social, and cultural dimensions, the environment, human rights and other critical relevant areas. It should also consider how ongoing trends and likely new developments will affect progress towards human development in the future using the SDGs as the basic template for the analysis.

The report will include as inputs the outcomes of a broad consultation process. Relevant stakeholders, including action line facilitators and other international agencies, will also be invited to contribute written inputs providing forward-looking thinking about the ways in which the WSIS process is relevant to today’s digital transformation.

The first draft of the report will be provided as background for the substantive discussion mentioned to be held in April 2024 at the 27th CSTD annual session. The final draft will be made available for the 28th CSTD annual session in March 2025.

After the 28th annual session of the CSTD in 2025, the outcome of the Commission’s discussions in the twenty-year review of WSIS will be submitted through the ECOSOC to the General Assembly as inputs for the GA’s 2025 overall review.

The secretariat will undertake widespread engagement including with UN and other multilateral agencies, national governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical communities concerned with the development of ICTs, digital development and development more generally. A partnership has been developed with the ITU and UNESCO secretariats to fully exploit synergies in this process and avoid any overlapping in our respective WSIS +20 activities.

A first open consultation took place last 10 October during the IGF meeting in Tokyo. Another one will be held in December during UNCTAD’s e-week. At least three regional consultations are planned to be held jointly with UN regional commissions, ITU, UNESCO and UNDP

An online WSIS +20 survey has been developed jointly with ITU, and UNESCO via the ITU website addressed to all stakeholder groups. It is open for inputs until the end of January 2024.

Finally, the scope and depth of the consultation and analytical activities in this roadmap are dependent on the availability of extra-budgetary financial support from member States. Non-CSTD member States are welcome to contribute financial support too. A WSIS-specific trust fund managed by UNCTAD is available for those purposes.

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