|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-39/INF-5** |
| **17 October 2023** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
|  | |
| Remarks from Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations in New York, provided to the CWG WSIS&SDG 39th meeting on 17 October 2023. | |
| **Purpose**  **Action required**  This statement is transmitted to the CWG-WSIS&SDG **for information**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References** | |

* Glad to attend today’s meeting as one of the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process on the Global Digital Compact. I **facilitate this process together with my Zambian colleague,** since Ambassador Gatete of Rwanda was recently appointed head of ECA in Addis Ababa. We both look forward to work closely and to hear from you during this process.
* Sweden, together with Rwanda, has co-facilitated this process since late last year/ early this year. During spring our focus was to create opportunities to hear voices from multistakeholder on challenges and opportunities of the digital transformation: and how these can feed into the process on the Global Digital Compact.
* As has been mentioned many times, the **Global Digital Compact is a critical step in preparing for the Summit of the Future** and for Member States and stakeholders to shape a shared vision of digital cooperation as envisioned in the Secretary-General’s report “Our Common Agenda”. The Secretary-General also proposed that the Compact would be the main outcome of a **multistakeholder technology track**. This is something I cannot emphasise enough.
* I would also like to emphasize that this is an **intergovernmental process** where we, as Member States, have been appointed to facilitate the process. **SG:s Policy brief on the Global Digital Compact presents the UN perspective and proposes ways forward**, however, it is up to the Member States to agree what to take onboard in a future compact.
* In the Spring we conducted our **informal consultations, in the format of deep dives**, which we strived to make as inclusive, transparent, and meaningful as possible. We were very pleased that our consultations included participation by a wide range of stakeholders representing civil society organizations, youth organizations, minority communities, the private sector, and the technical community. Our challenge was rather to create enough time and space for all voices to be heard, in a time with many parallel meetings in New York. We are constantly re-thinking how to accommodate this in the best way possible.
* The consultations outlined a wide spectrum of issues and requests. [8 themes: **Digital inclusion and connectivity; Internet governance; Data protection; Human Rights online; Digital Trust and Security; Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies; Global digital commons, and Accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals**.]
* The consultations reinforced objectives and actions to collectively harness the benefits and manage the risks of digitalization for all. The important roles played by IGF, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, **WSIS** and other UN entities and forums was also emphasized and that a GDC should not duplicate existing forums and processes. We also participated at the multistakeholder **IGF in Kyoto** and we plan to visit Geneva in December.
* Ahead of the Ministerial meeting during this year’s High-Level week we circulated an **Issues paper** (see [here](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/INF-5-Global-Digital-Compact-Issues-paper.pdf)) in where we shared our assessment from the deep dives as well as the broader consultations that have been taken place, including our visit to Geneva and meetings with relevant UN Agencies and representatives.
* We are now in a unique position to build on the momentum. A genuinely global conversation is underway. We plan to start the intergovernmental negotiations on GDC early in the new year. Thank you.