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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/17** |
| **29 January 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution by Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), the United Arab Emirates, and Tunisia | |
| PREPARATION OF THE OVERALL REVIEW ON THE WSIS OUTCOMES: WSIS+20 AND WSIS BEYOND 2025 | |
| **Purpose**  As part of the preparations for the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes: WSIS Beyond 2025, this document highlights key considerations for the WSIS+20 review.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **consider** this document and **take any necessary action**. | |

1. **Introduction:**

For 20 years, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has led the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process. ITU fosters inclusive, development-driven, and people-centered digital transformation worldwide. As the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), the organization has been instrumental in advancing the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines.

The WSIS+20 review provides a critical juncture to assess the progress, challenges, and emerging opportunities in harnessing information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development. Building upon the foundations of the WSIS outcomes, it is essential to ensure that the vision, targets, and actions established during the review continue to drive global ICT development and digital transformation efforts beyond 2025.

The WSIS process has proven to be a transformative platform for advancing global digital cooperation and aligning ICT development with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WSIS+20 review provides a critical opportunity to not only reflect on past achievements but also to ensure the WSIS framework continues as a dynamic and inclusive process beyond 2025. As the lead facilitator of WSIS, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) must play a central role in sustaining the momentum and addressing emerging challenges and opportunities in the digital landscape.

1. **Key Considerations for WSIS+20 Review:**

 **Reinforcement of Multistakeholder Collaboration**  
The WSIS framework has highlighted the importance of multistakeholder approaches in addressing complex ICT challenges. As we approach 2025, strengthening engagement among all stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles will be pivotal in fostering innovative solutions and ensuring inclusivity in digital development.

 **Addressing Challenges of Emerging Technologies**  
The rapid evolution of emerging technologies such as Al and quantum computing necessitates a forward-looking approach. The WSIS+20 review should include a roadmap to align these technologies with the WSIS outcomes and SDGs, emphasizing ethical deployment, regulatory coherence, and capacity-building.

 **Bridging the Digital Divide**  
Despite progress, significant disparities persist in global ICT access, affordability, and skills. The WSIS+20 review must reaffirm commitments to bridging the digital divide, particularly for developing countries, which face pressing development challenges and limited resources. This includes enhancing broadband connectivity, promoting digital literacy, and addressing systemic barriers to participation in the digital economy.

 **Digital Trust and Cybersecurity**  
The proliferation of ICTs underscores the need for robust cybersecurity frameworks and trust-building measures. Beyond 2025, the WSIS process should prioritize efforts to combat cyber threats, protect personal data, and ensure the safe and ethical use of digital technologies. International cooperation on these issues is essential to safeguard the integrity of the global digital ecosystem.

 **Monitoring Mechanisms**  
To ensure sustained progress, robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be integrated into the WSIS+20 framework. These mechanisms should track implementation across key action lines, facilitate knowledge-sharing, and identify gaps that require attention in the post-2025 period.

** Complementarity with the Global Digital Compact**The WSIS has had established and approved processes for a long time, providing a solid foundation for global collaboration on information society issues. It is essential to prioritize building the GDC in alignment with the established WSIS processes to ensure that both efforts work synergistically and maximize the impact of existing frameworks. By aligning the GDC with WSIS, we can ensure that resources are used efficiently and avoid the redundancy of overlapping initiatives, fostering a more unified and effective approach to advancing global digital cooperation.

1. **Advancing Beyond 2025:**

The WSIS+20 review should not only evaluate past achievements but also inspire a renewed commitment to the future. The continuation of the WSIS process beyond 2025 is essential to bridge the digital divide, advance sustainable development, enhance the quality of global connectivity, promote digital literacy and skills, ensure cybersecurity and data privacy, foster innovation, promote multistakeholder collaboration, address environmental sustainability, support global governance, and leverage digital technologies for inclusive growth. By continuing to support the WSIS process, the UN system and countries around the world can build a digital future that benefits everyone.

By addressing above considerations, the WSIS+20 review will position ICTs as a cornerstone for inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development, ensuring that the vision of the WSIS continues to thrive in a rapidly changing world. ITU has been at the forefront of implementing WSIS outcomes, driving global digital development progress, and its continued leadership is crucial to advancing these shared goals.

1. **Proposal:**

The CWG-WSIS&SDG, in collaboration with the General Secretariat, to consider the above-mentioned aspects, as they are essential to ensure that the vision, targets, and actions established during the review continue to drive global ICT development and digital transformation efforts beyond 2025.

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