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|  | **Revision 1 to**  **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-43/5** |
| **8 September 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| INTERAGENCY COORDINATING MECHANISM: THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (UNGIS) | |
| **Purpose**  This document provides updates on the activities of UNGIS.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **note** this document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*CWG-WSIS&SDG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*; UNGA Resolutions* [*A/RES/70/125*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/125)*,* [*A/RES/70/1*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/1)*,* [*A/RES/77/150*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/77/150)*; UN ECOSOC Resolution* [*E/RES/2024/13*](https://docs.un.org/en/E/RES/2024/13) *and Report* [*E/2025/31–E/CN.16/2025/4*](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecn162025d4_en.pdf)*; PP Resolutions* [*172 (Guadalajara, 2010)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution172-PP10.pdf) *and* [*140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*; Council Resolutions* [*1332 (Modified 2024)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0141/en) *and* [*1334 (Modified 2023)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en)*;* [*ITU Secretary-General’s roadmap: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 – WSIS+20 Roadmap*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0059/en)*.* | |

The United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)[[1]](#footnote-1) is an inter-agency mechanism established to coordinate substantive policy issues towards the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and matters related to digital for development. It fosters collaboration among UN entities and with all stakeholders to promote a cohesive approach to advancing inclusive, sustainable, and transformative digital development.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) serves as the permanent secretariat and rotational Vice-Chair, playing a central role in coordinating the work of the group.

Updates since the 42nd CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting

28th CSTD session

At its 28th annual session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) finalized the ECOSOC resolution titled “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (Report [E/2025/31–E/CN.16/2025/4](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecn162025d4_en.pdf))”. The resolution was later approved by the ECOSOC 2025 Management Segment on 29 July 2025. It emphasizes the importance of integrating the implementation of the GDC commitments into the WSIS architecture. The resolution recognizes the continued importance of coordinated UN action on digital development and specifically highlights the role of UNGIS. In the 'Road Ahead' section, the following key paragraphs are particularly relevant to UNGIS:

"98. Recalls the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and calls upon United Nations entities to continue to actively cooperate in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps and commit to a people -centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda;

125. Requests the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to undertake and present, ahead of the World Summit 20-year review and based on the World Summit process and 2030 Agenda-Global Digital Compact matrix developed by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, a stocktaking of current practices and experiences in integrating digital cooperation frameworks, including World Summit action lines, Sustainable Development Goals principles, the Global Digital Compact and road maps in the context of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting opportunities and challenges, to provide insights that can inform further deliberations;

130. Takes note with appreciation of the World Summit process and 2030 Agenda-Global Digital Compact matrix prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, which maps the Global Digital Compact objectives to existing World Summit structures, mechanisms and activities, offering a structured approach for effective follow-up and implementation of the Compact;

132. Highlights the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society in coordinating the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and recommends, as an outcome of the World Summit 20-year review, strengthening its functioning by including further United Nations offices with responsibilities in matters of digital cooperation, as well as multi-stakeholder advice on its work, as appropriate;

133. Recommends further that, as an outcome of the World Summit 20-year review, the United Nations Group on the Information Society be tasked with developing a joint implementation road map, to be presented to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-ninth session, to integrate the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture, ensuring a unified approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes resource efficiency".

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2025

At the IGF 2025 held in June in Lillestrøm, Norway, ITU, as the UNGIS secretariat, requested and coordinated a UNGIS session titled *Digital Cooperation for Development: UNGIS in Action*. The session brought together a broad range of UN entities to showcase ongoing initiatives supporting digital transformation within the WSIS framework. Presentations covered programs on digital inclusion, AI governance, digital public infrastructure, innovation ecosystems, and regional capacity building. The session was open to all stakeholders. The session also highlighted the resolution titled *Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*, concluded at the 28th session of the CSTD, and subsequently approved by ECOSOC. Details of the session and its summary are available [here](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/505).

WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025

The twenty-second UNGIS meeting was held during the WSIS+20 High-Level Event in July 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, consisting of a High-Level meeting on 10 July and a Working-Level meeting on 11 July. For the 2025–2026 term, UNCTAD is the Chair of UNGIS, while ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and ESCWA (as the representative from the UN Regional Commissions) serve as vice-chairs. Discussions focused on UNGIS’s input to the WSIS+20 Elements Paper, contributions to the High-Level Political Forum 2025, reflections on the upcoming 20th anniversary of UNGIS in 2026, and strategies to enhance UNGIS’s impact.

WSIS+20 Review

As part of the WSIS+20 review process discussed during the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, UNGIS submitted a joint input to the WSIS+20 Element Paper prepared by the Co-Facilitators. The input highlighted eight key areas:

1 Recognition of UNGIS and system-wide coordination mechanisms

2 Complementarity and synergies between the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and WSIS

3 Reaffirming the role of the WSIS Forum and multistakeholder participation

4 Integrating and strengthening human rights

5 Advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment

6 Strengthening monitoring and measurement

7 Addressing financing needs and learning from past mechanisms

8 Creating an enabling environment.

UNGIS has also taken the lead in supporting the implementation of the GDC by developing the [WSIS Process and 2030 Agenda – GDC Matrix](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/Content/upload/gdc/UNGIS-CompiledMatrixOfLinkages-WSIS-GDC.pdf). This matrix links GDC objectives and commitments to existing WSIS structures, mechanisms, and activities, offering a clear and organized framework for effective follow-up and implementation. The initiative plays a key role in bridging emerging digital priorities with established systems, fostering coherence and alignment across the UN system. Furthermore, this matrix serves as the foundation for the GDC implementation map, coordinated by the Working Group on Digital Transformation, co-chaired by ITU and the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies.

UNGIS reaffirms its readiness to actively contribute to the WSIS+20 review and the implementation of the next phase of WSIS. UNGIS remains committed to translating digital commitments into coordinated actions that accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals and looks forward to ongoing engagement in the process leading to the WSIS+20 outcome document.

ITU continues to provide secretariat support to UNGIS and maintains the official UNGIS website [www.ungis.org](http://www.ungis.org/).

The [Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document](https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/WSIS%2B20_ZERO_DRAFT.pdf) has been published. References of UNGIS are outlined below:

*19. We recognise the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society to develop a matrix aligning the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Digital Compact and urge all stakeholders to align these commitments in their work for digital development.*

*141. We call for continuation of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) as a platform for multistakeholder dialogue, partnership-building and review of progress on digital development. We request the UN Secretary-General to strengthen the agility, efficiency and effectiveness of UNGIS as the United Nations system’s inter-agency stewardship mechanism for advancing policy coherence and programme coordination on digital matters, including by expanding its membership with further United Nations entities with responsibilities in matters of digital cooperation, such as the Office of Digital and Emerging Technologies and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), as well as multistakeholder advice to its work as appropriate."*

*142. We note with appreciation the matrix prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society, which maps the Global Digital Compact objectives to existing*

*World Summit structures, mechanisms and activities, offering a structured approach for effective follow-up and implementation of the Compact. We request that the United Nations Group on the Information Society develop a joint implementation road map, to be presented to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twenty-ninth session in 2026, to integrate the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture, ensuring a unified approach to digital cooperation that avoids duplication and maximizes resource efficiency.*

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1. UNGIS, comprising 31 member organizations: FAO, IAEA, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, IOM, ITU, UN, UN Tourism, UN Women, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNRWA, UPU, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO, World Bank, WTO, and 17 observers from the United Nations system: CTBTO, ITC, ODET, OECD, OHCHR, UN DESA, UN AIDS, UN ECA, UN ECE, UN ECLAC, UN ESCAP, UN ESCWA, UNFCCC, UNICC, UNITAR, UNJSPF, UNU. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)