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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-43/14** |
| **8 August 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| Updates of the overall review on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes: WSIS+20 review – WSIS beyond 2025 | |
| **Purpose**  This document outlines the preparatory activities for the WSIS+20 review in 2025.  **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)*;* [*WSIS Forum website*](http://www.wsis.org/forum)*;* [*WSIS review*](http://www.wsis.org/review)*;* [*WSIS+20 review*](https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/wsis20)*; 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)*;* [*Report by the UNESCO Director-General on implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379370)*;* [*CSTD Roadmap for the WSIS+20 Review United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162023_roadmap_p05_CSTDChair_en.pdf)*.* | |

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is a UN process serving as a multistakeholder coordination mechanism on digital and emerging technologies. The WSIS process remains as crucial as ever to keep digitalization on a positive path and overcome mounting global development challenges.

[Resolution A/RES/70/125](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F125&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) requests the General Assembly to hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025 (referred to as “WSIS+20”), involving the input and participation of all stakeholders, including in the preparatory process, to take stock of progress on the outcomes of the World Summit and identify both areas of continued focus and challenges. The WSIS+20 will provide an opportunity to reflect and discuss the evolution of the WSIS implementation process.

WSIS+20 roadmaps

– [*World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS Beyond 2025: WSIS+20 Roadmap*](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/content/upload/doc/roadmaps/ITU-WSIS20-Roadmap.pdf); elaborates the ITU Secretary-General’s roadmap on the role of ITU in the WSIS+20 Review process and its preparations. It outlines ITU’s leadership in engaging stakeholders, assessing progress, and aligning WSIS Action Lines with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The roadmap emphasizes comprehensive preparations, including detailing activities, events, and reporting mechanisms, all aimed at informing the UN General Assembly Overall Review in 2025. Through collaborative efforts, it identifies priorities for advancing digital development beyond 2025 while fostering global partnerships and dialogue.

– [*Report by the Director General on implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379370), elaborates UNESCO’s roadmap towards the WSIS+20 review.

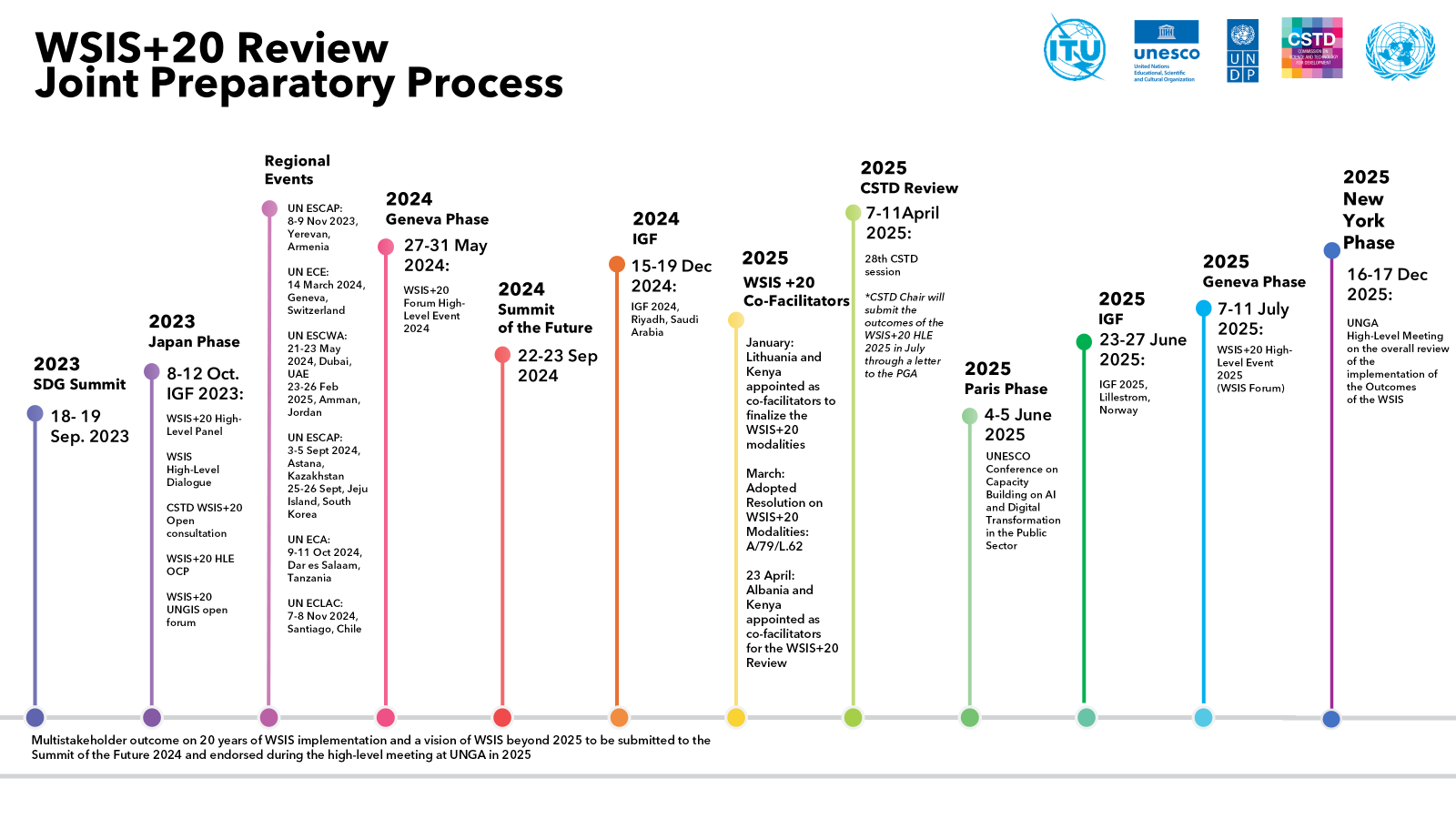
– [CSTD Roadmap for the WSIS+20 Review United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162023_roadmap_p05_CSTDChair_en.pdf).

At the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024, several multistakeholder dialogues and discussions were held to discuss the preliminary steps towards the WSIS+20 review process. The sessions were included as part of the [*Digital Governance Processes: WSIS, GDC/ Summit of the Future Special Track*](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/SpecialTrack/29#agenda). These sessions concluded with key takeaways emphasizing the need to avoid duplication of efforts while acknowledging existing mechanisms and recognizing the substantial work that lies ahead. Stakeholders reaffirmed the value of the multistakeholder framework and highlighted the key elements of the WSIS process, such as the WSIS Forum, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), the WSIS Stocktaking platform, etc.

At the WSIS Forum 2025, branded as the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, all discussions related to the WSIS+20 review were organized under a dedicated [WSIS+20 special track](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/SpecialTrack/43#agenda). The WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators were present and actively engaged with participants through consultations held during the event.

WSIS+20 Joint preparatory process

Towards the WSIS+20 review, efforts have been made to establish a unified WSIS+20 review process involving all UN agencies, including ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, UN DESA, and UN CSTD. Regular meetings are organised to facilitate collaborative discussions and planning, reflecting our joint and dedicated approach towards the WSIS+20 review. This is the timeline of the joint preparatory process:



WSIS+20 modalities

In January 2025, the President of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) appointed H.E. Mr. Erastus ‘Lokaale, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya and H.E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania, as co-facilitators for intergovernmental consultations to finalize the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of WSIS outcomes ([letter dated 20 January 2025](https://www.un.org/pga/79/2025/01/20/letter-from-president-general-assembly-on-wsis-co-facilitator-appointment/)).

The resolution on ICT for sustainable development ([A/RES/79/194](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/418/66/pdf/n2441866.pdf)) outlines that the modalities are to be finalised by the end of March 2025.

On 4 February 2025, the co-facilitators presented a timeline of the intergovernmental consultations of the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of WSIS outcomes and circulated the zero draft of the modalities to be presented on 14 February 2025 in ECOSOC Chamber (see information [here](https://www.un.org/pga/79/2025/02/07/letter-from-president-general-assembly-on-world-summit-on-the-information-society-zero-draft/)).

On 23 April 2025, the President of the United Nations General Assembly has appointed H.E. Mr Ekitela Lokaale, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, and H.E. Ms Suela Janina, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations, as co-facilitators to lead the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society.

On 21 May 2025, the WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators presented a roadmap of key steps leading up to the draft outcome document of the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society.

| Date | Milestone / Meeting | Venue |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 30 May 2025 | 1st Preparatory Meeting & Stocktaking Session | Conference Room 1, UNHQ |
| Early June 2025 | Consultations with Stakeholders | Virtual |
| 20 June 2025 | Elements Paper | - |
| June/July 2025 | Consultations with Stakeholders and Member States | Various locations |
| August 2025 | Zero Draft | - |
| Mid-October 2025 | 2nd Preparatory Meeting & Stocktaking Session | UNHQ |
| Mid-October 2025 | Consultations with Stakeholders | Virtual |
| October/November 2025 | Informal Negotiations | UNHQ |
| November 2025 | Draft Outcome Document | - |
| November 2025 | Consultations with Stakeholders and Member States | UNHQ |
| 16-17 December 2025 | High-level meeting of the General | UNHQ |

The Co-Facilitators of the WSIS+20 review process have issued the Elements Paper, which summarizes key themes, priorities, and proposals emerging from preparatory discussions and stakeholder consultations to date. This paper aims to guide ongoing dialogue with Member States and stakeholders in the lead-up to the review.

All stakeholders were invited to submit written inputs by 25 July 2025 via the submission form. The Elements Paper can be accessed [here](https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/WSIS%2B20_ElementsPaper_20June.pdf).

ITU contributed to the Elements Paper, both through its own input and via the UNGIS submission, which also served as a separate contribution from UNGIS.

WSIS+20 Action Lines milestones, challenges and emerging trends beyond 2025

The WSIS Action Lines serve as a key framework for advancing progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. The WSIS Action Lines cover eleven areas of focus with technology serving as a key enabler for sustainable development. The WSIS-SDG Matrix, developed by the UN Action Line Facilitators, clearly shows the linkage between each Action Line and the 17 SDGs and provides the rationale for each.

The ITU, together with other WSIS Action Line facilitators from other UN agencies, has prepared presentations highlighting key milestones, challenges, and emerging trends beyond 2025. The presentations are available [here](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/About#actionLines).

ITU’s call for inputs on the WSIS+20 Review

In accordance with ITU Council Resolution 1332, ITU launched a [call for inputs on WSIS+20 review](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=12TkI-YEh0uRPCS9iSGf06qtDlMBPuBNoa2AwRocnE1UOUYxTDI4N0FPVzZYRzJZV1VQSDJTVjEyMS4u&route=shorturl). Members and other stakeholders were invited by the Chair of the CWG-WSIS&SDG to contribute their views on the work of the ITU in the WSIS+20 review, including ideas related to the review of the WSIS Action Lines.

Out of 97 submissions received, some of which included input from various entities, including governments within regional groups, 62 were published upon consent: [CWG-WSIS&SDG Call for Inputs on the WSIS+20 Review Responses](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/CWG-WSIS%26SDG_Call_for_Inputs_2025.aspx). The summary of submissions was presented to the ITU Council 2025 (Document [C25/53](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0053/en)).

Alignment with other UN digital governance processes

On 22 September 2024, Member States adopted the Pact for the Future, which includes the Global Digital Compact (GDC). In paragraph 71, the GDC requests the UN Secretary-General to provide a Compact implementation map for consideration by Governments and other stakeholders. This [GDC Implementation Map](https://unctad.org/system/files/information-document/gdc_implementation_map_en.pdf) has been completed and as per paragraph 71, reflects the contributions of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders and will be included in the UN Secretary-General's report on the progress made in implementing and following up on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, at both regional and international levels, ahead of the WSIS+20 review. The GDC and the WSIS+20 review are closely aligned in their shared objective of advancing global digital cooperation and addressing the evolving challenges of the digital age.

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 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.

*Recognizing the importance of integrating the implementation of the Global Digital Compact commitments into the World Summit architecture in order to avoid duplications and ensure a cohesive and consistent approach to digital cooperation,*

*129. Looks forward to continuing consultations and engagements towards the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, building on the World Summit on Information Society architecture, including the World Summit 20-year review, and underlines the importance of ensuring synergies and avoiding duplication within the United Nations system and across various entities, building on established mechanisms and maximizing global digital cooperation;*

*131. Recommends that, as an outcome of the World Summit 20-year review, the Global Digital Compact commitments be integrated, as appropriate, by the corresponding facilitators into the work of the World Summit action lines;*

*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.*

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