



Session Outcome Document

Knowledge Café: WSIS+20 Consultation – Towards a Vision Beyond 2025

WSIS

Friday, 11 July 2025 | 12:00 – 14:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/480>

Key Issues Discussed (Looking Beyond 2025)

- Participants unanimously affirmed that the original WSIS vision—as articulated in the 2003 Geneva Plan of Action and the 2005 Tunis Agenda—remains valid and should be explicitly re-endorsed in any post-2025 framework.
- Inclusivity surfaced as a cross-cutting imperative: future WSIS action must guarantee borderless digital opportunity, proactively involve youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized communities, and promote multilingualism online as a prerequisite for meaningful connectivity.
- The café agreed that emerging technologies—particularly artificial intelligence—must be consciously integrated into WSIS follow-up, with the process positioned to operationalise outcomes of the forthcoming Global Digital Compact.
- Participants stressed that digital transformation cannot be decoupled from foundational enablers such as affordable electricity, universal digital-identity systems and basic connectivity infrastructure.
- Growing environmental externalities of ICT—including e-waste and energy consumption—were highlighted, with calls for WSIS to champion circular-economy approaches and climate-responsible tech deployment.
- Maintaining and strengthening the multistakeholder character of WSIS was considered non-negotiable; the mechanism must remain agile, human-rights-respecting and open to new actors to avoid siloed or duplicative efforts across the UN system.

Tangible Outcomes of the Session

Key achievements

- Stakeholders reaffirmed that delivering the SDGs through WSIS remains central, endorsed stronger local-to-global engagement via National & Regional Initiatives (NRIs), and agreed on clear metrics to track progress.



- Consensus to streamline implementation mechanisms—especially by upgrading UNGIS and designating liaison officers—to reduce silos and accelerate coherent delivery of the WSIS vision.

Agreements / commitments

- Commitment to create liaison-officer arrangements linking NRIs, UNGIS and other WSIS bodies to coordinate action and avoid duplication.
- Agreement to strengthen transparency and joint monitoring & evaluation across WSIS processes, aligning indicators with the SDGs while retaining flexibility to accommodate emerging technologies.

Key Recommendations & Forward-Looking Action Plan

1. Re-endorse core WSIS texts. Adopt the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda verbatim in the WSIS+20 outcome while adding an explicit mandate to mainstream emerging technologies such as AI and quantum computing.
2. Launch a “WSIS Capacity Catalyst”. By 2026 establish an inclusive programme that aligns electricity access, digital-ID roll-out and connectivity expansion with targeted digital-skills investment, prioritizing least-developed countries.
3. Revamp UNGIS for coherence. Task UNGIS with a redesign—expanding membership, instituting transparent reporting and appointing cross-mechanism liaison officers—to break down silos and deliver system-wide support.
4. Embed sustainability metrics. Introduce an environmental-sustainability clause across all WSIS Action Lines, supported by measurable circular-economy indicators and a biennial review of ICT climate impacts.