



Session Outcome Document

Strengthening Corporate Accountability on Inclusive, Trustworthy, and Rights-based Approach to Ethical Digital Transformation

World Benchmarking Alliance

8th July 2025, 5pm CEST

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/275>

Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025 (5–8 bullet points highlighting achievements, emerging trends, challenges in 20 years, figures, success stories and opportunities for WSIS beyond 2025)

Achievements (2005–2025)

- **Global Internet Access Growth:** From ~1 billion in 2005 to over **5.4 billion users by 2025**, dramatically reducing the global digital divide.
- **ICT for Development (ICT4D):** WSIS helped catalyze ICT integration in **health, education, agriculture, and e-governance**, enhancing service delivery and citizen empowerment.
- **WSIS Forum:** Established as a **unique implementation-focused platform** aligning with the SDGs, hosting 1,000+ projects and over 10,000 participants annually.

Emerging Trends

- **AI and Big Data:** Rapid AI development reshaping healthcare, climate action, education, and labor—necessitating global governance frameworks.

Key Challenges

- **Persistent Digital Divides:** 2.6 billion people still offline in 2025, with **rural, disabled, women, and Indigenous** groups disproportionately affected.
- **Gender Digital Gap:** Women 20–30% less likely to use the Internet in LMICs; targeted policy/funding is still lacking.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Cybercrime is still a challenge; increasing attacks on infrastructure, elections, and private data.



Opportunities Beyond 2025

- **Revamped WSIS+:** Use WSIS+ as a **delivery arm of the Global Digital Compact** and a testing ground for SDG-aligned digital action.

Tangible Outcomes of the session

- **Key achievements and outcomes**
 - The session discussed how the GDC can be applied in different areas to address existing and emerging challenges in the digital sector.
 - It was discussed that the GDC can provide a path/roadmap to address the critical issues around human rights, AI governance, child online rights, content moderation and misinformation.
 - It was agreed that there is the need for multi-stakeholder consultations and inclusivity of global voices, particularly ensuring equal and meaningful participation of marginalised groups in the implementation of the GDC.
- **Agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session**
 - It was agreed that the GDC should be implemented in a way that respects and promotes human rights

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond (2–5 bullet points presenting concrete actions and guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review by UNGA and build the multistakeholder vision of WSIS beyond 2025)

- Staying action-oriented—**not rewriting**, but **updating** WSIS frameworks.
- Firmly **grounding digital governance in human rights and gender equity**.
- Keeping **Internet governance inclusive, funded, and institutionalized** via IGF.
- Embedding **transparency, multistakeholder engagement, and accountability** throughout the process.
- Tightly **linking WSIS with SDGs, GDC, AI ethics, and national implementation**.