**Session Outcome Document**

(*2 pages max*)

 **[Collaborative Innovation Ecosystem and Digital Transformation: Accelerating the Achievement of Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)]**

**[China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT)]**

**[8 July, 11:00 – 11:45]**

**[https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/411]**

**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)

* The ITU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development advances ecosystem collaboration through its Experts Network, Network of ITU Acceleration Centres, and Digital Transformation Labs. These mechanisms have enabled research on startup investment frameworks and scalable solutions in developing countries like South Africa, Kenya and China.
* Open collaboration ecosystems, where large enterprises provide scalable infrastructure and local SMEs and startups deliver scenario-specific applications, offer developing nations an efficient pathway to adopt emerging technologies like AI and IoT. Platforms like ITU can accelerate this process by synchronizing global entrepreneurship resources and coordinating multi-stakeholder partnerships.
* There are 2.6 billion people remain unconnected globally, with SMEs and startups constrained by bandwidth limitations and cybersecurity risks. Equitable infrastructure cost-sharing among technology providers, energy utilities, and telecom operators can bridge the connectivity divide while de-risking digital transformation for these enterprises.
* Africa’s SMEs digital adoption rate remains critically low at 20%, with widespread challenges including funding gaps, skills shortages, and fragmented policies. ICT-driven solutions can accelerate SMEs transformation in R&D, smart manufacturing, and other scenarios.
* Capacity-building courses developed by ITU Acceleration Centres enabled cross-regional sustainable transitions. CAICT will distil replicable policy guidelines through its forthcoming Strategy Foresight Report and Case Studies Collection, accelerating the global scaling of best practices.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

* CAICT seeks to build a platform for collaboration with SMEs based on the learning from a foresight study and the global cases.
* CAICT will launch a survey and publish a Call for more cases to be contributed.

**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)

* Advance the development of global and regional innovation acceleration networks by leveraging the Network of ITU Acceleration Centres (currently operational in 17 centers including South Africa, Kenya, and China).
* Acceleration Centres will collaborate transnationally to advance knowledge sharing, experience exchange, and talent development. Through tools including cross-border sandbox environments, youth entrepreneurship pipelines, and policy regulatory sandboxes, they will drive digital transformation for SMEs and startups in developing countries.
* ITU Acceleration Centres will advance knowledge sharing, experience exchange, and talent development through transnational collaboration, and will further explore new mechanisms, including cross-border sandbox environments, youth entrepreneurship pipelines, and policy regulatory sandboxes, to continuously drive digital transformation for SMEs and startups in developing countries.