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Chair's Summary for the WSIS 2026 Forum – July 10, 2026

Secretary-General of ITU,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Egypt, it is a great honor to chair the WSIS Forum 2026, here in Geneva.

This week's Forum has brought together governments, regulators, United Nations agencies, the private sector, civil society, academia, the technical community, youth, and many other partners.

This diversity is the strength of WSIS. It reminds us that digital transformation cannot be shaped by one country, one institution, or one sector alone. It requires partnership, trust, and shared responsibility. This year's Forum comes at an important moment. Following the WSIS+20 Review and the adoption of the Global Digital Compact, our task is clear: **we must move from commitments to implementation.**

The next phase of WSIS must be practical. It must help countries turn digital strategies into real services, real skills, real jobs, and real opportunities for people.

Throughout this week, several clear messages emerged.

First, digital inclusion remains our central priority. Connectivity is essential, but it is not enough. People need affordable and reliable access, digital skills, relevant content, and the ability to use technology safely and meaningfully.

Second, artificial intelligence must serve development. AI can support health, education, agriculture, public services, and economic growth. But we must also work together to close the AI divide, strengthen skills, support local languages and data, and ensure that AI is safe, trusted, and inclusive.

Third, digital finance can be a powerful tool for inclusion. It can help individuals, small businesses, women, youth, and underserved communities access services and economic opportunities. But this requires trust, digital literacy, strong infrastructure, and appropriate regulation.

Fourth, youth must be treated as partners in building the digital future. Young people are not just beneficiaries, but innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Their ideas must be reflected in our policies, platforms, and decisions.

Fifth, closing the gender digital divide remains essential. Women and girls must have equal access to connectivity, skills, digital finance, safe online spaces, and leadership opportunities in the technology sector. This requires considering women and girls at every step.

A strong message from this Forum is that we need better measurement of impact. We must also ask what differences our activities make in people's lives, especially in developing countries and communities most at risk.

These priorities were echoed across the week's high-level discussions.

At the Ministerial Roundtable, ministers were clear: we do not need identical systems, but interoperable ones that respect national circumstances. Ministers also warned of the potential of growing AI accessibility gap. They called for blended finance, compute sharing, and investment that reaches underserved communities, and keeps AI people-centered, ethical, and accountable. Above all, success should be measured not by technology deployed, but by lives improved.

The Leaders TalkX series brought ministers and senior leaders together on everything from infrastructure and international multistakeholder partnerships to trust, skills, and AI policy and ethics. But the core message was consistent: cooperation must translate into delivery.

At the UNGIS high-level lunch, leaders from across the United Nations system aligned their priorities for WSIS+20 implementation and reaffirmed their commitment to work as one system for an inclusive, people-centered digital future.

The WSIS Action Line Facilitators advanced the new mandates of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document, developing Action Line road maps and measurable indicators, with outcomes to be reported to the CSTD in 2027. Discussions considered two decades of achievement and set a shared vision for 2035.

WSIS Prizes show us what implementation looks like. This year, 18 Winners and 72 Champions were selected from 1,595 submissions across 122 countries, supported by more than 2.2 million public votes. These projects prove the Action Lines deliver real change to people everywhere.

These implementation mechanisms have remained agile. For two decades, they have kept pace with the rapid development of technology, expanding connectivity, and addressing AI, data governance, and emerging technologies.

Looking ahead, Egypt believes the Chair's Summary will serve as a practical guide for shared priorities, partnerships, and measurable impact.

Our ambition is for the coming decade to be a true decade of implementation that advances digital inclusion, responsible AI, digital trust, and shared prosperity, especially for the Global South.

Let us close this Forum with a clear message: WSIS remains relevant because it brings people together. However, it can only remain powerful if it helps turn dialogue into action.

Thank you.