

Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure to speak in UNCTAD's capacity as Chair of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, UNGIS.

Established in 2006, UNGIS serves as the United Nations system's inter-agency mechanism for coordinating substantive and policy issues related to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. Bringing together more than 50 United Nations entities, it promotes policy coherence, fosters partnerships, and leverages the collective capacities of the UN system in support of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

Over the past two decades, UNGIS has supported the system-wide coherence and follow-up of the WSIS outcomes, including through coordination across Action Lines, contributions to the WSIS Forum, and, more recently, through analytical tools such as the WSIS-SDG-GDC matrix. This long-standing experience places UNGIS in a strong position to support coherence across the evolving digital cooperation landscape.

In this regard, the outcome of the WSIS+20 review provides important renewed guidance. It explicitly recognizes the role of UNGIS as the United Nations system's inter-agency mechanism for advancing policy coherence and programme coordination on digital matters, and calls for its continuation and strengthening.

In this context, Member States have requested UNGIS to prepare a Joint Implementation Roadmap to strengthen coherence between the WSIS framework and the Global Digital Compact. This reflects a shared recognition that, while the WSIS Action Lines remain the operational backbone of digital cooperation, there is a need to ensure alignment with emerging priorities, including those reflected in the Compact, while avoiding duplication and maximizing synergies across the system.

The Roadmap presented today is the first output in response to this mandate. Beyond the Roadmap, the WSIS+20 outcome also entrusts UNGIS with concrete follow-up functions, including the establishment of a task force on financing for digital development, strengthened coordination with Action Line facilitators, and an enhanced role in supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue and system-wide coherence, on which work has already commenced. UNGIS has also been promoting digital cooperation through engagement with other United Nations processes, including by organizing side events at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the ECOSOC Youth Forum, and other relevant fora.

With this, I would like to hand over the floor to my colleague from ITU, who has led the drafting and coordination of inputs to the Roadmap, together with UNESCO, UNDP, UNESCWA and UNCTAD, in collaboration with the wider UNGIS membership, to present its main components and objectives.

Thank you.