**United Nations Group
on the Information Society**

UNGIS meeting (Meeting 1)

10 February 2026, 15:00-16:00 CET

Virtual - Teams meeting

Summary

Chair: UNCTAD
Vice-Chairs: ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UN ESCWA
Secretariat : ITU

1. Outcomes of the WSIS+20 High-Level Review (UNGA)

The Chair and Vice-Chairs congratulated the group on the WSIS+20 UNGA overall review outcome, noting Member States' recognition of UNGIS' role and mandate to lead follow-up actions.

The meeting highlighted key references to UNGIS in the WSIS+20 outcome document (A/RES/70/183) and drew attention in particular to paragraphs 67 and 122, concerning the establishment of a task force on financing for digital development (to be led by ITU as Secretariat) and the request for UNGIS to prepare a joint implementation roadmap to strengthen coherence between WSIS and the GDC, to be presented at the CSTD 29th session. UNGIS-related mandates from the WSIS+20 outcome document are available here.

a) Joint Implementation Roadmap

To initiate work on the joint implementation roadmap, a small task group was formed within the Vice-Chairs Group, led by ITU, UNESCO, and ESCWA, to develop initial ideas. ITU provided an update on the roadmap, which aims to avoid duplication and strengthen coherence between the WSIS process and the GDC. The proposed structure begins with context and mandate, followed by linkages to existing mechanisms and platforms. Reference is also made to the WSIS Process and 2030 Agenda–GDC Matrix developed by UNGIS. The roadmap will include a proposed timeline for 2026–2027 leading to the GDC review.

Members emphasized the importance of building on existing work, in particular the WSIS–GDC Matrix and the GDC implementation map presented by the Working Group on Digital Technologies endorsed by CSTD, and of focusing on actionable commitments contained in the WSIS+20 outcome. Several participants highlighted the value of aligning sectoral strategies and WSIS Action Lines activities with GDC commitments and suggested contributing concrete inputs. The need for effective information-sharing and leveraging existing platforms and knowledge mechanisms was also noted.

Members underlined the tight timeline ahead of the CSTD session in April 2026 as it has to be submitted one month prior of the session.

Action item: The draft joint implementation roadmap is to be circulated to UNGIS members and observers, who are invited to provide written feedback to inform its finalisation ahead of the 29th CSTD session in April 2026.

b) UNGIS Multistakeholder Consultation Group

Based on the comments, suggestions, and non-papers during the WSIS+20 review process, ITU introduced for discussion a proposal to establish a multistakeholder consultation group under UNGIS, aimed at consulting with governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international organizations. This proposed group would serve a consultative role without interfering in UNGIS inter-agency management.

Participants welcomed the proposal and emphasized keeping it light and informal, while ensuring consultations are meaningful, targeted, and build on existing mechanisms. The importance of civil society engagement and efficient use of existing forums was also highlighted.

Action item: ITU to circulate initial draft ideas for the multistakeholder consultation group to the wider UNGIS members for feedback, in order to move this initiative forward.

c) Financing mechanisms

Following paragraph 67 of UNGA Resolution A/RES/80/173, which requested the ITU to establish a digital financing task force in response to a G77 request to address ongoing gaps and challenges in digital finance and the digital divide, the task force is tasked with two main objectives: (1) identifying gaps in digital finance, and (2) providing recommendations. Members were invited to volunteer or express interest in joining the task force, with an extended timeline leading up to the CSTD session in 2027.

Action item: UNGIS members and observers to submit expressions of interest (*please include the name of the focal point and explicitly mention their expertise in digital finance*) to join the financing task force, with ITU providing context and instructions for submission.

2. Updates

a) UNGIS inputs to the HLPF 2026

UNCTAD informed the meeting that, aside from submissions from the Vice-Chairs, only one additional input had been received on the draft. UNGIS members and observers were reminded that the deadline for feedback is 13 February. Contributions should be concise (around 2,000 characters per section) and focus on innovative examples or initiatives of the UNGIS collective. Members were encouraged to send their feedback to the Secretariat and the Chair to ensure sufficient time for consolidation ahead of the March submission.

Action item: UNGIS members and observers to provide feedback on the draft by 13 February.

b) WSIS Forum 2026

ITU provided an update on the WSIS Forum 2026, scheduled for 6–10 July, which will run alongside AI for Good and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance. The venue for the Global Dialogue on AI Governance is yet to be confirmed, though Member States have suggested co-locating the events for convenience.

UNGIS members and observers were encouraged to submit session requests early to facilitate planning. Discussions also highlighted opportunities to expand workshops and engagement on

human rights, digital finance, and capacity-building, as reflected in the outcome document. Members were reminded to confirm participation in both UNGIS high-level and working-level meetings at the WSIS Forum. It was also noted that the next open consultation meeting for the Forum is scheduled for 31 March in hybrid format, and the group was invited to participate.

Action item: UNGIS members and observers to submit session proposals, topics, or specific engagement plans for the WSIS Forum 2026 and to confirm participation of their designated representatives in UNGIS high-level and working-level meetings.

c) UNGIS Digital Transformation Repository

The UNGIS Digital Transformation Repository, established around 2009/2010, serves as a central resource for tracking ongoing projects by UNGIS members and observers to avoid duplication and identify potential partnerships.

Action item: UNGIS members and observers, especially new focal points, to revisit the repository and update their entries.

3. Dates for events and meetings

The group was invited to share upcoming dates and events in the chat or follow up after the meeting. The group was informed that UNGIS will organise a side event at the upcoming 70th Commission on the Status of Women, which will be held on Friday, 13 March at 10:00-11:15 ET in New York at the UN Headquarters.

Action item: UNGIS members and observers to inform the Secretariat if they would like to participate in the side events, and share their upcoming events.

4. Any other business

UNGIS Secretariat (ITU) informed the meeting that several UN entities have expressed interest in joining UNGIS as observers. Prospective observer members are invited to share their details, including organizational logos, with the Secretariat to facilitate their participation in UNGIS meetings.

List of Participants

1. Thomas Van Giffen (UNCTAD)

2. Torbjorn Fredriksson (UNCTAD)

3. Scarlett Fondeur Gil (UNCTAD)

4. Gitanjali Sah (ITU)

5. Ruth Sidabutar (ITU)

6. Vladimir Stankovic (ITU)

7. Davide Storti (UNESCO)

8. Yuping Chan (UNDP)

9. Vitalii Zakhozhyi (UNDP)

10. Ayman Elsherbiny (UN ESCWA)

11. Rita Wehbe (UN ESCWA)

12. Henry Burgsteden (FAO)

13. Erik VanIngen (FAO)

14. Maria Prieto (ILO)

15. Michael Walton (UNCHR)

16. Robert MacTavish (UNICEF)

17. Jason Slater (UNIDO)

18. Kevin Hernandez (UPU)

19. Amani Siyam (WHO)

20. Derrick Muneene (WHO)

21. Dalila Hamou (WIPO)

22. Ryszard Frelek (WIPO)

23. Filippo Pierozzi (ODET)

24. Birgit Kainz-Labbe (OHCHR)

25. Deniz Susar (UN DESA)

26. Mactar Seck (UN ECA)

27. Bahta Bekele (UN ECA)

28. Afework Temtime (UN ECA)

29. Alejandro Patino (UN ECLAC)

30. Siope Vakataki Ofa (UN ESCAP)

31. Meredith Kravitz (UNICC)

32. Manon Balcaen (UNITAR)

33. Konstantinos Stravoravdis (UNITAR)

34. Mirko Montuori (UNJSPF)

35. Delfina Soares (UNU)

36. Morten Meyerhoff (UNU)

37. Katarina L Kuai (UN DCO)

38. Stormy Seohyun Kim (EOSG)