



Note by the secretariat

Statement by CSTD Chair, Ms. Ana Cristina F. Amoroso das Neves

Purpose

To inform the Group about the intervention made by CSTD Chair, Ms. Ana Cristina F. Amoroso das Neves on CSTD Roadmap on WSIS+20: follow-up and implementation during the 40th CWG-WSIS&SDG.

Action required

This document is transmitted to the Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDG **for information.**

References

https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162023_roadmap_p05_CSTDChair_en.pdf

Remarks at the ITU's CWG WSIS&SDG

1 February, remotely

*Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my great pleasure to brief you, as Chair of the CSTD, on the CSTD activities on WSIS+20 that has much to do with this Working Group.

CSTD has been mandated by the ECOSOC and the General Assembly to:

- review and assess annually progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of WSIS action lines, recommendations, and commitments; - share best and effective practices and lessons learned
- identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them, and important measures for further implementation of WSIS outcomes, and
- promote dialogue and foster partnerships.

It has done so primarily through annual reports of the Secretary-General (SG) to its annual sessions. The CSTD also contributed inputs to the WSIS+10 review by the General Assembly in 2015.

Last July ECOSOC requested the CSTD to collect inputs from member States, all facilitators, and other stakeholders and to organize, during its twenty-seventh session, in 2024, and its twenty-eighth session, in 2025, substantive discussions on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the past 20 years, and to report thereon, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly. The CSTD also adopted a roadmap for WSIS+20 review, which includes a synthesis report on the 20-year implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

In brief terms, the report will look at the successes and lessons from 20 years of WSIS implementation, and more importantly its future, given the new challenges and opportunities arising from rapid technological evolutions, and ways to reinforce multilateral cooperation in the digital realm.

To gather inputs, the CSTD secretariat has circulated a questionnaire in September 2023 in collaboration with ITU, UNESCO and UNDP. In addition, the CSTD secretariat has been organizing open consultations at regional and global levels in collaboration with these partners. The first was held in Kyoto, Japan, last October during the 18th Internet Governance Forum. The second was held last December during the UNCTAD e-week in Geneva. To build

synergies between their activities on WSIS+20, the four partners have regular online meetings. Participants to these discussions have expressed a strong interest to continue WSIS after 2025.

As we enter the new year, the CSTD secretariat will engage UN regional commissions on different continents to hold regional open consultations. Regional offices of ITU, UNESCO and UNDP will be invited to participate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In a world marked by geopolitical instability, conflicts, energy and cost-of-living crises, compounded by the lasting effects of COVID-19 and the worsening climate crisis, the imperative to maintain the multi-stakeholder approach remains strong. The CSTD, starting from 2006, has brought together the WSIS multi-stakeholders to review the progress made in implementing the WSIS outcomes. WSIS+20 will be a key item of the forthcoming 27th CSTD to be held this April in Geneva.

I welcome you to participate in the discussions on WSIS+20 on 17th April in Room XIX of the Palais des Nations and look forward to continuing the close cooperation between CSTD and ITU.

Thank you for your attention!

Ana Neves

Chair of the 27th CSTD