



General Assembly HLM on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) 16-17 December 2025

Malta Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador André Xuereb Ambassador for Digital Affairs

Mr President, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

I thank the Co-Facilitators and the Secretariat for their inclusive leadership.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Malta recognises that rapid technological change brings opportunities and risks. Emerging technologies, including AI, quantum technologies, and new forms of connectivity, highlight the need for international cooperation to address cybersecurity threats, prevent fragmentation, and maintain trust in the global digital ecosystem. The principle of an “Information Society for All,” affirmed in the 2003 Geneva Declaration of Principles, remains fully relevant.

WSIS provides a framework to preserve proven successes while adapting to new technologies, risks, and policy



challenges. Malta recognises its ongoing role in promoting digital cooperation and sustainable development. It welcomes linking WSIS Action Lines with the post-2030 agenda to advance the SDGs and align implementation with the GDC, ensuring complementarity and avoiding overlaps. Malta supports initiatives like SafeDPI to strengthen local capacities, advance interoperable standards, and foster resilient digital infrastructures.

Malta remains committed to a human-centric, human rights-based approach to digital governance. Building on WSIS principles and multistakeholder engagement, it stresses that technological development must advance human rights, inclusivity, and equitable access. Protecting personal data, safeguarding freedom of expression, and preventing digital exclusion are central to ensuring that digital transformation supports sustainable development and trust.

Multistakeholder cooperation is essential. Malta has championed this since 1997, highlighting at the World Internet Forum the need for governments, civil society, technical communities, and the private sector to jointly



steward the Internet. At WSIS+10 in 2015, it emphasised governance must remain multilateral, inclusive, and free from domination by any single government. Malta advocated then that critical Internet infrastructure be recognised as Common Heritage of Mankind, ensuring stability, innovation, and trust. Today, at WSIS+20, Malta reiterates that Internet governance must serve all humanity. Instituting the IGF as a permanent UN body is a landmark achievement, providing continuity, dialogue, and collaboration among all stakeholders, strengthening trust, capacity-building, and resilience.

Mr President, digital sovereignty is essential to a sustainable ecosystem. Malta advances these objectives through its Malta Digitali strategy; the Digital Education Strategy, which enhances digital literacy; and the Digital Health and Health Data Strategy, which leverages AI and data to transform healthcare. Malta supports interoperable standards, open-source solutions, robust digital infrastructure, and secure identity systems, while fostering local innovation. Through its leadership of the Diplo Foundation, Malta builds international capacity and works to narrow the digital divide.



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Excellencies, Malta hopes for the successful adoption of a WSIS+20 Outcome Document that would provide stability, guidance, and flexibility for the global information society, and encourages all Member States to join in building a digital future grounded in openness, inclusivity, and respect for human rights.

I thank you.