



National Statement to the Second Committee Joint General Discussion on Items 14 and 19 ICT

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY Darren Formosa, Technical Attache (ICT) ON
BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
9 October 2026

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Chair,

Malta welcomes the Secretary-General's report. As it concludes, WSIS has become the cornerstone of international digital cooperation over the past twenty years, but its benefits have yet to reach everyone.

The report reminds us that 2.6 billion people remain offline, and ITU data show that women and girls are disproportionately affected. Universal and affordable access under SDG target 9.c is still far from achieved. As education, employment and public services move online, closing this divide is a development imperative, requiring investment in connectivity and digital infrastructure, in line with the Sevilla Commitment.

[WSIS+20 into delivery]

Last December's WSIS+20 outcome gave us the framework to respond. Malta supports the road maps linking the WSIS Action Lines to the SDG targets and the commitments of the Global Digital Compact. Coherence between WSIS and Compact implementation, avoiding duplication and



overlap in the spirit of UN80, will make our resources go further. The Internet Governance Forum, now a permanent body, and the multi-stakeholder model it embodies remain WSIS's most valuable legacy.

Artificial intelligence brings real opportunities for development, but also risks, and its capabilities remain concentrated in few hands. Global trust in AI depends on inclusive governance among governments, the private sector, civil society and academia. This is why Malta values both bodies established by resolution 79/325, each in its own role: the independent Scientific Panel, providing evidence-based assessments, and the inclusive, multi-stakeholder Global Dialogue. As the Dialogue heads to New York next May, it should shift from principles to action, starting with capacity-building.

Malta's own AI strategy, *Malta AI: Where Innovation Meets Trust for Well-Being*, positions AI as an enabler of societal well-being and sustainability. Our digital strategy, Malta Digitali, aims to ensure that all residents and businesses benefit from digital transformation. Inclusion means protection, especially of the most vulnerable. In this spirit, Malta is working with partners in the coalition on children and AI to promote safety by design.



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Chair, Malta remains committed to governing digital technologies and AI in line with the UN Charter, human rights and the SDGs, so that no one is left behind.

I thank you.