First IGF 2024 Open Consultations
27 February 2024
[Transcript] Statement from Yu Ping Chan, UN Development Programme – UNDP

Thank you so much, Chengetai. I will be brief and make four key points:

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as the UN's development agency on the ground in over 170 countries, is helping countries accelerate their digital transformation efforts. It is crucial to support them in effectively governing digital technologies so that the benefits can be shared by all. UNDP supports countries to develop strategies, policies, and institutions that promote an inclusive, people-centered, and rights-based approach to digital development. This is at the heart of our approach.

We believe the consensus reached last year by the G20 on the concept and approach of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) was extremely important. UNDP is now working with a community of other organizations, stakeholders, and Member States to promote safe, inclusive, and responsible DPI. Here, like the rest of our work on digital, we reaffirm the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach.

As we have stated in the recent GDC consultations, UNDP urgently calls for accelerating and scaling up digital capacity building, especially in the Global South. This is the most frequent request UNDP receives from our partner countries in relation to digitalization. We already support over 120 countries in areas like inclusive digital strategies, DPI, AI, and capacity building programs, and we are ready to scale up that work.

Finally, I want to draw colleagues' attention to the statement UNDP made last week at the GDC consultations on behalf of the UN's Interagency Mechanism on ICTs, the UNGIS. This statement is relevant to the discussions about the IGF, GDC, and ongoing processes. Last week, UNGIS stressed that we should consider the linkages between the WSIS process and the Summit of the Future and the GDC, including how WSIS could be leveraged to translate the principles and outcomes agreed to in the GDC into concrete and actionable impact. We specifically mentioned the role played by the IGF.

Next year, for the WSIS+20 review, UN agencies are ready to support the updating of WSIS and its action lines, processes, structures, and workstreams. Thank you for this time, and I wish you all the best in your deliberations.