Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of Parliaments,
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this Parliamentary Track Roundtable at the IGF 2023.

Your focus, this year, on shaping digital trust is timely.

With the Internet and digital technologies increasingly shaping our economies and societies, it is crucial that policymakers help to shape a digital landscape that reflects peoples’ aspirations, and secures their rights, including the respect for privacy.

We cannot afford fragmented national approaches to data governance that leaves space for exclusion and misalignment with our global goals.
With the growing digitalization of the global economy and the speed and scope with which new technologies are absorbed into our daily lives, we need to ensure that technology is deployed following a human-centric approach and according to our shared values.

Policy, laws and regulation should facilitate collaboration to develop new and immersive technologies, like artificial intelligence, in a trusted way, while continuing to foster innovation. And we need to create a digital space that curbs the reach of online mis- and disinformation, securing the Internet as a tool for individual and collective empowerment.

_Distinguished Members of Parliaments,_

As the law makers in your various jurisdictions, you can take the key message and recommendations from this global level discussion to the regional and national levels and work with stakeholders to build a structure of internet governance that uplifts and empowers all peoples.

You can also help minimise the risks associated with digitalization to ensure that individuals can enjoy its benefits in an inclusive, safe and secure manner.

I invite you to strengthen your engagement with the IGF across its various sessions and focus areas, and consider the work carried out in these forums as resources for your national parliamentary discussions and activities.

May your exchanges continue to be fruitful, and I look forward to hearing your recommendations.

Thank you.