

## **Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 (WSSD2)**

### **High-level Round Table 1: Strengthening the three pillars of social development: Poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion**

Intervention by Sulyna Abdullah, Chief, Strategic Planning & Membership and  
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**15:00-18:00** – **November 4, 2025** – Roundtable Room, Doha, Qatar

#### **STATEMENT (3 MIN)**

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

I am honored to intervene on behalf of the ITU Secretary-General.

The Doha Declaration mentions the word “digital” 24 times, underscoring technology’s potential to help eradicate poverty, ensure decent work and support inclusion worldwide.

Yet billions remain offline or unable to benefit from such opportunities, partly due to an investment gap of \$1.6 trillion in digital infrastructure.

In today’s economy, to be unconnected is to be excluded. Cut off from education, from work, from opportunity.

Bridging this gap is essential for technology to reach its full potential in advancing all three pillars of social development.

As part of the Sevilla Platform for Action, UNCTAD, ITU and partners are leveraging the Digital Infrastructure Investment Catalyzer to unlock the financing, data and capacity building needed to build a more prosperous digital future for all.

As AI continues to pervade workplaces everywhere, productive employment increasingly depends on digital skilling and literacy.

An estimated 60% of workers will require reskilling by 2030, when upskilling the global workforce could boost global GDP by \$6.5 trillion.

That’s why the ITU-led AI Skills Coalition is working to reach communities worldwide, including by bringing AI and robotics training to schools across Africa through the Giga initiative, active in 45 countries, to date.

Finally, social inclusion must also mean the digital inclusion of women and other marginalized groups.

Closing the gender digital divide could add \$1.5 trillion to global GDP by 2030.

Through the EQUALS Global Partnership, ITU, UN Women and others aim to empower 100 million women and girls to contribute to the digital economy within the next decade.

Excellencies,

Social progress today depends on digital progress. If we leave people offline, we leave them behind.

As we approach the final phase of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20 Review) and continue implementing the Global Digital Compact — two defining, complementary frameworks for our shared digital future, ITU stands ready to work with all of you — to ensure technology remains a driving force in poverty eradication, decent work and prosperity for all. Thank you.

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