



Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam
Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations**

**at the
General Assembly**

**“High-level meeting on the Overall Review by the General
Assembly
of the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World
Summit on Information Society”**

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Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the G77 and China.

We would like first to congratulate the co-facilitators the Permanent Representatives of the United Arab Emirates and Latvia Ambassadors Lana Nusseibeh and Janis Mažeiks for their able leadership and efforts in reaching a comprehensive and consensual document on the Overall Review of the Implementation the WSIS Outcomes.

Mr. President,

Development, Human Rights and Security are three key elements to this Review Meeting.

First, on development:

Since the adoption of the Tunis Agenda ten years ago, the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has tremendously evolved and developed. Today we live in an interconnected world, but not everyone is connected. The digital divide remains a development disparity rather than a technological gap.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the pledge to leave no one behind, today's review is an opportunity to reaffirm the basic human right of every person in the world to access to information and communications technologies.

Indeed, ICTs role as a catalyst to the promotion of social, economic and political rights need not be demonstrated.

From rural areas, to humanitarian and emergency situations ICTs are reliable tools to reach everyone and allow the full enjoyment of all human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Addressing the gap in the gender digital divide also remains a priority.

Second, on human rights:

One of the paradoxical challenges of ICTs is that of promoting and protecting the freedom of opinion and expression. It is regrettable to see that in many places around the world such freedom is unrightfully denied, whereas in others it is being misused or abused to promote violent extremism and intolerance.

Internet should remain a hub for intercultural exchange and dialogue.

It is therefore important to preserve the world's cultural diversity by building digital capacities to all.

Third on security:

Indeed, it has been agreed since the Tunis Agenda 10 years ago that "the same rights that people have offline must be protected online".

Cyber security means therefore the protection against cybercrime, digital attacks, espionage and sabotage, but also the protection of privacy and personal data and communications.

Governments' regulations in this regard, should not impede on essential human rights in the name of security.

Mr. President,

In Lebanon, we started the deployment of broadband in 2010 by building the National Fiber Network, a fiber backbone covering the whole country. Heavy users such as universities, hospitals, incubators, and businesses will be soon connected to this fiber. Ultimately, all homes will be connected with FTTH (Fiber To The Home) by 2020. Meanwhile, cooperation between all stakeholders has been vital for the management of country domain names and IPV6 (Internet Protocol Version 6) advocacy and adoption.

Finally, Mr. President,

As we review the accomplishments since 2005, we praise the engagement of all stakeholders and their important contribution in the development of ICT. Such cooperation should remain the driving force to achieve an inclusive, people-centered, development oriented global information society.

Thank you.