

Council Working Group on Internet

ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Remarks

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Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Chairman,

Dear Delegates,

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today in the first CWG cluster of the new year. On behalf of the Secretary-General, let me begin by offering you a very warm welcome and conveying my best wishes for a happy and productive 2024.

Over the next couple of years, the Internet community is gearing up for important milestones. At the United Nations, discussions on Our Common Agenda, the Global Digital Compact, and the Summit of the Future are scheduled for 2024, followed by the 20-year review of WSIS in 2025. This presents a crucial opportunity to assess progress and promote enhanced cooperation among stakeholders.

The Council Working Group continues to have important discussions on many of these topics related to international Internet-related public policy issues. It has actively engaged diverse stakeholders and I encourage you to benefit from the rich repository of stakeholder perspectives that it has yielded, as you continue to engage in these different processes.

There is a lot of work ahead of us, and I hope that we can kick off a productive year with this meeting. I encourage you all to approach the discussions today with a spirit of consensus and collaboration so that we can continue engaging effectively with our stakeholder community on concrete issues.

I hope that all of you will also participate in the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event in Geneva this year, from May 27 to 31. This event, held alongside the AI for Good Summit 2024, will benefit from your insights and experiences, enriching the ongoing WSIS+20 Process and contributing to ideas on strengthening digital collaboration for sustainable development.

With this, I conclude my brief remarks by saying that we greatly appreciate your continued support and commitment to this important working group. I want to assure you of the full support of the Secretariat, including the Elected Officials and senior management, for your work.

We are most grateful to the Chairman, Mr. Wojciech Berezowski, for his guidance and leadership.

I wish you successful and productive discussions.

Thank you.