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Talking Points
Day 1; Session 1 Impact of digital development on media pluralism

1. I emphasised six key themes driving the future of the Internet & digital technologies: (1) Trust & security, (2) Internet economics, (3) Governance & regulation, (4) Digital inclusion, (5) The role of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and (6) Sustainability (both environmental/ecological as well as financial sustainability).

2. I also encouraged those present to avoid the term "fake news," a description that has been co-opted by authoritarians, undermines journalism, and endangers journalists/media workers, and instead use disinformation and/or misinformation.

3. Additionally, I emphasised that high-quality, independent journalism is the best antidote to misinformation. Moreover, technology should not be seen as a panacea to address disinformation and misinformation; it is merely a tool. We also need informed regulation and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

4. Lastly, I emphasised that targeted advertising and the business models of Silicon Valley directly impacts Central Asia, like many other regions, by subliminally incentivising and encouraging sharing information, even to the detriment of information ecosystems. As a result, media sustainability is key for addressing misinformation and safeguarding our online spaces.