

Input from IT for Change and Global Digital Justice Forum to the Informal Interactive WSIS stakeholder consultation on the review of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+ 20)
9 June 2025 at 8:00 p.m. and 10 June at 10:00 a.m. (EST), 2025

Greetings! My name is Nandini and I speak on behalf of the India-based not for profit organization [IT for Change](#) and the civil society coalition [Global Digital Justice Forum](#).

One third of the world's population is still offline, most of whom are in developing countries. Even as stubborn divides in Internet access persist, connectivity itself has proven to be a necessary but insufficient condition for digital equality.

The infrastructural capabilities and patents to realize the innovation dividends of the new network-data technologies are concentrated in powerful corporate monopolies from just 2 countries.

The rule-book of the digital economy is currently being written in many policy forums, often in an extremely fragmented manner, decoupled from comprehensive considerations of human rights, socio-economic and gender justice. Often, this is in ways where the countries of the global South are excluded and denied the power to shape their autonomous development destinies.

The vision of the WSIS Geneva Declaration – where states “rededicated themselves” to upholding “the principle of the sovereign equality of all States” (para 6) the “commitment to the right to development”(para 3) and building “ a rich public domain” (para 26) – has only acquired renewed significance.

The Global Digital Justice Forum urges the WSIS+20 review to factor in the following priorities, and pave the way for a digital governance paradigm which moves beyond a narrow stakeholderism to meaningful democratic engagement, prioritising the voices of peoples of the majority world and their governments, smaller private sector actors, and public interest technologists:

- Reclaim the Internet as a global communication commons
- Address corporate accountability for human rights violations in transnational digital value chains
- Institute public financing guarantees for the development of sovereign digital public infrastructure in the global South, through measures such as a Digital Development Tax on Internet corporations
- Acknowledge the imperative to reform trade, taxation and IP regimes for a just international economic order based on digital non-alignment
- Commit to ecological justice in digital innovation choices

Thank you.