

## GNI Input on Revision 2 of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document

The recent publication of [Revision 2 of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document](#) marks an important moment in the ongoing global conversation about the future of the Internet and digital governance. At a time when technology is deeply intertwined with human rights, economic opportunity, and civic life, the decisions made in this process will shape digital ecosystems for years to come. The Global Network Initiative (GNI) has been at the forefront of these discussions, serving as a leading multistakeholder forum for accountability, shared learning, and collective advocacy on government and company policies and practices related to technology and human rights.

GNI is a [membership](#) organization comprising over 110 academics, civil society organizations, investors, and technology companies from around the world, with nearly one-third based in the Global Majority. Our [work](#) is focused on promoting responsible governance of digital technologies and advancing the protection of human rights in online and offline contexts. Over the course of the WSIS+20 review process, GNI has actively [participated](#) in consultations, including the [Open Consultation Process](#) in March 2025, the [virtual Stakeholder Consultations](#) in June 2025, the review of the [Elements Paper](#), and the consultations on Revision 1 of the WSIS+20 Outcomes document in November 2025. In partnership with Global Partners Digital (GPD), GNI has run the [Shaping the WSIS+20 Review for a Unified Internet Multistakeholderism](#) project to support global engagement in the WSIS+20 review process. Through this project, GNI and GPD have worked with local partners across ten countries to create awareness, deepen understanding of the WSIS process, and facilitate multistakeholder engagement. This work produced the report [The Road to WSIS+20: Key Country Perspectives in the Twenty-Year Review of the World Summit on the Information Society](#), which provides insight into the positions and priorities of selected governments and supports inclusive and informed participation in the WSIS+20 process.

Separately, as a member of the broader [Global Digital Rights Coalition](#), GNI has worked to amplify multistakeholder participation and embed human rights and accountability into the WSIS framework. We are signatories to the cross-stakeholder “[Five-Point Plan](#)” and “[Eight Recommendations](#)” for an inclusive WSIS+20 review, and have collaborated on the joint statement on [Strengthening Human Rights and Multistakeholder Visions in the WSIS+20 Outcome Document](#), demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that all voices, including those from historically underrepresented regions, are meaningfully heard in shaping the digital future.

## Analysis of Rev 2

Rev2 was released on December 5th and marks continued overall positive progress in the WSIS+20 review process.

## Steps forward in Rev2

1. **Meaningful stakeholder engagement:** The recognition of meaningful participation of all stakeholders in para 4 further strengthens references to multistakeholder engagement in the text.
2. **Human rights:** Bringing references to international human rights law into specific sections including para 8 & 52 is a positive. The text could be further strengthened by including references to international Human rights law in the sections on data governance and AI.
3. **Gender:** The language around gender equality, the empowerment of women, and condemning gender based violence in para 11 & 54 are welcome additions.
4. **Accessible by design:** Recommending the incorporation of accessible by design principles into digital technologies in para 22 is a welcome addition.

## Areas to strengthen

1. **Principles of necessity, proportionality, and legality:** As with Rev1, the principles of necessity, legality, and proportionality need to be added back into the human rights section (para 65 -77). These are critical for ensuring governmental powers are rights-respecting.
2. **Impacts on FoE and Privacy:** The impact of internet shutdowns on Freedom of Expression and Privacy needs to be explicitly recognized.
3. **Surveillance:** The impact of overly broad governmental surveillance on human rights including freedom of expression and privacy should be recognized.
4. **UNGPs:** The added text in para 73 *"We also call on all business enterprises, including surveillance technology companies and companies responsible for social media platforms, to respect human rights in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights"* should be re-worded as: *"We also call on private sector companies to respect human rights in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights"*
5. **AI fellowship:** While the emphasis on capacity building in the section on AI is welcome, it is unclear the focus and utility of the suggested AI fellowship in para 84. We suggest that either the focus is clarified or it is removed.