

Subject: Proposed amendments to v2 from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Dear UNGA WSIS Review Team,

We are grateful to you for the opportunity to contribute to the revised draft of the UNGA WSIS Review process. I apologise for needing to send these contributions in writing – I was unfortunately not in a place where I could have contributed during the live session with my camera on.

Overall, we welcome the latest version of the WSIS outcome document, and notably the recognition that the value of public access to the internet extends beyond just those populations who might be considered to be vulnerable.

We only have three further suggestions for edits to the current text.

Article 17

We note the effort to simplify this paragraph, understanding the merits of keeping the Declaration as short and manageable as possible. We would nonetheless again urge recognition of the role of repositories and other infrastructures in this context, given their essential role in making a reality of access to online information. Examples include digital libraries, scientific repositories and online encyclopedias. This could be achieved in the following way:

*17. We acknowledge that developing digital public goods and digital public infrastructure are critical drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation and recognize the need to increase investment in their successful development with the participation of all stakeholders. Digital public goods include open-source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards and open content **(as well as repositories and related infrastructures)** that adhere to privacy and other applicable international laws, standards and best practices...*

Article 46

We welcome the retention of the connection with science and technology in Paragraph 46. We believe that this should reflect the messaging of the Pact for the Future, and in particular Action 29, and its reference to the need to ‘support policies towards open science and open innovation and know-how’. This could be done in the following way:

46. *We acknowledge the importance of a positive enabling environment for investment, innovation and technological development in enabling implementation of the WSIS vision. We recognize that science, technology and innovation are integral to digital development and the importance of ensuring that stakeholders in all countries are able to play a part in digital innovation in order to foster digital development, **notably through supporting policies towards open science and open innovation and know-how.***

Article 56

We continue to welcome the recognition of the importance of the local dimension in the vision of a people-centred internet. At the same time, we also note the strong emphasis on the role of local government as a stakeholder group in wider UN processes, the work of UN Habitat and others around local digital inclusion and more. It would be powerful for the WSIS Review to recognise this connection. This could be done in the following way:

56. *We note that lack of capacity is a major barrier to closing digital divides, and recommend that capacity development, including for innovation, be leveraged to empower local experts, and local communities, **institutions and authorities** to benefit from and contribute to information and communications technology applications for development. We recognize the need to scale up international cooperation and financing for digital capacity development in developing countries and to support the development of local content and content relevant to local realities online.*

Thank you very much for the opportunity to contribute.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen

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