



Paradigm Initiative Submissions on WSIS+20 Revision 2

Thank you, Chair, for this opportunity. I echo what my colleagues have already stated, appreciating the inclusion of diverse submissions and the coordination of robust contributions throughout this process.

My name is Thobekile Matimbe, and I am from Paradigm Initiative, an organisation that promotes digital rights and inclusion in the Global South.

We have made significant contributions throughout the review process, including submitting comments to the Zero Draft and Rev 1, and engaging with the Co-Facilitators on several occasions.

I start by acknowledging and applauding the permanent mandate of the IGF, appreciating how multistakeholderism is key for Global South Actors and echoing the need to ensure adequate resourcing for its mandate to ensure sustainability.

Turning to the Human Rights and Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society, I will reinforce that the SDGs for communities in the Global South are key and not fully realisable in the absence of respect for human rights, as referenced in paragraph 68 of Rev.2. To move towards a genuinely inclusive and thriving information society, human rights cannot be severed; they are an imperative.

We would therefore like to see the Zero Draft phrasing adopted to strengthen the language on human rights.

Section 67 of Rev 2 would benefit from paragraph 77 of the Zero Draft, mainly ‘ enabling access to information, freedom of expression, **privacy (being our emphasis)** and freedom of assembly and association, as this particularisation acknowledges the key human rights that are violated mainly without adequate safeguards.

Furthermore, paragraph 75, which mentions surveillance technology companies, should include the need for them to take adequate measures to mitigate human rights impacts

through due diligence and human rights impact assessments, as already adopted in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Global Digital Compact.

Thank you once again for the consultation, which took place so close to the upcoming UNGA. I wish you success in the final stretch.

Thank you!

Presented by Thobekile Matimbe
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