

Subject: IMSB -LED WSIS+20 Virtual Stakeholder Consultation on Revision 2

WSIS +20 Revision 2 Concerns

. Concrete Implementation and Accountability

While the document reaffirms commitments, it often lacks specific, measurable, and resourced targets for implementation.

- **Financial Mechanisms:** The document calls for considering a task force on future financial mechanisms, but advocacy should push for a clear mandate, timeline, and dedicated funding sources (beyond voluntary contributions) for digital development, especially for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- **Clear Roadmaps:** Advocate for the requirement that Action Line facilitators develop concrete implementation roadmaps with clear indicators, to move beyond aspirational language.
- **Data and Monitoring:** Push for a dedicated mechanism to improve data gathering on the digital divide, including the collection of disaggregated data (by gender, disability, geography) to effectively monitor progress.

2. Digital Public Goods (DPG) & Infrastructure (DPI) Nuance

- **Risk Mitigation:** Language around DPGs/DPIs in Revision 2 has been weakened, removing references to DPGs doing "no harm" and ensuring DPIs are resilient, safe, and inclusive. Advocacy must reintroduce and strengthen these safeguards to prevent unintended harm, bias, and fragmentation.
- **Community-Led Models:** Emphasize the need to prioritize and fund community-led governance models and context-driven design for DPI/DPGs, ensuring that digital systems reflect cultural autonomy and local needs, rather than being top-down solutions.

3. Human Rights and Ethical Dimensions

- **Protecting Civic Space:** Advocate for stronger, unequivocal language against the use of digital technologies for Internet shutdowns, mass surveillance, and censorship, which erode democratic rights and freedom of expression. The language on human rights must not be softened in the final negotiations.
- **Accountability for Tech Companies:** Push for clearer references to the need for human rights due diligence, oversight, and effective remedy mechanisms for business enterprises, especially large platforms, whose actions impact human rights online.

4. Addressing Specific Vulnerable Groups

- **Accessibility by Design Enforcement:** While "accessibility-by-design" is mentioned, advocacy must push for the mandatory adoption of international accessibility standards (e.g., WCAG) for all publicly funded digital content and services, accompanied by mechanisms to support organizations of persons with disabilities to deliver digital skills programs.
- **Gender Digital Divide:** Advocate for a dedicated focus and new measurable commitments to close the persistent gender digital divide, addressing both access barriers and the specific risks of online violence and abuse disproportionately faced by women and girls.

5. Media, Information Integrity, and Platform Power

- **Media Sustainability (Action Line C9):** Advocacy is needed to ensure explicit recognition of journalism and media sustainability in the outcome document, including their infrastructure access, as a form of civic infrastructure essential for democracy and information integrity.
- **Platform Dominance:** The current WSIS framework does not adequately address the structural power and market dominance of large digital platforms and their algorithmic content distribution. Advocacy should push for language that addresses competition, taxation, and the need for greater transparency and accountability from these dominant actors.

Engr. James Kunle Olorundare, SMIEEE

President, ISOC NG and Member, NIGF MAG

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