Wikimedia Germany: Statement for the IMSB Stakeholder Consultation (8 December 2025)

Excellencies, co-facilitators, colleagues,

Wikimedia Germany appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this consultation, and we thank the Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board for its continuous work of including all stakeholder groups.

We would like to highlight four priorities we consider fundamental for a successful WSIS+20 process and an inclusive digital future that the Wikimedia movement is a part of.

First, strengthening the Internet Governance Forum.

We strongly support efforts to ensure the IGF becomes a permanent, predictably financed institution. To remain both relevant and practice-oriented, the IGF must evolve. We therefore encourage the Secretary-General to bring forward proposals to review and update the IGF's modalities so it can continue to serve as the leading multistakeholder platform for digital governance.

Second, ensuring coherence across global digital processes.

Artificial intelligence governance is advancing in multiple global fora. Rather than forcing convergence, we urge a higher degree of coherence: avoiding duplication, fragmentation, and institutional proliferation. AI governance should remain aligned with the Global Digital Compact and the vision of WSIS while maintaining clear, but not subordinating, linkages to Internet governance structures.

Third, anchoring digital governance firmly in human rights and sustainable development.

What matters is that WSIS+20 reaffirms universal human rights as the foundation of digital governance, strengthens commitments to an open,

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secure, and interoperable Internet, and includes clear language against practices such as Internet shutdowns. As ARTICLE 19 emphasized, we preferred the stronger language in the Zero Draft.

We also support embedding the 2027 review of the Global Digital Compact within the WSIS+30 review cycle rather than creating another parallel process. This will enhance coherence and accountability across processes.

Fourth, it is important to close and not just bridge digital divides through sustainable financing.

We encourage the creation of a dedicated task force to explore financing mechanisms that can genuinely close digital divides. Large for-profit actors who benefit from the global digital commons should contribute meaningfully to maintain and expand it.

Lastly, the protection and expansion of digital commons and digital public goods.

The WSIS+20 process must recognize that open knowledge, open standards, open data, and open-source infrastructure form critical digital commons that enable education, innovation, and democratic participation. We therefore encourage member states to:

- explicitly recognize digital public goods as essential infrastructure;
- support interoperable, open ecosystems rather than proprietary solutions;
- and ensure financing models enable the sustainability of open knowledge platforms that serve the global public interest.

Wikimedia Germany stands ready to support an inclusive and coherent pathway toward WSIS+30. We look forward to contributing to the final negotiation phase and hope that next week will constitute a successful UNGA WSIS High-Level Event.

Thank you.

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