

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Co-Facilitators of the WSIS+20 Review,

In August 2025, we have organised a series of one-on-one consultations held with **seven major multinational enterprises headquartered or operating extensively across Asia-Pacific**. Collectively, these enterprises represent an estimated market value of over one trillion USD. These conversations were convened specifically to introduce the WSIS+20 Review process and to hear initial perspectives from the private sector. However, as they are newly introduced to the WSIS process and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), they have asked not to be named at this stage, as their internal processes require additional time before issuing official statements.

Despite this, their feedback is both candid and highly relevant for the WSIS+20 discussions. I wish to summarize the following key messages:

1. **Appreciation and awareness**

All enterprises expressed genuine gratitude for a member of the Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB), Jennifer Chung, for listening to the opinion of the APAC private sector. Prior to these consultations, they were largely **unaware** of the WSIS+20 Review or the IGF, despite the significance of these processes.

2. **Strong interest in Internet Governance**

The companies demonstrated strong and immediate interest in issues related to Internet Governance, particularly ICANN policies and the those that fall outside of ICANN remit. They underlined that **cybersecurity, online infringement, and phishing** are daily challenges with real and costly impact on their operations.

3. **Concern over policy fragmentation**

A major theme across all discussions was the **fragmentation of Internet policies**, especially concerning social media platforms and online intermediaries. These inconsistencies were described as a daily obstacle, significantly affecting their ability to develop and serve markets effectively. The companies stressed that if even large global enterprises face such difficulties navigating policy fragmentation, **small and medium-sized enterprises will face even greater challenges, thereby exacerbating the digital divide**.

4. **Support for IGF, with concerns**

The enterprises voiced **strong support for the continuation and strengthening of the IGF**. However, they also expressed concerns:

- Attending IGF meetings and contributing financially is difficult to justify without **practical outputs** that can inform business operations and policymaking.
- While they understand that the IGF is not a decision-making body, they nonetheless see great value if it could help foster **guidelines and best practices** on pressing issues such as platform policies and online content governance, **through a multistakeholder process and with government acknowledgement**.

5. **Future engagement and funding**

The enterprises indicated that if the IGF is further strengthened to enable **practical coordination among relevant actors**, they would be willing to consider deeper engagement, including possible financial contributions. They also expressed a clear

hope that a **more meaningful and structured role for the private sector** could be developed within the IGF and broader Internet governance processes.

- We would **advocate adding “private sector” as one of the under-participated stakeholder groups in Para. 114.** “Private sector” is one of the three named stakeholder group in the WGIG definition of Internet Governance, their absence in IGF and NRIs meetings undermines to diversity of the discussion and undermines IGF’s ability to “enable more substantive outcomes that can achieve greater impact” (para 114).
  - We would advocate amending Para. 118 with the following: “...and invite the Secretary-General to make proposals concerning future funding for the Forum that is **supportive of the Multistakeholder nature of the Forum**”.
    - Rationale: The funding mechanism of the Forum will have deep and long-term implications for the balance of interests among participants. Highlighting that future funding must enshrine the principle of multistakeholderism will help guide the Secretary-General’s considerations. This ensures that any future arrangements reinforce the Forum’s openness, inclusivity, and legitimacy, rather than unintentionally narrowing its stakeholder base or privileging certain interests.
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## Conclusion

These reflections, while preliminary, illustrate the urgent need to ensure that the **voices of global private sector actors—both large and small—are effectively integrated** into the WSIS+20 Review and the future of the IGF. Their experiences highlight that policy fragmentation is not only a barrier to enterprise growth but also a risk to the inclusiveness and resilience of the digital economy.

We respectfully submit these insights to the WSIS+20 Review process in the hope that they may be useful for your deliberations, and to underline the importance of **strengthening the IGF as a trusted platform** where governments, industry, and all stakeholders can work together on practical solutions.

Respectfully yours,

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