EUROVISIONI
FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE
DI CINEMA E TELEVISIONE

H.E. Ambassador Suela Janina,

H.E. Ekitela Lokkale,

Re: Eurovisioni contribution to WSIS+20 review and comments to the "zero draft"

As already told during the various sessions in person and on-line, Eurovisioni welcomes the zero draft document and express its congratulations for the excellent starting point that your work of co-facilitators has provided to the UNGA for the debate over the WSIS.

In particular we welcome and ask you to defend against modification the following points:

38, 103, 104, 112, 113, 115,117, 118 that are the core of your proposal. **We stress the crucial importance of point 122 and 125**, in which you correctly underline the need to align and coordinate (in view of avoiding duplication and giving more impact to the UN actions in the digital field) all the existing fora and tools, such as IGF global (with NRI, DC and PN), WSIS follow up and GDC implementation.

Nevertheless we believe that could be possible to make this document even better than how it is today, introducing some new wording or rephrasing some of the points. Please find here below our proposals.

POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ZERO DRAFT
Introduction – point 3:
We suggest to introduce the word "**media**"among the multistakeholder groups to be involved in the WSIS+20 follow up, as it has always been the case since Tunis 2005. It could be introduce after "academic communities".

point 7
current text:

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"We note that the widespread availability of the Internet has transformed traditional structures of public discourse. This has had significant impacts on societal behaviour, policy-making processes and the dynamics of information reliability and public trust."

Proposed integration to be added at the end:

.."and public trust, *posing substantial challenges to democratic societies*"

On point 11:

"We recognise that the achievement of universal meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technologies and the Internet, including the ability of people in all communities to create, access and use digital technologies, is fundamental to achieving a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. Implementation/enforcement of available policies and regulations need to be elaborated through cooperation among governments, civil society, youth, and technical community."

Chapter on Bridging digital divides – point 21

The data provided does not cite any sources and is written in a way that lends itself to ambiguous interpretations. The 95% figure cited can only be achieved by including satellite distribution (but this is not specified). There is certainly a tendency to overestimate the theoretical coverage of distribution, without taking into account the fact that not everyone can access satellite coverage or mobile phone coverage for technical and cost reasons. "*The proportion of the world's population living in areas covered by broadband networks capable of providing effective Internet access is now over 95 per cent, with more than 90 per cent now covered by 4G networks.*"

Suggestion: we recommend rephrasing this paragraph because the current wording could be misleading. "Coverage at 95%" is "potential"; in most of the LDCs the real access in non-urban areas remain around 35% lower because of other problems such as affordability of devices or of subscriptions plans and meaningful access.

We also suggest to add at the end of the phrase the following: "*In this sense the adoption of 5G broadcasting solutions could help in case of emergencies and in the mission to preserve and promote access to local contents and local languages at minimum costs*"

Chapter on Bridging digital divides – point 26

We are further concerned that other groups that experience disadvantage are under represented online, including the elderly, ethnic and linguistic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, refugees and migrants. We urge all stakeholders to include the needs of people in vulnerable situations and those in underserved, rural and remote areas in the development and implementation of national and local strategies for digital connectivity, according to the priorities drafted in the annexed table.

On point 29:

Please add: "We are committed to achieving entry-level broadband subscription and devices costs that are accessible to the widest section of the population."

Chapter on Digital economy – point 40

current text:

"*We note that digital technologies have had significant impacts on employment, including changes in workplace environments and training requirements, opportunities for more flexible working and the emergence of digital labour platforms, and that automation, robotics and artificial intelligence are expected to have further substantial impacts on employment opportunities, including the displacement of some professional, clerical and manual types of work*."

Proposed integration to be added at the end:

.."of work. *All these deep societal changes need to be properly and with anticipation tackled through public policies at global, regional and national levels*""

On point 66

On point 76

Proposal of additional comma "Extending connectivity in remote areas. Some repositories of these best practices - such as the one of the IGF PNMA – are of public access and include policies that are immediately replicable and scalable elsewhere in the world (Repository of Good Practices). The available knowledge and data could assist all concerned governments, donors, and specialized UN agencies with immediate identification of policies to improve Internet access for the more than 2 billion unconnected, and acknowledge best practices that could be shared among similar regions."

On point 78

"We recognise that development partners, including regional development banks, and public funding have also played an important role in financing information and communications networks and services, particularly supporting their deployment in areas that have been considered commercially unviable. Innovative mechanisms, including universal access funds and community networks, have contributed to

6 Annex 1 of PNMA Contribution - "Prioritized Matrix".

Chapter on Human Rights – point 78

current text:

"*We reaffirm our commitment to the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and to the framework of rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We reaffirm that democracy, sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as good governance at all levels, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing*."

Proposed integration to be added within the phrase:

.." *the Convention on the Rights of the Child* ~~and~~ *, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UNESCO Convention 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*."

This is because we at IGF Italia believe that the right to cultural diversity is threatened by the commercialization of the Internet

and that it must therefore also respect these principles related to the specific characteristics of different cultures and languages.

Points 90 and 91

IGF Italia fully supports this point, which touches on one of the greatest risks posed by the reckless use of the Internet: the polarization of societies. However, it proposes to strengthen it by combining the safety of journalists with the need to guarantee the integrity of the media (against deep fakes or manipulation of information).

Point 90 Current text:

"*We underscore the need to respect the independence of media, including digital media. We express particular concern about increased threats to the safety of journalists. In this context, we reaffirm that digital transformation must serve to uphold and advance, not restrict, fundamental rights and freedoms….*"

Proposed integration to be added within the phrase:

"*We underscore the need to respect the independence of media, including digital media and we support the media integrity principle as agreed by G20 in Brazil last year. We express particular concern about increased threats to the safety of journalists. In this context, we reaffirm that digital transformation must serve to uphold and advance, not restrict, fundamental rights and freedoms….*"

Point 91 Current text:

"*We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation of and interference with information in ways that are harmful to societies and individuals, and negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance and respect in the digital space, as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes*…"

Proposed integration to be added at the end of the phrase:

"*… as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes, especially in times of elections*"

Chapter on Internet Governance – point 105:

Current text:

"*We recognise the need to promote greater participation and engagement in Internet governance discussions of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders from all countries*…"

Proposed integration to be added at the end of the phrase:

"*and all other relevant stakeholders from all countries. In this sense the role of traditional media is essential in order to reach the whole of the society and not only the young generations*"

Chapter on Monitoring and measurement – point 137:

Current text:

"We also call upon United Nations and other relevant organisations and forums to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, put in place data infrastructure at the national level on information and communications technologies, and share information about country case studies…"

Proposed integration to be added at the end of the phrase:

"We also call upon United Nations and other relevant organisations and forums to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national

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circumstances, put in place data infrastructure at the national level on information and communications technologies, and share information about country case studies, using also the opportunity of the National and Regional IGF networks around the world"

Of course, we remain fully at your disposal in case you would need further information about any of the suggested implementations or modifications.

Best regards,

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