

Input on the Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document

Internet NZ (on behalf of First Peoples and Indigenous Peoples panel from auIGF 2025)

General comments on the Zero Draft			
<p>This submission provides feedback on the WSIS+20 Zero Draft from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples' rights and their participation in Internet governance.</p> <p>The Zero Draft makes important progress in acknowledging Indigenous peoples among underrepresented groups, but does not yet fully recognise their unique status as rights-holders under international law, particularly United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the affirmation of Indigenous rights in digital spaces in the 2024 Global Digital Compact (GDC). Twenty years after the 2003 Global Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society, formal recognition of Indigenous Peoples within the multistakeholder model of Internet governance needs to be addressed the historical marginalisation of these voices from formal Internet governance structures.</p> <p>We consider the Draft could be further improved, and propose specific amendments to better establish Indigenous Peoples globally as a distinct stakeholder group within the multistakeholder model, that is consistent with their inherent rights to self-determination and participation in decision-making on matters that affect them.</p>			
Para	WSIS+20 Zero Draft Text	Text proposals	Rationale
Introduction			
3	We reaffirm the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognise that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of	We reaffirm the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognise that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of	Indigenous Peoples are subsumed under “civil society” or “all other relevant stakeholders” and therefore this does not recognise their distinct status as rights holders. This proposed amendment aligns with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNDRIP Article 18: "Indigenous

	<p>Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, with balanced representation of all countries has been and continues to be vital in developing the Information Society, including the implementation of Summit outcomes.</p>	<p>Governments, the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, international organisations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, with balanced representation of all countries has been and continues to be vital in developing the Information Society, including the implementation of Summit outcomes.</p>	<p>peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDRIP Article 41: "Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established" • Global Digital Compact: Recognised Indigenous Peoples' distinct status, and affirmed their rights in digital spaces, and committed to protecting Indigenous data sovereignty <p>Inclusion as a distinct stakeholder group is a necessary precondition for fulfilling these obligations within the digital ecosystem.</p>
14	<p>We are committed to addressing the access and specific information and technology challenges facing children, adolescents and young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and marginalised</p>	<p>We are committed to addressing the access and specific information and technology challenges facing children, adolescents and young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and marginalised</p>	<p>It is pleasing to see the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in relation to technology challenges. Our proposed amendment correctly reframes Indigenous Peoples from a vulnerable group to rights holders with</p>

	communities, and to the needs of future generations.	communities, and to the needs of future generations. We also recognise the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination in digital spaces, including digital sovereignty, protection of traditional knowledges, and meaningful participation in Internet governance decisions affecting them, as affirmed by UNDRIP.	self-determination over their own digital futures, which is aligned with Article 3 of UNDRIP - self-determination in political, economic, social and cultural development.
Bridging Digital Divides			
26	We are further concerned that other groups that experience disadvantage are underrepresented 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.	We are further concerned that other groups that experience disadvantage are underrepresented 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. Recognising Indigenous Peoples as holders of inherent rights to self-governance and participation in decision making, we commit to ensuring their meaningful participation in the design and implementation of	It is pleasing to see the recognition that many Indigenous Peoples experience disadvantages in digital connectivity. We would encourage the drafters to consider Indigenous Peoples as distinct political entities. Our proposed amendment would actualise the Principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent as set out in UNDRIP (Article 19), and the GDC's affirmation of indigenous rights, data sovereignty, and protection of traditional knowledges in digital spaces. This would ensure meaningful participation in the design and implementation of digital infrastructure, moving beyond mere

		digital infrastructure and services affecting their communities.	consultation to active partnership in digital governance mechanisms.
Multilingualism & Cultural Preservation			
30	<p>We reiterate the need for the development of local content and services in a variety of languages and formats that are accessible to all people and recognise the vital importance of multilingualism to ensure the linguistic, cultural and historical diversity of all nations. We commend the work that has been done since the World Summit to extend the multilingual nature of the Internet, including the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names, and urge all stakeholders to ensure that the Internet and digital services become fully accessible to all, including Indigenous Peoples and speakers of minority languages.</p>	<p>We reiterate the need for the development of local content and services in a variety of languages and formats that are accessible to all people and recognise the vital importance of multilingualism to ensure the linguistic, cultural and historical diversity of all nations. We commend the work that has been done since the World Summit to extend the multilingual nature of the Internet, including the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names, and urge all stakeholders to ensure that the Internet and digital services become fully accessible to all, including Indigenous Peoples and speakers of minority languages. We recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures and establish their own media in their own languages. We</p>	<p>We are pleased to see continued support of a multilingual Internet that is accessible to all. Our proposed amendment aligns with Articles 13 and 16 of UNDRIP, and supports the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.</p>

		commit to supporting digital frameworks that are inclusive of Indigenous languages, recognizing that many indigenous languages are endangered, putting at risk the cultures and knowledge systems they represent.	
Data Governance			
94	We reaffirm the approach to data governance that was adopted by the General Assembly in the Global Digital Compact.	We reaffirm the approach to data governance that was adopted by the General Assembly in the Global Digital Compact. Data governance frameworks must also recognise Indigenous data sovereignty, and the Indigenous Peoples' rights to determine how their data is collected, used, shared and governed.	Our proposed amendment adds a clear recognition of indigenous data sovereignty. This addition makes the data governance section consistent with Articles 31 and 19 of UNDRIP, and the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance that was recognised in the Global Digital Compact submissions.
Internet Governance			
105	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. Measures are needed to ensure more effective participation by stakeholders from developing	We recognise the need to promote greater participation and engagement in Internet governance discussions of Governments, the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples , international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders from all countries. We specifically recognise Indigenous Peoples as distinct	We support the need for measures to ensure greater and more effective participation from more marginalised communities. Our proposed amendment recognises Indigenous people as a distinct group of rights-holders under Articles 18 and 41 of UNDRIP, and they should have their own distinct community recognised in Internet governance

	countries and under-represented groups, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states	<p>rights-holders under international law. Measures are needed to ensure more effective participation by stakeholders from developing countries and under-represented groups, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states</p> <p>We commit to establishing dedicated mechanisms and resources so that they can meaningfully participate in Internet governance forums and decision-making.</p>	processes.
117	We further call upon the Forum to enhance its working modalities, including by reinforcing its intersessional work and supporting national and regional initiatives, and to apply innovative, open, inclusive, transparent and agile collaboration methods. We emphasize the need to broaden the participation of all relevant stakeholders, with particular attention to underrepresented communities as well as Governments and other stakeholders from developing countries.	We further call upon the Forum to enhance its working modalities, including by reinforcing its intersessional work and supporting national and regional initiatives, and to apply innovative, open, inclusive, transparent and agile collaboration methods. We emphasize the need to broaden the participation of all relevant stakeholders, with particular attention to Indigenous Peoples , underrepresented communities as well as Governments and other stakeholders from developing countries. We call for the Forum to establish an intersessional workstream that focuses on	We support the need for broad participation in Internet governance. Our proposed amendment recognises the need for Indigenous peoples to be recognised as distinct rights-holders under UNDRIP, and therefore afforded a specific grouping within the current Internet governance structures. An Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group is similar to the indigenous participation mechanisms in other UN forums and would ensure systematic approach to indigenous input into Internet governance forums, their processes and outcomes.

		Indigenous Peoples in Internet governance.	
The development of the WSIS framework			
120	<p>We recognise that multistakeholder participation has been crucial to the success of the World Summit's implementation framework, drawing expertise and experience from governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and academia. We reaffirm the values and principles of multistakeholder cooperation and engagement that were established at the Summit, reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 70/125, and reinforced in the Global Digital Compact.</p>	<p>We recognise that multistakeholder participation has been crucial to the success of the World Summit's implementation framework, drawing expertise and experience from governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and academia. We reaffirm the values and principles of multistakeholder cooperation and engagement that were established at the Summit, reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 70/125, and reinforced in the Global Digital Compact. We commit to formally recognising indigenous peoples as a new pillar of the multistakeholder model to reflect their distinct status as rights-holders with inherent rights to self-determination and participation in governance processes.</p>	<p>We agree that the multistakeholder model has been effective in governing the Internet.</p> <p>Our proposed amendment suggests the model could be expanded to include indigenous peoples as a distinct grouping, and this aligns with their recognition in Articles 18 and 41 of UNDRIP and the Global Digital Compact's affirmation of indigenous rights in digital spaces and protection of Indigenous data sovereignty. This formal recognition is a logical and necessary evolution of the multistakeholder model to be fully inclusive, and consistent with existing international agreements.</p>
130	<p>We recognise the importance of human rights to the implementation of all Action Lines and call on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to play a part in the facilitation and assessment of all Action Lines.</p>	<p>We recognise the importance of human rights to the implementation of all Action Lines and call on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to play a part in the facilitation and assessment of all Action Lines. We</p>	<p>We support the importance of human rights as integration to all Action Lines. Our proposed amendment highlights the role that the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues might also provide to the implementation and</p>

		further recognise the importance of indigenous rights as set out in UNDRIP to the implementation of all Action Lines and call on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to provide advice and input on the integration of Indigenous perspectives, traditional knowledges and data sovereignty principles into the Action Lines implementation and assessment.	assessment of the Action Lines.
141	We call for continuation of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) as a platform for multistakeholder dialogue, partnership-building and review of progress on digital development. We request the UN Secretary-General to strengthen the agility, efficiency and effectiveness of UNGIS as the United Nations system's inter-agency stewardship mechanism for advancing policy coherence and programme coordination on digital matters, including by expanding its membership with further United Nations entities with responsibilities in matters of digital cooperation, such as the Office of Digital and Emerging Technologies and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	We call for continuation of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) as a platform for multistakeholder dialogue, partnership-building and review of progress on digital development. We request the UN Secretary-General to strengthen the agility, efficiency and effectiveness of UNGIS as the United Nations system's inter-agency stewardship mechanism for advancing policy coherence and programme coordination on digital matters, including by expanding its membership with further United Nations entities with responsibilities in matters of digital cooperation, such as the Office of Digital and Emerging Technologies and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	We support the move to expand the multistakeholder groups who may provide advice on the review of digital development. Our proposed amendment highlights that as well that while expanding its membership to Emerging Technologies, Human Rights, and Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, the role that the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should also be included to provide specialist advice to UNGIS.

	(UN-Women), as well as multistakeholder advice to its work as appropriate.	(UN-Women) and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues , as well as multistakeholder advice to its work as appropriate.	
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