# RIPE NCC

# Input to UN Consultation on the WSIS+20 Zero Draft

The RIPE NCC welcomes the publication of the [WSIS+20 Zero Draft](#) and commends the Co-Facilitators for drafting a positive, robust and comprehensive document.

Overall, we support the current version of the draft, particularly its strong foundation in the UN human rights framework and the emphasis on addressing digital divides. We also welcome the section on Internet governance, especially the recognition of the technical community as a distinct stakeholder group. Additionally, we agree with the decision to establish the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a permanent UN forum.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input to the review process. We offer these recommendations as a way to further clarify and strengthen the current draft document.

## Bridging the Digital Divides

This section rightfully stresses the urgent need to overcome the gaps and inequalities in access to and usage of ICTs, which lead to disparities in opportunities for education, economic development and social inclusion. It also adequately raises that emerging technologies risk exacerbating the already existing divides.

While the draft attributes success in growth of information and communication infrastructure and services to public and private sector investment, it falls short in acknowledging the importance of inclusive governance and the contributions of all stakeholder groups in bridging digital divides.

| Original Text | Text Proposal | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| *22. We note that the growth of information and communications infrastructure and services since the World Summit has been achieved through a combination of private sector and public investment.* | *22. We note that the growth of information and communications infrastructure and services since the World Summit has been achieved through a combination of private sector and public investment.* ***This growth also results from a successful multi-stakeholder collaboration, where government, industry, technical, academic and civil society actors have all played an important role in shaping the governance and technical development of digital technologies and global internet infrastructure.*** | We recommend emphasising the key role and contribution of the multistakeholder approach in supporting the development of Internet infrastructure and digital technologies. |

# RIPE NCC

## The Enabling Environment for Digital Development

The recently published UN 2025 SDG Report indicates that nearly half of all SDG targets are either progressing too slowly or have stalled, with 18 percent regressing below 2015 levels. We therefore believe that more efforts are urgently needed to address the needs for enhanced access, skills development and inclusive governance.

It is also important to emphasise that global internet infrastructure and ICTs can play a crucial role in reversing this trend, notably by facilitating progress on the goals that are most impacted by digital divides and inadequate infrastructure.

| Original Text | Text Proposal | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| 58. We note the importance of legal and regulatory frameworks concerned with the deployment of digital services including those concerned with market structure, digital transactions, data protection and data privacy, consumer rights and intellectual property, human rights and environmental impacts. | 58. *We note the importance of **mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in school curricula, open access to data, fostering open innovation and competition, the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, data protection and data privacy, consumer rights and intellectual property, human rights, addressing environmental impacts, proportionate taxation and licensing fees, access to finance, facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, national and regional broadband strategies, efficient allocation of the radio frequency spectrum, infrastructure sharing models, community-based approaches and public access facilities which have in many countries facilitated significant gains in connectivity and sustainable development***. | We aligned and added language based on the WSIS+10 Outcome Document Paragraph 29 (A/RES/70/125). |

## Internet Governance

This section stresses the importance of inclusive participation and engagement in governance discussions. It also rightfully raises the need to prevent, identify and address the risks associated with Internet fragmentation.

# RIPE NCC

In addition, the text should underscore the need to strengthen multistakeholder governance. It should also emphasise the role of open standards and interoperability as the building blocks for open innovation. These provide common and trusted foundations for developing new technologies and interoperable solutions that can be widely adopted.

| Original Text | Text Proposal | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| *103. We reaffirm the working definition of Internet governance in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society as the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.* | *103.* **_Building on the Tunis Agenda, the WSIS+10 Outcome Document and the Global Digital Compact, we recognize that Internet governance must continue to be global and multi-stakeholder in nature, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical community, academic community and all other relevant stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities._** | The Zero Draft should reaffirm the language used in the WSIS+10 Outcome Document and the Global Digital Compact. It should recognise the multistakeholder nature of Internet governance, as well as the technical community and academic community as distinct stakeholder groups. |
| *106. We recognize that the Internet is a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation. To fully benefit all, it must be open, global, interoperable, stable and secure.* | *106. We recognize that the Internet is a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation. To fully benefit all, it must be open, global, interoperable, stable and secure.* **_We remain committed to promoting interoperability and open standards in order to support open innovation and preserve the functionality, availability, integrity and resilience of the global Internet._** | We recommend strengthening the language on multistakeholder cooperation and the role of Internet open standards in supporting open innovation and preserving the stable, secure and interoperable operations of the global Internet. |
| *108. We affirm that Internet governance should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits* | *We affirm that Internet governance should continue to follow the provisions set forth in the outcomes of the summits* | We believe that Internet governance should be multistakeholder, as |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *held in Geneva and Tunis, including in relation to enhanced cooperation.* | *held in Geneva and Tunis, including in relation to enhanced cooperation **among all stakeholders**.* | recognised in the Global Digital Compact.[1] |
| *115. We decide that the Internet Governance Forum shall be made a permanent forum of the United Nations.* | *None.* | We recognise the outstanding success of the IGF for multistakeholder cooperation. The permanent forum would support its ability to evolve and the community's ability to take it forward (also see 11*). |
| *118. We call for the strengthening of the Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum, to enable it to continue its development, implement further improvements and support the work of National and Regional Internet Governance Forums and intersessional activities, and invite the Secretary-General to make proposals concerning future funding for the Forum.* | *118. We call for the strengthening of the Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum, to enable it to continue its development, implement further improvements, and support the work of National and Regional Internet Governance Forums and intersessional activities, and invite the Secretary-General to make proposals concerning future **diverse and stable** funding for the Forum.* | We recommend that this paragraph should recognise the principle that regular and diverse funding of the permanent IGF is critical to ensure stable annual meetings and to allow the work of the IGF secretariat and the IGF MAG members to realise its future potential. |
| *119. We note that the arrangements established in the Tunis Agenda provide a sound foundation for continued implementation of the vision and principles established by the Summit. However, experience during and since the Summit, together with the evolution of the Information Society, suggests the need for* | None. | We strongly support the integration of the Global Digital Compact and the WSIS, to avoid duplication. |

---

[1] See our community work: Report of the RIPE Enhanced Cooperation Task Force

![RIPE NCC logo]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *their further development to ensure that they continue to support the achievement of Summit's vision and objectives and integration with the Global Digital Compact.* | | |

## The Development of the WSIS Framework

We welcome the reaffirmation of the WSIS framework as the foundation for a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. From our perspective, this framework must remain dynamic and forward-looking, evolving with technological and governance developments while ensuring alignment with the SDGs and the Global Digital Compact. Multistakeholder cooperation that includes the technical community should continue to be recognised as essential to preserving the openness, stability and resilience of the Internet.

| Original Text | Text Proposal | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| *None* | *New paragraph:*<br>***We further encourage that the WSIS framework be strengthened as a forward-looking mechanism, closely aligned with the SDGs and the Global Digital Compact, while maintaining multistakeholder cooperation as central to preserving the stability, openness, and resilience of global digital infrastructure.*** | This highlights that WSIS is not only a historical reference, but a living framework. |

## Monitoring and Measurement

We welcome the emphasis on strengthening the monitoring and measurement of WSIS outcomes. This process must remain inclusive, transparent and evidence-based, ensuring that progress is tracked consistently across Action Lines and in coherence with the SDG framework. Building sustainable data capacity, particularly in developing countries, is essential. Equally important is ensuring that monitoring and measurement systems incorporate the perspectives and contributions of all stakeholders so that assessments are meaningful, balanced and actionable.

# RIPE NCC

| Original Text | Text Proposal | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| *132. We acknowledge the importance of data and statistics to support information and communications technology for development and call for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as the inclusion of ICT data in national strategies for the development of statistics and regional statistical work programmes.* | *132. We acknowledge the importance of data and statistics to support information and communications technology for development and call for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as the inclusion of ICT data in national strategies for the development of statistics and regional statistical work programmes.* ***We acknowledge that inclusive multistakeholder inputs to monitoring and measurement are essential to build sustainable data and analytical capacity, particularly in developing countries, so that progress on WSIS outcomes can be consistently tracked and reported in coherence with SDG indicators.*** | This addition aligns monitoring with SDGs, emphasises inclusivity, and highlights the importance of sustained capacity-building. |

## Follow-Up and Review

We recognise the importance of effective follow-up and review to sustain the momentum of WSIS beyond 2025. The reviews should remain anchored in the UN system but complemented by the outputs of inclusive multistakeholder platforms, particularly the IGF and its NRIs. This will ensure that diverse regional and local perspectives feed into intergovernmental deliberations.

Follow-up processes should be coherent with other UN frameworks, streamlined to avoid duplication and designed to provide clear pathways for stakeholder input, keeping the process both effective and inclusive.

| Original Text | Text Proposal | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| *139. We reaffirm that the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society will require the continued commitment and action of all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical and academic communities, and that regular review of progress of the full set of Summit action lines will be essential to achieving the vision of the Summit* | *139. We reaffirm that the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society will require the continued commitment and action of all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical and academic communities, and that regular review of progress of the full set of Summit action lines **- complemented by the inclusive deliberations and outputs of multistakeholder platforms, notably the Internet Governance Forum and its National, Regional and Youth Initiatives, to ensure that local and regional perspectives effectively inform intergovernmental follow-up -** will be essential to achieving the vision of the Summit.* | This integrates IGF/NRIs into the review process, balancing UN oversight with bottom-up, inclusive mechanisms. |