

Informal Interactive WSIS stakeholder consultations on the Zero-Draft

New York, United Nations

14 October 2025

Good morning, Ambassador Janina, Ambassador Lokaale, Excellencies and esteemed colleagues. ICANN appreciates the opportunity to share our contribution and insights into the preparatory process for the WSIS+20 review, including the drafting of the Outcome Document.

ICANN is pleased to have submitted its written input on the Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document. We hope this contribution proves useful in informing subsequent iterations.

ICANN considers the Zero Draft a well-crafted text that provides a strong basis for further development. In particular, ICANN welcomes the inclusion of these positive elements that we hope will be retained in the final version, namely:

1. The affirmation of multistakeholder cooperation as reflected in paragraph 3 of the Introduction;
2. The recognition of linguistic diversity as a key factor in bridging the digital divide, as expressed in paragraphs 12, 16, and 30;
3. The text in paragraph 104, which acknowledges the risk from fragmented Internet architectures;
4. Paragraph 106, which underscores the need for a continued “open, global, interoperable, stable and secure” Internet.

On the IGF, ICANN notes with appreciation paragraph 113, which recognises that the IGF has evolved to include more than 170 national and regional IGFs. In addition, ICANN strongly supports the decision in paragraph 115 to make the IGF permanent, the approach in paragraph 116 to channel IGF outputs into relevant United Nations (U.N.) processes, and the invitation in paragraph 118 for the U.N. Secretary-General to make proposals concerning future IGF funding. To help flesh out some ideas on how these proposals could be implemented, ICANN is pleased to refer to a working paper, “The IGF We Want”, which was submitted to the co-facilitators as part of our written comments earlier this month.

ICANN remains committed to support WSIS+20’s inclusive consultative processes. Hence, we are pleased that the WSIS+20 co-facilitators’ teams and UNDESA will be leveraging our ICANN84 Annual General Meeting in two weeks as a platform for stakeholder consultations. The consultation will take place in a hybrid format and will be held on Monday, 27 October, during the “Geopolitical Forum: WSIS+20 Focus” session. You may register on the ICANN website to participate in the session. I included the link in the chat window.
(ICANN84 registration: <https://meetings.icann.org/en/meetings/icann84/>)

Also, just yesterday ICANN Board had an engagement session, where community members provided feedback on the WSIS+20 review process. We are engaging our own community and other organizations to be able to provide relevant information on the technical underpinnings of the Internet to the U.N. Member States. We have done it during the WSIS+10 review process, and we are happy to do it during WSIS+20.

We are encouraged to see many written and oral submissions from the technical community, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Co-facilitators, this brings me to the end of my intervention, thank you for your attention.