

Thank you Chair.

Your excellencies,

Today, I'm speaking on behalf of the RIPE NCC, part of the global Internet's technical community. We're encouraged by the Zero Draft. It's an ambitious document, grounded in human rights and focused on bridging digital divides.

Let me offer three thoughts from our community:

First, connectivity isn't just about cables and routers, it is about *collaboration*. The Internet works because people, governments, operators, engineers, educators, businesses, all cooperate around shared protocols and open standards. The Zero Draft could highlight this more clearly: bridging divides depends on *multistakeholder teamwork*, not just funding or technology. (paragraph 22 on Bridging Digital Divides)

Second, when we talk about an enabling environment, we're really talking about creating the conditions for *innovation*. Open data, open standards, fair regulation, and access to finance, allow ideas to move quickly from research to real impact. That's how we keep the Internet a space for creativity and opportunity, everywhere.

Third, we strongly welcome the move to make the Internet Governance Forum a permanent UN platform with diverse and stable funding. We welcome recognition of NRIs. IGF is the global meeting place for dialogue and collaboration across all stakeholder groups. Internet governance must remain inclusive, open, and grounded in evidence, and we should reaffirm the role of open standards and interoperability. That is the invisible glue that keeps the Internet a single, global network rather than a collection of disconnected systems.

Finally, as we review WSIS outcomes, we must measure progress inclusively bringing data, evidence and community insights together to ensure that decisions are based on reality.

The Internet was built on cooperation and trust. Let's make sure the WSIS framework continues to reflect that spirit of a living, evolving ecosystem and mechanism that keeps the Internet stable, secure, and open for everyone.

Thank you.