

WSIS+20 Stakeholder Consultation on Zero Draft
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in today's session.

First, I would like to once again the co-facilitators and the UN DESA team for going to great lengths to engage all stakeholders and provide a platform for engagement. This has not been the norm for New York based processes, and these steps are much appreciated. I would encourage this continue in some fashion as we head into the next stage of the discussion.

In terms of the Zero Draft itself, I would like to offer the following three observations.

- **Internet Governance:** The text provided offers a solid basis on which to start discussion. I was pleased to see the "decision" text to make the IGF permanent but am concerned that the text could somehow suggest a more limited remit for the IGF than currently exists. With each new technology trend comes new words, Internet, digital, AI, but the IGF and working definition adopted in 2005 is broad enough to have the IGF take up current as well as emerging issues. Something that it has in fact done over the last 20 years. In that regard, it seems a missed opportunity not to link up the new UN AI Governance Dialogue with the IGF and would recommend that point be addressed in the next version.
- **Enhanced cooperation:** The zero draft seems to rely on the text from the original WSIS process, which is fine as a starting point, but it is important to acknowledge that there has been progress in achieving enhanced cooperation over the last two decades. In addition to the IANA functions stewardship transition which addressed one of the primary issues on the table at the time, since 2005 we have seen improvements in cooperation both among governments and among stakeholders. There is enhanced cooperation both "inside" and "outside" the WSIS process.
- **Follow-up and implementation:** The WSIS+20 review offers yet another opportunity to provide linkages between the SDGs and GDC and anchor them clearly in the pre-existing WSIS framework. Not only does this avoid duplication, a critical consideration in our current era of limited resources, it also allows us to take advantage of existing expert technical agencies, which have the experience on these issues and clear accountability and oversight mechanisms, such as the ITU which has long been the permanent UNGIS secretariat. Attempts to centralize digital coordination in an office in New York were rebuffed as part of the GDC negotiations for a variety of reasons, which are even more valid today. And any WSIS follow up should have a meaningful way for all stakeholders to engage. If UNGIS is going to get that assignment, as the zero draft currently suggests, then UNGIS should develop some meaningful stakeholder engagement processes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for the sustained efforts to make the process transparent and accessible.