



APNIC Statement for the WSIS+20 Review Consultations with Stakeholders and Member States

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Delivered by Joyce Chen, Strategic Relations Senior Advisor

Distinguished Excellencies and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, APNIC, I thank the Co-Facilitators for this opportunity to contribute to the WSIS+20 review.

As the Regional Internet Registry for the Asia Pacific, APNIC fully supports the vision of a people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society. To achieve this, we must reinforce global multistakeholder cooperation. Only by working together can we safeguard an Internet that is open, secure, and interoperable. We therefore urge this process to grant the Internet Governance Forum, the IGF, a permanent mandate and ensure it is sustainably resourced. For nearly two decades, the IGF has enabled governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and academia to collaborate on an equal footing. Its stability is vital to preserving the open governance model that underpins the Internet's success. Regional and national IGFs, and youth initiatives, must also continue to be recognized and supported.

Bridging the digital divide remains urgent. While infrastructure has grown, gaps persist in affordability, digital literacy, and equitable access. Large-scale IPv6 deployment is critical to connecting billions of new users and devices. Without IPv6, developing regions face higher costs and barriers to innovation. We also call for support for community-driven infrastructure and Internet Exchange Points, which make the Internet more affordable, resilient, and locally relevant.

Finally, capacity development must go beyond digital literacy to include technical expertise. In the Asia-Pacific, diverse economies and geographies mean many communities still require technical skills and resources to participate fully in the digital age. APNIC invests in training and community empowerment on IPv6, routing security, and network operations. Capacity development should be treated as a long-term investment, with particular focus on least developed and developing economies, small island states, and remote communities.

Excellencies, we call on all stakeholders to act boldly: enshrine the IGF's permanency, accelerate IPv6 deployment, invest in local infrastructure, and prioritize technical capacity building. Together, we can ensure an Internet that truly serves all humanity.

Thank you.