

AFRINIC Inputs to the WSIS+20 Draft Zero

1. Executive Summary

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Draft Zero outlines a global vision for digital cooperation, human rights, infrastructure development, and multistakeholder governance. While the draft reaffirms foundational WSIS principles, it requires stronger emphasis on regional equity, capacity building, and inclusive governance—particularly for Africa. [AFRINIC \(African Network Information Centre\)](#) proposes five targeted recommendations to ensure the final outcome document reflects the unique needs of the African Internet ecosystem and advances a truly global digital future.

2.. Draft AFRINIC Propositions for WSIS+20 Draft Zero

(Formal Submission Language for Inclusion in Final Outcome Document)

Proposition 1: Affirm the Role of Regional Internet Registries

"The WSIS+20 outcome document recognizes Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) as essential, community-driven institutions that ensure the fair, efficient, and secure allocation of critical Internet resources (IP addresses and ASNs). Member States and stakeholders commit to preserving the bottom-up, multistakeholder policy development processes of RIRs as foundational to a globally interoperable Internet."

Proposition 2: Accelerate Inclusive Infrastructure Development in Africa

"To bridge the digital divide, the international community pledges targeted support for Africa's digital infrastructure, including: (a) scaling IPv6 adoption to overcome IPv4 scarcity; (b) expanding Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) to reduce latency and costs; and (c) incentivizing local data hosting through public-private partnerships. Special attention shall be given to Developing Countries (DCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Africa."

Proposition 3: Institutionalize Capacity Building for Technical Communities

"A dedicated WSIS+20 capacity-building mechanism shall be established, with sustainable funding, to empower African technical experts, engineers, and policymakers to actively contribute to global Internet governance forums (e.g., AFRINIC Public Policy meetings, IETF, ICANN, ISOC). This includes fellowships, training, and remote participation grants to ensure equitable representation."

Proposition 4: Uphold Multistakeholder Governance as a Global Standard

"The outcome document reaffirms that the Internet's stability and growth depend on open, transparent, and inclusive multistakeholder governance. Proposals to replace this model with intergovernmental structures are rejected, as they risk fragmenting the Internet and excluding technical communities, civil society, and the private sector from decision-making."

Proposition 5: Promote Contextual Data Governance Frameworks

"Member States support the development of African data governance frameworks that align with international human rights standards while enabling innovation, economic growth, and cross-border data flows. Regional bodies like AFRINIC shall be consulted in shaping policies that affect Internet resource management and data infrastructure."

3. Conclusion

AFRINIC urges the WSIS+20 process to adopt these propositions to ensure the final outcome document is actionable, inclusive, and responsive to Africa's digital aspirations. By centering technical communities, infrastructure equity, and multistakeholderism, the global community can build a resilient Internet that leaves no region behind.

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