

My name is Concettina Cassa from AgID, (Agency for Digital Italy), speaking in my personal capacity.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to UNDESA and to the co-facilitators of the WSIS+20 review process for their tireless efforts, their inclusive approach, and the transparent consultations that have led to an excellent and forward-looking revised rev.1.

I would also like to thank the co-facilitators for the attention devoted to the Internet Governance section, which now reflects several key elements that many stakeholders had strongly advocated for. I particularly welcome the strengthened recognition of the IGF as a broad and dynamic ecosystem, extending far beyond the annual meeting and encompassing intersessional activities such as the NRIs, the Dynamic Coalitions, the Best Practice Forums, the Leadership Panel, and the MAG.

I also appreciate the emphasis placed on establishing the IGF as a permanent and adequately funded Forum. Sustainable and predictable resources — ideally through a blended funding model that goes beyond the UN regular budget — are essential to ensure that the IGF can deliver meaningful impact at both global and national levels. In this regard, I welcome the reference to the need to reinforce the IGF Secretariat so that it can continue to evolve, implement further improvements, and effectively support the NRIs and the wider intersessional work.

I am also pleased to see the inclusion of the NETmundial+10 Guidelines, which remain a valuable reference for multistakeholder collaboration, transparency, and consensus building.

Allow me now to highlight a few areas where, in my view, the current Rev.1 version could be further strengthened.

First, while the text reaffirms the Tunis Agenda definition, I believe it is essential to explicitly acknowledge the broad scope of Internet governance — which encompasses not only the governance of the Internet itself but also that of the applications operating over it, including infrastructure, data governance, AI, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies (para. 95 Rev.1).

Second, I would encourage the reinstatement of language clearly rejecting models of state-controlled or fragmented Internet architectures. Preserving an open, global, interoperable Internet is foundational to the WSIS vision and should be reaffirmed in the strongest possible terms (par. 104, Zero Draft).

Third, regarding data governance and artificial intelligence paragraphs, the impression is that these sections are still treated as separate silos. Yet their policy challenges are deeply interconnected — and both are closely linked to the work of the IGF. I believe that strengthening the articulation and coherence among these three domains — data, AI, and Internet governance — would significantly enhance the document's policy relevance and implementation potential.

Fourth, I think it is important the reinstatement of the article on mass surveillance and censorship through digital technologies (Zero draft, par. 88 and 89). Privacy, freedom of expression, and protection against arbitrary monitoring must be safeguarded. Surveillance technologies should be used only in line with human rights principles, and remedies should be available for victims of violations. Countering online abuse, hate speech, misinformation, cyberbullying, and child sexual exploitation remain central priorities.

On the monitoring and measurement paragraph, I wish to highlight the potential of the NRIs and the annual IGF event to collect data and assess the status of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the Global Digital Cooperation (GDC) initiatives. Leveraging these opportunities would strengthen evidence-based policy-making and facilitate the monitoring of progress across the multistakeholder ecosystem.

In conclusion, I thank the co-facilitators again for their excellent work and for the improvements already incorporated. The revisions I have suggested aim to reinforce the IGF's role within the UN digital cooperation architecture, ensure coherence among related governance processes, and preserve the multistakeholder spirit that is crucial for building a truly open, inclusive, and human-centric digital future.

Thank you.

Concettina Cassa