

WSIS+20 Stakeholder Consultation on Zero Draft
Fiona Alexander, American University
November 14, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in today's session.

I would like to thank the co-facilitators and the UN DESA team once again for going to great lengths to engage all stakeholders and provide a platform for engagement. An analysis of Rev 1 reveals that you have truly listened to stakeholder feedback and incorporated many of the suggestions offered.

In terms of Rev 1, I would like to offer the following three specific observations.

- ***Internet Governance:*** The text provided continues to offer a solid basis for moving the issue set forward. I was pleased to see the “decision” text to make the IGF permanent was retained and that the larger IGF ecosystem is specifically mentioned in terms of the IGF’s 20-year evolution. The clear acknowledgment of the IGF as forum for Internet governance and emerging issues is also a welcome development in terms of recognizing the breadth of the IGF agenda. Appropriately resourcing the IGF is a real challenge, and I would strongly recommend that if the Secretary General is going to take this issue and come back with proposals, that process should be done in a manner that meaningfully involves stakeholders, including existing donors.
- ***Enhanced cooperation:*** The zero draft seems to rely on the text from the original WSIS, 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. If there is to be more work on “enhanced cooperation” clarity is needed on the scope of those discussions including, is it specific to issues of Internet governance or something else.
- ***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. I was pleased to see edits in Rev 1 that begin to address this need. 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. With that in mind, I am concerned by the proposal to have the Secretary General in a top-down manner adjust UNGIS. This looks like yet another attempt to centralize digital coordination in an office in New York, something that rejected as part of the GDC negotiations. A better approach would be to ask UNGIS members themselves to propose adjustments and process improvements, including how the group might develop some meaningful stakeholder engagement processes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my views.