

November 2025

CCIA Comments on Rev 1 of the WSIS+20 Review Outcome Document

The Computer & Communications Industry Association, or CCIA, is an international non-profit membership organization representing companies in the computer, internet, information technology, and telecommunications industries. We welcome the opportunity to provide written comments on the First Revision (Rev 1) of the Outcome Document for the 20-year review of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS+20 Review).¹

Comments

Suggested comments are below, with suggested ~~deletions~~ and **additions**, as well as justifications.

Rev 1 Language	CCIA Suggested Language	Justification
G. Building on the twenty-year review report prepared by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in April 2025, the outcomes of the Internet Governance Forum held in Norway in June 2025 and the WSIS+20 Forum held in July 2025, consultations conducted by UNESCO in June 2025, other international and regional conferences and contributions from the World Summit on the Information Society action line facilitators,	G. Building on the twenty-year review report prepared by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in April 2025, the outcomes of the Internet Governance Forum held in Norway in June 2025 and the WSIS+20 Forum held in July 2025, consultations conducted by UNESCO in June 2025 , other international and regional conferences and contributions from the World Summit on the Information Society action line facilitators,	The June 2025 UNESCO consultations on artificial intelligence are not broad or relevant enough to the overarching goals of the WSIS+20 review to be referenced in the Preamble.
3. We reaffirm the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception, and recognize that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic	3. We reaffirm the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception, and recognize that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic	There is no need to specifically cite youth in reference to “all other stakeholders,” in line with the removal of references to youth in Para F.

¹ Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society [United Nations] Revision 1. (2025).
https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/Rev1/WSIS%2B20_Rev1_071125_clean.pdf.

communities and all other relevant stakeholders including youth, with balanced representation of all countries, has been and continues to be vital in developing the Information Society.	communities and all other relevant stakeholders including youth , with balanced representation of all countries, has been and continues to be vital in developing the Information Society.	
5. We recognize that governments and other stakeholders from many developing countries face barriers to participating fully in international digital governance and policy-making processes due to financial, technical, and institutional constraints, and encourage them to ensure that decision-making, governance and standardisation processes concerned with the Information Society enable full and effective participation by all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries. We will pay particular attention to the diverse needs and challenges faced by developing countries and countries in special situations, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.	5. We recognize that governments and other stakeholders from many developing countries face barriers to participating fully in international digital governance and policy-making processes due to financial, technical, and institutional constraints, and encourage them relevant stakeholders to ensure that decision-making, governance and standardisation processes concerned with the Information Society enable full and effective participation by all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries. We will pay particular attention to the diverse needs and challenges faced by developing countries and countries in special situations, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.	In Paragraph 5, as written, “them” appears to place the responsibility for addressing barriers to participation on the same developing countries that face them. Suggest adding language to clarify this incorrect framing.
6. We welcome the tremendous growth in connectivity and development of the Internet and online services that has taken place since the World Summit. This has enhanced the ability of all stakeholders to develop and deploy technology and applications that have driven economic growth, social development and innovation.	6. We welcome the tremendous growth in connectivity and development of the Internet and online services that has taken place since the World Summit. This has enhanced the ability of all stakeholders to develop and deploy technology and applications digital goods and services that have played a central role in driving driven economic growth, social development and innovation.	Paragraph 6 should revert to the language included in the Zero Draft, which more accurately reflects the significance of the digital economy.
19. We applaud the significant	19. We applaud the significant	Paragraph 19 would benefit

expansion in access to the Internet and digital services achieved since the World Summit on the Information Society. According to the International Telecommunication Union, more than 90 per cent of the world's population now lives in areas covered by 4G networks. The proportion of people aged ten and above who own a mobile phone has reached almost 80 per cent globally, while Internet use has risen from just over 15 per cent in 2005 to more than 67 per cent in 2025.	expansion in access to the Internet and digital services achieved since the World Summit on the Information Society, achieved through a combination of public- and private-sector investment. According to the International Telecommunication Union, more than 90 per cent of the world's population now lives in areas covered by 4G networks. The proportion of people aged ten and above who own a mobile phone has reached almost 80 per cent globally, while Internet use has risen from just over 15 per cent in 2005 to more than 67 per cent in 2025.	from language clarifying how the expansion in global connectivity has been achieved, reflecting the factual and widely acknowledged role of public-private partnerships in expanding digital infrastructure.
25. We are committed to renewed impetus to address and close these digital divides. We call for strengthened international cooperation to address the financial and other constraints impeding the achievement of digital inclusion for all. In particular, we call on governments, multilateral development banks, relevant international organisations and the private sector to develop financing mechanisms and incentives to connect the unconnected to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity.	25. We are committed to renewed impetus to address and close these digital divides. We recall and welcome the significant investments already undertaken to expand connectivity and foster digital inclusion, and call for strengthened international cooperation to address the financial and other constraints impeding the achievement of digital inclusion for all. In particular, we call on governments, multilateral development banks, relevant international organisations and the private sector to develop financing mechanisms and incentives to connect the unconnected to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity.	Paragraph 25 should add language acknowledging investments made so far, providing an accurate reflection of progress to date, and reinforcing the need to build upon existing efforts.
29. We emphasize that creating an open, fair and non-discriminatory environment for digital development is a requirement for stronger global digital economic cooperation and integrating developing	29. We emphasize that creating an open, and fair and non-discriminatory environment for digital development is a requirement for stronger global digital economic cooperation and integrating developing	Paragraph 29 should avoid the use of “non-discriminatory” in the context of digital development, as the term traditionally refers to specific trade obligations that are not the subject of the WSIS+20

countries fully into global value chains and innovation networks. We will support the development of digital solutions to expand commerce, connectivity and services to overcome the adverse impacts of remoteness and other geographical and structural constraints in developing countries.	countries fully into global value chains and innovation networks. We will support the development of digital solutions to expand commerce, connectivity and services to overcome the adverse impacts of remoteness and other geographical and structural constraints in developing countries.	Review Outcome Document.
30. We recognize that equitable and meaningful inclusion in the digital economy requires efforts to tackle concentrations of technological capacity and market power in order to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development.	30. We recognize that equitable and meaningful inclusion in the digital economy requires efforts to tackle concentrations of technological capacity and market power in order to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development.	Paragraph 30 should avoid explicit references to competition policy measures, which are more appropriately discussed in other specialized fora, including the OECD, and within national regulatory processes. Instead, the language should focus on outcome-based goals rather than prescribing specific policy responses.
33. We note that digital technologies have had significant impacts on employment, including changes in workplace environments and training requirements, opportunities for more flexible working and the emergence of digital labour platforms. We note that emerging technologies such as automation, robotics and artificial intelligence are expected to further reshape the labour market, potentially displacing some professional, clerical and manual roles, while also creating new employment opportunities and skill demands. We are concerned to ensure that these developments serve to complement and augment human labour, safeguarding employment rights and welfare.	33. We note that digital technologies have had significant impacts on employment, including changes in workplace environments and training requirements, opportunities for more flexible working and the emergence of digital labour platforms. We note that emerging technologies such as automation, robotics and artificial intelligence are expected to further reshape the labour market, potentially displacing some professional, clerical and manual roles, while also creating new employment opportunities and skill demands. We remain focused on ensuring are concerned to ensure that these developments serve to complement and augment human labour, safeguarding employment rights and welfare.	Paragraph 33 represents an improvement from the language included in the Zero Draft, but the last sentence should be refined for clarity and grammar.

50. We strongly urge States, in building the information society, to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and to refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development and hinders the well-being of the people of the affected countries.	50. We strongly urge States, in building the information society, to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and to refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development and hinders the well-being of the people of the affected countries.	Paragraph 50's reference to "any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations" is drafted in overly broad terms and can be interpreted to cover a wide range of policies far beyond the scope of WSIS. This paragraph should be removed or refined to maintain a focused, forward-looking text centered on the purpose of the WSIS review.
73. We stress the importance for all Member States, and stakeholders as appropriate, to promote universal, free, open, interoperable, safe, reliable and secure use of and access to the Internet by respecting and protecting human rights and by refraining from Internet shutdowns and measures that target Internet access.	73. We stress the importance for all Member States, and stakeholders as appropriate, to promote a universal, free, open, interoperable, safe, reliable and secure use of and access to the Internet that is supported and enhanced by respecting and protecting human rights and by refraining from Internet shutdowns and measures that target Internet access to this system.	Paragraph 73 should be revised. As currently written, it conflates "use of the Internet" with "access to the Internet" without distinguishing the two. This phrasing also makes "interoperable" appear to modify either "use" or "access," neither of which is coherent. In addition, the causal link between promoting use/access and respecting human rights is vague.
78. We recognize that responsible and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation and promote economic growth. 79. We reaffirm the objective to advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance and the approach towards achieving this that was adopted by the General Assembly in the Global Digital Compact. 80. We note the establishment of a working group of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to	78. We recognize that responsible and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation and promote economic growth. 79. We reaffirm the objective to advance responsible and equitable and interoperable data governance and the approach towards achieving this that was adopted by the General Assembly in the Global Digital Compact. 80. We note the establishment of a working group of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to	Paragraphs 78-80 should avoid using the term interoperable in the context of data governance, as applying this term to governance frameworks could be read as calling for service- or product-level interoperability mandates, which is not the purpose of this section. If the intent is to encourage alignment or harmonization of national and regional data governance regimes, that objective should be stated explicitly rather than through a term whose meaning is ambiguous in this context.



engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multistakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development, including on followup recommendations towards equitable and interoperable data governance arrangements.	engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multistakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development, including on followup recommendations towards equitable and interoperable data governance arrangements.	
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