

**Center for Global Digital Justice's Input at the Virtual Consultation on the Revision 1 of
the WSIS+20 Outcome Document
14 November, 2025**

I speak on behalf of the Center for Global Digital Justice, a digital policy resource center that aims at furthering Global South visions of governance and technological innovation.

We urge the WSIS+20 review to factor in the following priorities to ensure that a people's vision of digital technological innovation for social good is centered.

Our first recommendation is on bridging digital divides. Removal of Para 28 of the Zero Draft, which had a strong emphasis on equity and explicitly underscored the “achievement of universal meaningful and affordable access to the Internet and digital services” as essential to the realisation of WSIS vision is disappointing. There is a need to restore this para, particularly to emphasise the multidimensional nature of digital resource divides and the need to plug capacities in line with needs and in cognizance of local context - with a commitment to leaving no one behind.

Our second recommendation is on the enabling environment for digital development. Data power consolidation among select countries and corporations and disparity in access to crucial digital infrastructure and digital skills gap is a huge barrier for many developing countries to reap the dividend of digital transformation. There is thus a need, under Para 47, to call for measures to address the unequal distribution of digital infrastructural and human capabilities in the global digital economy.

Third, on financial mechanisms, it is important for the outcome document to underscore the essential role of public financing for digital infrastructure development. In blended financing mechanisms for DPGs and DPLs, guardrails are essential to protect citizen rights and the public interest. Para 62 must underscore this.

Fourth, on human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society, through omission of Para 82 of the Zero Draft, there is a dilution of the language pertaining to the obligations of the States as duty bearers. It is crucial to restore this para.

Finally, on Artificial Intelligence, we submit that digital sovereignty and the right to development should be recognized as the cornerstone principles of any global AI governance regime, in accordance with the BRICS Leaders' Declaration. We recommend the addition of the following new Para 81a:

We recognize that digital sovereignty and the right to development are central to global AI Governance. We firmly support the right of all countries to harness the benefits of the digital economy and emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, while upholding fundamental rights, and to establish their own regulatory frameworks within their jurisdictions, for protecting the fundamental rights of their citizens and maximizing public value innovation.

Thank you!