

**WSIS+20 Virtual Stakeholder Consultation on Rev. 1
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<https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/wsisis20/rev1consultation>

William J. Drake
Director of International Studies
Columbia Institute for Tele-Information
Adjunct Professor, Columbia Business School

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input today. I would like to make three comments.

First, as development was the starting point of the WSIS and remains a central focus of the Action Lines, it is good that the document mentions financial mechanisms and includes appropriate references to the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, one wishes there was more attention to really mainstreaming development considerations into the full range of policy frameworks for Internet governance and digital transformation. A focused Digital Development Agenda would require fresh thinking and committed engagement rather than significant new resources.

Second, it is a pity that the original Zero Draft language rejecting models of state-controlled or fragmented Internet architectures has been deleted, and that the remaining reference to international cooperation on Internet fragmentation provides no hint as to what this might actually mean. As I suggested at the October consultation, we need focused and sustained international dialogue among governments and stakeholders—together, in the same rooms at the same time—in the IGF and other appropriate international venues in order to help identify and mitigate the risks of Internet fragmentation. More generally, as the digital world is increasingly divided into a spaghetti bowl of disparate intergovernmental and corporate spheres of influence, one would think the WSIS Review would have been an appropriate place to really champion an open global digital ecosystem.

Third, on the review process itself, we stakeholders have repeatedly emphasized our great appreciation of the co-facilitators' efforts to facilitate our input. But at the same time, the reality remains that this Review has reconstructed silos many of us thought had been broken down during WSIS Phase II twenty years ago. It is great that we are no longer being locked out or thrown out of meetings or told not to speak as we were in the Geneva Phase, but yet here we are making short statements to each other with no way of knowing which if any governments are really considering our views when they go into their closed-door negotiations, about which there are not even reports. The decision making on the text feels a bit like we are waiting for a papal enclave to send up a smoke signal, which is not at all where the WSIS itself ended up. In the Tunis Phase we were often able to sit with government representatives and explore ideas about how to tackle complex problems. In this sense, multistakeholder cooperation was in a better place twenty years ago than it is now, and that is regrettable.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak.