

**Written Input from IT for Change
Virtual Consultation on the Revision 1 of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document**

14 November 2025

Thank you, Chair. My name is Sadhana Sanjay, and I speak today on behalf of IT for Change. I wish to emphasise four points today:

First, we underscore that **fiscal justice in the digital economy must be treated as a core policy priority**. Digital taxation regimes are essential sources of revenue for developing countries to invest in infrastructure, public services, and human development. On this note, we welcome the recognition of the need to invest in financing mechanisms and incentives for closing digital divides in para 21 of Revision 1. However, it is important to include an explicit reference to public financing, which para 21 currently lacks.

Second, we express deep concern regarding the **omission of language on end-user capacity and digital literacy, which found a place in para 31 of the Zero Draft**. Digital, media, and information literacy are not optional add-ons; they are fundamental to an empowered digital society and essential for achieving the SDGs. Capacity development, participation, and inclusion must remain visible priorities and we call for this language to be restored in Revision 1.

Third, para 68 of the Zero Draft, which speaks to the **importance of human rights in the technology lifecycle and adherence to the UN Guiding Principles**, remains unchanged in Revision 1. We reiterate our comments to the Zero Draft, and emphasise the need for stronger language on human rights obligations to be incorporated in Revision 1. The private sector must mandatorily comply with human rights and environmental due diligence obligations, without dilution, exception or selective application. We therefore highlight the urgency of addressing the role of powerful digital corporations whose actions may contribute to or enable grave human rights violations, including participation in economies that sustain atrocity crimes such as genocide.

Lastly, we note with concern the **omission of para 52 of the Zero Draft, which referred to the rapidly growing quantities of electronic waste and toxic waste**, a burden which is disproportionately shouldered by developing countries. This poses serious risks to human health and safety, and also has adverse effects on ecological well-being. We urgently call for this language to be reinstated in Revision 1, with stronger commitments for public consultations, environmental impact assessments, and free, prior and informed consent from local and indigenous communities for any disruptive activity, such as the building of data centres.

Thank you for your attention, and for the opportunity to speak today.