

WSIS+20 Stakeholder Consultations Summary

14 November 2025

As part of preparations for the WSIS+20 High-Level Meeting, the Co-Facilitators convened an open virtual consultation on Revision 1 (Rev.1) of the draft outcome document. Over 40 participants from governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society, technical community, academia, and youth networks shared their feedback. Stakeholders welcomed improvements in Rev.1 but also highlighted areas requiring further strengthening in Revision 2.

1. SHARED PRIORITIES

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Stakeholders strongly supported the proposal to make the IGF a permanent UN forum. Many emphasized the need for stable and diversified funding, stronger secretariat support, and continued recognition of the broader IGF ecosystem, including National, Regional and Youth IGFs.

Human Rights

Many raised concerns that several human rights protections from the Zero Draft were removed or weakened. Stakeholders called for restoring references to privacy, surveillance safeguards, legality and proportionality, online harms, shutdown impacts, and corporate responsibilities.

Gender Equality

Broad support emerged for strengthening commitments to gender equality, including restoring disaggregated indicators, recognizing gender-diverse persons, addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and integrating gender considerations into AI governance.

Digital Inclusion and Capacity-Building

Stakeholders requested stronger language on universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity, digital literacy, end-user capacity, community networks, technology transfer, public financing, and digital skills for AI and cybersecurity.

Environment and Sustainability

Participants recommended restoring the deleted paragraph on e-waste, adding environmental impact assessments, referencing independent frameworks, and strengthening commitments on green and sustainable digital infrastructure.

WSIS–GDC Alignment

Stakeholders welcomed the stronger alignment in Rev.1 with the Global Digital Compact (GDC). Several suggested grounding the language in ECOSOC Resolution 2025/18 and ensuring coherence across UN processes without duplication.

Youth Participation

Youth networks welcomed their explicit recognition in Rev.1 but stressed the need for structural

mechanisms: institutionalized youth roles, dedicated funding for youth initiatives, and inclusion in AI and environmental governance.

2. KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISION 2

Restore or Strengthen Deleted Content

Stakeholders suggested restoring:

- privacy and surveillance protections
- mass surveillance prohibitions
- human rights obligations of states
- the paragraph on e-waste and toxic waste
- digital literacy language
- commitments on online harms and disinformation
- meaningful and affordable access
- language on fragmented Internet architecture

Enhance the AI Section

Suggestions included adding references to:

- concentration of AI development
- linguistic diversity and minority languages
- Indigenous knowledge systems
- gender-sensitive and rights-based AI
- public-sector AI safeguards
- human rights and environmental impact assessments

Strengthen Internet Governance Section

Proposals included refining the IG definition, reaffirming the open and interoperable Internet, recognizing existing enhanced cooperation mechanisms, ensuring stakeholder consultation in IGF funding discussions, and reconsidering terminology such as “critical Internet infrastructure.”

Improve Environmental Commitments

Stakeholders proposed adding environmental assessment frameworks, referencing UN Open Science, restoring the e-waste paragraph, and strengthening language on sustainable digital infrastructure.

Support Implementation and Measurement

Stakeholders encouraged clearer follow-up and accountability measures, including national-level follow-up, better data collection (including gender- and disability-disaggregated), and stronger public financing commitments.

3. EMERGING CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

- Restore ambition from the Zero Draft where Rev.1 is perceived as weaker
- Move from aspirational to more operational and measurable commitments
- Preserve and strengthen the multistakeholder model
- Ensure balanced WSIS–GDC alignment

- Avoid centralization of digital coordination in a single UN office
- Support coherence among WSIS, IGF, GDC, CSTD and other UN digital processes

4. CONCLUSION

Stakeholders expressed strong engagement and reaffirmed commitment to the WSIS vision. They welcomed the progress reflected in Rev.1, particularly in the IGF, WSIS–GDC alignment, and recognition of youth and multistakeholder participation. At the same time, they provided clear recommendations for strengthening human rights language, gender commitments, environmental provisions, digital inclusion, and operational follow-up mechanisms. These contributions will inform Revision 2 and support a more coherent, inclusive, and future-ready outcome document.