

Remarks Provided During the Follow-up WSIS+20 Informal Stakeholder Consultation Session



29 July, 2025

Excellencies,

The Internet Society appreciates the opportunity to participate in this consultation.

Twenty years ago, only 16 percent of the world was online. Today, it's nearly 70 percent. That's 4.5 billion more people with access to the Internet and the ability to create and communicate across the world. Although the Internet and the way people use it have evolved, the WSIS Framework and its Action Lines have proven remarkably adaptable and remain the foundation for ongoing development. Advances such as cloud computing, smartphones, instant messaging, and even AI build on this shared framework.

Thanks to the collaborative implementation by all stakeholders, these Action Lines have extended connectivity, enabled access, and facilitated sustainable development. At the heart of these achievements lies the multistakeholder model of Internet Governance, which is also at the core of how the Internet has been built and is operating.

It is vital that the Zero Draft ensures an ongoing commitment to the multistakeholder model.

For two decades, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), an outcome of WSIS, has successfully served as the world's primary multistakeholder platform for dialogue on Internet governance issues and an indispensable element for implementing the WSIS Action Lines. The IGF and more than 180 regional and national IGFs have fostered meaningful information exchange, shared understanding, and opportunities to advance solutions, which have contributed to real-world change.

Therefore, the Zero Draft should also reaffirm a permanent mandate with sustainable funding for the Internet Governance Forum under its current bottom-up and multistakeholder approach.

The WSIS Action Lines have accommodated the vast range of technological developments that have occurred to date, making the WSIS Framework the natural platform for addressing emerging issues through strengthened implementation and genuine multistakeholder collaboration. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. The Zero Draft should commit to addressing new challenges by strengthening the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines rather than creating new action lines.

Further, with multiple processes now addressing digital development, ensuring coherence among them under a cohesive framework is more important than ever. Hence, we insist that the Zero Draft clearly



recognizes the vital importance of the multistakeholder model in realizing the WSIS vision and the GDC commitments under a unified implementation roadmap.

Finally, we urge the Zero Draft to follow the approach outlined in Paragraphs 1-3 of the WSIS+10 Outcome Document and reaffirm commitments to the WSIS vision, the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action and its Action Lines, the Tunis Commitment, and the Tunis Agenda, along with the values and principles of multistakeholder cooperation and engagement.

The outcome of the WSIS+20 review is our bridge to the Internet we all envision: open, trusted, and truly for everyone. The choices we make today will shape that future for generations to come.