Thank you to Ambassadors from Albania and Kenya, the two WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators and also to the **Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB)**, for holding this consultation.

My name is Judith Hellerstein, and I will be speaking as one of the two Coordinators of the IGF Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD).

The position of IGF-DCAD is that despite years of advocacy, the digital divide facing persons with disabilities is only mentioned tangentially throughout the WSIS+20 Elements Paper.

Persons with disabilities are one of the largest minorities. Unfortunately, when it comes to their participation in Internet Governance discussions, their number is extremely small.

What does this mean? This means that in 20 years of *IGF* discussions, although every *IGF* has had sessions and discussions on persons with disabilities. Few persons with disabilities actually participate in these discussions and even fewer actually come in person.

I pose this question-- Are we building the capacities in the right manner?
Is there something else we can do?   What do we need to do to change this?

We need to change the mindset not just of the people coming to Internet Governance events but also of the organizers of these events. We need to increase the awareness of everyone involved in creating and producing the knowledge in a way where it is made accessible for people who access the knowledge differently.

So, the question that those knowledge producers need to ask themselves, is whether that knowledge would be accessible to persons with disabilities or not.

What we had said in our comments to the elements paper and what we hope the Co-Facilitators better understand is that it is essential to:

A. Fund and develop accessible training materials co-created with people with lived experience of disability.
B. Set diversity targets for disability representation in leadership, including in the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group.
C. Create mentorship pathways for persons with disabilities, leveraging the lived experience of disability to inform leadership development and participation in Internet governance.
D. Integrate disability indicators into capacity-building monitoring frameworks.

The WSIS+20 review presents a historic opportunity to move beyond tokenism and enshrine digital accessibility at the heart of a truly inclusive Information Society. Without explicit commitments and concrete actions for persons with disabilities, and without the active leadership of people with lived experience of disability, the vision of universal, meaningful, and affordable access cannot be realized.

As one of the Coordinators of the IGF DCAD, I urge the co-facilitators and all stakeholders to ensure that accessibility and the inclusion of people with disability are not afterthoughts, but core priorities reflected throughout the WSIS+20 outcome documents and in the future mandate of the IGF. Only by doing so, can we build a multistakeholder, inclusive governance model that serves the needs of all people and sets a precedent for equitable global digital policymaking.