

## **Terms of Reference (ToR)**

### **WSIS+20 Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB)**

*Informal stakeholder mechanism for the WSIS+20 Review by the UN General Assembly*

#### **Purpose**

The WSIS+20 Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board will act as an informal body that serves as a channel to bring in perspectives, priorities, and expert insights from diverse non-governmental stakeholder communities, helping to ensure the review process remains transparent, inclusive, and responsive to broader public interest concerns.

#### **Role and Functions**

- Assist the Co-Facilitators informally by offering stakeholder-informed perspectives on key issues under negotiation, based on consolidated feedback from civil society, technical communities, academia, the private sector, youth, and other relevant non-governmental actors.
- Synthesize contributions from multistakeholder consultations into actionable advice, reflections, and written notes.
- Promote inclusivity by ensuring dialogue across regions, sectors, and traditionally underrepresented voices, with particular emphasis on the participation of women and girls, especially from the developing countries.

#### **Guiding Principles**

The IMSB will operate in accordance with the following principles:

- Independence – Only individuals with no current affiliation to any government, intergovernmental organization, or diplomatic mission may participate.
- Legitimacy and Continuity – Members will be drawn from the non-governmental members of the IGF MAG and LP, building on their bottom-up selection and prior engagement in global digital governance.
- Balance and Diversity – The IMSB must reflect diversity across regions, with a strong commitment to gender balance, language, stakeholder groups, and the meaningful inclusion of marginalized and underrepresented communities.
- Transparency and Openness – Advice and inputs will be evidence-based, clearly documented, and shared in a spirit of openness and learning.
- Informality and Political Sensitivity – The IMSB is an informal guidance body; members must respect the sensitivities of the intergovernmental process and refrain from actions that may be perceived as lobbying or negotiating.

## **Composition and Participation**

- Membership is open to all non-governmental members of the 2025 IGF MAG and IGF Leadership Panel, serving in their personal capacity.
- All eligible individuals will be invited to volunteer for participation in the IMSB.
- If the number of volunteers exceeds a manageable size, selection criteria (e.g., balance across stakeholder groups and regions) will be applied.
- The group is expected to consist of 10 individuals, with flexibility based on volunteer interest.
- Two Co-Convenors will be elected by IMSB members from within the group to facilitate internal coordination and engagement with the Co-Facilitators.
- Efforts will be made to ensure gender parity in the final composition of the group, recognizing the importance of inclusive and gender-responsive multistakeholder processes.
- Efforts must be made to ensure geographical representation in the final composition of the group.

## **Working Modalities**

- The IMSB will convene virtually on a regular basis from July to December 2025, with meeting frequency determined by milestones in the WSIS+20 process.
- Outputs may include short notes, consolidated stakeholder inputs, and high-level reflections aligned with the Co-Facilitators' requests.
- The IMSB will function strictly as an informal and non-negotiating group.
- Its role complements—but does not replace—broader stakeholder consultation mechanisms and concludes ahead of the WSIS+20 High-Level Meeting in December 2025.