

**WSIS+20 Stakeholder Consultation**  
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Thank you to the co-facilitators and the team at DESA for organizing this first series of stakeholder consultations for the WSIS+20 review.

As a veteran government negotiator throughout the entire 5-year original WSIS process, it is critical that one of the key achievements of WSIS - the opening of the room for all to meaningfully engage - is honored and maintained in this all-important anniversary year.

Last year's process around the Global Digital Compact (GDC) sadly saw a retreat from that open, participatory approach, resulting in lingering questions of legitimacy and buy in of the results.

In contrast, it is heartening to see the clear schedule and stakeholder opportunities that have been so far mapped out for the WSIS +20. I encourage you however to continue to make these processes more transparent and inclusive **and move to a model of true multistakeholder discussion** so that governments and non-government stakeholders are in the same meetings.

With respect to this year's discussions and ultimate decisions that will find their way into the end of year resolution, I offer the following three concrete recommendations:

- It is well past time for the UN system to fully embrace the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The fact that a distributed ecosystem of national and regional IGFs has organically sprung up around it, proves the value that stakeholders, including governments, find in this approach. **The IGF should be renewed with a permanent, if not long-term mandate.**
- Better outcomes and decisions occur when all perspectives are included. This is why the multistakeholder model, including shared decision-making, has been so critical to the Internet's success. The WSIS+20 resolution should **acknowledge and re-commit to multistakeholder approaches, including clearly recognizing the role of all stakeholders** - governments, the private sector, the technical community, civil society, and academia.
- Given lingering concerns about the GDC process, as well as the budget concerns facing the UN system, it is unrealistic to think the UN can continue to run duplicative processes. **Any GDC implementation or follow up should move into the existing WSIS framework** - either through the annual WSIS Forum or the IGF.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.