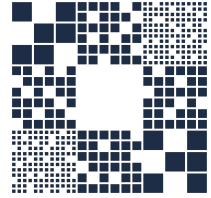# Global Partners Digital Statement to WSIS+20 Virtual Stakeholder Consultation

Delivered by Ellie McDonald, Policy and Advocacy Lead
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Your Excellencies, colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to share our views. I am speaking on behalf of Global Partners Digital, a human rights organisation focused on ensuring that human rights underpin the development, use and governance of digital technologies.

Responding to the guiding questions, we would like to offer three recommendations. These build on the priorities of the [Global Digital Rights Coalition for WSIS](#), a collective of civil society organisations from the Global Majority and Global North offering our shared expertise to advance human rights and multistakeholderism in the WSIS+20 review process.

- **First,** in our view, we should address future challenges by **ensuring new technologies are responded to in a human rights–respecting way**. This means anchoring the interpretation and implementation of the WSIS outcomes in the **international human rights framework**.
- Particular attention should be paid to embedding the use of human rights due diligence and human rights impact assessment and formally recognising the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

- **Second,** the review should prioritise preserving **the multistakeholder model** of Internet governance and extending it to digital technology governance processes, inspired by the Sao Paolo Multistakeholder Guidelines.
- The IGF is a vital component of the WSIS architecture and has shown its enduring value as a forum for collective learning, confidence building and public policy shaping. It should be **renewed on a permanent basis, ensuring its financial sustainability while strengthening its procedures** to ensure openness, transparency and accessibility.

- **Third,** to achieve the WSIS vision, the Agenda 2030, and the Pact for the Future, it is necessary for digital governance to be coherent, transparent, meaningfully inclusive, and uphold accountability.
- This can be achieved in part through **implementing new global digital frameworks like the Global Digital Compact (GDC) through the WSIS**

architecture, benefiting from the distributed approach of the WSIS while ensuring it is enriched by the GDC's emphasis on human rights-based digital governance.

Finally, part of the legacy of the WSIS is its status as a process where stakeholders have shaped cornerstone agreements of Internet public policy.

To preserve this multistakeholder ethos, a cross-stakeholder community of 191 organisations and experts published a [Five-Point Plan for an Inclusive WSIS+20 Review](). Building on this, our communities recently published [Eight Practical Recommendations]() for the review, such as appointing a stakeholder liaison, setting up a centralised online platform, designing consultations which facilitate two-way dialogue between governments and non-governmental stakeholders, and safeguarding stakeholder input at every stage.

We, alongside the endorsers, urge that these recommendations be considered and taken up and offer our ongoing support to advise on their adoption.

We thank you for your time and we stand ready to assist the process.