

Informal Interactive WSIS stakeholder consultation on the review of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+ 20)

New York, United Nations

10 June 2025

Good morning, Ambassador Janina, Ambassador Lokaale, excellencies and esteemed colleagues.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers – ICANN – is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that helps ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet through our role in coordinating the Internet’s unique identifiers.

The Internet is open, interoperable, and coordinated across borders. Its continued stability relies on shared responsibility across stakeholders around the world. That's the strength of the multistakeholder model: it brings together governments, businesses, academia, civil society, and technical communities to address issues collaboratively. We hope that the UN member states will continue to support the multistakeholder model of Internet governance, as they did during the WSIS in Tunisia, in UNGA resolution A/70/125, and in the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

This model has proven to be the most effective approach to address Internet policy issues. ICANN’s track record reflects that: for 27 years, we’ve enabled technically grounded, globally coordinated governance of the Domain Name System. The DNS has scaled to support billions of queries daily – including through crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. We have accomplished this by working closely with governments, businesses, civil society, and academic communities, which represent our supporting organizations and advisory committees, as well as with other technical organizations like the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), the Internet Society (ISOC), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and many others.

The technical community is a distinct stakeholder within the WSIS process. Its role is to continue to develop the Internet and the policies around its technical functioning to serve all people around the world. We hope that the UN member states will continue to recognize this stakeholder group, as they did in Tunisia, during the WSIS+10 review, and in the Global Digital Compact.

ICANN contributes to the WSIS process through its technical remit and engagement with all its stakeholders, including the governments that participate in ICANN’s Governmental Advisory Committee. Our experience shows that sustained collaboration among all stakeholders delivers stability and innovation at scale.

And last, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) plays a central role in fostering this collaboration. Just last year, in the GDC, the UN member states acknowledged the importance of the IGF as “the primary multistakeholder platform for discussing Internet governance issues”. ICANN has supported and continues to support the IGF both financially and through participation in the MAG and the IGF. We are committed to continuing this support for the years to come. We have released a draft paper, called “The IGF We Want” to our WSIS+20 Outreach Network mailing list, and I urge everyone to join the list through the ICANN Government Engagement webpage, where we will be discussing the different versions of the WSIS+20 zero drafts in the coming months.

Thank you.