General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes

Official Form for Written Submissions

A. Your Information

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B. Formal Input

Some guiding questions for your submissions are listed below:

The Association for Progressive Communications is a global civil society network, founded in 1990, dedicated to the use of ICTs for social justice, gender equality and sustainable development. APC and APC's member organisations were active participants in the WSIS process and since then they have worked closely with governments, international organisations, and in multistakeholder forums to support WSIS follow-up and implementation. www.apc.org

1. To what extent has progress been made on the vision of the people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society in the ten years since the WSIS?

Much progress has been made, particularly in the following areas:[2]

a. Access to ICTs[3] has increased substantially in the past ten years, particularly through:

- reduced cost of the devices[4]
- software and hardware that enable access in a multiple languages and scripts and that are accessible to people with disabilities
- increased availability and adoption of free and open source software

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1 When specifying your stakeholder type, please indicate one of the following: Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia, and Technical Sector.

2 In 2013, APC carried out the survey "Communication rights ten years after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): Civil society perceptions". We draw on this survey in our response to this question. http://www.itu.int/wsis/review/inc/docs/roreports/WSIS10_Country_Reporting-APC.pdf

3 http://www.itu.int/wsis/review/inc/docs/submissions/Form1_WSIS10-HLE-OC_OfficialSubmissions-APC_web.pdf

4 See Alliance for Affordable Internet: Affordability Index: http://a4ai.org/affordability-report/data/?indicator=INDEX

- propagation of network access[5] through mobile telephony and an increase in fibre optic cable connectivity including undersea cables
- reduction in cost of telephony and of internet access.

b. Adoption of ICTs[6] is more widespread and society is more connected. This includes:
- use by individuals to achieve personal goals
- adoption by institutions from all sectors (government departments, schools, large and small businesses, civil society organisations and all forms of media) and across all WSIS action lines
- dramatic increase in the use of social media, particularly among young people from both rich and poor backgrounds
- user-generated content which has become the main source of online content creation.

c. Human rights and the information society: The link between human rights and the internet, both in terms of policy and practice, is much more clear today than it was 10 years ago.
- People are using technology to exercise their human rights, including by expressing themselves online, participating in public life, and accessing information.
- Governments are utilising ICTs to increase engagement with citizens and provide public services, advancing economic and social rights.
- The international norm that human rights standards must be respected online is now firmly established and accepted. [7]
- Human rights have become more visible in global ICT policy discussions. [8]
- Technical bodies such as ICANN and the IETF are now discussing the human rights aspects of their work. [9]
- National legislation is being adopted to protect human rights online. [10]

d. Internet governance. Understanding of and participation in internet governance has increased significantly since 2005. This is evident in policy-making processes at national and regional levels, in intergovernmental spaces, and in multistakeholder spaces. Bodies like CSTD and the ITU have evolved in the years since WSIS to adopt multistakeholder approaches in aspects of their work. Additionally, the Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NETmundial) adopted innovative approaches to integrating stakeholder input into decision making.

e. The Internet Governance Forum has been a major contributor to this increased understanding and participation. Since its establishment in 2006, the IGF has matured and responded well to its mandate as outlined in the Tunis Agenda. [11] It has:
- Become the world's foremost and most inclusive forum for discussing "public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet" (72a).
- Facilitated "discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet" and discussed "issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body" (72b). [12]
- Begun to "Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities" (72d) through IGF Best Practice Forums which include issues such as how to address spam, a priority mentioned in the Tunis Agenda.
- Evolved to include regional, national and global processes linked to the UN, but is also independent.

5In top-down (e.g. through efforts of government or institutions, operators and other businesses) and bottom-up ways (e.g. locally run Wi-Fi networks and hotspots, V-Sat installations, mesh networks and more).
6APC 2013 Survey.

7The Human Rights Council passed the landmark resolution 20/8 in 2012 affirming that "the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online." Since then the UN General Assembly and HRC have passed dozens of resolutions by consensus. Numerous UN Special Rapporteurs have addressed internet rights in their reports, including those covering freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, cultural rights, the right to health, extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and violence against women. In 2014 the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a significant report on the right to privacy in the digital age: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/DigitalAge/A-HRC-27-37_en.doc
8 APC 2013 Survey.

9ICANN now has a dedicated cross-community working party focusing on ICANN's responsibility to respect human rights, and at the Internet Engineering Task Force a research effort is underway to understand the structural relationship and impact between internet standards and protocols and freedom of expression and association.

10Examples of national legislation: Marco Civil in Brazil (2014); Magna Carta for Philippine Internet Freedom (pending); Digital Rights and Freedoms Bill in Nigeria (pending).

11http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html
12This was most striking in 2013 when the IGF provided a platform for frank discussion on revelations on mass surveillance of online communications by certain states. These IGF discussions informed subsequent events such as resolutions at the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. They also led to the convening of the NETmundial in Sao Paulo in April 2014.

- Fulfilled other aspects of its mandate such as strengthening and enhancing "the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries" (72f). This has been particularly successful when the IGF has been hosted in developing countries (Brazil, India, Egypt, Kenya and Indonesia).
- Contributed to "capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries" (72h) through partnerships with numerous institutions from all stakeholder groups who provide support for developing-country participants to attend the IGF and who co-locate training and mentoring activities with IGFs.
- Taken up discussion of "issues relating to critical Internet resources" (72j) and provided an important link between people and institutions (including governments) who are directly involved in ICANN, and the many others concerned with the internet who are not.

One issue that the IGF could have addressed more effectively is enhanced cooperation. The Tunis Agenda clearly links the IGF to enhanced cooperation when it calls for a new forum in paragraph 67. It then continues to outline the need for enhanced cooperation in paragraph 69. The initial UNGA call for the IGF separated these two goals into parallel tracks. The effect was that the IGF as a multistakeholder forum evolved faster than most other efforts to establish enhanced cooperation amongst governments. The regular ministerial meetings at IGF meetings have demonstrated that the IGF can support enhanced cooperation amongst governments while also supporting cooperation among all stakeholders. In fact, paragraph 73 describes the IGF as both a multilateral and a multistakeholder forum. We recommend that any initiatives to establish spaces for discussion and cooperation among governments with regard to internet governance be linked to the IGF process.

2. What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes?
As noted above, there has been significant progress in expanding internet access to millions of people in the last 10 years. The challenges below should be seen in this context.

a. **Adopting a sustainable development approach.** While the WSIS Action Lines have been a useful starting point in coordinating stakeholders around harnessing ICTs for development, they provide an insufficient framework for looking forward into the next decade. Moving forward, it should be a priority to direct WSIS activities to help and enable the Post-2015 Means of Implementation as well as realising the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets.

The digital divide is not a stand-alone divide. It is a consequence of broader social and economic divides. But it also has particular significance as it can contribute to these broader divides growing bigger and more difficult to cross. There is also the possibility that technology creates new forms of exclusion. Many people are doubly excluded, firstly because they are already marginalised based on geographic location, class, poverty or gender, and secondly because of not having access to the ICT tools and platforms which have become the primary means for accessing and sharing information. This remains as true now as it was in 2003 and 2005.

WSIS implementation needs to integrate a sustainable development approach. This requires more than emphasising access to technology; it requires states and other actors to invest in human development, institutional capacity, human rights, and democratic, transparent and accountable governance. It requires building more just societies. It requires the engagement of mainstream development actors at local and global levels as well as actors from the ICT sector. Social justice, non-discrimination and women's empowerment are also necessary for an inclusive and people-centred development-oriented Information Society.

What is needed is a changed attitude towards development, that includes both understanding and leveraging the impact of Its. The integration of WSIS goals with the SDGs can facilitate this.

b. **Ensuring continued extension of access for all to ICTs, particularly access to broadband, in developing countries and among marginalised communities in all countries.** Millions of people still lack affordable and reliable access to tools (e.g. smart phones or computers) that support local languages and scripts, and to connectivity (internet infrastructure with sufficient bandwidth to enable them to make full use of the power of networks).[13] In many countries internet users are faced with slow broadband speeds, especially in areas

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[13] Almost 60% of the world's population – most of whom live in developing countries – are offline. Close to 70% of households in the developing world do not have internet access, and while internet penetration rates have increased dramatically in recent years, the pace of change seems to be slowing. Access inequalities are particularly visible when disaggregated by disadvantaged groups – women, vulnerable cultural groups, people living in remote small islands, and in the least-developed countries generally (http://a4ai.org/affordability-report/) The UN Broadband Commission reported in 2013 that more than 90% of the people in the 49 countries surveyed were without broadband. https://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press_releases/2013/36.aspx

outside major cities. Traffic caps may limit the amount of data that can be exchanged, and complex tariff packages limit competition or the user's ability to manage costs.

APC has identified the following challenges in efforts to extend real access:

- Efforts to address disparities in ICT access and use are uncoordinated, leading to duplication of effort and ineffectiveness.
- Lack of awareness of the savings in infrastructure deployment that can be made through sharing telecom infrastructure (such as ducts, fibres and masts) and sharing with other utility infrastructure such as roads, power grids, fuel pipelines and rail lines.
- Limited adoption of innovative uses of radio spectrum such as unlicensed Wi-Fi, TV white space and other dynamic spectrum access methods which make use of the latest technological developments to maximise the potential for wireless rural broadband access at low cost.
- Lack of awareness of the need to improve the availability of public access facilities (e.g. in public libraries, telecentres and multi-purpose community centres), which offer the only alternative for those who cannot afford their own equipment and connectivity.[14]

A variety of indirect factors may also serve to limit internet accessibility; grid power may be unavailable, and high import duties may be levied on ICT equipment, which, along with luxury taxes on internet and voice services, further reduce their affordability.

c. Advancing gender equality. Digital gender inequalities are rooted in structural inequalities in society and prevent women from being able to use the internet freely, fulfilling the vision of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, which demanded the empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes.

The global gender access gap is estimated at 200 million fewer women online. In parts of Europe and Central Asia, 30% fewer women than men access the internet; in sub-Saharan Africa, this figure jumps to 45%. The gap widens in rural areas — in some rural and remote areas of Asia, for example, it was found that men's access to the internet outnumbers women's access by 50%. [15]

As the A4AI Affordability Report observes, "persistent income gaps, coupled with ingrained social and cultural norms, keep women and other marginalised populations both from being able to afford Internet services and from being able to use the Internet freely. Limiting women's access denies them the tools, resources and opportunities available through the Internet, which in turn slows economic growth and social development opportunities."[16] The disproportionately low participation of women and girls in education, employment and decision-making in technology, policy and legislation in the fields of science, technology and mathematics (STEM) affects how the internet and ICTs are shaped, according to whose realities and priorities.

This is compounded by discrimination and violence against women, including sexual harassment and bullying. [17] Violence against women that is committed, abetted or aggravated through the use of ICT and in online spaces acts as a significant barrier to women and girl's ability to take advantage of the opportunities that ICTs provide for the full realisation of women's human rights. When women suffer violence online, the aim is the same as violence offline: to keep women out of spaces that men feel belong to them, to silence women's voices, and to stop women's participation in an increasingly important sphere. [18]

d. Meeting real and expressed needs. Ensuring that the proliferation of data and efforts at open government and open data actually meet the needs of ordinary people, and effectively contribute to transparency and accountability rather than just flooding the internet with data for which there is no demand, and which does not make a difference in people's lives.

e. Protection and reinforcement of human rights. As internet access expands over the coming years, a key challenge is to maximise the enormous potential of the internet to promote the enjoyment of human rights. Surveillance, blocking and filtering regimes, cyber attacks on civil society and human rights defenders, new forms of violence against women online, and shutting down of communications networks are just some examples of the types of human rights violations that are taking place in the rapidly changing ICT environment .[19]

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14 Research by the Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington found that in low- and medium-income countries, at least one third of the users had no other means of access to the internet, and most users (55%) would use computers less if public access were not available. Public access venues are the first point of contact with computers (50%) and the internet (62%) for most users. More users developed their computer (40%) and internet (50%) skills at a public access venue than at home or school.

15 http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/bb-doubling-digital-2013.pdf

16 http://a4ai.org/affordability-report/report/

17 Agreed Conclusions, CSW 55, 2011, E/2011/27-E/CN.6/2011/12

18 http://www.genderit.org/sites/default/upload/csw_apc_statement_final_version_0.pdf

19 For specific cases and in-depth analysis of these issues see the Global Information Society Watch reports from 2011, 2013 and 2014: http://giswatch.org/en/2011, http://giswatch.org/2013-womens-rights-gender-and-icts, http://giswatch.org/2014-communications-surveillance-digital-age

APC wishes to highlight the following human rights challenges for renewed attention:
- The promise that the internet holds as an enabler of economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to development, education and health, is facing many challenges – in particular, lack of internet access and an international copyright framework that favours the needs of industry over the public interest, among others.
- The cross-cutting principle of non-discrimination is critical to uphold in the online environment. There must be no discrimination based on nationality, place of residence, sex or sexual identity, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, or language. Yet in the context of communications surveillance we observe discrimination between nationals and foreigners in term of protection of privacy rights, in violation of this principle. We are also concerned by the prevalence of state censorship of sexual content and the blanket tagging of all sexual expressions as "harmful" in some nations.[20] These restrictions disproportionately violate the rights of young people, women, and persons who are discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, as they attempt to seek and receive scientific and cultural information on sexual health and safety and reproductive rights. Such censorship also violates their right to exercise freedom of association through online support groups and forums.
- Mass and targeted surveillance are eroding the right to privacy worldwide, as well as related rights, including the right to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association. Intelligence agencies are using intrusive methods such as spying software or hacking methods to violate privacy rights. As our 2014 Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch)[21] report documented, states and businesses around the world are complicit in acts of communications surveillance that constitute violations of the right to privacy and other rights, including through legal frameworks, businesses practices, and even the provision of public services. In addition to mass surveillance, targeted surveillance of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders, political opposition, religious and ethnic minorities, LGBTQI groups, sexual rights advocates, and independent journalists, in particular, also constitutes a violation of human rights and must be remedied.
- Security issues are of key priority, but as UNGA resolution 68/243 noted, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is important in the context of ICTs and international security.[22] Human rights and security are mutually reinforcing: one cannot exercise one's rights without security and one cannot be secure without being free. A key challenge moving forward is for states to ensure both security and human rights, without prioritising one obligation at the expense of the other.

f. Environmental sustainability and harmful outcomes of the massive increases we will see in ICT production and consumption. This ranges from energy consumption, to sourcing of conflict minerals for the production cycle, to disposing massive amounts of ICT waste. Unless there is a substantial shift in the approach to hardware design to be more sustainable (e.g. with devices that last longer and are upgradeable), this challenge is likely to escalate.

In the ten years since WSIS, the Information Society has seen growing environmental harm as a result of the ICT sector, particularly from electronic waste, including toxic waste, conflict mining[23] and carbon emissions. According to the Global e-Sustainability Initiative, the ICT sector's carbon footprint is increasing by 6% per year, the fastest growth rate of any industrial sector. While some progress has been made in development of policies relating to e-waste, industry and governmental practices have lagged far behind.

Line B7 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles suggests that ICTs should contribute to sustainable production and consumption patterns, yet despite this, the technology industry has seen decreasing product life cycles and increasing obsolescence.

It is essential for all stakeholders both a) to seek to reduce the growth in waste and carbon emissions resulting from ICT use and b) to seek to leverage the potential for carbon savings in other industrial sectors which may be available through ICTs. This cannot be achieved by technology alone, but requires full engagement by those concerned with social and economic processes, including utilities and manufacturing industries outside the ICT sector.

g. Maintenance of the openness and multistakeholder character of ICT and internet standards, development and governance, within a framework which also protects the internet against disruption by criminal or malign activity. Open systems and standards are essential in order to sustain the innovation that has characterised the development of the information society and to inhibit its control by powerful governmental or commercial interests. Network neutrality as a principle remains important even if it needs to be applied in new ways in the light of convergence of platforms, applications and content.

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20 See: http://erotics.apc.org/

21 http://giswatch.org/2014-communications-surveillance-digital-age

22 http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/243

23 https://www.globalwitness.org/campaigns/democratic-republic-congo/digging-transparency/

h. Multistakeholder participation in internet governance has evolved, and it needs to evolve further to be fully democratic, inclusive, transparent and accountable. More effort needs to be made to bring a diversity of voices into internet governance discussions, in particular from developing countries, and from vulnerable and marginalised communities. But recognising the need for improving multistakeholder processes should not undermine affirmation of the principle. Nor should support of multistakeholder processes be interpreted as denial of the need for regulation, or of the important role of governments in creating an enabling environment for social justice and development and protecting human rights. Enhanced cooperation and multistakeholder internet governance are not mutually exclusive. They are mutually reinforcing. We recommend that any initiatives to establish spaces for discussion and cooperation among governments with regard to internet governance be linked to the IGF process.

3. **What should be the priorities in seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends?**

a. Fostering universal affordable, open and unfettered access to information and knowledge is an urgent need, as is narrowing the digital divide, including the gender gap, and encouraging open standards, raising awareness and monitoring progress, as noted in the UNESCO "CONNECTing the Dots" conference outcome document.[24] We urge states to focus attention on extending access to ICTs to people with disabilities and vulnerable people, especially in developing countries and among marginalised communities (WSIS HLE Challenges). There is also a need to ensure equity of access, including public access, in terms of human capacities, and access to current and new ICTs, between urban and rural communities within countries and between countries around the world (WSIS HLE Challenges).

Priorities for ICT access and effective ICT use are:
- Policy development processes that respect the WSIS principles and facilitate public participation from all stakeholder groups, and which:
    - recognise ICTs as essential drivers for development
    - recognise governments as responsible for providing an enabling environment
    - support social justice and human rights (including gender equality)
    - respect public participation from all stakeholder groups in ICT policy formulation.
- Investment in and incentives for:
    - public internet access facilities (e.g. libraries, information centres, and iLabs)
    - human capacity development, education, research
    - open, transparent, accountable government
    - digital literacy
    - content creation
    - infrastructure sharing and innovative spectrum use and regulation
    - ICT skills
    - capacity building generally, and for ICT regulators and policy makers in particular
    - better network interconnection regimes and internet exchange points (IXPs) to minimise the costs of connection between networks
    - ubiquitous and affordable electricity supplies that include use of renewable energies.

b. Gender equality: Renewed commitment is required by all stakeholders to not only expand women's access to ICTs but to achieve full and equal participation in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes (Paragraph 3 of WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015 adopted at the HLE). In particular:
- Policies and strategies for women and girls to achieve meaningful access to ICT need to address cultural and social norms that act as significant barriers to their capacity to fully access, use and appropriate ICTs (based on A/HRC/RES/20/8).
- Better monitoring and collection of gender-disaggregated data are needed to inform policy measures and strategies.
- Technology-related forms of violence that are committed, aggravated and abetted by ICT must be recognised as a form of violence against women and be integrated in monitoring, prevention and response mechanisms (based on E/CN.6/2013/4 para.59 g).
- Processes and mechanisms that enable the full, active and equal participation of women and girls in decision-making processes on how the internet is shaped must be developed and strengthened.

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24 http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/outcome_document.pdf

- WSIS implementation should support UN Women's and the ITU's Call to Action: Leveraging Post-2015 development framework to close digital gender gap.[25]
- We recommend that UN Women join the UN Group on the Information Society.

c. States must renew their commitment to respect and promote human rights, moving beyond acceptance that international human rights norms apply online to applying those norms.

- **States must refocus attention on promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights to advance human dignity and contribute to sustainable development.** The Geneva Declaration reaffirmed the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and asserted that "democracy, sustainable development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as good governance at all levels are mutually reinforcing and interdependent." The NETMundial Statement affirmed that the internet is a global resource which should be managed in the public interest. Business models, copyright regimes, and lack of affordable access prevent the internet from being harnessed as a means for exercising economic, social and cultural rights. States need to not only expand internet access, but create an enabling environment that serves the public interest. This means businesses need to stop, or to be made to stop, violating rights for commercial gain.
- **Any limitations on the right to freedom of expression online must comply with international human rights law as outlined by Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and disconnecting users from the internet can never be viewed as a proportionate action.** Blocking and filtering regimes are employed by states, violating the fundamental right to freedom of expression, with disturbing frequency, in addition to the shutting down of communications networks. Limitations on the right to freedom of expression online must be undertaken by a competent judicial authority or a body which is independent of any political, commercial, or other unwarranted influences.[26]
- **States must reform their practices regarding surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, to protect the right to privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law.[27]** Any limitations to the right to privacy must comply with the internationally accepted principles of necessity and proportionality,[28] and should apply equally to all people regardless of their nationality.
- **States should not restrict encryption and anonymity, which facilitate and often enable the rights to freedom of opinion and expression.** Limitations on encryption and anonymity should be made on a case-specific basis and require court orders, and restrictions must meet the requirements of legality, necessity, proportionality and legitimacy in objective. Blanket prohibitions on encryption and anonymity fail to be necessary and proportionate. States should avoid all measures that weaken the security that individuals may enjoy online, such as backdoors, weak encryption standards and key escrows. Weakened encryption cannot be used specifically by governments and law enforcement for the legitimate aim to protect public interest. Weakened encryption puts everyone's security at risk.[29]

Finally, human rights cannot be viewed as an issue in and of themselves. They are an integral part of sustainable development and human security.[30] And security concerns must not trump human rights, as one cannot have security without rights nor enjoy rights without security. As stressed earlier, states have the responsibility to ensure both security and human rights, and cannot prioritise one obligation at the expense of the other.

d. Establishing inclusive, democratic, transparent, and accountable internet governance processes that involve all stakeholders, and that are based on an understanding of the internet as a global public resource which should be governed in the public interest, at national, regional and global levels. A priority should be made to include a diversity of voices, in particular those form developing countries and from vulnerable and marginalised communities.

4. What are general expectations from the WSIS+10 High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly?

We expect that the WSIS+10 HLM will recognise progress made in implementing the WSIS outcomes, identify challenges faced, and agree on priorities around which to collaborate in the coming years. We recommend that it take into account the work done by UN agencies towards the review. This includes:

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25 https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/Uploads/S/250/Call_to_action_WSIS_Gender_HLD_FIN.pdf
26 HRC/17/27
27 UNGA resolution A/RES/68/167
28 https://en.necessaryandproportionate.org/
29 HRC/29/32
30 HRC/RES/26/13 and Connecting the Dots outcome statement

- The CSTD Ten-Year Review report
- The UNESCO CONNECTing the Dots study
- The UNESCO statement from the 2013 WSIS review
- The ITU WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes
- The WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015.

We request that the WSIS+10 HLM extend the mandate of the IGF for at least a further 10 years, subject to appropriate independent monitoring and evaluation processes, involving all stakeholder groups, to assess and improve its capacity. We would like to see all stakeholders continue to contribute to a stronger IGF in line with the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on IGF Improvements and the NETmundial statement and roadmap. A stronger IGF can play a more effective role in informing other internet governance and policy processes. We would like to see greater participation of governments in the IGF.

- We recommend that the IGF continue using intersessional work as a mechanism for consolidating the learning and information exchange that take place at the annual global forum and at linked national and regional IGFs.
- We believe that the IGF can play a stronger role, where appropriate, in making recommendations. We believe this will emerge from the Best Practice Forums and the ongoing improvement of the IGF. But we also believe that the IGF should not become a negotiating or policy-making forum.
- We recommend that in future, the relationship between the IGF, UNDESA, and other UN agencies be strengthened and expanded to included UN Women, UNDP and other agencies involved in the implementation of the SDGs.
- We recommend that the IGF consider using and disseminating the NETmundial Principles of Internet Governance, as these could become a set of principles and guidelines of value to internet policy making at all levels.
- We recommend that any initiatives to establish spaces for discussion and cooperation among governments with regard to internet governance be linked to the IGF process.

Furthermore, we believe it is essential that there is a strong alignment between WSIS outcomes and the post-2015 Development Agenda.

We recommend that the multi-stakeholder approach to policy development and implementation be adopted for the integration of WSIS goals and the SDGs at national and regional levels. WSIS activities should contribute to and enable the Post-2015 Means of Implementation as well as the realisation of the SDGs and their targets. The WSIS mandate bears direct relevance to the outcomes of the Financing for Development 3 meetings, in particular the Technology Facilitation Mechanism which is being created. It should be a priority to ensure that the next stage of WSIS complements these other processes, and to avoid reinventing the wheel.

5. What shape should the outcome document take?

The outcome document should be a concise, action-oriented document aimed at addressing the challenges and priorities outlined above. It should reinforce and build on the post-2015 development framework, and be drafted in accessible language that all WSIS stakeholders can understand and embrace.

The outcome should be a focused political document which contains the following elements:[31]

- Reiteration of the basic principles of the Geneva Declaration and the Tunis Agenda

- Renewed political commitment to achieving the WSIS vision

- Reaffirmation of the importance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in achieving the WSIS vision, including through recalling Human Rights Council Resolutions A/HRC/20/8 (on The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet), A/HRC/24/4 (on The right to development), and UNGA Resolution A/RES/68/167 (on The right to privacy in the digital age)

- Endorsement of the assessment of implementation of the WSIS outcomes as presented in the UNCTAD/CSTD report: "Implementing WSIS outcomes: A Ten-year review"

- Endorsement of the outcomes of the UNESCO WSIS+10 Multi-Stakeholder Event; the ITU-led WSIS+10 High Level Event; and the UNESCO CONNECTing the Dots Conference

- Recognition of UNGA resolution 69/204 on Information and communications technologies for development

- Renewed commitment to open, inclusive and participatory approaches to governance

- Renewal of the IGF mandate, for at least 10 years, and a commitment to its continuous improvement, including by drawing on recommendations made by the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF

- Recognition of the remaining challenges in achieving the WSIS vision

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31Response to this question draws from the joint civil society input submitted by Global Partners Digital, which APC endorsed.

- Agreement on the way forward to develop clear and practical measures for implementing ICTs for development within the WSIS framework
- Recognition of the importance of aligning the WSIS framework with the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).