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|  | **Revision 1 toDocument CWG-Internet-20/2** |
| **2 October 2024** |
| **English only** |
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Compilation of responses to the Online Open Consultation
(February – September 2024)

Following the instructions of [Council Resolution 1336 (Mod. 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0140/en), the 19th session of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) decided on 1 February 2024 to launch an open consultation (online and physical) in March 2024 on the following topic:

“**The developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet**

1 How relevant multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes, including but not limited to UN-based processes such as Summit of the Future, WSIS+20 and the IGF, could address aspects related to Internet development?

2 What are the challenges and opportunities, good practices and favourable policy environments to strengthen the Internet, including in areas such as:

• fostering meaningful connectivity

• equitable access for all

• promoting a secure and resilient Internet

• achieving universal access

• the deployment of IPv6

• using satellite communication to reach remote and underserved remote areas

• ensuring services are affordable for people

• promoting digital inclusion and skills

• fostering multi-stakeholder participation, and

• encouraging public and private sector investment in Internet infrastructure.

3 How can we promote international multistakeholder cooperation on public policy issues that are focused on promoting the development aspects of the Internet?"

The deadline for responses to this Online Open Consultation was 7 September 2024. A compilation of the responses received is set out below.

*NOTE: Please note that due to the different formats used by the online respondents:*

* inputs to the “Comment box” of the online form —serving either as sole contribution, summary or comment— have been copied and pasted;*

* when available, indicated summaries have been copied and pasted;*

* where relevant, summaries sent through email have been copied and pasted;*

* unless a summary is submitted, documents of up to 1 000 words have been copied and pasted, as well as hyperlinked. Longer documents have been hyperlinked only.*

Footnotes found in the submitted documents were not included in the present document.

|  | **Date** | **Submitter(contributions hyperlinked)** | **Response** |
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| 1. | 10 March 2024 | [IGF DC Data Driven Health Technologies](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=5) | **Text provided in the comment box:** The internet is rapidly becoming the backbone for the cost effective, equitable, 24/7 support of a basket of services to citizens. The internet is no longer an option, it is a critical infra-structure for All. Access without attention to Accessibilities (disabilities, skills, economic reasons etc.) Is meaningless. ICTs without quality data management provides for only mediocre outcomes. For e-healthcare services using the internet, data quality is critical. Functionality, inter-operability, data exchanges, meta language use, etc. must be of the highest ethical standards. E-medicine must be zero error tolerant. An error can mean a life is lost. Cutting corners, doing best fits, etc can cost lives. Rigourous user testing and correction of faults, errors, remediations, missing data, logic, maintenance, continuous betterment and updates are essential. Not best practices but essential, that it may even have to be in the law when it comes to e-health. With AI, this reach to the ultimate in data quality becomes the only guideline by which operating systems can exist. It is important that the quality of the internet transmission be optimized if advanced medical internet services such as remote surgery are to become the norm. This is a very helpful service for hard-to-reach communities and other rural areas, including out of space. As the world becomes more dependent on each other to optimize service, the need for collaboration is a requirement. Sectors such as medicine can collaborate across nations, as can for say agriculture. Perhaps seed financing will be driven by these sectoral groupings. Innovations not just in the technology, but also in the finance and in the legal structures of arrangements are needed. It is also important to recognize the inventors so that they are encouraged and not dissolutioned. Collaboration to promote an ICT device or procedure must be encouraged. It is important to also include all and emphasize the importance of the benefit to the end user, including them in real analysis of feedback. In conclusion, data quality is at the center for a flourishing internet with AI for the future. Don't take data for granted. Inappropriate profiling, estimation and assumptions can lead to poor consequences. A critical and ethical mind with suitable audits is a requirement, however, costly or useless it may seem. Data quality also requires good logs and documentation to be kept for fact and fault checking etc. Especially with AI, data is dynamic and must be nurtured. Hence, training of all stakeholders on ethics is a must. |
| 2. | 13 March 2024 | [APIG](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=7) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**All the topics of the present open consultation have been covered in detail in our contributions to previous open consultations, starting in 2013, that is, for the past ten years.Unfortunately, the substance of our previous contributions, as well as other contributions to open consultations, have not been explicitly discussed or considered by the CWG-Internet itself.It is to be hoped that this year, CWG-Internet will consider, and discuss, the substance of this contribution, which can be summarized as follows: • The benefits of the increasing use of ICTS, including the Internet, have not been distributed evenly around the world: developed countries have benefited relatively more, as have some of their major private companies. Key questions for governments include how to facilitate access for persons with disabilities; how to assign ownership and control over data; how to build consumer trust and protect data privacy; how to regulate cross-border data flows; how to build the appropriate capabilities for harnessing digital data for development; how to reduce the cost of connectivity. In particular, there must be appropriate policy frameworks (in particular anti-trust laws) that address the growing tendency towards centralization and concentration of key Internet services. • The key developmental aspects of the Internet are to reduce the cost of connectivity in developing countries and to maintain trust and security. Reducing the cost of connectivity can be achieved by fostering competition (which may include functional separation), funding infrastructure, taking steps to reduce the cost of international connectivity, supporting the development of local content, capacity building, and a proper governance system. Maintaining trust and security can be achieved by protecting human rights, protecting data privacy, combating spam, protecting consumers, enabling pervasive strong encryption, and curtailing unnecessary and disproportionate mass surveillance.• States can contribute toward building an enabling environment for access to the Internet by implementing the provisions of ITU instruments such as Recommendations D.50, D.156, and the 2012 International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), and by appropriately funding infrastructure. The cost of international Internet connectivity can be reduced by implementing ITU-T Recommendations (in particular D.50 and its supplements). The environmental impacts of ICTs, including the Internet and spam, are serious and can be mitigated by implementing ITU-T Recommendations and contributing to ITU initiatives in this area. Spam can be countered by implementing the provisions of relevant ITU-T Recommendations, WTSA Resolutions, and the 2012 ITRs. • It must be recalled that policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of states; they have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues. Multistakeholder approaches work well when the stakeholders desire a shared, negotiated agreement. In other words, if all stakeholders share common goals, and hence there is a win-win situation. They do not work well when the interests of the stakeholders diverge.• Multistakeholder models do not necessarily result in faster decision making. For example, it took over seven years for ICANN’s process to reach agreement on naming members of a standing panel of arbitrators, whereas arbitration centers (including the one operated by WIPO, an intergovernmental organization) typically establish lists of arbitrators within less than a year and can establish panels from such lists within weeks. |
| 3. | 28 March 2024 | [Audiopedia Foundation](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=8) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**The document "Achieving SDG5: The Critical Role of Meaningful Connectivity" underscores the pressing necessity for meaningful internet connectivity as a pivotal force in empowering women and attaining Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) by the critical 2030 deadline. It articulates that while access to the internet is foundational, it is the depth of this access —characterized by quality, relevance, and digital literacy— that truly enables women to harness digital technologies for empowerment and equal participation in all spheres of life. The text highlights existing impediments to such connectivity, including but not limited to accessible, culturally resonant content, educational gaps, and infrastructural deficiencies, which disproportionately disadvantage women.Central to this discourse is the acknowledgment of the SDG Digital Acceleration Agenda's role in identifying and spotlighting scalable, effective solutions aimed at bridging the digital divide for women. Audiopedia is showcased as a prime example of such innovations, offering accessible, culturally resonant content in local languages to facilitate women's education and empowerment. The document makes a compelling call for action, urging multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes to actively engage in supporting and scaling these identified solutions. It posits that without concerted, collaborative efforts to amplify the impact of proven initiatives, the global community risks falling short of the SDG5 objectives. Through strategic partnerships, policy reforms, and resource mobilization, the document appeals for a united front to ensure that meaningful connectivity reaches every woman, paving the way for a more equitable, sustainable future. |
| 4. | 4 April 2024 | [EDIH Trakia](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=10) | **Text provided via email:**EDIH Trakia actively contributes to global Internet development through participation in multilateral processes like WSIS+20 and the UN IGF. We advocate for the integration of cybersecurity and privacy as fundamental elements in international digital development policies. By sharing Bulgaria’s success stories, we aim to inspire similar global initiatives that promote secure and inclusive digital ecosystems. Our focus is on co-creating policies that involve governments, private sectors, academia, and civil society, particularly for deploying secure infrastructure in underserved areas.We also lead capacity-building efforts, raising cybersecurity awareness and skills through seminars, online courses, and resource-sharing platforms. In addition, EDIH Trakia engages young people with innovative programs such as policy hackathons, summer schools, and research labs to prepare them for active roles in Internet governance. Partnerships with international organizations enable us to pool resources and expertise for joint research and projects aimed at enhancing digital security and access.Our initiatives aim to create a secure, resilient Internet that benefits all, especially remote communities. We believe that fostering collaboration and inclusivity is key to bridging the digital divide. Through these efforts, EDIH Trakia works toward a more equitable and innovative digital future. |
| 5. | 6 May 2024 | Bahrain | **Text taken from the contribution (no summary provided):**1 Addressing Internet Development through Multilateral and Multi-stakeholder Processes, including but not limited to UN-based processes such as Summit of the Future, WSIS and IGF, could address related to internet development?  The importance of multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes in addressing Internet development aspects is crucial. Initiatives like the Summit of the Future, WSIS+20, and the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) promote global cooperation, inclusion, and capacity-building in digital policy by posting a numbers of internet related topics . The Summit of the Future enhances global cooperation, addresses governance gaps, and aims to create a better present and future for humanity. It brings together world leaders to forge consensus on critical issues such as peace, security, climate crisis, and sustainable development. The summit's outcome is an action-oriented Pact for the Future, which aims to better prepare the world for the future. It is an indisputable fact that conferences, forums, and symposiums like IGF and WSIS have influenced the development of governments, private sectors, civil society, technical and academic communities, leading to the implementation of strategies to increase internet usage and improve people's quality of life. In developing countries like the Kingdom of Bahrain, the use of the internet is crucial for fostering sustainable development goals. From a government perspective, achieving governance transformation is important, and the internet plays a significant role in the economic development of nations.2 Challenges, Opportunities, and Policies for Strengthening the Internet, comprehensive strategies addressing connectivity, access, security, and inclusion are required. Here are the key areas of focus: • Fostering Meaningful Connectivity and Universal Access: Implementing Policies and strategies should aim to ensure high-speed, reliable internet access that enables users to benefit fully from online resources. Universal access policies need to be inclusive of remote and underserved areas, potentially leveraging satellite communications and promoting the deployment of IPv6 for a more scalable and secure Internet. • Equitable Access for All and Affordability: Ensuring that Internet services are affordable and accessible to everyone, including developing countries. This involves implementing regulatory frameworks that encourage competition among service providers and innovative technologies to reduce costs. • Promoting a Secure and Resilient Internet: Developing and enforcing robust cybersecurity frameworks, promoting the adoption of best practices among stakeholders, and fostering cooperation at national and international levels to combat cyber threats such as National cyber security of the kingdom of Bahrain. • Digital Inclusion and Skills: Implementing education and training programs to improve digital literacy and skills, focusing on underrepresented groups to ensure equitable participation in the digital economy. • Multi-stakeholder Participation: Encouraging the active engagement of all sectors in Internet governance processes to ensure diverse perspectives are considered, enhancing the policy relevance and effectiveness. • Public and Private Sector Investment: Creating a favorable policy environment that encourages investment in Internet infrastructure, including tax incentives, public-private partnerships, and regulatory frameworks that support innovation and competition. How can we promote international multistakeholder cooperation on public policy issues that are focused on promoting the development aspects of the internet?   Bring international multiple stakeholders in support of internet related public policy issues, it is possible to.  Enhance Existing Gatherings: Utilize platforms such as the “IGF, Summit of the Future and WSIS” to foster partnerships involving representatives from diverse sectors and geographic locations.  Making Collaboration Possible: Ensuring that efforts are coordinated with other development goals by establishing structured ways to cooperate, which identify clear objectives, roles as well as responsibilities for all stakeholders.  Encouraging Regional and Local Forums Formation: Assisting the establishment of regional and local networks on Internet governance for addressing some regional challenges or opportunities and inputting insights into global discussion  Addressing Emerging Issues: By conducting active research, engaging in dialogue based on anticipatory research findings, and proactively formulating policies, we can effectively tackle new Internet governance concerns.  |
| 6. | 30 July 2024 | [NetMission.Asia's Asia Pacific Policy Observatory (APPO)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=13) | **Text provided in the comment box:** Cultural Barrier to Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names: Linguistic diversity stands as an impediment to universal acceptance. Promotion of a multilingual Internet will be difficult in Melanesia due to its linguistic diversity. For e.g. Papua New Guinea has more than 800+ spoken languages, the highest in the world. Solomon Islands is also a multilingual society which has about 70 or 80 local vernaculars. Melanesian countries shared similar linguistic diversity and oral (spoken) history because they don't have a proper writing system that will facilitate their integration into Internationalized Domain Name system to promote an inclusive and multilingual Internet. Thus, it will be impossible to accommodate Papua New Guinea and other Melanesian countries like Solomon Islands into the Internationalized Domain Name system in the future. This presents a great hurdle for organizations such as Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) to achieve. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers’ (ICANN) Multi-Stakeholder Approach model of promoting an inclusive and multilingual Internet hinges on the writing system of a country. For e.g. the Alphabets Aa – Zz in English script. Without a proper writing system for Melanesian countries, it will be almost impossible to assimilate such linguistically diverse society into the IDN system. There are also more than 60 IDN country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) representing global communities online in native scripts (e.g., .ไทย, .中国, السعودية.) (<https://www.icann.org/ua>). |
| 7. | 14 August 2024 | [Riding Up](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=14) | **Text provided in the comment box:** Promoting a secure and resilient Internet: Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism. The Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (AECM) plays a crucial role in promoting a secure and resilient Internet by preventing unauthorized users from gaining elevated access privileges. This research aims to present to the readers the primary ways in which compromised credentials may be exploited, and the principal key techniques that attackers are using. Then it highlights some strategies to reduce the risks of the AECM. At the end of this work, there are scenarios on what the future of that cyberattack will look like. KEYWORDS. Cyberattacks, standards, privileges, ethics, data. |
| 8. | 27 August 2024 | United Kingdom - [Department of Science, Innovation, and Technology](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=15) | **Text taken from the contribution (no summary provided):**1 How relevant multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes, including but not limited to UN-based processes such as Summit of the Future, WSIS+20 and the IGF, could address aspects related to Internet development?  The Internet is a critical enabler of economic and social development, benefiting health, education, business and many other sectors. We are committed to harnessing the benefits of the Internet to help realise the Sustainable Development Goals.  Multi-stakeholder processes have been critical in supporting the growth, development and accessibility of the Internet. It is only with the input and participation of all stakeholders –governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and the technical community– that we can effectively support the Internet and its potential for development. The UK therefore views multistakeholder processes as vital for producing effective solutions to Internet development by drawing on diverse perspectives and contributions.  There will be some limited areas where multilateral processes are appropriate, but it is still important that they are fully informed by stakeholder views. Multilateral processes are often ineffective, however, because they can lack relevant knowledge and expertise, they do not have the full buy-in of stakeholders or they neglect key issues. Multi- stakeholder processes include governments, of course, but they also bring the benefit of commitment, understanding and capacity of other stakeholders.  The Summit of the Future can play a useful role in raising awareness of digital issues across the UN system and establishing high level commitment to a positive agenda aimed at development and inclusion. The IGF plays a critical role as a unique multi- stakeholder platform for ensuring Internet development benefits from the expertise, resources, and capacity of all stakeholders. The IGF’s National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) and regional, national, and youth IGFs are making a huge contribution and helping to ensure that global governance is better connected to local realities.  The WSIS Forum plays an important role promoting implementation of the WSIS Action Linesandhasbenefittedgreatlyfromtheparticipationofallstakeholders. The WSIS+20 review should be an opportunity to bring together the stakeholder community to highlight the need for further multi-stakeholder collaboration on Internet developmental issues and to evolve and enhance the WSIS Action Lines to better address developmental needs. It will be particularly important to include marginalised and under-represented groups in those multistakeholder discussions. 2 What are the challenges and opportunities, good practices and favourable policy environments to strengthen the Internet?  Strengthening the Internet depends upon a favourable policy environment that promotes sustainable development and an effective multi-stakeholder governance model that serves the global community. There are many examples from countries around the world which demonstrate that bringing together different stakeholders to share information and perspectives, build common goals and foster partnerships can deliver huge benefits for expanding internet access. We believe that expanding connectivity requires concerted efforts by governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders.  There are a very wide range of good practices and favourable policies which can support Internet development, including in areas such as:   promoting innovation   fostering digital skills   enabling competition   maintaining transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems,   ensuring that taxation and licensing fees are proportionate   providing access to finance   supporting public - private partnerships   allocating radio frequency spectrum efficiently   developing infrastructure-sharing models and   supporting community-based approaches.  Organisations such as the ITU, the IGF, the World Bank, UNESCO, UNDP, the Internet Society, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation and many others can help provide advice and guidance in many different areas.  Developing countries face significant barriers and challenges in accessing the Internet. Without connectivity, individuals and communities will be left behind and we will not be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Lack of affordable connectivity disproportionately affects specific groups of people including women, people in developing countries and people living in remote and rural areas. These communities face significant barriers such as poor local infrastructure and unaffordable broadband costs.  Without concerted efforts to overcome these challenges, we will miss out on the opportunities afforded by a strengthened Internet. Initiatives such as the ITU’s Partnership to Connect are a great example of multi-stakeholder cooperation to help address these challenges. The WSIS+20 review should focus on addressing these challenges and making sure our digital development agenda is fit for the future. 3 How can we promote international multistakeholder cooperation on public policy issues that are focused on promoting the development aspects of the Internet?  The UK believes international multistakeholder cooperation on Internet development is promoted by strengthening existing processes and making them more accessible to a variety of voices. Creating new forums or duplicating process has the potential to weaken and fragment existing processes and undermining inclusion by further complicating an already crowded landscape. The WSIS+20 review will be an important opportunity to promote multistakeholder cooperation. The WSIS has worked for nearly twenty years to promote connectivity and build an inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. We now need to build an ambitious digital development agenda for the future, working with all stakeholders, updating and modernising the WSIS Action Lines and ensure they are aligned with the Sustainable Development Agenda.  The WSIS+20 review is also an opportunity to strength the IGF and strengthen its role promoting international multistakeholder cooperation. The IGF can firm up its commitment to inclusive participation by encouraging more diverse representation at the international level. The IGF should strengthen links between the annual global meeting and the over 155 national and regional IGF initiatives that have developed around the world. The IGF should also strengthen its commitment to developing a more focused agenda. In 2024, the IGF took steps to reduce the number of participation tracks, which will minimize repetition and make discussions more focused. Building on the IGF’s accomplishments will enable it better to fulfil its role as a critical space for all stakeholders to discuss on an equal footing public policy issues related to Internet development.  |
| 9. | 28 August 2024 | [Canada - Innovation, Science and Economic Development](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=16) | **Text taken from the contribution (no summary provided):**Canada thanks the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) for its ongoing efforts to strengthen the developmental aspects of the Internet. Canada is pleased to respond to:  **Question 1**: How relevant multilateral and multistakeholder processes, including but not limited to U.N. based processes such as the Summit of the Future, WSIS+20, and the IGF, could address aspects related to Internet development?  The multistakeholder model of Internet governance has proven to be highly effective in fostering inclusive and representative participation across a broad range of sectors. It is an indispensable element of the effective administration of the global Internet.  Since its inception, the online landscape has evolved rapidly, and the Internet has become a critical tool for daily life across the globe. While it is true that Internet governance processes and the organisations responsible for them need to continue to adapt and improve to ensure that they remain fit for the future, Canada strongly believes and reiterates that an effective Internet governance and its associated institutions and processes like the WSIS+20 Review, ICANN, and the IGF requires ongoing input from diverse stakeholders in order to positively contribute to the Internet governance landscape.  As the multistakeholder community begins to engage in the upcoming WSIS+20 Review, Canada calls on all stakeholders to work together to strengthen and support the importance of the multistakeholder community, especially through extending the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum and its associated regional and national initiatives.  The IGF remains a crucial mechanism to discuss common problems, address policy and governance gaps, and provides a necessary platform for open and inclusive dialogue on Internet governance issues – components, we believe, to be at the cornerstone of the development of the Internet.  In addition to the IGF, ICANN’s role in managing the DNS involves coordinating the unique identifiers that allow the Internet to function smoothly, ensuring its stability and security. ICANN is Internet governance in practice. It actively and successfully demonstrates how diverse stakeholder participation across community groups can lead to effective global governance and operational success.  Ahead of upcoming U.N. processes, valuable lessons from ICANN and the IGF should be used to further strengthen the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and ensure that the Internet remains a global, open resource, benefiting from the diverse perspectives and expertise of all stakeholders.  Lastly, Canada would like to reiterate that the CWG-Internet should be open to all stakeholders, not only to Member States, and fully include the private sector, technical and academic communities, and civil society groups to collectively discuss issues and priorities impacting the global Internet today. It is only through the active participation of all stakeholders, and particularly by those who truly understand the Internet’s infrastructure, that we can ensure the effective development of the Internet well into the future |
| 10. | 29 August 2024 | [Bulgaria - Ministry of e-governance](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=17) | **Text provided in the comment box:**2024 is an important year for the EU to consolidate and spread its commitment to an open internet and a functioning multi-stakeholder internet governance model. Important events such as the Global Digital Compact (GDC) (part of the Future Summit), the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society+20 (WSIS+20) in 2025, which will define the development of the Internet are coming Key Commitments - Strengthen multilateral and multi-stakeholder commitment to address discriminatory content as well as false and misleading content at all levels, particularly within the United Nations and with other international and regional organizations, for transparent and accountable content management frameworks, which protects freedom of expression and improves the availability of accurate and reliable information in the public sphere, while fully respecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Governance of Virtual Worlds Ensuring that everyone has access to all key public services online across the Union A key focus is building trust in the digital ecosystem Introduction of liability criteria for discrimination and misleading content Platforms must mitigate the risks Promoting digital literacy Promoting the regulation of artificial intelligence/AI Digital transformation in Bulgaria Confederation of employers and industrials in Bulgaria/ CRIB's opinion as a member of the ICT Community Advisory Board in the Ministry of e-governance. |
| 11. | 29 August 2024 | [International Chamber of Commerce](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=19) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) believes in the power of the Internet to create positive, lasting and inclusive socio-economic impact. This potential can only be fully realised if the fundamental nature of the Internet as an open, interconnected, and interoperable network of networks is maintained. Promoting international multistakeholder cooperation on Internet-related public policy issues is vital for unlocking the full potential of the Internet, ICTs and digital technologies. To achieve this, a few considerations must be put in place. ICC encourages policy makers to: • Create policies that facilitate investment across the digital value chain • Improve digital infrastructure and its use • Foster trust in data and digital technologies • Ground policies in evidence and data • Embrace multistakeholder policymaking • Invest in digital literacy and skills development • Foster international cooperation.Ongoing processes discussing Internet related public policies should provide guidance on how to build such enabling environments and ensure meaningful multistakeholder input. |
| 12. | 31 August 2024 | [Youth Internet Governance Forum Germany](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=20) | **Text taken from the contribution (no summary provided):**The Youth Internet Governance Forum Germany would like to make the following remarks concerning the developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet. 1 On the question of how relevant multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes, including but not limited to UN-based processes such as Summit of the Future, WSIS+20 and the IGF, could address aspects related to Internet development?  As a core rationale to answer this question, we emphasize that the multistakeholder approach is not multilateralism but rather multilateralism forms part of multistakeholderism. This idea should also be reflected in the WSIS+20 process and can and should be defended in all relevant UN fora. The IGF is an important realization of the multistakeholder approach, and the Sao Paulo Guidelines adopted at the Netmundial+10 conference serves as an important reference point in this regard.  Another point we consider important when addressing the developmental aspects of the Internet is the role of Youth as a stakeholder. The young generation represents the largest user group of the Internet of today and at the same time young people are the ones most affected by a lack of Internet development as an even larger share of their lives depends on the Internet and connectivity. Furthermore, all the mentioned fora are discussion fora that can give an important impulse to initiatives in the developmental aspects of the Internet, but the people are needed in the real discussion and decision rooms. It is not enough to include stakeholders in consultations especially dedicated to them, rather they should be involved or at least it should be shown how their input reaches the drafting of the texts and processes.  All relevant processes can and should strengthen Open Source, Digital Public Code which are accessible and transparent to actors around the world and therefore also serve Internet Development. Additionally, during these processes, AI capacity building can be enabled by strong Internet development.  Regarding the Summit of the Future process the Internet as part of development should be included in the Pact for the Future. We should recognize that no one actor or country is perfect and especially rural areas need to be included. Ultimately, development only works with proper standardization which needs to be inclusive. 2 Challenges and opportunities, good practices and favorable policy environments to strengthen the Internet in various areas  We recognize the importance of all the points mentioned and stress that the relevant actors’ voices in these should be included and listened to. For us as a Youth Non-governmental organization from Germany the topics of the deployment of IPv6 and fostering multi-stakeholder participation are especially pertinent.  Concerning the deployment of IPv6, we believe that States need to take the lead. IP addresses are a public good that should be protected to enable secure and resilient Internet operations for all. We recognize ongoing efforts by the European Union in this regard and believe that a sunset clause for IPv4 could create a necessary impulse for further and accelerated IPv6 adoption.  There is one key forum to foster multi-stakeholder participation which is the Internet Governance Forum. This forum is confronted with various challenges which include a lack of funding, more talking than deciding and a somewhat niche presence in the broader UN system. However, with processes like the Summit of the Future the IGF could be boosted to work on new tasks and evolve itself in:   encouraging public and private sector investment in Internet infrastructure.   fostering meaningful connectivity   equitable access for all   promoting a secure and resilient Internet   achieving universal access   using satellite communication to reach remote and underserved remote areas   ensuring services are affordable for people   promoting digital inclusion and skills 3 How can we promote international multistakeholder cooperation on public policy issues that are focused on promoting the development aspects of the Internet?  International multistakeholder cooperation in this regard could be promoted by enhancing the IGF and improving its inclusivity to hear voices from countries and communities that are often underrepresented; Furthermore, it could be financially and institutionally strengthened and build stronger links with technical Internet Governance spaces to effectively tackle development aspects of the Internet.  To achieve this, it is also necessary to promote multistakeholderism worldwide between and within countries. Cooperation on different levels of government (local, regional, national levels) horizontal and vertical engagement should also be promoted. Youth engagement needs to be strengthened.  Initiatives like the Sovereign Tech Fund or the Open Technology Fund are good starting points that more countries could join and see as an investment opportunity to promote developmental aspects of the Internet on a broader scale that is oriented towards a public common good.  |
| 13. | 1 September 2024 | [Bangladesh - Internal Resources Division (IRD), Ministry of Finance](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=21) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**Bangladesh highlights the challenges and opportunities related to Internet development, including fostering meaningful connectivity, equitable access, a secure and resilient Internet, universal access, IPv6 deployment, affordable services, digital inclusion, and multi-stakeholder participation. The country emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and multi-stakeholder processes to address these challenges. Bangladesh proposes solutions such as government initiatives for rural broadband development, digital skills training, cybersecurity capacity building, and promoting investment in Internet infrastructure. The contribution also highlights the need for regulatory reforms and public-private partnerships to create an enabling environment for Internet development. Overall, Bangladesh seeks to contribute to the global discourse on Internet development and share its experiences and best practices. |
| 14. | 2 September 2024 | [Netherlands - RIPE NCC](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=22) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**On behalf of the Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC), the Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Central Asia, we would like to express our profound gratitude to the **ITU Council Working Group — Internet** for providing this opportunity for private sector members to contribute to this extremely important Internet discourse. While multilateral processes, primarily driven by sovereign states, are essential for achieving global consensus and reflecting national priorities, they often fall short in inclusivity. The limited engagement of non-state actors —such as the technical community, private sector, academia, and civil society— can hinder the scope and effectiveness of these processes in addressing the complex technical challenges of Internet governance. Multistakeholder processes, in contrast, offer a richer and more balanced perspective by incorporating diverse expertise and viewpoints. This approach not only enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance outcomes but also ensures that the policies developed are agile enough to adapt to the rapid pace of technological advancements. To develop and strengthen the Internet, multistakeholder processes should be leveraged to foster meaningful connectivity, secure and resilient infrastructure, and inclusive policy environments. Promoting the adoption of critical Internet technologies like the deployment of IPv6, enhancing routing security through RPKI, and offering capacity building are essential components of this effort. The RIPE NCC’s initiatives in these areas exemplify good practices in promoting robust Internet infrastructure. These include offering extensive capacity building, advocating for favourable policy environments, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Additionally, promoting international multistakeholder cooperation through shared goals, mutual respect and trust, and continuous dialogue and engagement can significantly enhance the developmental aspects of the Internet, ensuring a secure, stable, and inclusive digital future for all.  |
| 15. | 2 September 2024 | [Belgium - CENTR](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=23) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**CENTR is the association of European country code top-level domain registries (ccTLDs), such as .nl for the Netherlands, and .no for Norway. All EU Member State and EEA country ccTLDs are CENTR members. CENTR members are at the core of the public internet, safeguarding its stability and security. The majority of European ccTLDs are non-profit organisations or SMEs, providing an internet infrastructure service in the interest of and in close cooperation with their local internet communities (e.g. registrars, end-users, Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRTs), law enforcement and other competent authorities). ccTLDs are responsible for operating and maintaining the technical Domain Name System (DNS) infrastructure for their top-level domain. The DNS is a network protocol at the heart of the internet infrastructure —commonly thought of as the “phone book of the internet”. It provides a navigation function to map user-friendly domain names to numeric IP addresses. ccTLDs only hold information enabling users to navigate the internet but do not store, transmit or enhance any content online. As part of the technical internet infrastructure community, CENTR proposes the following key recommendations in response to the consultation: 1 To ensure balanced and evidence-based policymaking that contributes to the global development of the internet, CENTR encourages more dialogue between policymakers and the technical internet infrastructure community. 2 Governments must support the multistakeholder governance of the DNS, which facilitates the development of common open standards and protocols supporting global interoperability. 3 With regards to public policy, policymakers must avoid addressing societal problems through interventions via the technical internet infrastructure, without a proper and publicly available impact assessment of these interventions on human rights and universal accessibility of essential digital infrastructure, such as domain names. 4 Policymakers must refrain from introducing unnecessary and disproportionate barriers to the domain name registration process via national and international legislation to maintain universal accessibility of essential digital infrastructure. |
| 16. | 3 September 2024 | [InternetNZ](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=24) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**This submission is lodged on behalf of members of "A Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism" —see specific signatories at the bottom of the attached submission. SUMMARY: Realizing the full social and economic benefits of the Internet is dependent on balancing a diverse range of interests. A multistakeholder approach will best reflect the needs of all stakeholders and is the most effective model of decision making to maintain the Internet as a robust and secure platform for innovation and sustainable development. This approach enables a level of diversity, accountability and transparency that cannot be replicated in intergovernmental environments alone. Internet development cannot properly be addressed in silos; solving complex, interlinked challenges requires a holistic approach. Effective, practical and credible solutions must be developed via multi-stakeholder processes, drawing on the expertise of a range of relevant stakeholders. The WSIS+20 Review is essential to upholding the strong mandate of the IGF and the multistakeholder frameworks that have shaped the Internet into a reliable tool for development. We encourage ITU to make representations in support of the WSIS+20 Review process being open, transparent and inclusive. Promoting the development aspects of the Internet requires mechanisms to better enable the participation of all stakeholders in multi-stakeholder Internet governance and public policy processes —particularly those from developing countries. Further financial support for multi-stakeholder mechanisms is one way to achieve this, including from governments and the private sector. In particular, we suggest further strengthening the role of the IGF. |
| 17. | 3 September 2024 | [NetMission.Asia](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=26) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**As the Internet continues to evolve, unique challenges and opportunities will emerge, and the role of multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes will be critical for shaping a sustainable and responsible Internet ecosystem. Issues on and of the Internet are multifaceted global matters and it is essential for multilateral processes to evolve and ensure that all regions, especially developing and less developed countries, and diverse stakeholders co-exist together in Internet-related public policy. To make the Internet accessible for all, challenges like the digital divide, human rights violations online, environmental concerns, multilingualism, cybersecurity threats, privacy, and regulation must be addressed. To overcome these challenges, novel strategies need to be adopted, such as promoting digital well-being, engaging and empowering younger generations, providing flexible learning options, promoting civic participation and redressal of grievances of netizens. Several strategies can be implemented to promote international multi-stakeholder cooperation on public policy issues related to Internet Governance. These include strengthening existing forums, fostering new partnerships and sustaining current collaborations, developing shared vision and principles, enhancing knowledge sharing, and addressing the digital divide. Supporting these strategies requires building trust among stakeholders, building transparency, and fostering transparency in multi-stakeholder processes. Implementation of these strategies could pave the way towards a more inclusive and participatory approach to Internet Governance and the future of the Internet.  |
| 18. | 3 September 2024 | [Association for Progressive Communications](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=27) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**This submission outlines APC’s position on Internet Policy and discusses the need to strengthen Internet development through multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes, particularly by addressing digital inequality, the gender digital divide, and environmental sustainability. It emphasizes the importance of including marginalized groups in global digital governance efforts, such as women, Indigenous communities, and those financially disadvantaged. The document also highlights the role of community-centered connectivity initiatives in bridging the digital divide, especially in rural and underserved areas. It advocates for appropriate regulatory frameworks, licensing, and financial support to enable these small-scale, social-purpose operators to contribute effectively to digital inclusion. Additionally, it stresses the need for international cooperation based on principles of social justice, human rights, and environmental responsibility to ensure equitable access to digital technologies. |
| 19. | 3 September 2024 | [Article19](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=28) | **Summary provided in the contribution:***The Importance of multistakeholder processes* A multistakeholder model of internet governance that facilitates informed, participatory and transparent engagement between sectors is integral for addressing public policy issues related to the internet. Promoting international multi-stakeholder cooperation on public policy issues related to the Internet requires a holistic approach that incorporates diverse perspectives and interests, including those of non-technical stakeholders. Such an approach must be underpinned by the following key elements: inclusive policymaking (ensuring that all relevant stakeholders - including civil society, marginalized communities, and smaller ISPs, are involved in policy-making processes - and have their views reflected in policy outcomes); meaningful participation, a human rights-based approach (grounded in international human rights law), transparency, accountability, and capacity-building and knowledge-sharing. Such an approach is also integral to overcoming the digital divide: strategies that include diverse technological solutions and community-based operators are able to better meet the needs of marginalized and underserved populations and expand Internet access more effectively and sustainably. Multistakeholder oversight mechanisms are also crucial in aligning the work of Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) with the values and priorities of the broader Internet governance community. II. Fostering equitable and inclusive internet development and regulatory models It is not possible to achieve the goals of universal access without a shift in understanding the relevance of Internet connectivity as a public good and its significance to human rights as part of non-discriminatory access to services, materials, facilities, and infrastructure. It is important to allow the development of diverse solutions for service providers. Small, local initiatives allow communities to exercise self-determination over pricing and services (keeping profits local), facilitates the provision of content in local languages that is aligned with local needs, and creates more decentralized and resilient networks. These networks prevent external abuses, such as censorship and throttling by external forces, and enable robust connectivity in ways that large operators often cannot achieve. Operators should therefore be allowed and encouraged to use and share the spectrum, utilizing wireless, fiber, and other relevant technologies with appropriate frequency ranges. Investment in Internet infrastructure is critical for expanding connectivity; however, it is important to ensure that such investments are not solely profit-driven and in the hands of a few powerful companies, but also consider the broader social impact and support local initiatives and tech autonomy. Good practices involve public-private partnerships that are aligned with public interest goals, ensuring that investments contribute to universal and meaningful connectivity and enable secure and affordable digital infrastructure. |
| 20. | 3 September 2024 | [Computer & Communications Industry Association](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=29) | **Text provided in the comment box:**Voluntary interconnection agreements between content and application providers (CAP) and internet service providers (ISP) represent the best opportunity to foster meaningful connectivity, achieve universal access, ensure affordable service, promote digital inclusion, and encourage investment in internet infrastructure. First, CAP investments directly increase overall internet penetration, reliability, and usage, especially for underserved areas. Second, they stimulate the interlinked demand for online services and broadband, contributing to broadband connectivity and narrowing the digital divide. Third, they support ISPs, complementing their investments and lowering their costs by more than US$ 5 billion annually. Therefore, favorable policy environments should support voluntary interconnection and avoid excessive and unnecessary interventions in how CAPs and ISPs establish agreements. Multistakeholder cooperation has been a driving force in the evolution of the internet and in harnessing its development potential. Policymakers should maintain incentives for industry to continue investing in critical internet infrastructure, especially as it relates to closing digital divides. |
| 21. | 3 September 2024 | [ICANN](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=30) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**The Internet’s technical foundation is robust. Its technical design and the multistakeholder approach to Internet governance ensure that it continues to evolve. An open, globally connected, and interoperable Internet is critical for securing our digital future. The collaborative efforts of the technical community ensure that it will continue to be so. As part of the technical community, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the ICANN community, are focused on multilingualism, particularly, the deployment of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs).With billions of people across the globe now online and millions more expected to join, the majority of whom primarily speak languages other than English, the availability of IDNs promotes meaningful connectivity by allowing people to use domain names in their native languages and scripts. However, despite the availability of IDNs, many people around the world are still excluded from experiencing the full benefits of this growing, multilingual Internet because they cannot use a valid domain name or email address in their language and script of choice. Many software applications do not accept these valid domain names and email addresses created using new multilingual Top-Level Domains. Universal Acceptance (UA) of domain names and email addresses is now essential to enable users globally to experience the full social and economic benefits of the growing Internet. Specifically, UA means that all domain names and email addresses function properly across all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems. Stakeholders in the multistakeholder community can play a role in promoting, encouraging, and enabling Universal Acceptance. ICANN helps coordinate the Internet’s system of unique identifiers to ensure a stable, secure, and interoperable global Internet. ICANN promotes a secure and resilient Internet in several areas including Domain Name System Management, Root Zone Management and through Technical Advisory Committees such as the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC). The Internet's development is fundamentally about collaboration. The multistakeholder model of Internet governance has helped create the Internet we know today. Principles such as inclusive and representative multistakeholder participation, consensus-based decision making, and open and transparent processes help promote multistakeholder participation. The U.N.’s twenty-year review of the implementation of WSIS (WSIS+20) should aim to strengthen the multistakeholder model and reaffirm the commitments made during WSIS 2003 and 2005, as well as during the WSIS+10 Review in 2015. The continuation of WSIS beyond 2025 and the renewal of the Internet Governance Forum mandate at WSIS+20 reflect a firm commitment by the U.N. Member States to the multistakeholder model, signalling that multistakeholder collaboration remains a vital force in the developmental aspects of the Internet. |
| 22. | 3 September 2024 | [Internet Society](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=31) | **Text provided in the comment box:**Making informed policy and regulatory decisions is crucial in fostering an enabling policy environment that bridges current and emerging digital divides, considering a third of the world remains unconnected. We believe this will not be possible unless all stakeholders can effectively participate in Internet development discussions. In particular, the technical community has a strong foundation of expertise based on a common understanding of the characteristics the Internet needs to exist and thrive. Ensuring the multistakeholder model remains key to countering emerging threats to the open Internet. These threats, such as Internet shutdowns and fragmentation, could negatively impact the Internet and its properties. Importantly, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) has become an indispensable element of the Internet ecosystem and a platform that reinforces cooperation by reducing barriers between different stakeholder groups. We are at a pivotal time in connecting those not yet connected to the Internet and achieving universal connectivity. A starting point has to be that no matter the method of delivery—wires, wireless, mobile, or satellite—the networks must incorporate the critical properties of the Internet and its enablers. It is important to recognize that serious challenges remain in bridging the digital divide, achieving equitable access to ICTs, and the benefits that people can accrue from them. For example, some populations are currently offline and will continue to be so in the future unless new connectivity models are used, such as community-centered solutions, including community networks. To ensure the Internet community continues contributing to the vision, it is essential to address the challenges by sustaining the model of multi-stakeholder collaboration. |
| 23. | 3 September 2024 | [Internet Center - Communication, Space & Technology Commission](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=32) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**Multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes, including the UN's Summit of the Future, WSIS+20, and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), are crucial in addressing various aspects of Internet development, such as policy-making, regulatory frameworks, and operational management. These forums facilitate inclusive dialogue among governments, private sector, civil society, and technical communities, helping to tackle issues like cybercrime, privacy, digital inclusion, and emerging technologies. To strengthen the Internet, key challenges include limited IDN adoption, security vulnerabilities, and slow IPv6 deployment, while opportunities lie in promoting linguistic diversity, enhancing security measures, and leveraging new technologies like satellite communications. Good practices include raising awareness, adopting advanced security protocols, and providing training. Effective international cooperation on Internet development requires building consensus, supporting capacity building, and ensuring full implementation of WSIS outcomes to promote a more connected and equitable global information society. |
| 24. | 3 September 2024 | [NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=33) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**The Internet’s resiliency and unyielding growth are a testament to the success of the multistakeholder system of Internet governance. The multistakeholder system has addressed and will continue to address questions related to the development of the Internet through collaboration among governments, with the technical community, and including all stakeholders. Multilateral processes can facilitate cooperation on the adoption of these solutions. Multilateral processes can also support cooperation on issues adjacent to the development of the Internet, including fostering meaningful connectivity and digital inclusion. |
| 25. | 4 September 2024 | [Layer 9 Technologies](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=34) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**Layer 9 Technologies’ contribution to the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet Public Policy Issues outlines various strategies for strengthening the global Internet infrastructure. It defines "strengthening the Internet" as enhancing its robustness, reliability, security, accessibility, and functionality. This effort requires both local actions by individual networks and global cooperation within both the multilateral and multistakeholder model of Internet governance. The document emphasizes the importance of voluntary cooperation, collaboration, and trust among the numerous independently operated networks that make up the global Internet. It also highlights that these efforts should focus on reinforcing existing standards and structures while avoiding a "one size fits all" approach due to the diverse challenges faced by different regions and networks. To strengthen the Internet, the document suggests improving infrastructure through diverse, locally driven efforts, and enhancing governance structures to increase resilience, inclusiveness, and transparency. It also discusses the need for coordinated global actions, such as supporting the multistakeholder model and harmonizing policies to prevent fragmentation. Additionally, it discusses the challenges posed by state-based cyber activities and the necessity of global cooperation to maintain Internet reliability. The document stresses that improving Internet security may require a shift from traditional approaches to a more holistic, collective security mindset, akin to the public health model. Finally, it underscores the importance of making the Internet more accessible, particularly by investing in infrastructure and embracing multilingualism and technological enhancements for users with disabilities.  |
| 26. | 4 September 2024 | [ACT | The App Association](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=35) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**ACT | The App Association (App Association) appreciates the opportunity to submit views to the International Telecommunications Union’s (ITU) Council Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues (CWG-I) on developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet. The App Association represents the global small business technology developer community. Alongside the world’s rapid embrace of mobile technology, our members have been creating innovative solutions that power the Internet of things (IoT) across modalities and segments of the economy. For more information, please visit <https://actonline.org/>. The App Association offers detailed viewpoints on ways to support the multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance and urges ITU-T to focus on addressing core issues squarely within its mandate. We also discuss how vital the free flow of data and information is to empowering small business innovators around the globe and call for ITU's support of these priorities. The App Association further comments on privacy and security issues and recommends next steps for ITU-T in these issue areas. Please find attached the App Association's comments in full. |
| 27. | 4 September 2024 | [NTRA](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=36) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**• Preserving the Internet as one common resource necessitates continued efforts and coordination among stakeholders, in order to maintain and develop the Internet as an unfragmented, interoperable public utility, while effectively addressing threats and drawbacks that come with technological evolution.  Moreover, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as the specialized UN agency for telecommunications, is positioned uniquely to influence multistakeholder and multilateral processes due to its mandate, technical expertise, and broad membership, which includes government, private sector, and academic entities. The ITU is responsible for coordinating the global use of the radio spectrum, developing international technical standards, and improving telecommunications infrastructure in developing countries.  Given the ITU's experience, it can help establish technical standards and policies for the Internet that ensure security, interoperability, and accessibility globally. Also, as a multilateral organization with wide membership, the ITU provides a platform for diverse voices, including governments, private sector, and civil society, to contribute to policy discussions.  This multistakeholder model aligns with the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), both of which emphasize inclusive participation for sustainable and effective Internet governance. Additionally, the ITU focuses on improving global telecommunications infrastructure, positions it to play a pivotal role in bridging the digital divide, which remains a significant challenge. Efforts in this area are crucial to ensuring that Internet development benefits are equitably distributed, especially in rural and underserved communities, as highlighted by the WSIS+20 review. • It is worth noting that both multilateral and multistakeholder processes need to complement each other in order to achieve the desired digital governance goals. To avoid duplication and ensure cohesive policy development, there should be better alignment between the WSIS/IGF, the GDC, and other relevant processes. Coordinating the roles among the various processes helps streamline global digital governance efforts and make them more impactful.  Maintaining the significant global value offered by the Internet, also requires that the sovereignty of countries online be respected and maintained. Sovereign states have the right to devise rules for Internet usage by their citizens as per their national legislations, norms and values. Areas subject to national policies and legislations, include national security, data protection, data provenance, as well as issues related to privacy, online content, competition and governance of emerging technologies. Egypt re-iterates the importance of utilizing existing structures and processes. The WSIS 20-year review, the IGF, the WSIS Forum, and other related efforts and events, besides the UN specialized agency ITU, provide an effective, dynamic, and responsive framework upon which to build a successful post-GDC strategy. |
| 28. | 4 September 2024 | [Derechos Digitales](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=46) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**To effectively address internet development in multilateral and multi-stakeholder processes, such as the Summit of the Future and WSIS+20, it is essential to enhance meaningful participation by removing barriers that limit access for underrepresented groups. The current participation processes often lack true dialogue, reducing the opportunity for genuine engagement. To foster a more inclusive and equitable approach, common principles must be established to ensure active and diverse participation, particularly from Global Majority countries, and to create alternative formats that encourage multidirectional exchanges. Challenges in fostering meaningful connectivity and achieving universal access are significant, particularly in the context of the digital divide in Latin America. The growing focus on artificial intelligence risks overshadowing critical efforts to close this divide. Public policies must prioritize the development of technical standards for measuring the digital divide and support the creation of community networks in geographically challenging areas. Additionally, the approach to internet access should consider the ethnic and cultural contexts of affected communities, ensuring that connectivity does not disrupt local practices but rather enhances them. To promote international multistakeholder cooperation on internet development, there is a need to strengthen the multistakeholder model by ensuring diverse representation and full participation in decision-making processes. This includes providing support for stakeholders from underrepresented regions through accessible accreditation systems, travel assistance, and human rights due diligence for host states. Furthermore, it is crucial to establish clear guidelines for stakeholder interaction, ensuring transparency and consistency in consultation processes, and fostering sustainable dialogue among all parties involved. |
| 29. | 5 September 2024 | [Radio Research and Development Institute](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=37) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**The contribution addresses one topic: how relevant multilateral and multistakeholder processes such as Summit of the Future, WSIS and the IGF, could address aspects related to Internet development. Summarizing the main ideas of the document, we can say that the development of the Internet is no longer possible without solving the issues of international governance of the global network. One year remains until the UNGA High-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS decisions, including international public policy issues related to the Internet, it`s time to prepare proposals to improve the Internet governance process and tools. |
| 30. | 9 September 2024 | [Germany - The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=40) | **Summary provided in the contribution:**The Internet is a powerful tool for economic growth and social inclusion, yet its benefits remain unevenly distributed, particularly among marginalized communities. To strengthen the Internet's role in sustainable development, internet governance requires a holistic approach that addresses all relevant topics from different perspectives – legal, technical, and ethical and responses to acute risks for the fulfilment of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Thus, regulation is needed while being intricately intertwined with human rights concerns, including but not limited to data protection, hate speech, freedom of expression, literacy, access and control of digital infrastructure as well as access to liable and independent information while protecting against surveillance and censorship. It is crucial to focus on inclusive and just digital governance, which ensures equitable access, digital literacy and other forms of capacities to harness opportunities and mitigate risks, as well as robust regulatory frameworks. What framework conditions does the governance of the internet need to leverage its potential for meaningful participation, prosperity, and peace? What framework conditions are necessary to reduce risks affiliated with biased algorithms, surveillance, digital bot armies and cyberattacks, for democratic, inclusive societies and sustainable development? Which partnerships are needed to respond to these challenges? These questions should be at the center for future discussions on “developmental aspects to strengthen the Internet” in order to foster an internet valuable to all users. To find the best answers to these questions, a multistakeholder approach on national, regional, and international level is pivotal, setting up participation structures that enable actors from a wide variety of capacities, interests, sectors and geographies the same opportunities to shape the future of internet.  |
| 31. | 10 September 2024 | [United Arab Emirates - TDRA](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=41) | Given that the global and diverse nature of the Internet, multilateral and multi-stakeholder approaches are essential for addressing different elements of Internet growth. Experts have consolidated a comprehensive response to the questions in the attached document. |
| 32. | 24 September 2024 | [Rwanda](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/display-feb2024.aspx?ListItemID=45) | Rwanda’s contribution to the open consultation of the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet)  |

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