

ITU CWG WSIS&SDG Call for Inputs on the WSIS+20 Review: Response

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Respondent

1. Organization name

Data Privacy Brasil

2. Organization type

Civil Society

3. Organization country

Brazil

Implementation of the WSIS Process

4. What are the **main achievements** of the implementation of the WSIS process in the past 20 years?
5. What are ITUs main contributions towards the implementation of the WSIS Process in 20 Years?
6. The WSIS process stands as a strong example of global digital cooperation in action for over two decades now. How can we ensure that this inclusive multistakeholder model is sustained and further strengthened?

Although the WSIS process has persisted over the past twenty years, the multistakeholder model faces constant threats. In fact, this model is increasingly weakened in light of the growing importance that digital policies have taken on for nation-states, both domestically and in terms of international politics—favoring multilateral processes.

In this context, strengthening the operationalization of multistakeholderism is essential for processes like WSIS and others dealing with digital governance to be truly legitimate, inclusive, and representative. To this end, the guidelines from NetMundial+10 can help initiate a fairer and more participatory process. Furthermore, it is necessary for the IGF, the main forum for these discussions at the global level, to have a permanent mandate and regular funding sources, ensuring the continuity of a space that is vital for sustaining multistakeholder governance.

7. What are the challenges that remain in the implementation of the WSIS process?

WSIS Action Lines

8. Which specific Action Lines have had the most significant impact, and why?
9. Considering that the WSIS outcomes have demonstrated their relevance and applicability to new and emerging areas, how can the implementation of the WSIS principles and corresponding WSIS Action Lines be enhanced to effectively address these topics?
10. Have you any suggestions and inputs on the WSIS+20 Review Action Lines, highlighting key milestones, challenges and emerging trends beyond 2025 prepared by the WSIS Action Line facilitators.

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/About#actionLines>

The topics that are currently being highlighted in the digital agenda, in multilateral and multistakeholder processes, point to a need of updating the WSIS Action Lines. We suggest the following updates:

C4: include the promotion of decent work as part of the objectives, particularly considering the impact of emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, on conditions of work and its relation with the digital skills gaps;

C5 and C6: define data protection as an area that is separate from privacy because of the profound differences in conceptual terms. In order to build confidence and an enabling environment, governments should pursue data protection norms and not only privacy norms. Privacy and data protection are different political and legal areas, despite their connection;

C7: the environmental sustainability and risks of digital technologies should be acknowledged along with the opportunities they present for environmental action;

C11: enhancing cooperation on the inclusive global governance of AI and data should be stated as an objective, acknowledging the need for coordination of governance processes, such as the Global Digital Compact, and the alignment with the SDGs.

Besides these updates on the Action Lines, we consider it is necessary to integrate new facilitators, such as the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), in order to secure the protection of Human Rights throughout all the Action Lines. Also, it is crucial to emphasize multistakeholder collaboration, aligning with the NetMundial+10 guidelines, in their implementation throughout the WSIS+20 Review Process.

WSIS Action Line for advancing the SDGs

11. How can the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs be strengthened towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The Action Lines need to be updated on important gaps regarding the SDGs, such as the one identified on C7: the environmental sustainability and risks of digital technologies must be addressed, along with their opportunities for climate action. Emerging technologies, such as AI, offer both opportunities and great environmental costs, presenting threats to the preservation of natural resources.

Another point would be to invest in the update and communication on the WSIS Stocktaking Database, as a valuable tool to connect stakeholders working on similar projects and enhance cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs.

Finally, it would be important for States to commit to integrating the Action Lines into their national agendas as development and governance plans, aligning these goals with the SDGs.

Future Vision and WSIS beyond 2025

12. How can we further strengthen multistakeholder platforms such as the WSIS Forum as the platform for digital development and IGF as the platform for governance and policy issues?

As highlighted by processes such as NetMundial+10 and the very purpose of the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, there is an urgent need for greater coordination among different governance initiatives at both global and local levels. In this context, the WSIS Forum, with its focus on development, can deepen projects and progress related to the Action Lines through constant dialogue with local actors. Meanwhile, the IGF, with its stronger focus on policies and regulation, can summarize national and regional efforts to strengthen global governance dialogues.

By achieving greater synchronization between the outcomes of the WSIS Forum and those of national and regional IGFs, the Global IGF can guide best practices in policy-making and identify key challenges that require international community efforts. It is important to note that the IGF's scope pertains to public policies; thus, its multistakeholder character should be complemented by multilateralism, where effective state participation is essential.

The development projects discussed at the WSIS Forum—where the multistakeholder nature has been prominently demonstrated and proven effective over the past 20 years—can serve as an empirical foundation for the policy discussions at the IGF, creating a complementary relationship between these two spaces.

13. How can the implementation of the WSIS process and the Pact for the Future and its Global Digital Compact be aligned to achieve shared goals?

The year 2025 presents a significant opportunity for coordination and optimization of agendas through the WSIS+20 review process and the implementation of the GDC. ODET, in its role as coordinator of global digital governance, can map common goals and facilitate the implementation and achievement of objectives by the existing WSIS facilitators, such as the ITU and other UN agencies. The GDC can add to these facilitators with other entities already mentioned in the text, such as the OHCHR and the CSTD, to fulfill objectives and build upon the efforts and guidelines already established by these same actors.

It is crucial that all these processes are not only coordinated with one another but also consistently include the participation of non-state stakeholders. This enhances the multistakeholder tradition of WSIS, which has enabled its relatively successful journey over the past 20 years—a characteristic also recognized by the GDC, whose principles are well summarized and agreed upon in the NetMundial+10 Declaration.

Twenty years ago, the WSIS process recognized the role of the multistakeholder approach in ensuring meaningful and inclusive Internet governance, thus creating the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which has served as the main forum and hub for debates not only on Internet governance but also on digital governance in a broader sense. The 20 years of experience in being a space that brings together diverse stakeholders to deepen consensus on issues related to the information society enables the IGF to be the ideal and firmly established space to serve as a coordination and monitoring hub for the Global Digital Compact process.

14. What are the key emerging digital trends and topics to be considered by ITU in the WSIS+20 review and future vision beyond 2025?

Given that submarine cables are critical infrastructure for global Internet connectivity and resilience, as well as a major geopolitical asset with significant implications for digital sovereignty, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) should promote broader participation in its International Advisory Board for Submarine Cable Resilience, ensuring a truly multistakeholder approach to high-level discussions on submarine cables.

Capacity building is a crosscutting tool to better shape future telecommunication and ICT professionals, and individuals in general. In this sense, the ITU could make use of its educational channel, the ITU Academy, to foster capacity building to all interested parties. Additionally, It would be important for the ITU to foster the participation of civil society organizations, especially those based in the Global South, to develop courses and training on the ITU Academy, aiming to shed light on issues at the intersection of telecommunications, ICTs, and digital rights.

With the advancement of computational power, specially related to quantum computing, cybersecurity becomes even more relevant to guarantee the safety of countries and of critical infrastructures, such as the telecommunications and ICTs infrastructures, against cyber attacks. Therefore, there is a need to promote best practices and techniques related to cybersecurity among governments, public and private institutions, in order to maintain the online harmony and safety, as well as to guarantee the resilience of all communication infrastructures. This sharing of best practices can be supported by ITU-T Resolution 58, which focuses on the establishment of CIRTs, especially in countries of the Global South.

CIRTs could function as a "knowledge hub" to promote the exchange of best practices across various sectors and between countries.