



# WSIS FORUM | 19-23 MARCH 2018

Geneva | Switzerland

## **WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT**

### **Template for Submission of Executive Summaries for**

### **Thematic/Country Workshop/ Action Line Facilitation Meetings/ Interactive Sessions/ High Level Dialogues/Publication Releases/Briefings**

**Deadline: Thursday 22 March, 2018**

**Exception: For sessions on Friday 23 March, please send at the latest 2 hours after the session**

*Please note that the WSIS Forum 2018 Outcome Document will be released on the **23<sup>rd</sup> of March** (the last day of the Forum)*

#### **1) Title of your session**

Multistakeholder Decision Making in Global Internet Governance: Quo Vadis?

#### **2) Name of Organization/s organizing the session**

Noncommercial Users Constituency of ICANN

#### **3) Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11**

C1, 6, 11

#### **4) Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (these will be reflected in the press release and Outcomes Document of the WSIS Forum 2018)**

Agreement to continue analysis and discussion of the use of multistakeholder decision making methods in other settings; announcement of the Internet Society's Collaborative Governance Project

#### **5) Main outcomes highlighting the following:**

##### **I. Debated Issues**

1. Has the growth of multistakeholder decision making plateaued, or are there any plausible opportunities for it to progress in a helpful manner, e.g. with respect to cybersecurity?



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2. Can the levels of multistakeholder input and engagement currently allowed by some intergovernmental organizations be meaningfully enriched in ways that would be value-adding?
3. Could anything be done to build upon the NETmundial and more issue-specific initiatives in order to strengthen the global Internet governance ecosystem?

#### 4. Quotes

- “There are good reasons to believe that multistakeholder decision-making can succeed in some cases where other approaches have failed.” Larry Strickling
- “For Internet issues, it is increasingly difficult to imagine the successful negotiation of broad based multilateral agreements such as treaties that are legally binding. We need to look more to informal normative agreements but couple these with ongoing monitoring and reporting of follow-up and implementation in order to encourage compliance and goal attainment.” William J. Drake

#### 5. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- Multistakeholder decision-making is not a panacea but can be a very practical addition to the toolbox of international collective action.
- Inclusive agreements that have broad governmental and stakeholder buy-in could greatly assist with the pursuit of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015.

#### 6. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

8, 9 and 16. “An open, interoperable, universally accessible and thriving Internet environment is a key enabler of progress on the SDGs.” This session addressed approaches to creating the governance architecture needed to maintain that environment.

#### 7. Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting

The Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (UN GA A/70/L.33, 13 December 2015) notes, at paragraph 62, “the important regulatory and legislative processes in some Member States on the open Internet in the context of the information society and the underlying drivers for it, and call for further information-sharing at the international level on the opportunities and



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challenges.” Multistakeholder decision making modalities could contribute much in this context.

**8. Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019**

Systematic comparison and contrasting of alternative decision making architectures in global governance decision making

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