



Session Outcome Document

Knowledge Café: Strengthening Multistakeholderism for Digital Development (Session 452)

WSIS

Wednesday, 9 July 2025 | 12:15 – 14:00

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/452>

Key Issues Discussed (Looking Beyond 2025)

- The continuity of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the rapid growth of National & Regional IGF Initiatives (NRIs) demonstrate the enduring value of the multistakeholder (MSH) model.
- Inclusive, rights-oriented policy-making: participatory cybercrime-treaty negotiations and national bodies such as CGI.br show that MSH approaches improve legitimacy and compliance.
- Diversity remains paramount—civil society (especially from the Global South), youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and neuro-diverse groups all need funding, language support and reliable connectivity to participate meaningfully.
- Power asymmetries persist: major private-sector actors and senior officials often attend but do not always engage, while grassroots stakeholders face resource, visa and visibility barriers.
- Echo-chamber risk: without a shared definition and metrics for “meaningful multistakeholderism”, forums can become “birds-of-a-feather” gatherings that sideline public-interest perspectives.
- Foundational enablers—affordable connectivity, electricity, devices and digital skills—remain prerequisites for any digital-development engagement.

Tangible Outcomes of the Session

Key achievements

- Mapped the achievements of the MSH model into three clusters—policy & regulation, innovation/problem-solving, and inclusion & diversity—creating an evidence base for the WSIS+20 review.



- Produced a consolidated barrier-solution matrix (funding, access, power balance, process design) to feed directly into upcoming WSIS Action-Line updates.

Agreements / commitments

- Agreement to draft a “Meaningful Multistakeholder Participation” guideline set—including a call for a permanent IGF mandate and formal recognition of NRIs.
- Commitment to explore a pooled funding mechanism prioritising Global-South civil-society and youth groups to support travel, remote-participation infrastructure and capacity development.

Key Recommendations & Forward-Looking Action Plan

1. Reaffirm Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) commitments and embed a rights-oriented, public-interest baseline in all digital-development processes.
2. Codify multistakeholder principles & metrics. Develop a living “MSH Playbook”, aligned with NETmundial guidelines.
3. Establish an Inclusive Participation Fund to provide grants and micro-scholarships for under-represented stakeholders, particularly from the Global South, older persons and neuro-diverse communities.
4. Empower local champions. Support national community leaders to translate global digital-policy discussions into actionable local agendas, e.g., “Girls in ICT Day” grassroots campaigns.
5. Strengthen accountability. Require annual human-rights impact assessments from private-sector actors involved in WSIS processes and integrate results into follow-up reviews.