



Session Outcome Document

Celebrating 20 Years of Multistakeholder Engagement: WSIS Forum, IGF, and the Road Ahead IGF/WSIS

15:15-16:15, 8 July 2025

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/265>

Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025 (5–8 bullet points highlighting achievements, emerging trends, challenges in 20 years, figures, success stories and opportunities for WSIS beyond 2025)

- The endorsement of multistakeholder governance and collaboration mechanisms represents one of the central innovations of the WSIS process.
- The IGF and WSIS Forum have emerged as two distinct models of multistakeholder engagement in digital governance, evolving over the past two decades.
- Significant work has been done to improve and develop these models, with NETmundial and NETmundial+10 as significant milestones and the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines providing valuable direction.
- The past two decades have demonstrated the importance of local- and national- level work, facilitating engagement on issues of direct relevance and bridging the gap to global digital policy discussion. The global network of more than 170 National, Regional, and Youth Internet governance initiatives (NRIs) is a major success story in this regard.
- We also understand the importance of coordination across different initiatives, reducing the potential for duplication, while allowing for non-decisional spaces for the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Tangible Outcomes of the session

- The session foregrounded the voices of youth and of the broader community, with a strong focus on evolving the models of multistakeholder collaboration going forward to remain current and relevant.
- Key points made by speakers and audience members
 - Multistakeholder models need to reflect the public interest and public good
 - Work done within these processes need to be highlighted and shared more effectively
 - We must avoid siloing different stakeholders away from each other - open, inclusive conversation is key
 - We need to move beyond the tension between innovation and privacy, rights, and safety



- We need to evolve mechanisms to transition from non-decisional discussion to policy
- Multistakeholder venues can serve an essential role as early warning systems for the challenges of new technologies, implementations, and divides
- Multilateralism and multistakeholder approaches can and have been co-existing. WSIS and its two “arms” - high-level events and the IGF - is a good example of that.
- Looking forward, and towards the evolution of said spaces, there's a lot more to be done as well on improving representation and making sure some of these fallacies or alleged tensions are eliminated. And addressing these issues starts with bringing these spaces closer to real life issues - and improving the reporting mechanisms and focusing more on accountability around them.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond (2–5 bullet points presenting concrete actions and guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review by UNGA and build the multistakeholder vision of WSIS beyond 2025)

- The outcomes of this session come at a critical moment, and should serve to inform the work of the WSIS+20 Co-Facilitators, UN Member State in their negotiations, the ongoing work of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group, and the multistakeholder communities that are ultimately responsible for these multistakeholder venues.
- There was agreement in the room around the renewal of the IGF mandate, and countries like the UK reinstated their support for a permanent mandate.