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WSIS+20 Implementation

From Commitments To Results

Internet Society

Caribbean Internet Governance Forum



The impact of the WSIS+20 commitments will depend on well-designed implementation mechanisms, meaningful progress tracking, and accountable institutions.



Implementing The WSIS+20 Review Outcomes

- Whether the WSIS+20 review outcomes translate into impact, depends on whether implementation mechanisms are well-designed, progress is tracked against meaningful benchmarks, and responsible institutions are equipped and accountable.
- The Internet Society offers practical suggestions to improve the implementation of the WSIS framework in three areas:
 - Roadmaps and measurements.
 - Strengthening the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
 - Getting financing right.



Three Priority Areas

- Roadmaps and measurements
 - The WSIS+20 outcome document mandates the production of joint implementation roadmaps for the WSIS action lines and the GDC commitments. These roadmaps shouldn't just restate commitments and track activities. They should track outcomes to drive digital development.
- Strengthening the IGF
 - A permanent mandate for the IGF doesn't guarantee effectiveness. Together with our community, we present recommendations to strengthen the IGF's sustainability, stakeholder engagement, and institutional design while safeguarding its multistakeholder character.
- Getting financing right
 - Drawing on the Internet Society Foundation's experience with blended financing and co-founding models, we illustrate practical approaches that others can adapt and scale.



Consult Our Recommendations



Executive Summary

The culmination of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 review in December 2025 marked the beginning of a new phase for digital development and Internet governance. The outcome document¹ reaffirmed the multistakeholder model, established the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a permanent forum, and reaffirmed the WSIS Action Lines as the main reference for advancing progress over the next 10 years. But commitments alone cannot transform the lives of 2.2 billion unconnected people or build a safe and secure digital environment for all.

The impact of the WSIS+20 commitments will depend on well-designed implementation mechanisms, meaningful progress tracking, and accountable institutions. In this non-paper, we offer practical suggestions for improving the implementation of the WSIS framework by:

- Developing effective roadmaps and measurements (with an example in the Annex).
- Strengthening the Internet Governance Forum.
- Adopting blended financing and collaborative financing approaches.

The WSIS+20 outcome document outlines priorities for implementing the WSIS framework over the next 10 years. When executed well, the WSIS framework has the potential to effectively extend connectivity, close digital divides, and enhance online safety and trust.

We offer this non-paper as a contribution to that work and encourage stakeholders across the WSIS community to build on these ideas and push for commitments that produce results.



¹ UN A/RES/80/173: <https://docs.un.org/a/res/80/173>

Implementation Roadmaps And Measurements

What Makes A Roadmap Useful And What
Is It For?



Implementation Roadmaps And Measurements

- The WSIS Action Lines describe ambitions, but not how to achieve them. An effective implementation roadmap fixes that gap if it organizes priorities, sets milestones, and establishes how progress will be measured.
- Effective roadmaps are crucial to:
 - Operationalize commitments.
 - Focus efforts and conversations.
 - Create the basis for meaningful stocktaking.
- Roadmaps shouldn't be seen as static documents. They set a direction and a structure to get there, but our understanding of what works may evolve as implementation progresses.



What A Useful Roadmap Looks Like

A useful roadmap has the following characteristics:

- Current situation.
- Context.
- Theory of change.
- Metrics and targets.
- Stakeholders and partnerships.
- Responsibilities and reviews.



All roadmaps have **dependencies**, such as data availability or coordination across action lines. These dependencies **need to be addressed as part of their design**, not as an afterthought.



Strengthening the IGF

The IGF's Permanent Mandate
As A Starting Point



The IGF should be the place where the multistakeholder approach demonstrates its effectiveness on the most pressing issues.



Strengthening The Internet Governance Forum

The following recommendations are based on contributions to an Internet Society community consultation in early 2026:

- **Secure sustainable funding from the global to the local.** A permanent IGF needs sustainable funding on the global front (through the UN Trust Fund), but also to support the IGF processes between its annual meetings, including the national, regional, sub-regional, and youth initiatives.
- **Broaden government participation.** Our community has made it clear that increasing government participation at the IGF should uphold the carefully balanced outcome of the WSIS+20 review. Collaborating with governments in articulating their policy and capacity development needs shouldn't be a parallel discussion.
- **Connect the IGF ecosystem and align it to the WSIS framework.** A significant part of the IGF's value stems from its intersessional activities. Channeling these into the strengthened reporting structure created by the WSIS+20 review will be crucial.



Getting Financing Right

No Single Model Can Bridge The Financing
Gap On Its Own



New Financing Mechanisms Have Emerged To
Address The Current Gaps By Combining The
Strengths Of Public, Private, And Philanthropic
Capital In Ways None Can Achieve Independently



Getting Financing Right

The WSIS+20 outcome document called upon the ITU to establish a taskforce to assess existing gaps and develop recommendations about financial mechanisms to bridge the digital divides.

We strongly encourage the task force to consider two approaches that have emerged as the most promising for scaling impact:

- **Blended Financing.** This approach leverages catalytic capital from public or philanthropic sources to increase private-sector investment and advance sustainable development. Its objective is not to substitute for private capital.
- **Collaborative Financing.** In this approach, funders with like-minded objectives pool resources to share risks and amplify impact to address development challenges. By pursuing a collective approach, funders can achieve deeper, broader engagement that they can through grants alone.



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