

Suggestions for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025

Innovative Ideas: What new ideas or changes would make the event structure and programming more impactful? *E.g. Matchmaking and partnership activities between countries and sectors*

We welcome the opportunity to provide comments for this important event and the WSIS as a transformative platform.

To make the WSIS High-Level Event's (HLE) structure and programming more impactful, the HLE should create an inclusive, vibrant space for more meaningful interaction between countries, different sectors, relevant UN agencies and stakeholders, including the private sector, academic and technical community, civil society and governments.

The participation of the technical community at HLE provides essential technical expertise to the WSIS review dialogue, offering rich insights into the design and operation of ICTs and communications systems shaping the future for sustainable development.

Youth perspectives should be integrated into main sessions, ensuring both age and gender balance. This inclusive environment would allow for a holistic approach to the WSIS+20 assessment as well as the creation of partnership initiatives throughout the HLE week to advance global efforts towards a free, open and secure digital future.

Additionally, the HLE program should focus on showcasing Action Line-related partnerships that bridge digital divides and support connectivity in developing countries, such as Partner2Connect, where we contribute.

Alignment with the SDGs: How can the WSIS+20 High-Level Event better support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? What new strategies should be considered in light of the UNGA WSIS+20 Review?

The **WSIS+20 High-Level Event** can better support the **SDGs** by prioritising digital inclusion, secure infrastructure development, and multistakeholder collaboration. Given the UNGA WSIS+20 review, new strategies should focus on enhancing digital governance frameworks, addressing emerging technologies, and fostering sustainable ICT development.

In the UNGA WSIS+20 review, key strategies include:

- **Strengthening Inclusive Governance:** Promote multistakeholder, open, and transparent ICT policy development.
- **Expanding Resilient ICT Infrastructure:** Specific examples include accelerated IPv6 deployment, affordable connectivity, and local infrastructure investment.
- **Enhancing Digital Skills and Capacity Building**

- **Fostering Global Cooperation:** Leverage and connect different stakeholder group efforts with regional and global Internet governance processes such as the IGF, WSIS Forum, and other multistakeholder initiatives to align digital policies.
- **Bridging the Digital and Data Divide:** Promote universal access, interoperability, and sustainable financing mechanisms.
- **Encouraging Sustainable ICT Policies:** Integrate environmentally responsible practices into digital transformation efforts.

As much as underlying digital technologies are fundamental for achieving the SDGs, so is multistakeholder collaboration among governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical and academic communities in their respective roles by working together to create well-informed, effective and supportive digital SDG policies.

Key Topics for the High-Level Segment: What are the most pressing global issues or emerging trends that should be highlighted during the High-Level Segment to stay relevant and impactful?

The High-Level Segment should prioritise critical global issues that include digital inclusion and connectivity. Additionally, AI governance and emerging technologies must be addressed by promoting interoperability, ethical deployment, and regulatory alignment for AI, IoT, and blockchain.

Strengthening cybersecurity and trust is also essential to ensure secure Internet infrastructure, data protection, and digital resilience against cyber threats.

Furthermore, multistakeholder Internet governance should be leveraged to support open consultations and collaborative processes to shape inclusive, transparent, and effective ICT public policies. This approach strengthens trust among diverse stakeholders, enhances legitimacy, and ensures policies reflect the broad interests of the global digital community.

Finally, discussions should centre on the future of global digital cooperation, focusing on improvements to multilateral and multistakeholder frameworks that would drive an inclusive and sustainable digital future, recognising the need for a multistakeholder approach, non-duplication and better coordination of governance spaces and NETmundial+10 guidance.

Format for High-Level Segment: What interactive formats could make the High-Level Segment more dynamic and engaging?

To make the WSIS+20 High-Level Segment more dynamic and engaging, the event should adopt innovative and interactive formats that enhance inclusive participation. One key approach is the introduction of remote participation hubs to broaden access and engagement. These hubs would enable real-time interaction, ensuring that voices from diverse regions contribute to the global discussion while showcasing the role of ICT in addressing digital and environmental challenges.

Additionally, the event could incorporate live polls, interactive Q&A sessions, and rapid-fire debates to facilitate direct engagement among policymakers, technical experts, and

stakeholders. Thematic roundtables, fireside chats, and AI-powered networking can further enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing with integrated insights from the analysis of responses received via the Open Consultation Processes.

Visibility of Local and Cross-Sectoral Initiatives: How can we better highlight local and cross-sectoral efforts during the event to inspire wider participation?

To better highlight local and cross-sectoral initiatives during the event and inspire wider participation, the High-Level Event (HLE) should highlight successful cross-sector collaborations, such as financial and IT sector partnerships, to demonstrate the transformative impact of digital solutions. Featuring case studies from diverse industries can illustrate how ICT advancements drive innovation, security, and economic growth across multiple domains.

Additionally, the HLE should include a parallel session dedicated to the importance of regional ICT capacity-building programmes led by the technical community in different regions such as South Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia or other parts of the developing world. This session can spotlight initiatives that have successfully enhanced Internet resilience, digital skills, and policy development, encouraging greater involvement from governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

By elevating these efforts, the event can foster stronger multistakeholder engagement and collaboration on a global scale.

Inclusive Participation: How can we design the parallel sessions to ensure diverse and balanced participation?

To ensure diverse and balanced participation in parallel sessions, the WSIS+20 High-Level Event should adopt inclusive design principles that actively engage underrepresented voices, regional perspectives, and cross-sectoral expertise. Each session should feature a balanced mix of speakers, including government representatives, the technical community, civil society, academia, and the private sector, ensuring gender, geographic, and stakeholder diversity. However, if possible, the number of parallel sessions should be limited.

WSIS Action Lines Stocktaking

Please refer to the [WSIS+20 Review Action Lines: Milestones, Challenges and Emerging Trends beyond 2025](#) documents prepared by the WSIS Action Line facilitators.

What are the main achievements in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines in the past 20 years?

C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

The WSIS established a shared vision for the global Information Society, recognising the foundational role of the Internet and ICTs in securing sustainable development. Promoting ICTs for development requires the engagement of all stakeholders, each contributing according to their roles, responsibilities and capabilities.

For instance, there are many examples of successful government collaboration with the technical community. The technical community continues to improve and promote ICT technologies to better suit the expanding use cases the ICTs are being applied to and to better serve people around the world, e.g. in the areas of improving security or resilience.

C2. Information and communication infrastructure

Significant progress has been made in information and communication infrastructure, particularly in technological innovation and connectivity.

The role of the technical community and the private sector has been essential to the growth of the Internet and how many people use it today. Other stakeholders, like governments and civil society, also continue to contribute to this effort.

The inclusive and open governance model led by technical organisations like the IETF, RIRs and ICANN has been instrumental in managing the Internet's core infrastructure by ensuring its stability and contributing to policy development.

This collaborative approach, where no single stakeholder can drive progress alone, fosters cooperation among diverse actors to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

C3. Access to information and knowledge

We recognise that the Internet and ICTs improve opportunities for access to information and knowledge. Affordability of access remains an important area to address, especially in the developing world, as well as strengthening support for the digital commons.

C4. Capacity building

It is critically important to continue capacity-building efforts in upscaling network connectivity. Technical community organisations such as the RIPE NCC actively contribute in efforts to accelerate progress across the digitally focused SDGs, especially in the areas of connectivity and deployment of resilient digital infrastructure such as global Internet routing (SDG 9 and SDG 11) but also in supporting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), Network Operators' Groups (NOGs), training and upskilling of network engineers.

C5. Building confidence and security in use of ICTs

To improve confidence-building and security in the use of ICTs, this Action Line should be further sharpened to include multistakeholder participation, ensuring that

technological expertise is an essential element in shaping public policy. It should take into consideration the fundamental nature of communication systems such as the Internet and how one organises security. A dialogue with the technical community on complex Internet-related issues would inform policy development in this area, such as by sharing the availability of our regional training programmes for upskilling in security when using ICTs.

C6. Enabling environment

No response

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-government

The Internet and ICTs continue to power all C7 E-applications and remain the driver for innovation. The underlying infrastructure, the Internet, worked well during the pandemic and powered government platforms, applications and services. That said, it is essential to maintain interoperability, as well as to address further challenges, including the digital divide.

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-business

See above

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-learning

See above

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-health

See above

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-employment

See above

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-environment

See above

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-agriculture

See above

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-science

See above

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

No response

C9. Media

No response

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

As digital technologies continue to evolve and impact various sectors, such as education, the ethical implications become increasingly significant. This calls for a renewed focus on ethical governance.

C11. International and regional cooperation

We note the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as the primary multistakeholder platform for discussing Internet governance issues. Its central role in fostering global digital dialogue and cooperation has been reaffirmed through its endorsement by WSIS and the Global Digital Compact.

Leveraging the IGF multistakeholder national, regional and youth initiatives (NRIs) can enhance efforts to implement the SDGs and strengthen international and regional cooperation. Nongovernmental stakeholders - including the private sector, academia, the technical community and civil society - play an important role in creating opportunities for international and regional cooperation.

What are the key challenges in implementing the WSIS Action Lines and what areas that have not been adequately captured by the framework of the existing 11 WSIS Action Lines that would need to be addressed beyond 2025?

C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

Significant challenges remain in the global capacity to implement Action Lines. We must strengthen an inclusive and open governance approach to address diverse global challenges. Therefore, the WSIS Action Lines must fully integrate the private sector, civil society, academia and the technical community, as well as better incorporate the WSIS outcomes and the IGF reports into policy sessions.

C2. Information and communication infrastructure

Technological advancements outpace regulatory frameworks, and we emphasise the need to:

- Preserve the interoperability, availability and integrity of the global Internet, which supports the Action Lines.

- Re-focus on closing the digital divide and safeguarding open standards, recognising the importance of governance structures like the IETF, ICANN, and the RIRs.
- Strengthen the technical community's role by enhancing information-sharing and communication between the technical community, governments, and other stakeholders.

C3. Access to information and knowledge

Improve the Digital Literacy and Skills Gap - A substantial portion of the global population lacks the skills to participate in the digital era effectively. Addressing this gap is critical.

C4. Capacity building

No response

C5. Building confidence and security in use of ICTs

No response

C6. Enabling environment

WSIS has created a vision for the Information Society, and the Action Lines are still as relevant today as they were 20 years ago. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) can be more effectively integrated beyond 2025, while the Action lines should remain technology-neutral.

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-government

No response

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-business

No response

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-learning

No response

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-health

No response

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-employment

No response

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No response

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-agriculture

No response

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life — E-science

No response

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

No response

C9. Media

No response

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

No response

C11. International and regional cooperation

No response

What are the key emerging issues and trends in the field of ICTs for development that should be taken into consideration for the WSIS+20 review?

Some key emerging issues and trends are that relevant stakeholders need to be involved per issue to provide efficient solutions for the challenges ahead. The development of new emerging technologies needs agile and inclusive governance models.

Looking ahead to WSIS+20 and beyond, what is your vision for the future of the WSIS process and its role in shaping the global digital agenda?

There is considerable opportunity to enhance multistakeholder processes like the IGF and WSIS Forum by expanding their scope and establishing a more stable and permanent foundation. The IGF and WSIS should be strengthened to adequately provide more effective input into policy development processes. A permanent IGF mandate, complemented by a periodic 10-year review process, would help ensure its long-term sustainability and relevance.

Session Request

Are you interested in organizing a session at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025?

Please note, this form is for a single session request. If you have multiple session proposals, please fill out a separate form for each one.

Yes No

Please provide the title of your proposed session.

Technical Community and Governments: A Successful Model of Multistakeholder Collaboration for Achieving the SDGs

Please specify the organiser(s) of your proposed session.

The Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC) and
The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission in Jordan (TRC)

Please provide a brief description of your proposed session, including speaker names and their affiliations, and the session format.

This high-level session will showcase the technical community's successful collaboration with governments, exemplifying the WSIS multistakeholder spirit in action to support the Sustainable Development Goals. The discussion will explore real-world examples from around the globe of how joint initiatives in Internet infrastructure development and capacity building have fostered inclusive and secure Internet environments, driving social and economic progress.

Speakers:

- Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)
- National Regulatory Agencies
- Government representatives
- ITU-UNDP programme on Cyber Development and capacity building to build Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Digital Ecosystems

Names:

- Hans Petter Holen, CEO and Managing Director - The Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)
- Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan
- Zdravko Jukic, HAKOM, Croatian Regulatory Agency, Croatia
- ITU

Session Format

The session will feature a moderated panel discussion followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience. Each speaker will present their insights on collaborative approaches and

collective dialogue that highlights best practices, challenges, and pathways forward for leveraging multistakeholder partnerships to achieve the SDGs.

This proposal reflects the RIPE NCC's commitment to an open, bottom-up, inclusive, and secure Internet, and underlines our ongoing efforts to drive global dialogue and policy development that resonate with the core values of WSIS.

Secondly, this session will demonstrate the importance of the technical community's foundational role in the design of communication systems, such as the Internet, as well as in the operation of the Internet's core infrastructure. The session would provide examples why and how technological aspects are essential for the creation of digital public policies.

The WSIS Secretariat may merge sessions with similar themes due to a high number of session requests. If necessary, are you open to merging your session with similar proposals?

Please note, selecting to opt out of merging your session will lower the chances of your request being accepted.

Yes No

Exhibition Request

Would you like to request an exhibition space at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025?

Please specify the theme of your stall.

Please specify any requirements for your stall.

Yes No

Sponsorship

Would you like to sponsor a coffee break or reception at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025?

Yes No

The WSIS Forum relies on extrabudgetary funding each year to cover operational costs through strategic partnerships. Would you like to become a sponsor and serve as the digital transformation partner for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025?

Yes No

Can you suggest any partnerships or collaborations that could enhance the implementation of WSIS 2025 and beyond?

We are proud to highlight our joint declaration with the ITU-D, which demonstrates the work the technical community is doing through organising capacity-building programmes in the region, which includes 76 countries and territories. The declaration was signed this year and will continue beyond WSIS+20.