

# Global Digital Rights Coalition for WSIS (GDRC-WSIS)

## Input to the Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document

<b>Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Priority themes</b>	<b>3</b>
Introduction	3
Bridging Digital Divides	5
Digital Public Goods and Digital Public Infrastructure	7
The enabling environment for digital development	8
Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	8
Financial mechanisms	9
Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society	10
Data Governance	15
Artificial intelligence	16
Internet Governance	19
The development of the WSIS framework	21

## Overview

The Global Digital Rights Coalition for WSIS (GDRC-WSIS) welcomes the publication of the Zero Draft. In our view, the Draft positively advances on the earlier Elements Paper and marks an important step towards the eventual outcome document of the review process.

We appreciate that the Co-Facilitators held or engaged in multiple consultations across different timezones, bringing together governments and other stakeholders, and using these consultations as the basis for the Zero Draft, in line with the recommendations of the cross-stakeholder community in the [Five-Point Plan](#) and its [Eight Practical Recommendations](#). As the process moves toward intergovernmental negotiations, we encourage the Co-Facilitators to fully implement these recommendations, in particular by enabling stakeholders to observe all intergovernmental preparatory meetings and providing post-session transcripts and limiting any closed-door intergovernmental negotiations to the final stage of the process, to facilitate an open and transparent process. These measures are even more important given the increased difficulty facing civil society in travelling to the United States in the face of the expanded targeting of non-profits and civil society groups, alongside increased restrictions on non-US citizens, which may affect their ability to participate in the review process in person.

We welcome that the Zero Draft anchors the WSIS in international human rights law, which underlines the centrality of human rights-based Internet governance, and reaffirms the multistakeholder principles of meaningful cooperation and engagement. We also applaud the Zero Draft establishing the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a permanent body, taking steps to integrate the Global Digital Compact (GDC) into the WSIS framework, and guaranteeing alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **In our view,**

**the following elements of the Draft are critically important and should be retained in successive drafts and defended throughout the negotiation process:**

- **Multistakeholder cooperation and engagement:** Paragraphs 3 and 120 which reaffirm multistakeholder cooperation and engagement as the guiding principles and foundational values of the WSIS.
- **International Law:** Paragraphs 1, 9 and 10 of the Introduction which anchor the WSIS in international law, including international human rights law, which is one of the three pillars of the United Nations.
- **Gender:** Paragraph 13 of the Introduction which requires gender mainstreaming through the WSIS Action Lines with specific goals, targets and indicators, and efforts to counter and eliminate technology-facilitated gender-based violence in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, the GDC and the agreed conclusions of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- **Human Rights and Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society:** The entirety of the Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society section, paragraphs 77 to 93, which is founded on existing references within the UN system to states' existing international human rights law obligations. We specifically highlight:
  - Paragraphs 77, 78 and 79, 82 which reaffirm the centrality of international human rights law and framework to achieving the objectives of the WSIS and digital development, and the need to anchor Internet governance and digital policy in human rights.
  - Paragraphs 80 and 81 which recall the obligations of States to respect, protect and promote human rights, and derived from these obligations, the duty to adopt and effectively enforce laws that require the private sector to comply with international human rights law, including safeguards, oversight and remedies to effectively protect human rights.
  - We applaud the explicit reference to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in paragraph 83. Read together, paragraphs 81 and 83 appear to reference the duties of the private sector to apply human rights due diligence throughout the technological lifecycle. This is positive, but we give concrete language suggestions on page 7 in the human rights section on how to make the duties of the private sector to undertake human rights due diligence and human rights impact assessments clearer.
  - References in paragraphs 87 and 89 on the necessity for any restrictions to the enjoyment of qualified human rights to be tested against human rights principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. This is positive, but we also provide concrete language suggestions on pages 10 and 12 in the human rights section to clarify that international human rights law also requires state parties to refrain from or cease the use of digital technologies that are fundamentally incompatible with human rights.
  - Detailed references to the right to freedom of expression, right to privacy, the independence of the media and the safety of journalists in paragraphs 85, 86 and 90, consistent with existing international human rights law instruments.
  - Paragraphs 84 and 130 which reflect the mandate of the OHCHR within the UN system to advance human rights in the context of digital technologies and mainstream human rights across the work of the UN system. The OHCHR's

leadership role in digital governance was recognised in the GDC, including the voluntary Digital Human Rights Advisory Service (paragraphs 24 and 69).

- **Internet Governance:** Paragraphs 104 and 106 which recognise the open, free, global, interoperable, reliable and secure nature of the Internet and reject state-controlled or fragmented Internet architectures.
- **The Internet Governance Forum:** Paragraph 115 which unequivocally decides the permanence of the IGF.
- **Alignment between WSIS and other UN processes:** Paragraphs 8, 19, 119, 122, 124, 135, 140, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147 and 148 which ensure alignment between the WSIS, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the GDC, making practical requests to integrate the GDC commitments into the WSIS architecture, ensuring a unified approach to digital cooperation.

While we welcome these aspects, we highlight the need to strengthen the Draft with resourced and holistic strategies to implement its commitments on human rights, gender mainstreaming, financing and capacity building, and guarantee an open, inclusive, transparent, people-centred and rights-based approach to WSIS implementation. We are also concerned that, as presently drafted, the Draft's approach risks inadvertently narrowing the mandate of the IGF by failing to expressly recognise the evolution of Internet governance and the role of the IGF, which risks an interpretation of internet governance and the IGF that isolate them from broader digital technology policy and governance.

**In the following sections, we highlight areas where the Draft should be revised or reinforced, providing alternative language proposals supported by references from the UN system where possible. Where we propose the inclusion of further text, it is highlighted in bold and where further explanation is warranted this is included in the right hand column under references.**

## Priority themes

### Introduction

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
3	We reaffirm the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception, and recognise that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, with balanced representation of all countries has been and continues to be vital in developing the Information Society, including the implementation of Summit outcomes. <b>We note the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, agreed upon at NetMundial+10, and reinforce the need for meaningful engagement of all stakeholders in multilateral and multistakeholder processes of digital policy-making.</b>	Based on text in <a href="#">Report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years</a> , page 99
4	We reaffirm that the full inclusion of developing country governments and other	We propose

	<p>stakeholders is critical to achieving the WSIS vision. Addressing this requires attention to capacity building, the sharing, transfer and development of technology, and financial resources to promote equitable access and innovation. <b>Such cooperation should be conducted on mutually agreed terms and be accompanied by strengthened investment in developing and implementing effective safeguards, including risk and impact assessments, to protect the exercise of and mitigate against the potential impact on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.</b></p>	<p>additional language to reflect that international cooperation should be conducted on mutually agreed terms and according to human rights safeguards. This language is supported by A/RES/78/265, PP4 and 6, specifically 4(f) and 6(f). The language from “and implementing(…)” verbatim quotes from A/RES/78/265, PP 6(f) except we suggest referring to “digital technologies” more generally, rather than only artificial intelligence applications, to specify that the development and implementation of effective safeguards should be prioritised in tandem with capacity building, and the sharing and transfer and development of all digital technologies.</p>
11	<p>We suggest amending the first line of OP11: We recognise that the achievement of universal <b>and</b> meaningful <b>connectivity</b> and affordable access(...)</p>	<p><a href="#">Global Digital Compact</a> (GDC), OP10</p> <p>Universal and meaningful connectivity is an essential enabler for the enjoyment of all human rights.</p>
15	<p>We recognise that the pace and power of emerging technologies are creating new possibilities but also <b>current and</b> new risks for humanity, some of which <b>are already inflicting harm or</b> are not yet fully known. We recognise the need to</p>	<p>GDC, PP23(b)</p>

	<p><b>establish appropriate safeguards to prevent</b>, identify and mitigate risks <b>and harm and to ensure human rights due diligence</b>, human oversight of technology, and <b>remedy mechanisms</b> in ways that advance sustainable development and the full <b>realisation</b> enjoyment of human rights.</p>	<p>Commitment to the realisation and respect of human rights is paramount. Addressing harm already being caused by digitalisation and emerging technologies is important in addition to understanding and mitigating future risks.</p>
--	--	--

## Bridging Digital Divides

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
24	<p>We are particularly concerned by persistent gender digital divides. Only 77 per cent of women aged ten and over worldwide use a mobile phone compared with 82 per cent of men, while only 65 per cent of women are using the Internet compared with almost 70 per cent of men. <b>Bridging the gender digital divide will require specific measures to ensure that particular attention is paid to access, affordability, digital literacy, privacy and online safety, and efforts to provide opportunities for quality and inclusive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and research and promote women’s and girls’ participation in all roles and at all levels.</b></p> <p><b>We highlight the need for multistakeholder approaches to bridge gender digital divides, including by taking targeted measures to address the growing digital divides within and among countries in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, through, inter alia, strengthened enabling policy environments at all levels and legal and regulatory frameworks. This also includes improving coherence of policy actions for the elimination and prevention of gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technologies around principles focusing on victim- and/or survivor-centered approaches with full respect for human rights, access to justice, transparency, accountability and proportionality.</b></p>	<p>The proposal for an additional sentence beginning “Bridging the(…)” references verbatim UNGA, A/RES/78/213, OP11 and GDC, OP13(h).</p> <p>The proposal for additional text beginning “We highlight (…)” draws from CSW 67 Agreed Conclusions, para 86, before verbatim quoting para 86(e). The final sentence verbatim quotes from CSW 67 Agreed Conclusions, para 58.</p>
New 25bis	<p><b>We recommend adequate measures to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in shaping interventions that promote their access to the</b></p>	<p>Based on operationalising</p>

	<p>information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the internet including adequate budgets.</p> <p>We urge Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to close the digital divides and promote the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities, addressing the challenges associated with accessibility, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills, and awareness.</p> <p>We urge States to promote and facilitate access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, especially new and emerging ones, including information and communications systems, mobility aids, assistive devices and other assistive technologies, by persons with disabilities, and to promote research and development in this regard, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimal cost and at an early stage.</p> <p>To this end, we urge all stakeholders to include persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of national strategies for digital connectivity.</p> <p>We further urge States to promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information, to provide information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities using accessible formats and technologies useful for persons with different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost, and to expand the availability and improve the affordability of information and communications technologies, as well as to facilitate cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>A/RES/78/195, PP29</p> <p>A/RES/78/195, OP21</p> <p>A/RES/78/195, OP23</p> <p>Based on operationalising PP29 A/RES/78/195</p> <p>A/RES/78/195, OP20</p> <p>Additional precision would be welcome in this section given that this is a key challenge for bridging digital divides.</p>
New 27 bis	<p>We call on all governments to accelerate efforts to bridge digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and to ensure meaningful connectivity, use of information and communications technology, promotion of an open and secure digital access and digital inclusion, including through digital, media and information literacy in order to promote the full enjoyment of human rights for all, including inter alia by (a) fostering an enabling online environment that is safe and conducive to engagement by all, without discrimination and with consideration for individuals facing systemic inequalities; (b) applying a comprehensive human rights-based approach in providing and expanding access to information and communications technology; (c) Encouraging diverse and rights-respecting technological solutions to advance connectivity, including by creating an enabling and inclusive regulatory environment for small, non-profit and community Internet operators; and (d) Facilitating easy, prompt, effective and practical access to public information and proactively disclosing information held by public bodies as a means of intensifying efforts to advance universal and meaningful connectivity.</p>	<p>Verbatim OP6 chapeau; (a); part of (d); (e); and (f) of A/HRC/RES/57/29</p>
28	<p>We are determined to ensure the achievement of universal meaningful and affordable access to the Internet and digital services, including the availability of networks offering higher capabilities, the affordability of access, data and devices,</p>	<p>This text reflects practical methods of operationalising OP</p>

	<p>the availability of content and services that respond to users' priorities and needs, the extent to which these are multilingual, and the capabilities and resources required to make effective use of them, including information literacy, and to ensure that no one will be left behind in the Information Society</p> <p><b>We urge the concerted use of universal access approaches, such as the utilisation of Universal Service Access Funds, to progressively realise universal access for all. We also urge the financial support for community-centred connectivity initiatives and other local-led strategies to enhance affordable access to information and communications technologies and the Internet.</b></p> <p><b>We urge States to ensure universal access to digital devices and reliable and affordable electricity and telephone services, and reliable, open, safe and affordable access to the Internet for students, families, communities and educational institutions.</b></p>	<p>11(c) of the Global Digital Compact</p> <p>A/HRC/57/28, OP 104(b)</p>
--	---	--

## Digital Public Goods and Digital Public Infrastructure

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
20	<p>...We recognise that there are multiple models of digital public infrastructure, and we recognise that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its particular priorities and needs.</p> <p><b>Central to the implementation of digital public goods and digital public infrastructures are robust human rights and governance frameworks to enhance trust in technology and data use, while ensuring inclusion and fairness.</b></p> <p><b>Harms to individuals may not be immediately obvious. A human rights-based framework should be integrated throughout the DPI life cycle to anticipate, assess, and effectively mitigate any potential human rights harms and power differentials. These include, but are not limited to systemic exclusion, discrimination, surveillance, and privacy violations.</b></p> <p><b>The adoption of safeguards related to digital identity is critical for Governments and the United Nations as they strive to realize its full utility and potential while building trust in its use. This includes, for instance, efforts such as decentralized data storage, data minimisation and transparency, identification and authentication, encrypted communications, civil society participation, independent oversight mechanisms, and considering the incorporation of "privacy by design" principles.</b></p>	<p><a href="#">A/74/821</a>, para 25, reinforced with reference to Operational principle 6 of UN Universal Digital Public Infrastructure Safeguards Initiative (fairness).</p> <p>UN Universal Digital Public Infrastructure Safeguards Initiative, <a href="#">Universal DPI Safeguards Framework</a>, from section Foundational principles: The building blocks for safe and inclusive DPI, F1; and references to <a href="#">F2 (discrimination)</a>, <a href="#">F3 (exclusion)</a>, <a href="#">F5 and Operational principle 3</a> read with para 49, <a href="#">A/74/821</a> (surveillance and privacy).</p>

		<a href="#">A/74/821</a> , para 48 reinforced by references to Operational principle 3 (data minimisation and transparency), Operational principle 7 (civil society participation), Foundational principle 4 (independent oversight).
--	--	---

## The enabling environment for digital development

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
57	We recognise that certain policies have substantially contributed to bridging digital divides and the value of information and communications technologies for sustainable development. We commit to continuing <b>to mainstream information and communication technologies in school curricula, open access to data, the fostering of competition</b> and to identify and implement best and emerging practices for the establishment and functioning of education, innovation and investment frameworks for information and communications technologies.	A/RES/70/125, OP29
58	We note the importance of <b>the creation of transparent, independent, and non discriminatory</b> legal and regulatory frameworks, <b>proportional taxation, licensing fees, access to finance, facilitation of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder cooperation, infrastructure-sharing models, community-based approaches</b> concerned with the deployment of digital services, including those concerned with market structure, <b>existing concentrations of technological capacity and market power</b> digital transactions, data protection and data privacy, consumer rights and intellectual property, human rights and environmental impacts <b>with effective sanctions and appropriate remedies, that protects individuals against violations and abuses of their human rights in the digital context.</b>	A/RES/70/125, OP29 GDC, OP8(f) A/REC/78/213, OP3(a)

## Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
62	We reaffirm that strengthening confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies is a crucial driver for innovation, sustainable development, <b>and the resilient functioning of digital systems, networks, and data.</b> We reaffirm that building confidence and security must be balanced with and consistent with the full respect for human rights, <b>including privacy and freedom of expression.</b>	Global Digital Compact, paragraph 13 (e), 30.  This adds language from the GDC to clarify that the resilient functioning of the digital



		systems, networks and data that we rely on requires confidence and security in the use of ICTs, and to highlight potential impact on specific rights.
64	We recognise that we must urgently counter and address all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, all forms of hate speech and discrimination, misinformation and disinformation, cyberbullying and child sexual exploitation and abuse. We will establish and maintain robust <b>and transparent risk mitigation and redress measures that protect human rights, including privacy and freedom of expression, whilst promoting confidence and security in the use of ICTs.</b>	This adds novel language to Global Digital Compact, paragraph 30 to clarify that risk mitigation and redress measures should aim to identify, eliminate and mitigate adverse impacts relating to all human rights, including privacy and freedom of expression, with the aim of enhancing confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

## Financial mechanisms

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
72	We recognise that harnessing ICTs for development and bridging digital divides will require further sustained investment in infrastructure and services, capacity-building, promotion of joint research and development and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, with public as well as private investment. <b>We commit to establishing a dedicated taskforce anchored in the WSIS architecture to explore and propose financing mechanisms, building on the recommendations of the UN's 2025 Financing for Development Conference.</b>	This suggestion draws on recommendations in the <a href="#">Outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development</a> .
75	We recognise the critical importance of private sector investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, content and services, and we encourage Governments to create legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to increased investment and innovation <b>which ensure the private sector protects and respects human rights and holds companies accountable to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</b>  <b>However, equitable and meaningful inclusion in the digital economy requires tackling existing concentrations of technological capacity and market power. Our cooperation will aim to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development.</b>	The first language suggestion draws on Zero Draft OP83, GDC OP22, OP25(b)  GDC, OP8(f)  GDC, OP11(b)

	<b>We recognise that there are multiple methods of developing innovative and blended financing mechanisms and incentives, including in collaboration with Governments, multilateral development banks, relevant international organizations and the private sector.</b>	
76	We recognise that development partners, including regional development banks, and public funding have also played an important role in financing information and communications networks and services, particularly supporting their deployment in areas that have been considered commercially unviable. Innovative mechanisms, including universal access funds and community networks, have contributed to extending connectivity in remote areas <b>and we commit to create an enabling environment for their financing.</b>	Based on text from the GDC, OP11(b)

## Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
77	We recognize that human rights have been central to the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society and that information and communications technologies have shown their potential to strengthen the exercise of human rights, enabling access to information, <b>the right to privacy</b> , freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association.	We propose the inclusion of the right to privacy as a key human right, in line with its mention in paragraph 89 of the Zero Draft.
80	We recall the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 78/213 on 22 December 2023, which set out principles and actions concerning the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies, and commit to respect, protect and promote human rights in the digital space. <b>We recognize the need for accountability and effective measures to prevent, mitigate and remedy potential and adverse human rights impacts of digital technologies</b> and we will uphold international human rights law throughout the life cycle of digital and emerging technologies, so that users can safely benefit from digital technologies and are protected from violations, abuses and all forms of discrimination.	A/RES/78/213, PP13
81	We commit to establish appropriate safeguards to prevent and address any adverse impact on human rights arising from the use of digital and emerging technologies and protect individuals against violations and abuses of their human rights in the digital space, including through <b>regular, comprehensive human rights impact assessments of digital technologies</b> , human rights due diligence, including effective oversight, and remedy mechanisms.	A/RES/78/213, OP20(a)
83	We recognise the responsibilities of all stakeholders in this endeavour. We	UNGA A/RES/78/213,

	<p>call on the private sector and all relevant stakeholders to ensure that respect for human rights is incorporated into the conception, design, development, deployment, operation, use, evaluation, <b>sale, procurement</b> and regulation of all new and emerging digital technologies <b>in order to prevent and mitigate their adverse human rights impacts, and ensuring effective remedies as well as human oversight, accountability and legal responsibility. This should include</b> redress and effective remedy for the human rights abuses that they may cause, contribute to, or to which they may be directly linked. We also call on the private sector to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>	<p>OP20(a)</p> <p>This reference is also supported by GDC, OP25 and OP31.</p>
--	---	---

New 87bis	<p><b>We urge all Member States and, where applicable, other stakeholders to prevent harm to individuals caused by digital technologies, including artificial intelligence applications, and to refrain from or cease the use of digital technologies that are impossible to operate in compliance with international human rights law or that pose undue risks to the enjoyment of human rights, unless and until the adequate safeguards to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms are in place.</b></p>	<p>The language proposal is verbatim A/RES/78/213 OP 20(b), except we suggest referring to "digital technologies" more generally, rather than only artificial intelligence applications as this principle should apply to all digital technologies.</p> <p>Further support for this language proposal can be found in A/RES/78/213, PP12; <a href="#">A/RES/78/265</a>, OP5; A/HRC/RES/59/11, OP4; and <a href="#">A/HRC/RES/58/23</a>, OP9b.</p> <p>The WSIS outcome document needs to explicitly recognise that some technologies can never be justified under international human rights law and must not be used. As an example, emotion recognition technologies are fundamentally flawed and can never be justified under international human rights law, including the narrowly defined tests of necessity, proportionality, legality, and legitimacy.</p>
-----------	---	---

New 88bis	<p><b>Member States should refrain from imposing restrictions on the free flow of information and ideas that are inconsistent with relevant obligations under international law, including articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, through practices such as the use of Internet shutdowns and online censorship to intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or the dissemination of information, including through the use of blocking, throttling or filtering measures, and from using digital technologies to silence, unlawfully or arbitrarily surveil or harass individuals or groups, including in the context of peaceful assemblies.</b></p>	<p>We propose a new paragraph to specifically address Internet shutdowns and restrictions. This proposal is supported by A/RES/78/213, PP21 and A/HRC/RES/57/29, OP9 .</p> <p>This language proposal is taken verbatim from A/RES/78/213, OP18 - with addition of "including through the use of blocking, throttling or filtering measures". This edit is verbatim from a recent HRC resolution on human rights defenders and new and emerging technologies ( A/HRC/RES/58/23, OP9j).</p> <p>Aside from full-scale shutdowns, authoritarian governments are increasingly ordering internet platforms to block, filter, and throttle certain types of content as a form of censorship. These methods allow authorities to shape, restrict, or monitor internet access and communication, leaving the impression that the internet is 'still on' but rendered partially or almost entirely unusable for many practical purposes. This is the most common method of internet disruption seen in certain areas.</p>
-----------	--	---

89	<p>We express deep concern regarding the development of technologies and practices that facilitate surveillance that may jeopardise the right to privacy. We call on Member States <b>and, where applicable, other stakeholders to refrain from or cease the use of surveillance technologies that are impossible to operate in compliance with international human rights law</b> and to ensure that targeted surveillance technologies are only used in accordance with the human rights principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and that legal mechanisms of redress and effective remedies are available for victims of surveillance related violations and abuses. <b>We call on Member States to review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law.</b></p>	<p>For references to refraining from use of technologies incompatible with human rights law see A/RES/78/265, OP5 and A/RES/78/213, OP20(b), A/HRC/RES/58/23, OP9(b).</p> <p>UNGA <a href="#">A/RES/68/167</a>, OP4(c)</p>
90	<p>We underscore the need to respect the independence of media, including digital media. We express particular concern about increased threats to the safety of journalists. We reaffirm that digital transformation must serve to uphold and advance, not restrict, fundamental rights and freedoms. We emphasise the crucial importance of safeguarding journalists, media workers, whistleblowers, human rights defenders and other civil society actors, who are increasingly targeted through digital means and <b>we emphasize that, in the digital age, encryption and anonymity tools have become vital to freely exercise their work and their enjoyment of human rights, including to secure their communications and to protect the confidentiality of their sources.</b> In this context, we <b>urge Member States not to interfere with the use by journalists and media workers of such technologies and to ensure that any restrictions thereon comply with the obligations of States under international human rights law.</b> We call on all stakeholders to prevent and respond to online and offline threats, including harassment, mass surveillance, and arbitrary detention linked to their legitimate activities.</p>	<p>A/RES/78/213, OP17</p>

91	<p>We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation of and interference with information in ways that are harmful to societies and individuals and negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. <b>We underline the importance of free, independent, plural, and diverse media and of providing and promoting access to independent, fact-based information to counter disinformation and misinformation.</b></p> <p>We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance and respect in the digital space, as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes. We will strengthen international cooperation, <b>including with technology companies, national human rights institutions and civil society</b> to address the challenge of misinformation and disinformation and hate speech online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with international law.</p> <p>We encourage online platforms, social media companies, to review their business models and ensure that their design and development processes, their business operations, data-collection and data-processing practices are in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and we emphasize the importance of conducting human rights due diligence of their products, particularly of the role of algorithms and ranking systems in amplifying disinformation and hate speech in line with international human rights law.</p>	<p>A/RES/78/213, OP13</p> <p>A/RES/78/213, OP14</p> <p>A/RES/78/213, OP7</p> <p>For further language and supportive references on this topic please see:</p> <p>A/RES/76/227, OP2, OP13</p> <p>GDC, OP35 (a and c)</p>
----	---	--

## Data Governance

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
94	<p>We recognize that responsible and interoperable <b>normative and technical</b> data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation and promote economic growth. <b>We recognize that common data standards and interoperable data exchanges can increase the accessibility and sharing of data and help close data divides. We will enable open data initiatives that are created and managed by all stakeholders, including communities and individuals, to utilize and leverage data for their development and well-being. We reiterate the role of open and inclusive data for public policies, SDG monitoring, and crisis response. States should ensure that any interference with the right to privacy is consistent with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality.</b></p>	<p>GDC, OP41 and 44 A/RES/77/211, OP4</p> <p>Data has taken on a new dimension in both individual and public life, not only identifying people but also determining access to services, benefits, and tools essential for a dignified life in a digitalized society. We encourage States and the international community to adopt a data justice approach, where data governance</p>

		<p>should be subordinated to the objectives of social justice, the reduction of inequalities and structural discrimination, and the strengthening of local capacities, in line with the SDGs. This approach has been significantly considered in international processes, becoming an important perspective to address data governance. We also note the need to avoid fragmented approaches coming from trade agreements, calling for the complementarity of processes, anchored in human rights and consumer rights respect.</p>
New 95 bis	<p><b>We call on States and international organizations to ensure that developing countries, marginalised communities, and Indigenous peoples have not only access but also decision-making power over how the data that affects them is collected, processed, and used, including in AI systems, by recognizing and respecting their knowledge, and own forms of governance, while ensuring their full and informed participation.</b></p> <p><b>Moreover, empower individuals and groups with the ability to consider, give and withdraw their consent to the use of their data and the ability to choose how those data are used, including through legally mandated protections for data privacy and intellectual property.</b></p>	<p>This newly drafted text is based on realising OP16 <a href="#">Declaration on Future Generations</a> on indigenous peoples in reference to data governance addressed in the <a href="#">Global Digital Compact</a> OP39(c)</p>

## Artificial intelligence

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
97	<p>We note the significant developments that have taken place in the Information Society with the emergence in the public sphere of artificial intelligence, which significantly advances the pace and scale with which artificial intelligence is expected to have an impact on many aspects of human societies, and also acknowledge concerns about the potential negative impacts on employment, labour, the environment, human rights, <b>gender equality</b>, and information integrity</p>	<p>We propose the inclusion of gender equality as another aspect where AI is causing or contributing to negative impacts, in line with the</p>



		Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Declaration and Platform for Action, Sustainable Development Goal 5 and other international law treaties and agreements.
New 97(bis)	<b>We emphasize that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected, protected and promoted throughout the life cycle of artificial intelligence systems, calls upon all Member States and, where applicable, other stakeholders to refrain from or cease the use of artificial intelligence systems that are impossible to operate in compliance with international human rights law or that pose undue risks to the enjoyment of human rights, especially of those who are in vulnerable situations, and reaffirms that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including throughout the life cycle of artificial intelligence systems.</b>	Based on A/RES/78/265, OP5 and A/RES/78/213, OP 20(b)  Additional language should be incorporated to underline the application of international human rights law obligations as they relate to AI, which include the obligation to cease the use of systems that are incompatible with international human rights law.
97(bis2)	<b>We note with concern that new technological developments can perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination, including in the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions. We therefore further affirm that gender equality must be embedded as a core principle of artificial intelligence governance.</b>  <b>This requires ensuring gender-disaggregated and inclusive data practices and addressing data gaps and biases. We note that human rights impact assessments are key tools to evaluate potential gender and intersectional harms, as well as regular audits for bias and discrimination in high-risk AI systems.</b>	The first sentence quotes verbatim from CSW 67 Agreed Conclusions, para 38. The following sentences provide recommendations to operationalise this concern, building on the language in A/RES/77/193, PP5 and PP8.
98	<b>We commit to advance equitable and inclusive approaches to harnessing artificial intelligence benefits and mitigating risks in full respect of international law, including international human rights law.</b>	Global Digital Compact, OP52, OP24

	<p><b>We therefore acknowledge the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’ ongoing efforts to provide expert advice and practical guidance, through an advisory service on human rights in the digital space.</b></p>	<p>UNESCO arguably was the first UN agency to focus on AI in their 2018 ethical framework for AI. However, as former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Opinion David Kaye noted in his 2018 General Assembly report “While ethics provide a critical framework for working through particular challenges in the field of artificial intelligence, it is not a replacement for human rights, to which every State is bound by law.” We therefore underscore the importance of OHCHR’s role in AI, specifically the DHRAS.</p>
100	<p>We request the Secretary General to establish an AI Research programme, leveraging existing UN system-wide capacities and within existing resources, with a particular focus on developing countries with the purpose of increasing AI research expertise in the Global South. <b>This programme should also promote gender balance in participation and ensure dedicated support for women and underrepresented groups in AI research, as well as encourage research on the gendered impacts of AI and the development of gender-responsive AI solutions.</b></p>	<p>This adds new language to operationalise the CSW 67 Agreed Conclusions, para 61, and recommendations by <u>UNESCO</u>. Addressing this gap, as well as the evidence gap on AI-gendered risks, is crucial to ensure both equity and the development of AI solutions that are responsive to diverse social needs.</p>
New 102(bis)	<p><b>We request the relevant Action Line facilitators to incorporate AI into their workplans, especially regarding AI-related capacity-building and</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Swiss language proposals for zero draft July 2025</a>, pg. 2</p>

	multistakeholder participation in AI governance processes, while taking into account relevant GDC commitments.	Please note, now that resolution A/RES/79/325 has passed paragraph 102 could potentially be deleted or amended. Further details on how work on AI across the UN system will be reflected in WSIS+20 would be useful.
--	--	--

## Internet Governance

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
103	<b>We recognize that Internet governance must continue to be global and multi-stakeholder in nature, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical community, academic community and all other relevant stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities.</b> We reaffirm the working definition of Internet governance, <b>set out in paragraph 34 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and elaborated in paragraphs 57-59 of the WSIS+10 Outcome Document and paragraph 27 of the Global Digital Compact.</b>	The Zero Draft should reaffirm the agreements made in the WSIS+10 Outcome Document and the GDC, recognising the multistakeholder nature of Internet governance and the importance of the technical community and academic community as distinct stakeholders.  GDC, OP27  WSIS-05/TUNIS/D OC/6(Rev. 1)-E, OP 34  A/RES/70/125, OPs57-59
112	We applaud the successful development of the Internet Governance Forum, established by the Secretary-General following the World Summit on the Information Society, <b>as the primary multistakeholder platform for</b>	GDC, OP28

	discussion of Internet governance issues, including emerging <b>digital public policy</b> issues, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society <b>and reaffirmed in the Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, adopted at the NetMundial+10 conference held on 29-30 April 2024 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.</b>	Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, adopted at the NetMundial+10 conference held on 29-30 April 2024 in Sao Paulo, Brazil
113	We welcome the evolution of the Internet Governance Forum from an annual meeting into an ecosystem that includes a wide range of intersessional and other activities, <b>including policy networks, best practice forums, and dynamic coalitions that focus multistakeholder discussion on specific topics.</b> We particularly welcome the emergence of more than 170 National and Regional Internet Governance Forums, which have enhanced multistakeholder discussion of relevant issues in all continents, many sub-regions and a majority of Member States. <b>We reiterate the need, however, of greater articulation between the National and Regional Forums with the Global Internet Governance Forum.</b> We also welcome the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Forum's Leadership Panel.	Summary of text in <a href="#">UNCTAD Report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years</a> , pg. 100  Please note the second suggested text on NRIs is based on the Leadership Panel Outlook for IGF p.2: "Indeed, the IGF is the ideal conduit, through the NRIs, for issues of concern to communities at the local level to be heard by policymakers at the national and global levels".
114	We recognise the successful steps that have been taken since the ten-year review of the World Summit to improve the working modalities of the Internet Governance Forum, to increase and broaden the participation of governments and other stakeholders, particularly from developing countries and under-represented groups, build stronger relationships with other digital discussion fora, and enable more substantive outcomes that can achieve greater impact. We call for <b>further enhancing its working methods, including through reinforcing its intersessional work and supporting national and regional initiatives and applying innovative, open, inclusive, transparent and agile collaboration methods, drawing inspiration from the São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, in the development of IGF “Messages” and recommendations.</b> We request the Forum to report	<a href="#">Swiss language proposals for zero draft July 2025</a> , section 7.6

	annually on progress towards their implementation to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.	
118	<p>We call for the strengthening of the Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum, to enable it to continue its development, implement further improvements and support the work of National and Regional Internet Governance Forums and intersessional activities, and invite the Secretary-General <b>to initiate a process of consultation with all relevant stakeholders to feed into a report to be presented to the UNGA, outlining innovative proposals</b> concerning future funding for the Forum. <b>We also reiterate the need to strengthen its organizational evolution, allowing it to be a bridge between multilateral governance processes with the multistakeholder community, preserving flexible modalities of self-organization and its multistakeholder composition.</b></p>	<p>The language in this section is based on the Tunis Agenda OP72 and the Leadership Panel Outlook for the IGF (section on “Permanent institutional structure”, section on “Adaptation of IGF to future needs and evolution of the Internet”)</p> <p>For a reference to the IGF’s role in bridging discussions, please see <a href="#">Tunis Agenda</a>, OP72(b). For a reference to flexible modalities please see OP73(b) <a href="#">Tunis Agenda</a>.</p> <p>Given that stakeholders consistently contribute to the IGF’s, we propose here that they should be consulted on future funding.</p>

## The development of the WSIS framework

Paragraph	Language proposal	References
-----------	-------------------	------------

129	We further request Action Line facilitators to develop implementation roadmaps for their Action Lines, including potential targets, indicators and metrics to facilitate monitoring and measurement, <b>with clarity on the roles of facilitators, including OHCHR, UN-Women, and ODET, amongst others</b> and to report on the outcomes of this review to the 30th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in 2027.	Based on UNCTAD <a href="#">Report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years</a> , and on proposals in <a href="#">Swiss language proposals for zero draft July 2025</a>
130	We recognise the importance of <b>enabling the respect, protection and promotion of all</b> human rights <b>through</b> the implementation of all Action Lines and <b>request</b> the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to play a part in the facilitation and assessment of all Action Lines.	The language should be adjusted here to provide the OHCHR with additional financial resources to mainstream human rights across the WSIS framework and through the implementation roadmaps developed by the Action Line facilitators.