

Revision 2 of the WSIS+20 Outcomes Document

Note compiled by Mark Carvell, EuroDIG Policy Adviser, 4 December 2025.

Following the EuroDIG extra webinar held on 26 November which discussed the progress of the WSIS+20 Review process with a focus on Revision 1 of the draft Outcomes Document, the 2nd revised version of the document was published by the UN on 3 December:

https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/Rev2/WSIS%2B20_Rev2_031225_CleanVersion.pdf

There is also a tracked changes version which highlights the specific amendments and additions made taking into account comments and proposals submitted during recent consultations:

https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/Rev2/WSIS%2B20_Rev2_031225_TrackChanges%201.pdf

The following significant and noteworthy changes have been made in Rev.2 in addition to numerous inconsequential edits.

Introduction

Addition of explicit commitment to “*catalysing women’s economic agency by promoting equitable access to digital infrastructure and skills development....*” (para 11)

Additional emphasis on “*applying a human-centric approach throughout the lifecycle of digital technologies....*” (para 13)

Information and communications technologies for development

In a shortened para 17, text in Rev.1 concerning the potential social and economic benefits of resilient, safe, inclusive and interoperable digital public infrastructure, has been deleted.

Closing all digital divides (NB previous sub-heading: “Bridging Digital Divides”)

Strengthened affirmation of rights of persons with disabilities to have “*on an equal basis with othersaccess to information and communications technologies and systems*”. (para 22).

Addition of linking affordability to the commitments on accessibility to broadband and digital services and networks. (paras 26 and 27)

Social and economic development

The text on international cooperation is expanded to include “*promoting digital inclusion and digital literacy, including capacity building and financial mechanisms....*” (para 40)

Environmental Impacts

Additional text on addressing “*the rapid growth in the volume of electronic waste*” with calls to improve data gathering, facilitate collaboration and share technologies and best practice. (new para 44)

Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Additional text on urgently countering “*all forms of violence.... hate speech and discrimination, misinformation and disinformation, cyberbullying and child exploitation and abuse*”; and establishing “*robust risk mitigation and redress measures that also protect privacy and freedom of expression.*” (new para 56)

Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society

Additional text that calls on “*all business enterprises, including surveillance technology companies, and companies responsible for social media platforms to respect human rights in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.**” (para 75)

[*https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinesshr_en.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinesshr_en.pdf)

Artificial Intelligence

The section on AI has been largely re-written to take into account updates and more detailed objectives of the current roster of related UN and inter-agency initiatives on AI. A key point to note is that while there is no mention specifically of the IGF’s Policy Network on AI, there is reference to leveraging “*existing United Nations and multi-stakeholder mechanisms to support...capacity building to bridge artificial intelligence divides, facilitate access....and build capacity....and related skills in developing countries.*” (para 84)

Internet Governance

There is additional text relating to the proposed permanent status of the IGF and addressing the financing model with the UN augmenting the current voluntary donation model so that it has “*a stable and sustainable basis with appropriate staffing and resources, in accordance with United Nations budgetary procedures.*” (para 100). The invitation to the UN Secretary-General to submit proposals for strengthening the IGF’s Secretariat is accordingly now linked to ensure there is a funding model that combines “*a mix of core UN funding and voluntary contributions.*” (para 73)

It is also worth noting that there is now a tighter timeline for the submission of these proposals relating to the IGF within the current 80th session of the UN General Assembly, i.e. before September 2026. (para 103)

Follow up and review

The concerns expressed by many stakeholders throughout the GDC and WSIS+20 Review processes of the need to avoid duplication of digital-related processes launched recently by the UN, has been addressed in additional text concerning the “*need for avoiding duplication and ensuring coherence of WSIS implementation with that of the Global Digital Compact*” (para 123) This is a more comprehensive commitment to non-duplication than the previous text which referred to “*aligning commitments*” in these processes.

The preparation of reports by the Secretary General on progress in the implementation and follow up to the WSIS outcomes will accordingly include updates on the implementation of the GDC. This will now be done biennially rather than annually as stated in Rev.1, so stakeholders should start preparing to engage in the preparatory work for the first WSIS/GDC progress report in early 2027. (para 124)

Next steps in the WSIS+20 process

8 December – IMSB-led Virtual Stakeholder Consultation on Rev2

Time: 07:00 EST / 12:00 UTC

Organized by the Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB) in support of the Co-Facilitators, this session invites all stakeholders to provide targeted, paragraph-based comments on Rev2.

Registration is required by **Sunday, 7 December** at 11:59 p.m. EST in order to receive connection details.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LnVnnMEARtSm7zXrr0b--Q#/registration

9-11 December – Informal meetings on Rev 2 held by Co-Facilitators

15-17 December – WSIS+20 Side Events

34 collaborative side events organized by stakeholders will take place at the United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ) in New York, outside of UNHQ, or fully virtually. These events provide space to share experiences, showcase innovations, identify emerging issues, and announce voluntary commitments towards a people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society.

The programme for the side events is available at:

[https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/WSIS%20Side%20Events/WSIS%2B20%20Side%20Events%20Programme%20\(4\).pdf](https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/WSIS%20Side%20Events/WSIS%2B20%20Side%20Events%20Programme%20(4).pdf)

16-17 December – WSIS+20 High-level Meeting

The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) will take place on **16 and 17** and will consist of plenary meetings which will include statements and the adoption of the draft outcome.

The meeting will be broadcast on UN Web TV livestream through the following links:

- 16 December
 - morning: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1o/k1ocy52tag>
 - afternoon: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1m/k1mrq9t1d7>
- 17 December
 - morning: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k15/k154dwxahu>
 - afternoon: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1l/k1lirud9z8>

For further updates on the WSIS+20 process, see <https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/wsis20>

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