

Association for Progressive Communications

Input to the Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 outcome document

Overview	1
Aspects of the document that APC unequivocally endorses	2
Aspects requiring clearer focus and commitment	3
Specific proposed changes	3
Introduction	3
Bridging digital divides	5
The digital economy	10
Environmental impacts	11
Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	12
Financial mechanisms	14
Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society	16
Internet governance	18

Overview

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) welcomes the publication of the Zero Draft. We commend the co-facilitators for their efforts to take into consideration the contributions and diverse perspectives of stakeholders. As negotiations develop, we expect that spirit to continue, allowing stakeholder observation at all preparatory meetings, making post-session transcripts available, and reserving closed-door sessions only for the final stage. Such steps are vital to ensuring meaningful multistakeholder engagement, particularly due to the growing barriers to in-person participation in the negotiations in New York.

APC welcomes the Zero Draft underlining the key interlinked challenges to achieving the WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) goals, as well as the principles and vision APC has emphasised since the outset of the +20 review process. These include persistent digital inequality; financing WSIS implementation; erosion of public interest in digital governance; uneven integration of human rights into digital policy and practice and environmental harms caused by digitalisation. Addressing these challenges holistically is essential to ensure that digital development advances equity, rights and sustainability.

Aspects of the document that APC unequivocally endorses

We appreciate in particular the Zero Draft treatment of the following aspects of WSIS implementation and would like to see the cited paragraphs retained:

- **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 WSIS, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (sustainable development goals, SDGs) and the global digital compact (GDC), making practical requests to integrate the GDC commitments into the WSIS architecture.
- **Environmental impacts:** Paragraphs 50 to 54, as a basis for commitments and calls for environmental risk and impact assessments, or the obligation of consistent monitoring of environmental impacts, along with globally-agreed reporting standards that companies must adhere to. Paragraph 51 is key, offering the opportunity to include the need for human rights impact assessments.
- **Multistakeholder cooperation and engagement:** Paragraphs 3 and 120, which reaffirm multistakeholder cooperation and engagement as the guiding principles and foundational values of WSIS.
- **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.
- **International law:** Paragraphs 1, 9 and 10 of the introduction which anchor WSIS in international law, including international human rights law.
- **The Internet Governance Forum (IGF):** Paragraph 115 which decides the permanence of the IGF.
- **Gender:** Paragraph 13 of the introduction as a basis for mainstreaming gender across the WSIS action lines and for efforts to address and eliminate technology-facilitated gender-based violence, in line with the SDGs, the GDC, and the conclusions of the 67th session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW).
- **Linguistic, cultural and historical diversity:** Paragraph 30 which recognises the importance of accessibility, including for Indigenous peoples and speakers of minority languages.
- **Dissemination of health information:** Paragraph 45, in particular the reference to information on reproductive rights.

APC endorses the following sections entirely without suggestions for changes:

- The enabling environment for digital development
- Capacity development
- The development of the WSIS framework
- Monitoring and measurement
- Follow up and review.

APC supports the contributions to the Zero Draft from the Global Digital Rights Coalition for WSIS (GDRC) and the Global Digital Justice Forum (GDJF).

Aspects requiring clearer focus and commitment

We believe that the Zero Draft will benefit from more concrete strategies to support the effective implementation of its commitments. In particular, we would like to highlight the following aspects:

- **Advance digital equality** by moving beyond market-led approaches as these have proved insufficient, enabling community-led connectivity through regulation and financing, and increasing public investment in infrastructure, skills, content and services.
- **Establish a financing taskforce** to propose innovative mechanisms building on the [Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development](#) and anchored in the WSIS architecture.
- **Reclaim the public interest** in digital governance and development by strengthening corporate accountability through rights- and public interest-oriented regulation.
- **Mainstream environmental sustainability** with mandatory impact assessments and green practices across all action lines.
- **Strengthen gender equality** with clear targets, measurable indicators and dedicated resources.
- **Evolve inclusive internet governance** by reaffirming the IGF's role as the world's primary multistakeholder public participation platform for not just internet governance, but also broader digital governance and strengthening the role of the WSIS Forum as a platform for tracking action line implementation, adopting an integrated approach that recognises continuities between internet-related public policy and data and AI governance. Member states' constructive engagement to promote equitable and inclusive internet governance, responsive to the needs of all, especially developing countries, is crucial.

Specific proposed changes

Below are suggestions for adjustments and revisions around priority topics. New proposed language is highlighted in **bold** and underlined. The language we propose to be removed is indicated with a ~~strikethrough~~.

Introduction

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / Suggested adjustment	References / rationale
3.	We reaffirm the value and principles of multistakeholder 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. <u>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.</u>	Based on text in the report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS during the past 20 years, p 99. https://unctad.org/report-progress-made-implementation-outcomes-wsis-during-past-20-years
5 and 11.	We suggest placing paragraph 11 after paragraph 5.	
6 and 12.	We suggest placing paragraph 12 after paragraph 6.	
15.	We recognise that the pace and power of emerging technologies are creating new possibilities <u>for benefitting humanity</u> but also new risks <u>and possible human rights violations and harms</u> for humanity, some of which are not yet fully known. We recognise the need to identify and mitigate risks and to ensure human oversight <u>and governance</u> of technology, in ways that <u>provide accountability and</u> advance sustainable development and the full enjoyment of human rights.	Commitment to the realisation and respect of human rights is paramount, beyond enjoyment. The impact of technology is such that it not only needs risk assessments but also to address potential harm.
16.	We also recognise that building confidence and security in ICTs is critical to ensuring the implementation of WSIS goals, and that advancing digital inclusion requires a predictable and transparent enabling environment that encompasses policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that support innovation, protect <u>human and</u> consumer rights, nurture digital talent and skills, promote fair competition and digital entrepreneurship, and enhance consumer confidence and trust in the digital economy.	Consumer protection and trust in the digital economy rely on both safeguarding rights and ensuring fair access. Elevating consumer rights without considering human rights risks creating a digital economy that privileges commercial interests at the expense of individuals and communities' fundamental freedoms, undermining the core goals of digital inclusion and trust. Human rights and prioritizing the public interest are crucial for achieving true digital

		inclusion and fostering balanced innovation, competition, and entrepreneurship while protecting fundamental rights.
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Bridging digital divides

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / suggested adjustment	References / rationale
21.	We applaud the growth in access to the Internet and digital services that has taken place since the World Summit on the Information Society. The proportion of the world's population living in areas covered by broadband networks capable of providing effective Internet access is now over 95 per cent, with more than 90 per cent now covered by 4G networks. The proportion of people aged ten or over owning a mobile phone worldwide has reached almost 80 per cent, while the proportion of people now making use of the Internet has risen from just over 15 per cent in 2005 to more than 67 per cent in 2025 <u>even though in Africa this figure is still below 40%. However, in numerous developing countries access to broadband networks and services is still not affordable to the majority of people, particularly those living in rural or remote, unserved and underserved areas.</u>	<p>The text added to this paragraph is an adaptation of text from the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference's Resolution 139 -- Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society. https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-139-E.pdf</p> <p>APC is of the idea that, while it is important to applaud the progress, this needs to be balanced with existing challenges, so as to avoid the use of this paragraph to prevent efforts aiming at addressing remaining existing concerns. We acknowledge that paragraphs 12, 18, 23-27 and 48 contain these concerns, but it is important to see both progress and concerns as part of this paragraph.</p>
22.	We note that the growth of information and communications infrastructure and services since the World Summit has been achieved through a combination of private sector and public investment, <u>with contributions from all stakeholders including government, civil society, academia, large, small and medium businesses and the technical community.</u>	<p>Principle (k) of the GDC. https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf</p>
24.	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. <u>Bridging the gender digital divide includes ensuring access to and use of the</u>	<p>UN General Assembly, A/RES/78/213. https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4032837?v=pdf</p> <p>Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the</p>

	<p><u>internet, development of digital skills and the use of digital tools, participation in STEM as well as leadership in public decision-making spaces.</u></p> <p>Women and girls are also under-represented in education, employment and other areas of digital activity. All stakeholders have a part to play in addressing and rectifying these gender digital divides.</p>	<p>Commission on the Status of Women on the basis of informal consultations Political declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. E/CN.6/2025/L.1 https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.6/2025/L.1</p> <p>Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. E/CN.6/2023/L.3 https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.6/2023/L.3</p> <p>ITU – Bridging the gender divide https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/backgrounders/Pages/bridging-the-gender-divide.aspx ITU WTDC's Resolution 37 "Bridging the digital divide" (which resolves to instruct the director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau #18). https://www.itu.int/pub/D-RES-D.37</p> <p>Paragraph 11(g) of the GDC. https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf</p>
27.	<p>We are particularly concerned that digital divides between and within regions and countries, and within societies, are widening with and the rapid pace of development of digital technologies which may exacerbate economic and social inequalities.</p>	<p>ITU's WTDC's Kigali Declaration. https://search.itu.int/history/HistoryDigitalCollectionDocLibrary/4.463.43.en.101.pdf</p> <p>The outcome document of the Fourth</p>

		<p>International Conference on Financing for Development speaks of “deepening gaps” in paragraph 58.</p> <p>https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/ffd-4-documents/2025/Compromiso%20de%20Sevilla%20for%20action%2016%20June.pdf</p>
29.	<p>We are committed to achieving entry-level broadband subscription costs that are accessible to the widest section of the population <u>including by means of developing policy and regulatory frameworks to diversify the connectivity ecosystem and enable community-centred connectivity models that reduce costs and help reach unserved communities.</u></p>	<p>ITU WTDC's Resolution 37 “Bridging the digital divide” (which resolves to instruct the director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau #5, #15 #17)</p> <p>https://www.itu.int/pub/D-RES-D.37</p> <p>Upcoming UN ECOSOC Resolution 2025: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society</p> <p>https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc_res_2024d13_en.pdf</p> <p>We recommend that paragraph 26 of UNGA Resolution 78/132 of 19 December 2023, on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, is considered:</p> <p>“Recognises the importance of broadband connectivity to users in rural and remote areas, and in this regard notes that small and non-profit community operators, including community networks and other affordable, scalable and inclusive technology and business models that provide last-mile connectivity solutions, as appropriate and among others, can provide these services through, inter alia, appropriate regulatory measures that allow them to gain access to basic infrastructure”</p> <p>https://unctad.org/system/files/official-</p>

		document/A_res_78_132_en.pdf
32.	We call on governments, multilateral development banks, relevant international organisations and the private sector to develop innovative financing mechanisms and incentives to connect the unconnected to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity <u>including through investing in and deploying resilient digital infrastructure in rural, remote and “hard-to-reach” areas and by promoting equitable access to satellite orbits, taking into account the needs of developing countries.</u>	Direct text from the GDC #11 (c). https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf

The digital economy

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / suggested adjustment	References / rationale
34.	We recommend deleting this paragraph.	All stakeholders have a central role to play in the information society. If kept, it is necessary to reference both the positive and negative implications of the role of digital platforms and the imperative to manage them through regulation and clearer accountability for upholding rights and the public interest.
39.	We recommend deleting this paragraph.	This formulation does not acknowledge the implications and impact of the rapid datafication of food systems in the agriculture value chain, where there is an end-to-end control of production in market ecosystems by agri-big-tech corporations, where the monopolisation of emerging data value entrenches corporate control and benefits only a set of large farmers while being detrimental to small and marginal farmers.

40.	We recommend deleting this paragraph.	Embracing digital solutions needs to be balanced with ensuring human rights for all and acknowledging challenges and harms, particularly for Indigenous communities.
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Environmental impacts

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / suggested adjustment	References / rationale
50.	We are concerned, however, about growing levels of energy consumption arising from digitalisation and consequential impacts on greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, including those arising from growth in the manufacture and use of digital devices, the volume of data traffic, the number and impact of data centres, growing use of the Internet of Things and rapid growth in the energy requirements of artificial intelligence. We call for the development of global reporting standards on environmental impact, for environmental risk and impact assessments , and cooperation by all stakeholders to ensure the environmental sustainability of digital transformation.	COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action https://cop29.az/en/pages/cop29-declaration-on-green-digital-action
51.	We are also concerned about the sustainability of and equitable access to critical resources, particularly scarce minerals required in the manufacture of digital equipment, the extraction of which has also been associated in some cases with human rights abuses, dangerous employment practices and civil conflicts.	Considering it is often happening at the behest of big tech and powerful countries, and that disinformation narratives fuel cross-border conflict and violence, this should not be limited to civil conflict.
54.	We recognise that an inclusive and integrated approach is needed to enable policymakers to align digital and environmental policies at all levels, thereby enhancing the global community's ability to address complex and interdependent global challenges. We urge all stakeholders to cooperate in leveraging digital technologies for sustainability while minimising their negative environmental impacts, promoting sustainability across the life cycle of digital technologies, including context-specific measures to increase resource efficiency and to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and to ensure that digital infrastructure and equipment are sustainably designed to address environmental	Chapter 1 of Digital Economy Report 2024. https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/der2024_ch01_en.pdf

	<p>challenges in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.</p> <p><u>Therefore, we call for environmental and human rights risk and impact assessments at every stage of the lifecycle of the technology, a clear roadmap of commitments from technology companies towards net zero emissions, and for public consultation in cases of land acquisition for use of critical resources.</u></p>	
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Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / suggested adjustment	References / rationale
62.	<p>We reaffirm that strengthening confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies is a crucial driver for innovation and sustainable development. We reaffirm that building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies should be consistent with human rights <u>and gender equality</u>.</p>	<p>Gender equality is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and affirmed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW 1979); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995); the WPS Agenda; the 2030 SDGs state that commitments and obligations under these instruments affirm gender equality as a core component of human rights.</p>
64.	<p>We recognise that we must urgently counter and address all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, which occur 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, <u>and the differentiated impacts and risks of ICT threats faced by persons in vulnerable situations</u>. We will establish and maintain robust risk mitigation and redress measures that also protect privacy and freedom of expression.</p>	<p>OEWG on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, <i>Final Substantive Report</i>(2021), https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final-report-A-AC.290-2021-CRP.2.pdf</p> <p>OEWG on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, <i>Final</i></p>

		<p><i>Substantive Report</i> (2025) https://docs-library.unoda.org/Open-Ended_Working_Group_on_Information_and_Communication_Technologies_-__(2021)/Letter_from_OEWG_Chair_10_July_2025.pdf</p> <p>Letter from OEWG Chair https://docs-library.unoda.org/Open-Ended_Working_Group_on_Information_and_Communication_Technologies_-__(2021)/Letter_from_OEWG_Chair_10_July_2025.pdf</p> <p>United Nations Human Rights Council. 2019. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy. A/HRC/40/63. https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/40/63</p> <p>United Nations. 2021. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (Gender Justice and Freedom of Expression). A/76/258. https://docs.un.org/en/A/76/258</p>
65.	We recognise the challenges that States, in particular developing countries, face in building confidence and security in the use of information and communications technologies. We reiterate the call made by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 for renewed focus on capacitybuilding, education, knowledge sharing and regulatory practice, as well as promoting multistakeholder cooperation at all levels and raising awareness among users of information and	<p>Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, <i>Final Substantive Report</i>(2021) https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final-report-A-AC.290-</p>

	<p>communications technologies, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable. <u>Capacity building needs to be aligned with the ICT security capacity-building principles adopted at 2019–2021 UN OEWG and reaffirmed at 2021-2025 OEWG. These principles mandate ICT capacity building to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, to be gender responsive, inclusive and non-discriminatory.</u> Targeted support for capacity building is needed to enable all countries, particularly developing countries, to improve cybersecurity governance, align regulatory frameworks with international norms and ensure effective cooperation between Computer Emergency and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CERTs/CSIRTs).</p>	<p>2021-CRP.2.pdf</p> <p>Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, <i>Final Substantive Report</i> (2025) https://docs-library.unoda.org/Open-Ended_Working_Group_on_Information_and_Communication_Technologies_-_2021/</p> <p>Letter from OEWG Chair https://docs-library.unoda.org/Open-Ended_Working_Group_on_Information_and_Communication_Technologies_-_2021/ Letter_from_OEWG_Chair_10_July_2025.pdf</p>
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Financial mechanisms

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / suggested adjustment	References / rationale
71.	We recommend deleting this paragraph.	If kept, this paragraph should also acknowledge that this growth has been uneven with many parts of the world still being left behind.
72.	<p>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.</p> <p><u>We call for the establishment of a dedicated task force anchored in the WSIS architecture to explore and propose financing mechanisms</u></p>	<p>Outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/ffd4-documents/2025/Compromiso%20de%20Sevilla%20for%20action%2016%20June.pdf</p>

	<u>to support implementation of the WSIS vision and goals, building on the outcome of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and giving consideration to public finance, revision of the design and deployment of universal service funds, development bonds, tax revenue, and other forms of private investment and innovative and collaborative approaches.</u>	
75.	We recommend deleting this paragraph.	If kept, a mention of fair taxation should be included building on the “Our Common Agenda” proposal for a digital development tax upon dominant transnational companies. https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf
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 <u>and we commit to create an enabling environment for their financing.</u>	Based on text from the UN GDC #11 (c). https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf

Human rights and ethical dimensions of the Information Society

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / suggested adjustment	References / rationale
83.	We recognise the responsibilities of all stakeholders in this endeavour. We 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 and regulation of <u>all digital technologies, including new and emerging digital technologies</u> , and to provide for 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 and on	Risks and harms related to existing technologies that have been already deployed should be recognised.

	states to hold private sector entities accountable for failing to do so.	
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 to <u>promote measures to secure and to protect the confidentiality of digital communications and transactions, including measures for strong encryption, pseudonymisation and anonymity</u> 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.</p>	<p>Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023 - Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies. https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/213</p> <p>Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2024 - The right to privacy in the digital age. https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/175</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. In this context, 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. 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, <u>by ensuring that victims of violations and abuses have effective and accessible remedy, that threats and acts of violence are investigated effectively, and that those responsible are brought to justice in order to combat impunity.</u></p>	<p>Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023 - Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of digital technologies. https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/213</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. 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 to address the challenge of misinformation and disinformation and hate speech online and mitigate the risks of information</p>	<p>Disinformation and freedom of opinion and expression - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan. https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/47/25</p>

	manipulation in a manner consistent with international law, <u>following the principles of necessity, proportionality, legality and with the understanding that a robust, free-flowing information ecosystem is needed to combat these issues.</u>	
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Internet governance

Paragraph number in Zero Draft	Language proposal / suggested adjustment	References / rationale
112.	We applaud the successful development of the Internet Governance Forum, established by the Secretary-General following the World Summit on the Information Society, which provides a unique platform for multistakeholder discussion of Internet governance issues, including emerging issues, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society <u>and reaffirmed in the Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, adopted at the NetMundial+10 conference. We recognise that the emerging issues discussed by the IGF have grown in scope to include broader digital governance concerns.</u>	GDC #28. https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, adopted at the NetMundial+10 conference held on 29-30 April 2024 in Sao Paulo, Brazil https://netmundial.br/pdf/NETmundial10-MultistakeholderStatement-2024.pdf
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. We particularly welcome the emergence of more than 170 National and Regional Internet Governance Forums, which have enhanced multistakeholder discussion of relevant <u>internet and digital governance</u> issues in all continents, many sub-regions and a majority of Member States. We also welcome the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Forum's Leadership Panel	The IGF has evolved into a space where all aspects of the digital world are discussed. Such expansion has to be reaffirmed, based on GDC's language about the IGF being "the primary multistakeholder platform for discussion of internet governance issues". Rather than continuing the Leadership Panel in its current form, it would be more appropriate to undertake a comprehensive review of IGF coordination and leadership as a whole, once the forum has been established on a permanent basis. We

		value the work done by the Leadership Panel but believe that in its current shape it has not sufficiently raised awareness of the IGF among member states and on broader policy and intergovernmental processes.
115.	We decide that the Internet Governance Forum shall be made a permanent forum of the United Nations <u>for open and inclusive multistakeholder discussion of internet and digital governance-related public policy issues.</u>	With respect to the concern expressed by multiple stakeholders and member states on avoiding unnecessary duplication of spaces, it is essential to state clearly that the IGF has evolved into a forum that addresses not only internet governance but broader digital governance and public policy issues.