

# WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event

Global Partners Digital Input

May 2024

## About Global Partners Digital

Global Partners Digital is a social purpose company dedicated to fostering a digital environment underpinned by human rights.

## Introduction

We welcome the opportunity to participate in the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event and to provide input to inform the Chair's report and the WSIS+20 review process.

## Input

The WSIS process and outcomes have been critical to advance the multistakeholder approach. We are currently at an inflection point, where this model is under threat and where digital governance discussions have increasingly become geopolitical battlefields with countries attempting to shape the digital environment in line with their own image, illustrating competing visions of digital technology governance. As such, **it is crucial that the WSIS process strengthens the multistakeholder model of digital governance, and that it reinforces that the global digital agenda should be underpinned by human rights.**

The WSIS+20 review process as well as other governance processes present an opportunity for **embedding existing language from international human rights law and standards, reaffirming the importance of multistakeholder approaches in the governance of technologies, and articulating a positive agenda for change that is holistic,** i.e considers the role that digital technologies play in wider societal, economic and political contexts.

All stakeholders should commit to preserving and strengthening the multistakeholder model, ensuring that UN policymaking processes are more diverse, equitable, accessible, and inclusive and that existing fora tasked with Internet governance challenges, such as the Internet Governance Forum, have appropriate human resources and funding.

**The WSIS+20 review and its milestones could help strengthen connections between existing internet governance processes to ensure that they reinforce and build on each other.** For example, the Review process should be informed by outcomes of other relevant processes, including but not limited to the Summit of the Future (SOTF), the Global Digital

Compact (GDC), the NETmundial+10 and its outcome document, and the Internet We Want Initiative.

Furthermore, we call for the **renewal of the IGF's mandate beyond 2025**. This renewal should take into consideration the need for sustainable funding.

Finally, we encourage the WSIS+20 review process to include **robust stakeholder engagement modalities** to ensure that the process is inclusive and informed by the perspectives of diverse stakeholders, which will contribute to more dynamic discussions. Some modalities include:

- Posting deadlines well in advance for registering interest in participation;
- Accepting inputs in non-written formats (e.g. oral testimonies, videos, photographs, biographical narratives, or structured conversations);
- Publication of all submissions/inputs in an open, centralised database for future reference and for others to access;
- Allocating funding and material resources to people and groups to enable them to participate, including funding for ICT connectivity, travel, accommodation and subsistence, child and eldercare etc.;
- Translating materials into all stakeholders' preferred languages;
- Providing adequate mechanisms and support, to ensure the inclusion of the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders.