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## **CIRA, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority**

### **CIRA's response to the CSTD Joint Questionnaire on the WSIS +20 outcomes**

*To what extent, in your experience, has the “people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society,” envisaged in the opening paragraph of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles, developed within the 20 years since WSIS?*

While real progress has been made, further work need to be done to realize the "people - centred, inclusive and development - oriented Information Society" envisaged in the opening paragraph of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles.

Certainly, the internet has undergone a significant period of change and growth during this twenty-year period — much with broad societal benefit. For example, more people than ever have internet access, digital technologies are being harnessed in pursuit of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and recent advancements in artificial intelligence have the *potential* to positively transform nearly all aspects of human life.

Yet, there are societal harms that have been exacerbated by the internet. Examples include risks to children's safety online, increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, and new and evolving threats posed by artificial intelligence (e.g., deepfakes).

It's crucial that the WSIS+20 Review considers these benefits and harms — as well as the appropriate tools to harness the positive aspects of this transformative technology. All groups with a stake in the future of the internet — governments, civil society, the technical community, academia, and the private sector — must be involved, on equal footing, in associated decision-making.

*How has the implementation of WSIS outcomes contributed towards the development of a "people - centred, inclusive and development - oriented Information Society"?*

The implementation of WSIS outcomes has supported ongoing progress towards a "people - centred, inclusive and development - oriented Information Society". The key example of this progress is the introduction of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).



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In bringing together a broad range of distinct stakeholders to platform discussion about the internet and related issues, the IGF is a key and enduring example of the success of the people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. We strongly support the renewal of the IGF mandate in the WSIS+20 Review and efforts to ensure it is fit-for-purpose in evolving geopolitical and technological environments.

We do not support the introduction of new fora, such as the proposed Digital Cooperation Forum.

*How much progress do you believe has been made in implementing specific WSIS outcomes?*

*What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes?*

Existing and heightening geopolitical tensions are a key challenge in progress towards the WISS outcomes. Increasingly, authoritarian UN Member States are putting forward a closed vision of the internet that is misaligned with the people-centred digital future laid out in the Geneva Principles.

In pursuit of the positive vision outlined in the Geneva principles, the WSIS+20 Review must outline strong support for a bolstered multistakeholder model of internet governance, where everyone who has a stake in the future of the internet can participate on equal footing.

*How are these challenges being addressed? What approaches have proved to be effective in your experience?*

Per the above, the WSIS+20 Review must outline support for a strengthened multistakeholder model of internet governance. The success of this model is apparent in the IGF. It's also exemplified in internet governance processes that take place through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), both which play a crucial role in the stable day-to-day operation of the internet as an open, global technology.

*What do you consider the most important trends in technology and other aspects of ICTs which have affected implementation of WSIS outcomes since the Summit? What has been their impact?*

Among other advancements, innovation in cybersecurity has played a key role in implementation of the WSIS outcomes.



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*What should be the priorities for stakeholders seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account ongoing and emerging trends?*

Priorities should include:

- Broad engagement across the relevant stakeholder groups in the WSIS+20 Review;
- Strong support for the multistakeholder model in the WSIS+20 Review outcomes;
- The renewal of the IGF's mandate in the WSIS+20 Review outcomes;
- Initiatives to strengthen and bolster the IGF in the WSIS+20 Review outcomes.

*How will ongoing trends and new developments in technology, especially in the deployment, access, and use of ICTs, impact future progress toward human development, specifically in relation to the SDGs?*

Ongoing trends and new developments in technology have the capacity to advance the SDGs, if they are governed inclusively and with the meaningful participation of all relevant parties.

*Please add any other comments that you wish to make on the subject of the review that you believe would be helpful.*

We appreciate this survey and other initiatives to collect multistakeholder input ahead of the WSIS+20 Review. When associated outcome documents are published, we would be grateful for clear and detailed information about how multistakeholder inputs have informed and been integrated into relevant decision-making.