

REPORTING DAILY FROM THE WSIS REVIEW MEETING OF THE **UN GA** dw.giplatform.org/wsis10

WSIS+10 Daily offers an insight into the General Assembly High-Level Meeting (HLM), on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) providing background information about the WSIS+10 process, as well as summaries of the discussions held both at the HLM and at side-events. For an in-depth analysis, follow just-in-time reporting at dw.giplatform.org/wsis10

Overview of the WSIS+10 process

The WSIS+10 Process¹² marks the ten-year milestone since the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)¹², a two-phase summit (2003-2005) which defined the issues, policies, and frameworks to tackle information and communication technologies (ICTs) in order to foster development.

The first WSIS phase, held in Geneva in 2003, concluded with the Geneva Declaration of Principles^[2] and the Geneva Plan of Action^[2], identifying specific action lines to advance the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs). The second phase, held in Tunis in 2005, reaffirmed the commitment to the Declaration of Principles (the Tunis Commitment^[2]) and designed an implementation mechanism for the action lines (the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society^[2]). The report^[2] of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) was used as the basis for negotiations during the second summit in 2005.

The 2003-2005 WSIS phase saw the birth of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)^[2]. It provided a formal set of framework principles for the multistakeholder approach and introduced the process of Enhanced Cooperation, which was entrusted to Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) operating under the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

The WSIS outcome documents and the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/252 resolved to conduct an overall review of the implementation of the Summit Outcomes in 2015. The process now culminates with the WSIS+10 General Assembly HLM², which will decide – among other aspects – on the renewal mandate of the IGF, and the next steps in the enhanced cooperation process. The modalities for this review process were outlined in a UN General Assembly Resolution (68/302) adopted in July 2014, according to which, 'the overall review will be concluded by a two-day high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly, to be preceded by an intergovernmental preparatory process', and 'during the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, the President of the General Assembly will organise informal interactive consultations with all relevant stakeholders.' The intergovernmental preparatory process started officially in June with the appointment of the two co-facilitators to lead the negotiation process. A visual map of events and milestones between June and December this year is presented on the next page.



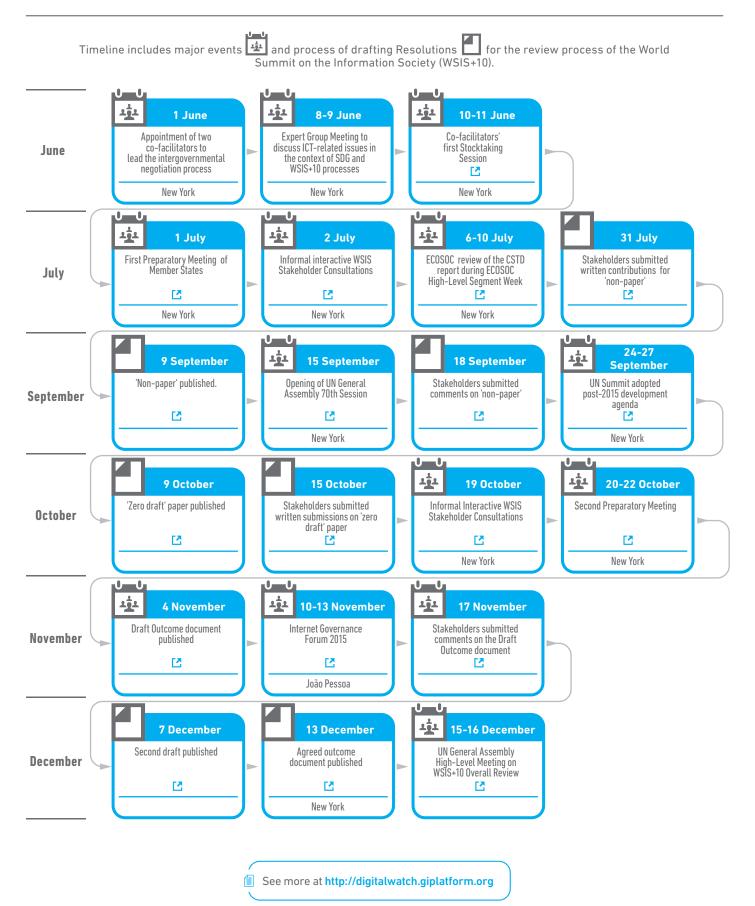
On 14 December 2015, the **Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in Technology** (**GEM-TECH**) Awards were presented at the New York Civic Hall. The GEM-TECH Awards recognise that technology is a uniquely powerful means to transform the lives of women and to help address the global gender gap. Awards are presented in three main categories: *Apply Technology for Women's Empowerment; Promote Women in the Technology Sector;* and *Develop Gender Responsive ICT Governance, Policy, and Access.* The GEM-TECH Awards are hosted by UN Women and the International Telecommunication Union.

Geneva Internet Platform

DigitalWatch

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WSIS+10 PROCESS (June-December 2015)



SIDE EVENTS ON MONDAY, 14TH DECEMBER

Dot Africa gTLD: The Hope for Realising Africa's Digital Presence

During the preparatory process for WSIS, African governments recognised the need to develop capacity so the region can build and manage its own ICT infrastructure, including in relation to the Internet. Following WSIS, in 2010, ministers of the member states of the African Union (AU)^[2] adopted the Abuja Declaration, which requested the African Union Commission (AUC) to 'set up the structure and modalities for the implementation of the DotAfrica project'. After calling for expressions of interest, the AUC chose a candidate to manage the *.africa* top level domain as part of the ICANN new gTLD (generic top level domain) programme. There was also another, competing, application for *.africa*, but the top level domain was awarded to ZACR, a decision supported by over 60% of the members of the AU. As a result, the competing applicant submitted a request for an independent review panel (IRP) on the process used to select ZACR.



In the WSIS+10 side session, the AUC, ZACR, and some of the African governments present ex-

pressed concern about how long the IRP was taking to reach a decision. In response, Adiel Akplogan from ICANN clarified that his organisation was not in the position to dictate to the independent panel how quickly it should conclude. He did acknowledge that perhaps in the future, the community should examine the process, to ensure that it better meets their needs.

The side event concluded with Moctar Yedaly of the AUC urging that there be no extensions made to the IRP process, following the mid-January 2016 deadline for a final decision. He said that the speedy rollout of the *.africa* TLD is vital to Africa's development needs.

Full report 🔼

Strengthening the Impact of WSIS Action Lines for Sustainable Development: Showcasing Best Practices, Transferring Know-how, and Fostering Partnerships Panellists in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)-organised session^[2] underlined that much has changed since the 2003-2005 WSIS phases^[2] and that everyone now understands how important ICTs, and the Internet in particular, are for enabling sustainable development across all sectors of society, as well as for empowering the exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights. While the WSIS Geneva and Tunis documents established ambitious goals and action lines, and progress has been made over the past ten years in bringing ICTs to more people in the world, work needs to continue, on a sustained basis, to ensure that everyone can take full advantage of the opportunities offered by ICTs. Most panellists suggested that creating strong links between the WSIS action lines and the sustainable development goals^[2] would significantly contribute to achieving both the WSIS objectives, and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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It was noted that in the new digital world, 'equality of chances starts with connectivity', and that all stakeholders have the role and responsibility to work together, in a multistakeholder environment, to create the conditions for such connectivity. Panellists explained that actions on the supply side (i.e. provision of access to infrastructure) need to be supplemented by actions on the demand side, to ensure affordability of access, to build capacity and develop digital skills, and to reduce and eliminate other forms of digital divide, such as the gender gap. Various countries provide examples of locally relevant good practices in this regard, and while there is no one-size-fits-all solution, countries can learn from each other and adapt good practices to their local needs and realities.

Full report 🔼

IGF: Internet Governance Empowering Sustainable Development

The session was co-organised by the government of Brazil and the IGF, and co-moderated by Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca (Brazil) and Lynn St. Amour (Internet Matters). The panel discussion focused on several key themes and concepts related to the IGF.

The **origins** of the IGF can be traced back to the situation at WSIS in 2005, when there was little understanding of digital policy. The IGF has had a crucial capacity development function as a place where issues are discussed and awareness about IG is gradually increased.

The **evolution** of the IGF from an event to a process has been one of its defining characteristics. The IGF has gained **maturity** through its evolution: it has moved from an experiment in global policy towards a more stable process. In addition to the global IGF, this year, there were 34 national and 12 regional and sub-regional IGF initiatives.



While **output** in different formats has existed since the very beginning of the IGF (chairman summaries, transcripts from main sessions, and outcome documents of best practices), the IGF still needs to communicate its findings better.

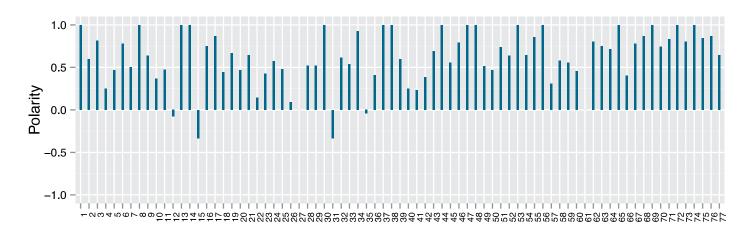
Innovation was the key word of the IGF 2015. The process included intensive inter-sessional work in compiling 80 contributions to the 'Connecting the Next Billion' process, 6 best-practice forums, and 14 dynamic coalitions, as well as a new track for youth involvement.

The **roadmap for the future** of the IGF should be based on the report of the core mandate of the IGF from the Tunis agenda (article 72-78) and the report of the CSTD Working Group on improvements to the IGF. Two areas were mentioned as particularly important: working modalities and strengthening the IGF Secretariat.

Full report 🔼

The WordClouds are based on online news. Google News (in English language) was queryied by session names and specific keywords.

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS OF THE WSIS+10 OUTCOME DOCUMENT



We submitted the draft Outcome Document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes (the WSIS+10 Resolution)¹² to a computational sentiment analysis. This analysis works by recognising emotionally charged words - both positive and negative - in the text, and then using the frequency of their occurrences to calculate a polarity score that ranges from -1 (completely negative) to +1 (completely positive) for any given text. We computed the polarity score for each paragraph in the draft WSIS+10 Resolution separately.

Only 4 out of 77 paragraphs bear negative sentiments (paragraph 12: conflicts and disasters; paragraph 15: harassment, crime, terrorism; paragraph 31: on digital divides; paragraph 35: challenges, conflicts, disasters). However, huge variations are present on the positive side that encompasses the majority of the document. For example, the lowest scoring paragraph of positive polarity is paragraph 26 (on the many forms of digital divides that still prevail). Occurrences of positive and negative words balance each other in the computation of polarity. *Further analysis of the WSIS+10 Resolution will be presented in the next issues of the WSIS+10 Daily.*

JUST FOR FUN



Nightly negotiations of the WSIS+10 Outcome Document

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