

Much Ado About WSIS(+20)

AP* Retreat 2025 Petaling Jaya

#apricot2025



WSIS?

- World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)
- 1st phase – 2003 Geneva
- 2nd phase – 2005 Tunis
- Groundbreaking summit – established first global framework for building an inclusive information society
- Multistakeholder summit

WSIS Outcomes

- 2 key outcome documents:
 - Geneva Declaration of Principles
 - Tunis Agenda for the Information Society
- Established IGF
- Periodic reviews

Clearing up myths

- WSIS ≠ IG
 - WSIS action lines encompass wide-ranging areas of ICTs
 - WSIS+20 negotiations are not multistakeholder (strictly speaking)

Why should we care?

- WSIS+20 review is significant because:
 - **Digital divide** remains a barrier
 - **Cybersecurity and privacy issues** dominate
 - Battleground for **human and digital rights**
 - Challenges of **emerging technologies**
 - Risk of **Internet fragmentation**

Why should we care?

- Future of the multistakeholder approach to IG is at stake
- Desire to maintain the open, decentralized, interoperable Internet needs to be strengthened

Timeline of preparations

- 2019 – Preparatory consultations and thematic discussions in anticipation of the WSIS+20 review began
- 2020 – UN General Assembly agreed to initiate the WSIS+20 process
- 2021 to 2022 – laying the groundwork
- 2023 – UN CSTD initiated preparations for the WSIS+20 review

What's happening now?

- Kenya and Lithuania appointed as co-facilitators for intergovernmental consultations to finalise the modalities
- Deadline to finalise modalities – end of March 2025
- Zero draft for modalities resolution circulated in February 2025
 - WSIS+20 review will conclude with a high-level meeting of UNGA (16-17 December 2025)
- Co-facilitators to lead intergovernmental negotiation process to be appointed in May 2025