WSIS+20

World Summit on Information Security the 20 year review

Olaf Kolkman, Principal
Kolkman@isoc.org
@olaf@social.secret-wg.org

WSIS: The world summit on the information society

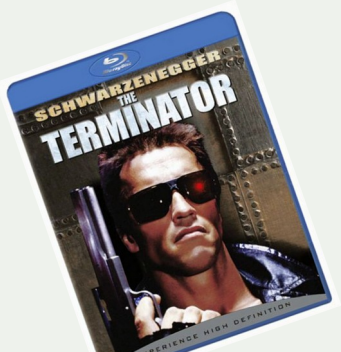
WSIS comprised of two phases

2003 (Geneva): The Geneva Plan of Action

- A set of actions to further the use of ICTs globally with specific attention to the global south

2005 (Tunis): The Tunis Agenda

- Confirmed a working definition of Internet Governance and thereby recognized the role of the Technical Community (Including the IETF!)
- Defined the IGF as a place for coordination
- Set out an agenda mainly focused on capacity building and bridging divides
  - With a review process

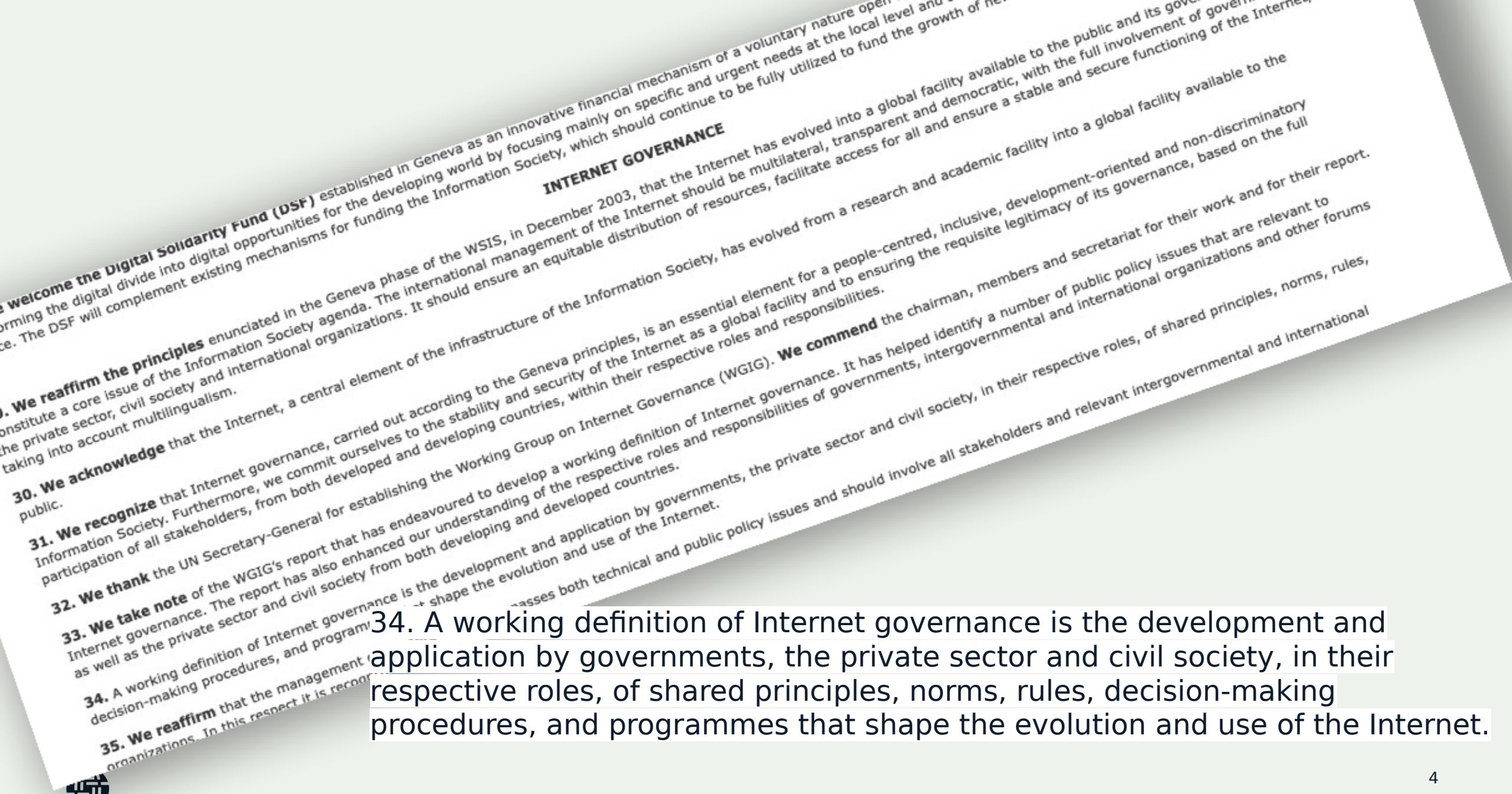


Why this session

To inform you about an important process that might impact the Internet’s future

To arm the IAB and IETF-ers that engage with the process with speaking points.

Because we care.



INTERNET GOVERNANCE

30. We acknowledge that the Internet, a central element of the infrastructure of the Information Society, has evolved from a research and academic facility into a global facility available to the public.

31. We recognize that Internet governance, carried out according to the Geneva principles, is an essential element for a people-centred, inclusive, development-oriented and non-discriminatory Information Society. Furthermore, we commit ourselves to the stability and security of the Internet as a global facility and to ensuring the requisite legitimacy of its governance, based on the full participation of all stakeholders, from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities.

32. We thank the UN Secretary-General for establishing the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). **We commend** the chairman, members and secretariat for their work and for their report.

33. We take note of the WGIG's report that has endeavoured to develop a working definition of Internet governance. It has helped identify a number of public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance. The report has also enhanced our understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, intergovernmental and international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries.

34. A working definition of Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

35. We reaffirm that the management of Internet resources, including domain name management, raises both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. In this respect it is recognized

e welcome the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) established in Geneva as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature open to all countries, mainly on specific and urgent needs at the local level and to fund the growth of new
orming the digital divide into digital opportunities for the developing world by focusing mainly on specific and urgent needs at the local level and to fund the growth of ne
ce. The DSF will complement existing mechanisms for funding the Information Society, which should continue to be fully utilized to fund the growth of the Internet.

. We reaffirm the principles enunciated in the Geneva phase of the WSIS, in December 2003, that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance
onstitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments,
he private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet,
taking into account multilingualism.

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WSIS is reviewed regularly

Annual progress report by the commission of science and technology (CSTD) with input from the annual WSIS forum

High level review on progress after 10 (2015) and 20 years (in 2025).

The 2025 review is a high-level meeting by the UN General assembly taking stock of what outcomes have been accomplished and identify how to proceed towards the future.

Why do we (ISOC) care 1

WSIS recognizes the multistakeholder approach for the management of the Internet.

- This includes recognition of e.g. ICANN, the RIRs, TLD registries, the IETF, and the Internet Technical Community more broadly.
- In contrast to multilateral (treaty based) management of the Internet by the UN and its institutions.

WSIS shapes the digital (development) agenda – our mission and strategy aligns.

- **People everywhere have access to affordable, reliable, and resilient Internet.**
- **People everywhere have an Internet experience that is safe, secure, and protects them online.**

Why do we (ISOC) care 2

More fundamentally:

The Internet as we know it is a set of choices.

The decentralized open architecture and operation of the Internet, its evolution; and user centric design are the result of the way we govern the Internets infrastructure.

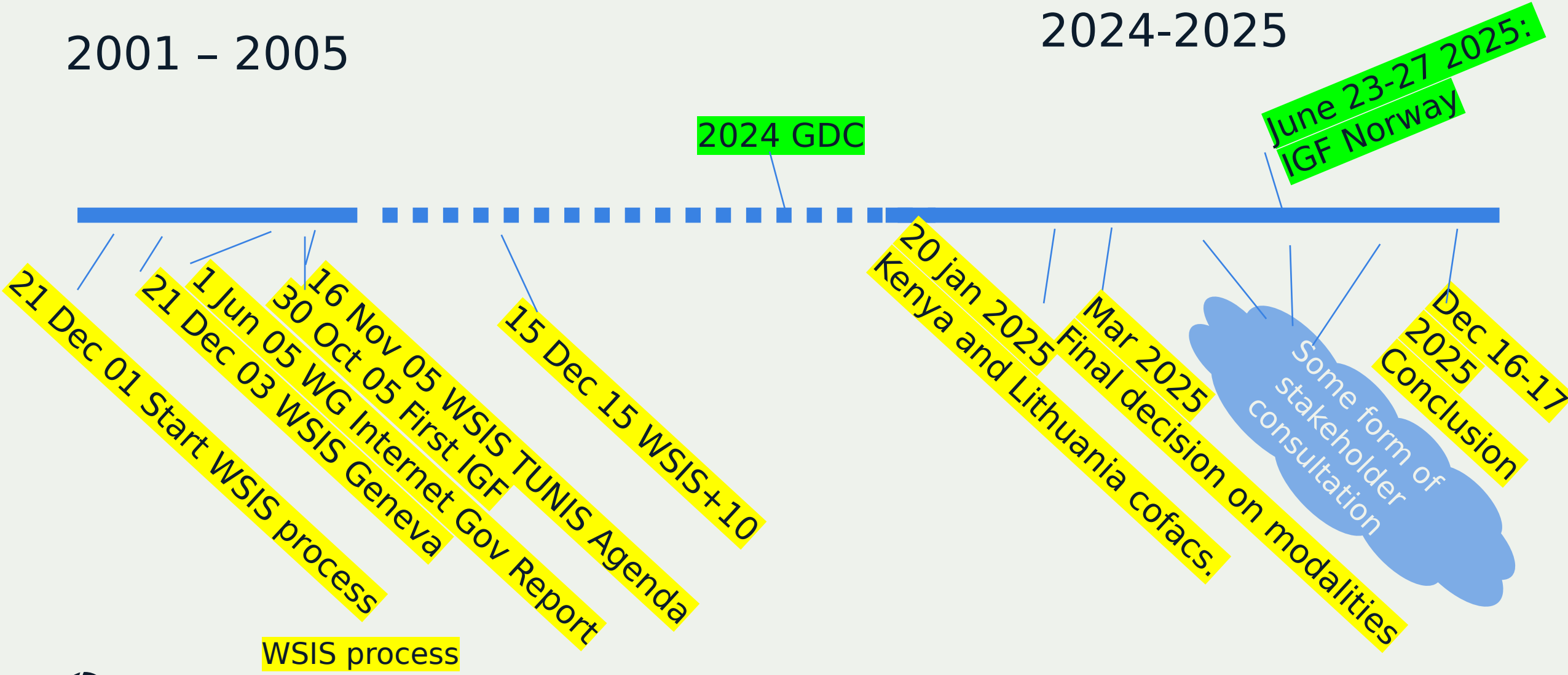
Change the choice and you change the Internet.

https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/wsis20

A timeline

2001 – 2005

2024-2025



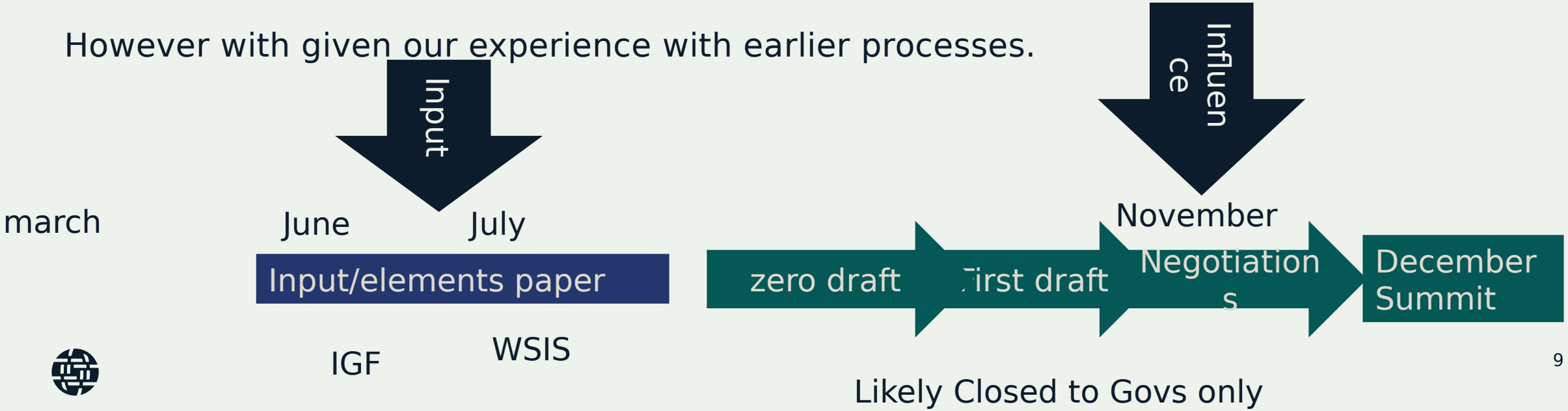
Modalities: https://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/109/2025/02/250204-WSIS-zero-draft.pdf

What does Some form of stakeholder consultation mean

Short answer: we do not know yet.

May involve local or regional consultations – ISOC chapters may be involved in this
May involve formal consultations by the co-facilitators
May involve the ability to speak at the UN General Assembly

However with given our experience with earlier processes.



Role of the Internet Society

Internet Society has its own high level approach:

1. Sharpening the WSIS action Lines
   concrete actionable, technology neutral, & GDC included
2. **The Only Way Forward: A True Multistakeholder Approach**
   meaningful, Netmundial+10 compatible, recognizing power asymetries
3. **Evolving the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**
   permanent mandate, agenda setting, strengthen NRIs

We will use our staff, our communities and our partners to provide input to the process

We also partner with the IAB and other Technical community partners

https://www.internetsociety.org/blog/2025/02/advancing-the-wsis-vision-together/

How does the IETF fit in?

When viewed through the lens of the WSIS action lines and/or the WSIS+10 review then little direct impact on the action lines, but there are pros and cons that can be identified

For instance (not exhaustive).

- IETF ‘building blocks’ are and the Internet itself are enablers for digital prosperity
- The open nature of its output enables bridging the digital divides
- Stakeholder diversity problematic but improving
- Some research groups (GAIA, SUSTAIN) speak directly to the action items

However

The IETF serves as exemplary technical community – one of the shepherds of the Open Internet and part of the Internet Governance fabric

Internet Governance
none
full
Civil Society
Academic Community
Goverment
Tecnical Community
Private Sector
govern-o-force
WSIS+20

References

Document A/RES/70/125 is the General Assembly resolution that documents the outcome of the 2015 WSIS review. It is likely going to be the steppingstone for the 2025 negotiations and a good startingpoint.

The **Tunis Agenda 2005** set out multistakeholder principles of Internet governance and established the Internet Governance Forum. It also dealt with other key issues, such as financial mechanisms for ICT for development and implementation of the WSIS Action lines. It reaffirms the Geneva Principles (WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/4-E) and incorporates the Geneva plan of action (Document WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/5-E)

Thank you