

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

**WSIS+20: Reimagining horizons of dignity, equity
and justice for our digital future**



ASSOCIATION FOR PROGRESSIVE COMMUNICATIONS (APC),
IT FOR CHANGE, WACC GLOBAL
AND SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)

Global Information Society Watch 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

WSIS+20: Reimagining horizons of dignity, equity and justice for our digital future

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We would like to extend a special note of thanks to authors who have made ad honorem contributions to this edition of GISWatch.

We gratefully acknowledge the following: Ana Neves (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia – Unidade FCCN)

APC would like to thank the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), IT for Change and WACC Global for their support for this Global Information Society Watch 2024 special edition.

Published by APC

2024

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Global Information Society Watch 2024 Special Edition web and e-book

ISBN: 978-92-95113-67-1

APC-202404-APC-R-EN-DIGITAL-357

Disclaimer: The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of Sida, IT for Change, WACC Global, APC or its members.

We would like to acknowledge and thank IT for Change, who have partnered with APC on this special edition, as well as WACC Global for their valuable contribution.

GISWatch is a joint initiative of APC and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and follows up on our long-term interest in the impact of civil society on governance processes and our efforts to enhance public participation in national and international forums.

WSIS+20: REIMAGINING HORIZONS OF DIGNITY, EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

Twenty years ago, stakeholders gathered in Geneva at the first World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and affirmed a “common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.”

This special edition of Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) considers the importance of WSIS as an inclusive policy and governance mechanism, and what, from a civil society perspective, needs to change for it to meet the challenges of today and to meaningfully shape our digital future.

Expert reports consider issues such as the importance of the historical legacy of WSIS, the failing multistakeholder system and how it can be revived, financing mechanisms for local access, the digital inequality paradox, why a digital justice framing matters in the context of mass digitalisation, and feminist priorities in internet governance. While this edition of GISWatch asks: “How can civil society – as well as governments – best respond to the changed context in order to crystallise the WSIS vision?” it carries lessons for other digital governance processes such as the Global Digital Compact and NETmundial+10.

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH
2024 Report
www.GISWatch.org

