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**Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the  
World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international  
level**

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**Statement from Mr. Joseph Hall, Senior VP Strong Internet, The Internet Society**

I'm very happy to be here with other distinguished guests and all of you joining us remotely.

I work at the Internet Society and we have long shared the WSIS vision of a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society. It is a vision that will require all stakeholders to collaborate closely; Governments and major telecommunications operators cannot address the gaps in both access to and trustworthiness of the Internet by themselves.

There a set of critical properties that underlie the architecture of the Internet - which we at the Internet Society define as the Internet Way of Networking. These critical properties and their open, collaborative, constructive evolution are critical to the growth and success of the Internet. In just a few decades, this approach has given rise to a rich ecosystem of organizations and communities that build and operate the Internet worldwide.

The Internet is not centrally designed. It evolved from a set of networking principles and technical building blocks that emphasized openness and interoperability and maximized interconnection. Its strength and resilience relies on it being open, diverse, and inclusive. For the Internet to thrive, it needs multistakeholder collaboration to keep evolving and

adapting to address the needs of the communities that make up its broad ecosystem.

To truly achieve an open, trustworthy Internet for everyone, we need solutions supported by public/private partnerships that bring together experts from the technical community, policymakers, regulators, philanthropy, and investors. This consensus is reflected in the WSIS SDGs and Tunis Agenda which recognize respective roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, all working together: intergovernmental organizations, governments, civil society, business, and the technical and academic communities.

Several successful examples reflect the value of the multistakeholder approach: the successful IANA transition to multistakeholder governance, behavioral commitments in security best practices and awareness such as the MANRS (mutually agreed norms for routing security) initiative, the many collaborative efforts around community networks and development of rich local networking facilities, and, of course, the multinational efforts to protect strong encryption through “coalitions of coalitions” such as the Global Encryption Coalition.

When we address challenges and opportunities 'the Internet way', in a multistakeholder approach that supports the Internet Way of Networking, we can help the Internet continue evolving as a force for good that is truly for everyone.