Agenda

WSIS and Beyond: Building a Civil Society Digital Justice Strategy

Organized by

IT for Change and Association for Progressive Communications in collaboration with the Global Digital Justice Forum and the Emancipatory Futures Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

10–11 February 2025 | Johannesburg, South Africa

About the Global Digital Justice Forum

The Global Digital Justice Forum (GDJF), formed in early 2024, is a dynamic coalition driven by a vision of digital justice. It includes a diverse array of civil society stakeholders, including sustainable development organizations, digital rights networks, feminist groups, corporate watchdogs, communication rights campaigners, trade unions and cooperatives. At the heart of the Global Digital Justice Forum lies the promise of reinvigorating international cooperation in response to the transformative shifts in digital technology. We believe that a truly equitable, inclusive, and development-oriented digital society is only possible through active participation and agenda-setting by people from all walks of life. The voices of marginalized communities should guide the processes leading to digital justice. To this end, we advocate for a democratized and meaningful form of participation that enables agile, accountable, and people- and planet-centric policies.

Members of the Forum have an impact footprint across South Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and collaborate with alliances and civil society groups in North America and the European Union.
Read more at https://globaldigitaljusticeforum.net/

Meeting goals

This meeting brings together members of the GDJF together with some local and regional partners of APC and IT for Change from the African region to:

1. Examine contemporary challenges to an inclusive, people-centric, development-oriented digital paradigm. This will include looking at issues at the intersection of digital justice and a broader global development justice agenda covering these intersecting topics:

- Equity, inclusion, diversity, gender justice - meaningful connectivity and digital inequality - the broader context and challenges
- International economic governance processes and issues - trade, tax, IP finance, debt, financing and policy support for digital infrastructure development and public digital innovation capabilities for the South - Digital Public Infrastructure
- Corporate accountability and market concentration - AI governance, trends in market regulation
- Human rights - social and economic and civil and political, democracy, militarisation, the public sphere, media, communication justice and plural knowledge societies - "Information integrity", data governance processes that impact on digitalisation and decisions being made around it, geopolitical conflicts, digital solidarity and digital cooperation
- Ecological justice and governance processes that impact on development and social justice more broadly e.g. food sovereignty, development finance; environmental sustainability/justice

2. Identify the key building blocks of a progressive civil society advocacy agenda for digital justice in the short and medium term (including the WSIS+20 review)

3. Build a political strategy and advocacy plan on digital justice for upcoming global and regional policy forums including the WSIS review, the Global Digital Compact and allied areas including the Financing for Development conference and beyond.

Participants

The list of participants for the meeting can be found **here**.

Agenda

Day 1 | Monday, 10 February 2025	
Time	**Sesssions**
9:00-10:00	**First segment** **A. Opening and welcome** Background about the GDJF Overall objectives and what to expect *Vishwas Satgar, Emancipatory Futures Studies* *Anita Gurumurthy, IT for Change* *Valeria Betancourt, APC* **B. Participant introductions**
10:00-13:00 with a break at 11:00	**Second segment** **How has the agenda on 'digital justice' evolved? Persistent issues, key trends, and areas for intervention - short framing inputs of 3 to 4 minutes each followed by a discussion** **A. Equity, inclusion, diversity:** Includes meaningful connectivity and digital inequality - the broader context and challenges *Onica Makwakwa, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership* *Pria Chetty, Research ICT Africa* *Prapasiri 'Nan' Suttisome, Engage Media* **B. International economic governance processes and issues:** Includes trade, tax, IP, finance, debt, and policy support for digital infrastructure development and public digital innovation capabilities for the South *Danny Bradlow, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria* *Solana Larsen, Open Knowledge Foundation*

10:00-13:00 with a break at 11:00	**C. Corporate accountability and market concentration:** Includes platform, data, and AI governance, trends in market regulation, transnational corporate power *Gayatri Khandhadai, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre* *Brid Brennan, Transnational Institute* *Jalal Abukhater, 7amleh* *Camila Leite Contri, Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC)* **D. Democracy, the public sphere, media, communication justice, and plural knowledge societies:** Includes 'information integrity', platform architecture and techno-design, geopolitical implications of social media, digital solidarity and digital cooperation *William Bird, Media Monitoring Africa;* *Juan Carlos Lara, Derechos Digitales;* *Jaqueline Pigatto, Data Privacy Brazil* *Izak Minnar, Media and elections consultant and trainer* **E. Ecological justice and governance processes that impact on development and social justice:** Includes food sovereignty, development finance; environmental sustainability/justice *Ana Maria Suarez Franco, FIAN* *Asimwe John, CIPESA* *Valeria Betancourt, APC* **F. Crosscutting themes** • Human rights - social and economic, and civil and political • Gender justice *Sheena G. Magenya, APC* *Merrin Muhammed Ashraf, IT for Change* *Hlengiwe Dube, Centre for Human Rights - University of Pretoria* **Reading list**
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**

14:00-15:30	**Third Segment** **Recalling and reclaiming the WSIS - short framing inputs and discussion** What it is and why it matters? What does "multistakeholder" mean in the context of the WSIS? How does it relate to the SDGs? What has it achieved? What is missing? How should we understand the Global Digital Compact - as a process and the role of the Office on Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET)? What CS processes related to the WSIS are currently underway? *Anriette Esterhuysen, APC* *Maria Paz Canales, Global Partners Digital* *Anita Gurumurthy, IT for Change* *Alison Gillwald, Research ICT Africa* *Sean O Siochru, Just Net Coalition* **Reading list**
15:30-16:00	**Break**
16:00-17:30	**Fourth Segment** **Group work** Guidance for group discussion and outputs: 1. What confronts us in relation to digital justice - challenges and opportunities (What is coming up in multilateral spaces, what does US foreign policy imply? What do shifts in the donor/fundraising landscape imply for global justice?) 2. What is OUR digital justice agenda? For WSIS+ 20 review and beyond? 3. What spaces should we be tracking?
18:00	**Dinner at 133 Second Avenue Melville**

Day 2 | Tuesday, 11 February 2025	
9:00-10:00	**Fifth Segment** **Reports from working groups**
10:00-11:00	**Sixth Segment** **How can we collaborate?** • Prioritisation in terms of demands/actions • Analyses - who will lead on what? • Planning • Resources • **Calendar of events**
11:00-11:30	**Break**
11:30-13:00	**How can we collaborate? (continued)**
13:00- 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00-15:30	**Seventh Segment** **Reviewing action plan for 2025**
5:30-16:00	**Break**
16:00-17:30	**Eight and Final Segment: Closing and evaluation** How do we take this to closure and connect back to the GDJ forum as a report back?