

1. What are the most important **achievements** arising from WSIS that should be highlighted in the Zero Draft? \*

From the perspective of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) as the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for the Asia Pacific, the following achievements of WSIS are worth highlighting in the Zero Draft:

1. Expansion of Internet infrastructure and access in developing regions

WSIS has played a critical role in stimulating investment and coordination in ICT infrastructure, particularly in developing regions such as the Asia Pacific. The underlying Internet infrastructure has enabled different actors in WSIS to build upon this. In the Asia Pacific, APNIC has enabled this digital expansion by providing Internet number resources and technical assistance and investing in infrastructure development to ensure the sustainable growth of Internet networks, especially in underserved and remote communities.

2. Emphasis on capacity building and human resource development

WSIS underscored the importance of education and skills development in the information society. Guided by the WSIS Action Lines, APNIC has strongly contributed to the area of uplifting digital literacy skills and human resources. Our work includes delivering extensive hands-on training and technical capacity-building programs on Internet number resource management, network operations, IPv6 deployment, routing security (RPKI) and cybersecurity to thousands of stakeholders across the region.

3. Establishment of the multistakeholder model for Internet governance

WSIS emphasized a multistakeholder approach to Internet governance, bringing together governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, technical and academic communities. It successfully affirmed the value of inclusive, bottom-up, and transparent governance processes including the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). This has allowed APNIC, alongside other technical operators of the Internet such as the RIRs, ICANN, IETF, ISOC, and others to contribute meaningfully to global Internet policy discussions alongside governments, civil society, and the private sector.

The IGF's National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) and robust intercessional work through the Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) and Policy Networks (PNs) have enabled diverse communities to engage with global Internet governance issues in ways that are contextually relevant. APNIC has continuously supported the work of the NRIs, DCs, and PNs to share technical insights, collaborate on policy discussions, and advocate for evidence-based approaches to Internet development.

4. Strengthening of regional and global cooperation

WSIS created a collaborative environment for greater international and regional cooperation. Through the WSIS platform, APNIC has actively engaged with governments, intergovernmental organizations, and development partners to align technical expertise with policy objectives, supporting inclusive and sustainable digital development.

2. What are the most important **challenges** to the achievement of WSIS outcomes to date and in the future that need to be addressed in the Zero Draft? \*

1. Addressing meaningful connectivity and digital empowerment

Despite tremendous progress in ensuring meaningful connectivity, inequalities remain to Internet access and digital empowerment. There is a need to address the full participation of people in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to enjoy the social and economic benefits of a robust digital economy.

2. Multistakeholder participation in driving WSIS outcomes

Similarly, one of the main challenges to achieving WSIS outcomes is the ability for all stakeholders, particularly those from the Global South, to fully participate in the work of the WSIS. As such, genuine engagement with all stakeholders in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner is critical for the success of WSIS.

3. Promoting IPv6 deployment for continued Internet growth

Ongoing transition to IPv6 remains a global technical challenge. Full IPv6 deployment is critical for Internet growth, innovation, and connectivity, and necessary to mitigate future Internet fragmentation. Barriers such as lack of awareness, policy inertia, and limited training need to be actively addressed through coordinated global and regional efforts. APNIC, and other RIRs, have led efforts to advance the deployment of IPv6 across our respective regions, ensuring the Internet's scalability and sustainability in the face of continued growth.

3. What are the most important **priorities** for action to achieve the WSIS vision of a 'people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society' in the future, taking into account emerging trends? \*

1. Safeguarding the global, open, and interoperable Internet

The open, decentralized nature of the Internet has underpinned its innovation and reach. Protecting this model – by resisting fragmentation and reinforcing multistakeholder governance – is critical to ensuring equal access to information and opportunity. As a multistakeholder-governed organisation, APNIC supports efforts to continuously strengthen multistakeholder, inclusive, and transparent governance at all levels.

2. Ensuring meaningful participation in governance processes

To achieve the WSIS vision of building a people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented information society, cooperation between governments, the technical community, and other stakeholders is critical.

A permanent mandate of the IGF will enable the further development and evolution of the multistakeholder Internet governance system. For the IGF to fulfil its mandate, it would need to be adequately resourced by a mix of core UN funding and voluntary contributions. The IGF can be further strengthened through support and recognition for the NRIs and intercessional activities.

3. Enabling innovation while preserving core Internet principles

Rapid technological developments – such as AI, IoT, and advanced networking – should be guided by open standards, inclusivity, and public interest. Policies should enable innovation while safeguarding privacy, security, and equitable access. Technical and policy communities must work together to ensure these technologies reinforce WSIS goals.

4. What **additional themes/issues**, if any, should be included in the Elements Paper? \*

The Zero Draft could address the intersection of digital infrastructure sustainability, environmental impact, and global resilience. As digital infrastructure becomes increasingly central to global economic and social functioning, our approach must evolve to address the full spectrum of environmental and resilience challenges.

5. Do you wish to comment on **particular themes/issues/paragraphs** in the Elements Paper? \*

Specific to the section on Internet governance, APNIC recommends referencing established language from WSIS+10 and the Global Digital Compact (GDC): "Internet Governance must continue to be global and multi-stakeholder in nature, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders."

Any update to the WSIS architecture should preserve the inclusive multistakeholder engagement that has defined WSIS since its inception. In this regard, APNIC recommends using the Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines to guide how the complementarity of multilateral and multistakeholder systems can be further strengthened.

6. What suggestions do you have to support the development of the **WSIS framework** (WSIS Action Lines, IGF, WSIS Forum, UNGIS etc.)? \*

Alongside APNIC's support for a permanent mandate of the IGF, we suggest strengthening the IGF as a multistakeholder policy-shaping platform through the following:

- Increased integration of IGF outputs into regional and global policy processes – the IGF should evolve its working methods to strengthen its agenda-setting role within the broader WSIS system
- Enhanced recognition and support for the NRIs and intersessional work from the Dynamic Coalitions and Policy Networks
- Ensuring the IGF Secretariat is well-resourced to support year-round engagement
- Enhanced participation from developing economies through travel support, hybrid participation, and local engagement hubs

7. Do you have any **other** comments? \*

APNIC appreciates the work and efforts of the WSIS+20 Review Co-Facilitators to actively engage and listen to stakeholders in an open and inclusive manner. We, and the community in the Asia Pacific region, benefitted from being able to contribute statements during consultation sessions held in an appropriate time zone for the Asia Pacific. We applaud and encourage the Co-Facilitators to continue this effort of engagement for diverse regions.

In addition, we highly support the convening of joint consultation sessions for governments together with other stakeholders. The open and inclusive nature of the WSIS+20 review consultative process could be a role model for future processes within the UN.

Lastly, the technical community continues to be a trusted resource for governments in Internet public policy issues. The Zero Draft could encourage governments to engage with technical stakeholders and harness their expertise in the development of national strategies.

8. Who is **submitting** this input? \*

Kindly provide the name of the person submitting this input, as well as the associated country, organization, stakeholder type, and relevant contact information

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9. Please provide your **e-mail** address: \*

Please enter an email