

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

n/a

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? *

n/a

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) An open, free and secure internet
- 2) Agile governance of AI and other emerging technologies
- 3) An environment and legal instruments to protect journalists and ensure their safety

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

Media freedom and the information society

The Information Society cannot exist without a free media and working conditions for journalists that are conducive to the production and sharing of information and knowledge on the internet.

The past 20 years have seen a huge increase in information sharing and production across the globe thanks to the internet. While established news organisations utilised the potential in reaching large parts of the world thanks to technological developments, free reporting and impartial content has never been under greater pressure.

Repression and attacks, physical and cyber, against the media are rising. The working environment for journalists, and freedom of expression, should be central to WSIS vision and commitment.

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

Human Rights and ethical dimensions of the information society

There is a need to spell out the violations of human rights online, which have taken various shapes over the past 20 years, particularly the spread of online harassment, cyber-bullying and attacks, including on the online presence of journalists or their family members.

The Elements Paper fails to highlight Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a foundation that guarantees a degree of protection for the spread of information across borders.

The Elements Paper must refer to internet shutdowns and online censorship as blockers of the development of a people-centred Information Society. These affect not only the access to news and online content, but also economic growth and developments of many all over the world.

Artificial Intelligence

The Elements Paper appears to have avoided spelling out the dangers surrounding the development of Large Language Models (LLMs), particularly in Paragraph 72.

In addition to areas such as digital, competition, taxation, consumer protection, online safety, and data protection, another area where we would welcome further international cooperation is around intellectual property – given the importance of large datasets in training AI models. We urge the UK to engage with its international counterparts to build support for high standards around copyright.

Transparency, fairness, and accountability should be at the heart of AI governance. For example, there has been very little transparency around how generative AI developers have used publicly available content to train their models. We believe that unlawful data scraping is likely to be widespread. The Zero draft must refer directly to its negative impact on developing nations and their economies, as part of the WSIS +20 Review.

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

n/a

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

n/a

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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