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

The WSIS process has significantly contributed to global awareness and action on digital inclusion and ICT4D (ICT for Development). Key achievements include:

-Creation of platforms like the IGF and WSIS Forum, supporting multistakeholder dialogue and policy coordination.

-Promotion of access to information and digital literacy, especially among underserved communities.

-Stronger global discourse on child online protection, with the ITU's COP guidelines influencing national policies.

-Enhanced commitment from countries and organizations towards a seeming inclusive digital transformation.

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? *

Key challenges include:

-Digital inequality: Persistent gaps in access, especially for rural and young people across Africa.

-Online safety for children and young people: Limited or slow integration of child online protection into national ICT frameworks.

-Lack of resources for localized content and digital literacy: content often does not reflect cultural and linguistic diversity, limiting utility and engagement.

-Policy fragmentation and inadequate funding for grassroots ICT programs.

Insufficient children and young people's engagement in global and national digital policy discussions.

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? *

Priorities should include:

-Strengthening child online protection frameworks and making them a core element of digital development agenda across board.

-Mainstreaming digital literacy and safety education into formal and informal education systems.

-Bridging the digital gender divide, especially among girls in Africa with holistic knowledge.

-Enhancing young people-led digital innovation and participation in governance structures.

-Addressing risks associated with AI, data privacy, and misinformation, particularly because they impact children.

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

-Child Online Protection as a distinct theme to drive policy attention and resource allocation.

-Digital well-being and mental health, particularly for young people growing up in an increasingly connected environments.

-Citizenship and resilience in harmful situations, including online abuse, cyberbullying, and exploitation.

-Localization of digital tools and solutions to fit regional and community-specific contexts.

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

We strongly encourage the inclusion of children as specific stakeholder group with unique needs and contributions. The current framing must go beyond general terms like "vulnerable groups" and recognize children as digital citizens requiring special protections and targeted empowerment.

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

-Ensure regional representation and inclusivity: participation of organizations from the Global South especially child-focused groups.

-Establish a permanent WSIS children Council or consider child advisory panels into the WSIS and IGF processes.

-Create dedicated funding and capacity-building mechanisms for community-based digital safety initiatives.

Promote inter-agency collaboration beyond ITU-other UN bodies to include civil society, to strengthen child-centered policy alignment.

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

As Child Online Africa, we reiterate the need for WSIS+20 to place children and young people at the centre of digital development. The next phase of WSIS must not only connect the unconnected but also protect the unprotected, especially in an era of AI, big data, and platform dominance. We call for actionable commitments, meaningful child participation, and measurable outcomes that advance digital safety, and empowerment for all.

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

Awo Aidam Amenyah l Ghana l Child Online Africa l Civil Society

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

Please enter an email