

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

The IGF and the NRI structure, including youth initiatives within them which serve as capacity building, co-creation and community building spaces, as well as feedback and policy discussion spaces. The Youth IGF structure, as part of the cascading NRI structure, as a component to provide input to IGF and national spaces. For example, Encouragement from NRI youth facilitators for youth to take the mic at the IGF

The IGF as a space where youth that inspire each other through projects and creating peer-to-peer spaces to showcase and promote more youth interaction, inclusion, support etc, such as:
Youth-led regional youth research initiative e.g. APPO (Asia Pacific Policy Observatory)

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? *

there is not a clear logical path of tracking on youth actions towards those WSIS achievements

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? *

Responsible and balanced development of Digital Economy
including youth as a stakeholder

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

Future Generation

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

Yes, Digital Economy and IGF

Digital Economy

We acknowledge the paper's critical focus on how to close structural gaps, support small enterprises and ensure fair access to digital opportunities for sustainable development. This aligns strongly with the core principles developed under HKyIGF's theme in 2024 – "Prompting a SMART Digital Economy.", and we will be continuing the conversation in the upcoming HKyIGF 2025

At HKyIGF, we believe that a truly transformative digital economy must be:

- Sustainable: Ensuring that digital growth contributes positively to environmental well-being and resource management, moving towards a circular digital economy.
- Multistakeholder-involved: Emphasizing the necessity of collaborative frameworks that bring together governments, civil society, the private sector and technical communities to shape inclusive digital policies.
- Accountable: Advocating for transparent and responsible governance structures that safeguard human rights and promote equitable access within the digital realm.
- Resilient: Fostering robust digital infrastructures and policies that can withstand challenges and ensure continuous, reliable access to digital opportunities.
- Trusted: Building confidence in digital systems through robust security measures, data protection and ethical considerations in emerging technologies like AI.

Our "SMART Digital Economy" framework directly addresses the challenges identified in the WSIS+20 Elements Paper by advocating for a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society. We emphasize that in building a thriving global digital economy, multistakeholderism must be upheld through meaningful and equitable collaborations, with frameworks that promote global interoperability and reject fragmented digital sovereignty policies that could stifle inclusive growth.

Read the 2024 Hong Kong Youth Collective Statement on Prompting a SMART Digital Economy here:

https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/52/28634

Youth Perspective on the Digital Economy

Drawing from broader youth statements and engagements within IGF processes, young people are actively advocating for inclusive, secure and sustainable digital futures. They emphasize the importance of building trust in digital systems, addressing misinformation and promoting cybersecurity as a cornerstone of economic resilience.

Youth contributions highlight the need for accessible digital skills development, fostering adaptable ICT career pathways and ensuring that emerging technologies like AI are leveraged for equitable development. Their voices are crucial in shaping policy recommendations for education, access, and empowerment, contributing to a truly inclusive digital transformation.

HKyIGF believes that by focusing on these SMART principles, we can collectively work towards a digital economy that is not only innovative and prosperous but also equitable, secure and beneficial for all.

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

a much transparent/ live tracker between different parts of the framework to visualise impact and relationship

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

NA

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