

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

No comments at this stage.

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? *

The Holy See insists that maintaining ethical imperatives is one of the most important challenges to the achievement of the WSIS outcomes, specifically the C10 Action Line of the Geneva Plan of Action.

"Universally held values" and "the common good" (C10 Action Line) must always be promoted. This can be effectively achieved by embedding common ethical principles within national legislation and internationally agreed frameworks, as well as by encouraging media and private sector stakeholders to enhance their appreciation of the ethical dimensions in the development and use of ICTs, in line with commitments (b) and (d) of the C10 Action Line.

Regarding commitment (c) to "take appropriate actions against abusive uses of ICTs," the Holy See expresses deep concern over the continued use of these technologies to generate, harbor, and disseminate content that is hateful, violent, pornographic, and exploitative of children. The proliferation of such materials, including those relating to child pornography, has also been linked to human trafficking involving both adults and minors. This grave issue is an important challenge to achieving the outcomes of the WSIS society.

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? *

Internet Governance (paragraph 31), regional and international cooperation (paragraph 86) and multi-stakeholder participation (paragraph 97) were the three factors outlined in the Tunis Agenda to achieve a 'people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society'.

We insist that Internet Governance, including through ethical principles, is of utmost importance, especially as AI emerges as the main trend in the providing of information.

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

Consistent with the reply to the second question, "child pornography" should be included in the Elements Paper, for example after "all forms of child abuse" in paragraph 48.

Moreover, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) could be included in the listing of places where users face barriers in digitalization, for example in paragraph 15.

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

The Holy See, in conformity with its nature and particular mission, is obliged to make reservations on:

The term “gender”, specifically its derivate “gender-based violence” (paragraphs 45, 49, 53). The Holy See believes the term “violence against women and girls” is more accurate as it understands “gender” to be grounded in biological sexual identity and difference, male or female.

The term “marginalized groups”, as it is unclear which groups such wording designates in this context.

The term “empowerment of women and girls”, over which my delegation prefers the expression “promotion of women”, in order to avoid a disordered view of authority as power rather than service.

The Holy See also suggests the deletion of paragraph 48, which does not sufficiently outline which “public health” or “moral” issues would warrant restrictions on expression in line with international rights agreements.

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

No suggestions at this stage.

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

No suggestions at this stage.

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: *

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