

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

The WSIS process has contributed significantly to the expansion of global connectivity and internet access in developing countries; efforts to bridge the digital divide; e-government services to enhance transparency and accessibility; transformation of e-health and education; fostering rapid growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the digital economy and e-business sectors; supporting the SDGs with climate action and disaster preparedness; global collaboration through knowledge sharing and capacity-building; cybersecurity and data privacy frameworks; emerging technologies like AI and blockchain under ethical and inclusive principles; multistakeholder participation reinforcing inclusive governance; multilingualism and cultural diversity, and cross-sectoral impact, empowering individuals and communities.

WSIS is instrumental in fostering inclusive, secure, and innovative information (and knowledge) societies. WSIS achievements underscore the role and contributions of the WSIS process in global digital development, social, economic and sustainable growth. Despite this progress, a substantial connectivity gap remains.

WSIS and its Action Lines have demonstrated adaptability in addressing emerging issues, including the rise of social media and transformative and emerging technologies like AI and virtual reality. WSIS provides a UN framework and guidance on digital governance, ensuring that global digital policies are aligned with globally agreed development goals and ethical dimensions of the information society.

ITU has played a key role in facilitating dialogue among multistakeholders, supporting digital transformation strategies, and ensuring integration for emerging technologies to drive social, economic and sustainable development, some of the key areas referred by stakeholders are:

- Leadership and coordination: ITU's leadership has been critical in coordinating the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action by convening the UN System and other stakeholders to implement the WSIS Process. Its key components, like the WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking database, Partnership on measuring ICT for Development, and United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), have fostered coherence and collaboration across the UN system.

- Facilitator of the WSIS process: Over the past 20 years, ITU has advanced ICT infrastructure development, enhanced capacity building, improved cybersecurity, and enabled policy environments through the implementation of WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5, and C6, as the lead facilitator. ITU has also hosted and organized the annual WSIS Forum, maintained the WSIS Stocktaking Platform, and managed the WSIS Prizes.

- Promoting global connectivity: ITU has actively promoted the development of broadband and mobile networks, especially in developing countries where connectivity gaps remain significant. Through international telecommunications standards, ITU has ensured global interoperability, enabling equitable access to ICTs.

- Fostering digital access: ITU has implemented capacity-building programs aimed at enhancing digital literacy and skills development, particularly among marginalized populations. These initiatives support efforts to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all communities, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and those in rural areas, have access to the opportunities offered by ICTs.

- Enhancing cybersecurity: ITU has led the development of global cybersecurity frameworks and standards, which help countries and organizations implement robust policies.

- Supporting sustainable development: ICTs as enablers of sustainable development have been a significant contribution to the WSIS process. ITU has promoted ICT applications in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, and agriculture.

- Global governance and policy support: ITU has contributed significantly to the development of internet and cybersecurity frameworks. It has also provided policy and r

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? *

Addressing the digital divide remains a significant challenge; including those of cybersecurity and privacy; governance and regulation; barriers faced by marginalized groups; and economic, social, cultural and environmental impact.

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? *

Strengthening the existing multistakeholder platforms of WSIS Forum and IGF and securing sustainable funding and resources guarantees the long-term viability and effectiveness of these platforms, while enhancing access and representation by actively involving underserved communities, youth, and underrepresented sectors remains crucial.

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

The WSIS Forum is a core element of the WSIS process, and the largest global platform dedicated to digital technologies for development. It has consistently served as the central global multi stakeholder platform for dialogue and collaboration in the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the advancement of the digital agenda. The outcomes of the WSIS+20 HLE clearly demonstrated the Forum's continued relevance, reach, and impact. Please find the draft outcomes and the WSIS+20 High-Level Events Chair's Summary here: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Home/Outcomes>

Furthermore, the WSIS Forum is referenced and noted in the annual UNGA Resolution on "Information and Communication Technologies for Sustainable Development " <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/194> and the annual ECOSOC Resolution on " Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes

of the World Summit on the Information Society" that recognizes it value as a multistakeholder event.

- The 11 WSIS Action Lines have given stakeholders a clear framework to tackle evolving digital challenges — from infrastructure and ethics to capacity-building and cybersecurity. The WSIS Forum annually provides a platform for WSIS Action Line facilitators to take stock and develop roadmaps in a multistakeholder format (Tunis Agenda, para 109). Please see outcomes of WSIS Action Line Implementation meetings here: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Home/Outcomes> .
- The WSIS Stocktaking Database (www.wsis.org/prizes) provides us with a rich repository of projects worldwide implementing the WSIS Action Lines, showing clear linkages WSIS Action Lines and GDC.
- WSIS Prize: an annual global contest organized by the ITU to recognize and showcase outstanding projects that leverage Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- As part of the WSIS Stocktaking process and the WSIS Prizes, the WSIS Prizes 2025 celebrated outstanding contributions to digital development. The full list of winners and champions is available here.

UNGIS is an effective interagency mechanism on Digital Transformation for Development issues and digital cooperation. The structure is efficient comprising of ITU as permanent Secretariat, and rotational Chair and vice chairs ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP / Regional Commission (rotational vice-chair)

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

n/a

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

- The WSIS Process has stood the test of time and is highly relevant in the digital age, as it continues to remain at the forefront of leveraging the power of digital for sustainable development. It serves as a UN multistakeholder coordination mechanism on digital and emerging technologies topics.
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 - o 19 Winners were recognized outstanding projects that demonstrate excellence in implementing the WSIS Action Lines and advancing global goals through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
 - o 71 Champions honoured as runners-up.
 - o 270 Nominees were celebrated.
- The Global Digital Compact priorities and objectives have been mapped with the WSIS Process by the UNGIS WSIS Process and 2030 Agenda- GDC Matrix (www.ungis.org) and it can continue to be integrated into the WSIS Framework

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

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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

Please enter an email