

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

One of the most important achievements of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is the establishment of a shared global framework for digital development through the WSIS Action Lines and the promotion of universal access to ICTs. WSIS laid the foundation for linking digital technologies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and contributed significantly to expanding connectivity, particularly in developing countries. Furthermore, WSIS institutionalized the multistakeholder model of Internet governance, enabling inclusive global dialogue and cooperation. The establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the incorporation of WSIS principles into national and regional digital strategies demonstrate the Summit's lasting impact on global digital policy.

1. Expansion of Global Connectivity

-Rapid growth of mobile networks: The evolution from 2G to 5G has enabled Internet access even in areas lacking fixed infrastructure.

-Broadband infrastructure investment: Fiber-optic networks, submarine cables, and satellite Internet have brought millions of people online, particularly in rural areas.

-Smartphone proliferation: Billions of people now access the Internet through smartphones, with particularly notable increases in developing countries.

2. Digital Inclusion and Development

-Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (2010): A joint initiative by ITU and UNESCO that promotes broadband as a key tool for sustainable development.

-ICT Development Index (2009): A global benchmark used to measure digital progress and address digital divides.

-Connect 2020 Agenda (2014): Set ambitious targets for achieving universal broadband access.

3. Cybersecurity and Resilience

-Solutions for disaster risk reduction and network resilience: Efforts have been made to strengthen telecommunications infrastructure in preparation for natural disasters.

-Cybersecurity frameworks and international cooperation: Expanded efforts have been undertaken to improve trust and safety in the digital space.

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? *

Several critical challenges continue to hinder the full realization of the WSIS outcomes, both to date and looking ahead:

Persistent digital divides in terms of access, affordability, and digital literacy remain a fundamental barrier, particularly in developing countries.

Governance gaps in emerging technologies, such as AI, risk exacerbating existing inequalities due to the absence of timely and inclusive policy frameworks.

Threats to trust, security, and the information environment—including rising cyberattacks, digital fraud, misinformation, and the growing risk of internet fragmentation—undermine the WSIS principles of openness, inclusivity, and universality.

Deficiencies in cybersecurity and trust have weakened confidence in ICT, calling for urgent global efforts to restore high levels of trust in digital technologies and infrastructure.

Fragmented governance and coordination structures across global digital policy frameworks lead to duplication and inefficiencies.

Limited integration between key initiatives, such as WSIS and the Global Digital Compact, risks producing siloed and disconnected efforts.

Lack of policy coherence at national and international levels, as well as insufficient institutional alignment, further hinders effective implementation.

These challenges highlight the urgent need for renewed global digital cooperation rooted in WSIS values and must be explicitly addressed in the Zero Draft.

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? *

Closing persistent digital divides in connectivity, affordability, and digital literacy remains a top priority, particularly for marginalized and underserved communities. Strengthening digital trust, privacy, and cybersecurity is essential to ensure safe and inclusive participation for all. Governance frameworks must evolve to keep pace with emerging technologies such as AI, quantum computing, and the metaverse, with greater emphasis on ethical and inclusive use through global discourse. The development of comprehensive AI and data governance frameworks that safeguard human rights is urgently needed, ensuring that technological progress aligns with the values of human dignity and sustainable development. Promoting equitable and sustainable digital infrastructure and enhancing digital skills for all are foundational to achieving long-term goals. There is a need to establish mechanisms and support systems to ensure meaningful and sustained multistakeholder participation, particularly by youth, local communities, and the Global South, through inclusive governance models. Aligning digital transformation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing online harms and misinformation, and protecting human rights in digital spaces must remain core pillars of future action. These priorities should serve as the foundation for sustained action toward realizing the WSIS vision of a people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society.

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

The Elements Paper should incorporate new and emerging global digital issues, including the governance and ethical implications of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies, as well as the risks of internet fragmentation and challenges to digital sovereignty. It is essential to prioritize meaningful inclusion of youth and underrepresented groups, the development of resilient digital systems in the face of crises, and the establishment of robust, rights-based data governance frameworks, particularly with regard to cross-border data flows. To ensure the protection of human rights and safety in digital spaces, it is important to develop frameworks that safeguard children online, including provisions for age-appropriate content and digital well-being with attention to youth mental health. The Paper should also support multilingual content creation and automated translation tools to reduce language barriers and promote inclusive participation. These themes are essential to ensure that the WSIS framework remains inclusive, relevant, and forward-looking in an ever-evolving digital environment.

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

Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies (Paragraphs 70–73)
While the current draft appropriately highlights capacity building and equitable access, it should go further to address the governance of AI. This includes the risks of unequal access, concentration of power, ethical concerns, and the need for inclusive global frameworks to guide the development and responsible use of AI. The paper should also call for open, interoperable AI ecosystems to prevent monopolization and exclusion.
Multistakeholder Governance (Paragraphs 59–61)
The framing of Internet governance as primarily "multilateral" risks diluting the inclusive spirit of WSIS. The Elements Paper should reaffirm the original WSIS understanding of multistakeholderism, which acknowledges the distinct and complementary roles of governments, civil society, the private sector, and the technical community. Reinstating the Tunis Agenda's working definition of Internet governance would provide necessary clarity and continuity.
Internet Fragmentation (Paragraph 47)
While the paper rightly identifies fragmentation as a threat, it presents it as a future risk rather than a current and growing reality. Stronger language is needed to address the geopolitical and technical forces already contributing to Internet fragmentation and to reaffirm the commitment to a single, open, and interoperable Internet.
Equitable Participation in Global Governance
While the multistakeholder model is referenced, the document should reinforce the need for more meaningful and equitable participation from the Global South and underrepresented communities, ensuring legitimacy and fairness in global digital governance.

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

There is a need to update the WSIS Action Lines to better reflect emerging technologies and issues such as AI, data governance, and digital sustainability. Discussions are also needed on how these topics can be incorporated in a complementary manner without formally amending the existing Action Lines. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) should be strengthened with enhanced authority and resources to support more outcome-oriented policy discussions and enable greater participation from developing countries and marginalized groups. Diversifying the financial base of the IGF and WSIS Forum would help ensure the long-term sustainability and institutionalization of the IGF. The WSIS Forum should be more strongly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), regional digital agendas, and the Global Digital Compact (GDC), evolving into an integrated, results-driven platform. The United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) should be revitalized to improve system-wide coordination of digital cooperation and policy coherence across the UN system. Overall, the WSIS framework should place inclusive multistakeholder engagement, capacity building, and South-South cooperation at its core to advance equitable and sustainable global digital collaboration.

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

No

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

KrIGF(Korea Internet Governance Forum), Korea(republic of), Civil Society

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

Please enter an email