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

WSIS established crucial normative foundations that remain relevant: the commitment to a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society" and recognition that human rights online must equal those offline. The multistakeholder governance model has enabled civil society and women's organizations to participate in digital governance discussions. WSIS Action Lines provided frameworks for addressing digital divides, though gender integration remained insufficient. The Internet Governance Forum created space for gender advocates to raise technology-facilitated gender-based violence and women's digital rights issues. However, achievements must be contextualized: while WSIS principles were progressive, implementation failed to prevent digital spaces from replicating offline gender inequalities. The framework's gender-blind approach in many areas led to missed opportunities for transformative change. WSIS+20 should acknowledge these foundations while recognizing the urgent need to move beyond gender-neutral language to gender-transformative action that addresses power structures and ensures women's agency in digital governance.

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 most critical challenge has been WSIS's failure to adequately mainstream gender equality, resulting in digital transformation that has often amplified rather than reduced gender inequalities. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence has reached epidemic proportions, affecting over billions of women globally, yet lacks systematic governance responses. Women remain underrepresented in digital governance. Persistent gender digital divides mean 259 million fewer women than men use the internet, concentrated among marginalized groups. AI and emerging technologies embed gender bias at scale through biased datasets and algorithms, perpetuating discrimination in credit, employment, and criminal justice. Digital policies continue to be developed through gender-blind processes that ignore differential impacts on women. The fragmentation of digital governance across multiple forums dilutes gender equality advocacy. Looking ahead, without deliberate intervention, emerging technologies risk institutionalizing gender inequality at unprecedented scale and permanence. WSIS+20 must shift from gender-neutral to gender-transformative approaches.

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? *

UN Women is developing a unified framework that aligns gender and digital commitments across the 2030 Agenda, Beijing Platform, WSIS, CSW67, Global Digital Compact, and UNESCO AI Ethics to address fragmentation and enable coherent implementation. Our priorities are organized around three strategic outcomes:

Strategic Outcome 1: Reshape digital governance to mainstream gender equality A people-centred, rights-based digital governance is impossible while women remain peripheral to digital rules. By 2030, every major national digital or AI instrument should pass gender-responsive tests through: (1) Adopting gender-responsive digital and AI policies that actively dismantle inequality; (2) Advancing inclusive participation ensuring women's authoritative, not consultative role in decision-making; (3) Expanding gender-disaggregated data and metrics to enable evidence-based policymaking.

Strategic Outcome 2: Transform digital ecosystems to advance women's empowerment Digital empowerment means women have agency over their digital futures. By 2030, women must be architects, not subjects, of technological change through: (4) Delivering gender-responsive investments closing digital divides beyond connectivity to meaningful access; (5) Bridging STEAM education gaps ensuring women participate without displacement by automation; (6) Advancing women's leadership across the digital economy from research to governance.

Strategic Outcome 3: Safeguard women's rights and freedoms Technology-facilitated gender-based violence has reached epidemic proportions, threatening to make digital spaces uninhabitable for half the world's population. By 2030, safeguarding women's digital rights must be the litmus test of whether technology serves humanity through: (7) Ending technology-facilitated gender-based violence via comprehensive legal frameworks and platform accountability; (8) Protecting privacy, expression, and civic space ensuring AI systems don't undermine women's participation; (9) Making AI inclusive, transparent and fair through mandatory gender impact assessments and public audits.
These priorities require moving beyond incremental improvements to fundamental restructuring of WSIS, ensuring gender equality is central through an action line and mainstreamed (similar to SDG 5 and cross-cutting mandate) to achieve WSIS vision.

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

The Elements Paper lacks adequate coverage of: Technology-facilitated gender-based violence as a systemic human rights violation requiring governance responses; Women's digital rights as fundamental to human rights online; Gender-responsive digital governance mechanisms and mandatory gender impact assessments; Intersectional digital divides affecting women differently based on race, disability, age, location; Women's economic empowerment in digital spaces, including access to digital finance and entrepreneurship; Gender data governance addressing surveillance, privacy, and algorithmic bias affecting women; Digital feminist movements and their role in advocating for rights; Climate-gender-digital nexus as environmental and digital transformations intersect. The paper's current gender references (paragraphs 9, 30, 45) are insufficient and lack urgency. A dedicated section on "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Digital Age" is essential, reflecting that achieving WSIS vision is impossible while women remain marginalized in digital spaces. This reflects global consensus in CSW67, Beijing+25, and the Global Digital Compact that gender equality is central, not peripheral, to digital governance.

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

Paragraph 9 stating "empowerment of women and girls...are essential" is inadequate, it lacks specificity on how to achieve this and treats gender as an add-on rather than fundamental to WSIS vision. Paragraph 45 on technology-facilitated gender-based violence understates the crisis and lacks urgency for systematic governance responses. Paragraphs 28-35 on digital divides mention women but fail to address intersectional barriers or structural causes of exclusion. Paragraph 68 on data governance ignores gendered surveillance and algorithmic bias affecting women disproportionately. Throughout the paper, gender is mentioned peripherally rather than integrated as essential to each theme. The paper lacks recognition that current digital governance has systematically failed women and marginalized groups. It needs stronger language acknowledging that achieving "people-centred, inclusive" information society requires fundamental restructuring of power relations, not just improved access. The multistakeholder governance discussion (paragraphs 59-64) should explicitly address women's underrepresentation and meaningful participation requirements. AI section (paragraphs 70-76) must address gender bias as a core governance challenge, not an afterthought.

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

WSIS Action Lines: Add a stand alone action line on gender and integrate gender equality as a cross-cutting theme across all 11 Action Lines with specific targets, indicators, and accountability mechanisms. Establish dedicated gender focal points for each Action Line with mandated reporting on gender outcomes. Internet Governance Forum: Institutionalize gender balance in leadership, mainstream gender perspectives in all tracks, and establish commitments from multistakeholder discussions rather than just dialogue. WSIS Forum: Reserve dedicated sessions for gender and digital governance, require gender analysis in all workshop proposals, and ensure women's organizations have adequate funding for participation.

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

WSIS+20 represents a critical juncture: digital transformation will either advance or undermine gender equality, there is no neutral path. UN Women calls for WSIS+20 to adopt a gender-transformative approach that moves beyond aspirational language to binding commitments with accountability mechanisms. The WSIS+20 outcome must be strategically aligned with the timelines of the Global Digital Compact implementation and the Beijing+30 review to ensure gender commitments are reinforced and coherently implemented rather than fragmented across parallel processes.
As referenced in question 3, UN Women is developing a comprehensive strategic framework that unifies recommendations from the 2030 Agenda, Beijing Platform, WSIS commitments, CSW67 conclusions, the Global Digital Compact, UNESCO AI Ethics Recommendation, and major UNGA and HRC resolutions on gender and digital governance. This unified framework addresses the persistent challenge of duplicative and siloed approaches that have weakened implementation over the past 20 years. We propose this could serve as the foundation for an ambitious new WSIS Action Line on Gender Equality and Digital Governance that consolidates three decades of international commitments into a coherent, actionable roadmap with clear 2030 targets. This approach would facilitate localization, enable coordinated advocacy, and ensure substance leads over parallel processes, addressing the implementation deficit that has characterized gender and digital governance to date.
Non Exhaustive list as an example:
Lever Key documents & paragraphs / articles
1 Gender-responsive digital & AI policies • CSW 67 OP (ddd) • WSIS Tunis ¶ 96 • Global Digital Compact ¶ 11 (g) / 19 • UNESCO AI Ethics §§ 87, 88, 113 • Beijing PfA ¶ 76 • WSIS Geneva Plan D-1
2 Inclusive participation & multistakeholder governance • CSW 67 OP (xx) • WSIS Tunis ¶¶ 97–98 • GDC Principle 8 (a) & ¶ 65 • UNESCO AI Ethics §§ 47, 54 • HRC 53/29 OP 1
3 Gender-disaggregated data & metrics • SDG 17.18 • WSIS Geneva Plan E-28 • WSIS Tunis ¶ 114 • Beijing PfA ¶ 206 (a-b) • CSW 67 OP (hhh) • GDC ¶ 45 (b) • Pact for the Future p. 47 (b) • Beijing +30 Decl. ¶ 17
4 Universal connectivity & gender-responsive DPI • CSW 67 OP (f) • GDC ¶ 11 (a-g) • Pact ¶ 11 (e) • WSIS Geneva C-2 ¶ 9 • WSIS Tunis ¶¶ 50, 89 • UNGA 78/213 OP 8
5 STEAM education & digital skills • CSW 67 OP (kk) • GDC ¶ 13 (a-c) • Pact ¶ 13 • WSIS Geneva C-4 (capacity-building) • WSIS Tunis ¶ 90 • Beijing PfA ¶ 82 (e) • UNESCO AI Ethics § 88
6 Women's leadership & digital economy • CSW 67 ¶ 73; OP (vv-ww) • GDC Obj. 2 (i) • Pact Principle 8 (d) • Beijing PfA ¶¶ 166 (a), 167 (a) • WSIS Geneva e-Business section • HRC 53/29 preamble
7 End technology-facilitated GBV • UNGA 79/152 OP 6, 18 • CSW 67 OP (ppp), 43 • GDC ¶ 30 • HRC draft 56/L.15 OP 1, 5
8 Privacy, expression & civic space online • UNGA 78/213 OP 17-18 • HRC 54/21 (privacy) • GDC ¶ 29 (d) • CSW 67 OP 43 • WSIS Geneva C-10 ¶ 25
9 Inclusive, transparent & fair AI governance • UNESCO AI Ethics §§ 50, 54, 87 • CSW 67 OP (bbb), (fff) • UNGA A/78/L.49 OP 3-5 • HRC 53/29 OP 3 (c) • GDC ¶ 55 (d)

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

Helene Molinier

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

Please enter an email