

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

- The outcome documents from the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) provide a clear vision of the a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The emphasis on multistakeholder nature of its implementation.
- Clarity with regard to the implementation of lead responsibility across UN entities under different action lines, which helps to avoid duplication of work.
- The creation of what became the annual, multistakeholder World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum and the annual Internet Governance Forum.
- Clarity with regard to the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide WSIS follow-up.
- The creation of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), which now comprises 31 members and 17 observers.
- The creation of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
- The set-up agreed upon at the World Summit has enabled structured interaction since the Summit, and has fostered close collaboration across all stakeholders and allowed for the process to address old and new issues as they have arisen.

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 rapid pace of digitalization has created new opportunities and challenges that are complex and difficult to address by member States.
- There is a need to strengthen the world's ability to foster more inclusive outcomes of digitalization. Although global internet usage has grown significantly since WSIS, least developed countries and lower-income populations continue to fall behind.
- There is a need for inclusive policy frameworks and enhanced international cooperation to ensure that all countries and communities can fully participate in —and benefit from — the opportunities of the digital economy.
- A major challenge is related to widening digital and data divides, which are increasing the risk of widening development divides. These divides can be observed both between and within countries.
- There is no clear mechanism under the WSIS outcomes to address the need for more development finance that can help mitigate these risks. The proposed Digital Solidarity Fund never materialized.
- Current developments are leading to increased market concentration, which will be further accentuated by the uptake of artificial intelligence. Rather than achieving the WSIS vision, a relatively small number of very large companies are capturing a growing share of the benefits from data and artificial intelligence. For example, the market capitalization value of the six most valuable companies (Nvidia, Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet and Meta) in the world as of July 2025 was about \$16.7 trillion. This corresponds to a value that is about 57 times higher than that of all ODA from OECD countries in 2023.
- Data governance needs to be strengthened at the global level in order to both facilitate cross-border data flows and to ensure more equitable benefits from such data.
- At the same time, the rapid pace and increased complexity of digitalization are adding to environmental risks and challenges. Whereas new technologies can help to mitigate environmental challenges, the process of digitalization itself is not contributing to growing greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water use, resource depletion and electronic waste. There is a need to achieve more circularity in the process of digitalization.
- Growing reliance on digital technologies for the provision of public services brings manifold benefits but also creates new vulnerabilities, risks of exclusion, and safety and security threats that need to be addressed.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) presents global challenges and opportunities but only a handful of countries and corporations are involved in the decisions that will set its course.
- High-quality jobs are increasingly concentrated in digitally enabled sectors. Countries need to address labour substitution by digital technologies (including AI) while encouraging productivity-enhancing innovation.

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? *

- Address widening digital and data divides
- Address growing market concentration in the digital economy
- Strengthen global data governance, empowering developing countries to participate in global digital decision-making.
- Enable more developing countries to tax the digital economy as a way to secure domestic revenue mobilization
- Boost financial and technical support to countries lagging behind in terms of digital readiness
- Foster more circularity in the digital economy
- Implement effective safeguards to protect privacy in the digital age, a key enabler of other rights, particularly the free development and expression of an individual's personality, identity and beliefs, and their ability to participate in political, economic, social and cultural life.
- Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights, including enhanced cybersecurity and efforts to build trust and confidence in the integrity and value of digital resources; ensure greater accountability from technology companies and digital platforms.
- Develop effective, inclusive, human-centred AI governance frameworks focusing on the common good of humanity.
- Ensure effective and synergistic integration of commitments made in the Global Digital Compact and the implementation of the WSIS, and aligning digital transformation efforts with national sustainable development goals.
- Ensure greater policy coherence at the national level, promoting holistic strategies that integrate digital and non-digital stakeholders across and beyond government. This includes the development of digital public infrastructure and the promotion of digital public goods.
- Strengthening international cooperation and policy coherence, inclusive multilateralism and greater participation by developing countries in global digital policymaking.

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

- Digital automation's effects on labour markets and development: Assess the transformative effects of digital automation, AI, and robotics on employment patterns, including job displacement and creation. Evaluate policy measures to mitigate negative social impacts, such as income inequality and job polarization, while ensuring upskilling, reskilling, and lifelong learning initiatives.
- Social polarization, online harms, and the rule of law: Examine how digital technologies, especially social media platforms can amplify societal polarization, and misinformation; examine implications of deepfakes and manipulated digital content for political stability, voter trust, electoral integrity, and governance.
- New modes of social interaction and digital working: Analyze the profound societal shifts caused by digital technologies in human cognition, interpersonal relations, and social cohesion; highlight teleworking and digital communication's impacts on workplace dynamics, work-life balance, productivity, and inclusion, as well as necessary policy responses.

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

No

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

Concerning the outcome of the WSIS +20 review of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), as reflected in the 2025 ECOSOC resolution on implementation of WSIS outcomes, an overarching message that comes out is the need for alignment between WSIS and GDC, especially in response to rapid digital innovation. There was a consensus on the need to avoid creating parallel or fragmented digital governance structures and to recommend that the commitments of the GDC should leverage WSIS mechanisms and institutional strengths. Stakeholders agreed that leveraging and strengthening existing forums, such as the WSIS Forum and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), rather than creating parallel mechanisms, is essential for ensuring resource-efficient and impactful collaboration. In this regard, the CSTD provides an inclusive platform for building consensus around shared goals that align with both the WSIS and the GDC.

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

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

Please enter an email