

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

N/A

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? \*

N/A

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? \*

- Include foresight and create mechanisms to better anticipate technology trends and thus mitigate risks or leverage opportunities in real time, not after the fact, such as with social media. This point was made in the UNCTAD report Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes - A Twenty-Year Review: "Concern was expressed about the need to anticipate trends in technology and services to ensure that necessary provisions are in place ahead of time to stimulate positive and prevent or mitigate adverse effects on children's lives." To this end we also recommend investments in research and evidence generation to better understand the usage and impacts of ICTs on the population, and especially on children.
- Meaningful engagement of all stakeholders in the development of digital policies, infrastructure and systems is needed. Children and youth, the largest cohort of online users, need to be especially engaged if there is to be an inclusive digital environment, today and in the future.
- Promoting a trustworthy internet through accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content.
- Service restrictions, protection against internet restrictions.

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

- Business and human rights - the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2012) should be referenced in relation to their relevance in guiding responsible business conduct in a digital age. This includes highlighting the importance of ensuring particular attention to the rights and needs of groups or populations that may be at heightened risk of becoming vulnerable or marginalized, including children.
- Ethics - 'ethical' is in many cases implied, however, the challenges and pressures we are already seeing to push forward untested technologies - including AI systems - especially in settings which may not have their own appropriate protections is ever growing. This provides a stronger mandate to ensure appropriate risk assessment and ethical decision making.
- National digital transformation agendas - the broader national digital transformation agenda in recognition of national governments being the stewards of their countries' digital agendas including leading localisation, cross-sectoral investments and coordination.

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

- Para 6 - consider...and international norms. These norms should specifically include a focus on better embedding child rights standards and their implementation online and offline, including through enhanced normative coordination with bodies like the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).'
- Para 46 - we welcome the references to children that take a rights, and both protective and empowering, approach, including: "46. Development of ICT applications and operation of services should respect the rights of children as well as their protection and well-being."
- Para 8 - consider "...children and young people...". A significant proportion of internet users are children.
- Para 31 - consider emphasizing that these "soft" challenges are on top of the "hard" technical challenges (connectivity, energy, devices).
- Para 41 - consider including that this point should relate to not only developing skills, infrastructure etc, but also to their ongoing maintenance
- Para 53 - children and young people should be specifically mentioned among affected groups
- Para 68 - "Growing concerns around..." consider adding "digital sovereignty" to the listed areas
- Para 72 - consider emphasising '...high quality, trusted, inclusive and contextualized data sets...'
- Para 80 - consider adding language that specifically speaks to this need among children and young people, i.e. the next generation of users.

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

- Elaborate WSIS action lines 1 and 2 – while we welcome the theoretical alignment with other instruments, for successful practice and implementation, there is a need to create a more unified framework for global digital governance in consideration of the evolution of digital technologies, society and the intersection between them.
- Elaborate WSIS action line 4 – include green digital skills.
- Elaborate WSIS action line 10 – include child rights. Digital technology governance, and the norms, structures and values that underpin it. These norms should specifically include a focus on better embedding child rights standards and their implementation online and offline, including through enhanced normative coordination with bodies like the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

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

Hlekiwe Kachali on behalf of UNICEF.

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

Please enter an email