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

WSIS has been instrumental in embedding the multistakeholder approach in global digital governance. The institutionalization of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and its National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs), such as IGF-D in Germany, has fostered open dialogue, inclusivity, and civic input on digital policy. These platforms embody the WSIS vision of a human-centred Information Society and should be preserved and strengthened.

Another key achievement is the elevation of Access to Knowledge (A2K) and digital capacity building in the global digital policy agenda. The recognition of open educational resources (OER) as part of WSIS Action Line C3 has legitimized open access as a development strategy. Wikimedia Germany particularly values how WSIS has opened space for discussions around digital commons and open licensing models that support inclusive education, collaboration, and knowledge equity.

Furthermore, WSIS contributed early on to ICTs for development (ICT4D), integrating digital goals into broader SDG implementation. These linkages remain critical as digital tools are foundational to interdisciplinary education, participation, and governance. The enduring relevance of WSIS is not only in its achievements but in how it shaped digital development through the multistakeholder approach.

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? *

Despite progress, significant structural challenges persist. Digital divides have become more complex, with injustices in access to devices, connectivity, digital literacy, and local content, and especially for underrepresented groups and non-English-speaking communities. This is exacerbated by infrastructural gaps and lack of funding in the Global Majority. Open knowledge resources, including OERs, remain unequitably distributed and often inaccessible due to language, licensing, or platform design. Publicly funded digital tools are frequently not open, contradicting our "Public Money – Public Good" principle. Governments and international organizations must ensure public digital infrastructure is open, reusable, and inclusive.

The multistakeholder model itself is under strain. Some national and global processes are shifting toward state-centric or industry-driven models, risking the marginalization of civil society. WSIS-related forums are often siloed, with unclear communication channels and limited resources for meaningful participation; particularly for youth, community-based actors, and smaller CSOs.

To uphold WSIS goals, we must address the fragmentation of Internet governance and the governance of digital technologies. It remains important to reinforce mechanisms for civil society involvement, monitoring power imbalances and fostering trust and transparency, and adhering to the Sao Paulo Principles for multistakeholder governance, developed during NETmundial+10.

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? *

WSIS+20 must reaffirm its commitment to Access to Knowledge and digital commons. This includes:
- Strengthening policies that support OERs, open licensing, and multilingual content.
- Integrating A2K and knowledge equity into national strategies for inclusive education and SDG implementation.
- Promoting local content creation, platform accessibility, and community participation.

We also call for the systematic implementation of the "Public Money – Public Good" principle across digital policy. Publicly funded digital infrastructure and software should be developed as commons: open, interoperable, and reusable by all. GovTech systems should be accountable, co-designed with civil society, and built on open standards. To preserve the multistakeholder spirit of WSIS, inclusive governance mechanisms must be well-resourced and accessible. This includes simplifying engagement processes, supporting translation and plain-language communication, and proactively enabling youth, Indigenous peoples, and Global Majority actors to participate. Finally, we urge the alignment of WSIS+20 with the Global Digital Compact (GDC), fostering coordination and synergies between NRIs, and thereby all stakeholders, to avoid duplication and ensure coherence.

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

> - Access to Knowledge (A2K) should be recognized as a stand-alone WSIS Action Line, encompassing digital commons governance, open licensing, and global education and knowledge equity.
> - Digital Commons Governance must be included as an emerging principle, promoting openness, participation, and sustainability in public digital infrastructure.
> - "Public Money – Public Good" should be introduced as a normative framework guiding all public digital investments.
> - GovTech deserves stronger thematic recognition, particularly regarding civic co-creation, sustainability, and regulatory safeguards.
> - Monitoring of multistakeholder processes and forums should be strengthened to ensure meaningful civil society representation and address power asymmetries in decision-making.
>
> All of this is fundamental to ensuring that WSIS remains responsive to current challenges and continues to center public interest and democratic participation.

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

> Yes. The Elements Paper should strengthen its articulation of openness, transparency, and public value as foundational principles for digital development. Specifically: A2K should be elevated as a cross-cutting theme connected to SDGs, not only under education or capacity building but also under governance and rights.
> The section on IGF and WSIS structures must better highlight the critical role of NRIs and the need for sustainable funding and inclusivity.
>
> The Data Governance section should be reframed to address data commons, algorithmic accountability, and equitable digital capacity. On AI governance, it is essential to emphasize the role of open ecosystems and civil society participation to avoid concentration of power. The zero draft should also better reflect the institutional interplay between WSIS and the GDC, and recognize existing communities of practice as contributors to digital cooperation and policy design.

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

> - Establish a new WSIS Action Line on Access to Knowledge and Digital Commons, with co-leadership from institutions experienced in open knowledge (e.g. Wikimedia Movement, OER networks).
> - Institutionalize public oversight and transparency mechanisms within the IGF and WSIS processes, monitoring stakeholder balance and inclusivity.
> - Provide sustainable, earmarked funding for underrepresented actors; especially youth, local organizations, and the Global Majority to participate in NRIs and WSIS-related events.
> - Encourage peer-learning and knowledge exchange between NRIs through multilingual documentation, mentorship structures, and community-driven platforms.
> - Align NRIs who work on the ground in UN member states with WSIS Action Lines to streamline contributions and ensure bottom-up input shapes global outcomes.
>
> These measures would enhance the coherence, accountability, and democratic legitimacy of the WSIS framework.

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

> Wikimedia Germany calls on WSIS+20 to serve as a turning point that re-centers digital transformation and Internet governance around the values of public good, the multistakeholder approach, and democratic participation. To achieve this, a stronger integration with the Sustainable Development Goals, the follow-up process of the Global Digital Compact, and other global norm- and standard setting processes is necessary to avoid double structures and fragmentation.

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

> Sophia Longwe, Germany, Wikimedia Deutschland e.V., Civil Society

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

>

Please enter an email