

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 WSIS, originating from the Tunis Agenda, is its success in institutionalising “multistakeholderism” as a core principle in global digital cooperation. WSIS has become a trusted platform for convening diverse global stakeholders to shape a more inclusive, trustworthy, and rights-based digital environment. Notably, it led to the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which continues to serve as a critical space for dialogue, collaboration, and policy development on internet governance and digital transformation at large.

In addition, WSIS has enabled governments, civil society, the private sector, technical communities, and international organisations to learn from each other and replicate good practices in digital transformation at national, regional, and global levels. In the trends of shrinking civic space across the globe, the WSIS process has fostered shared ownership, mutual accountability, and capacity-building in advancing digital inclusion and rights-based digitalisation of different civic actors which needs to be maintained and ensured that WSIS continually fosters open, inclusive, and equitable participation.

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? \*

A key challenge to the achievement of WSIS outcomes, both to date and going forward, is the limited engagement of major technology companies - particularly those holding the largest concentration of power in the development and deployment of emerging technologies despite the current global digital governance ecosystem would benefit from stronger emphasis on corporate accountability of the private tech sector.

One of the main challenges that civil society organisations face, particularly in the Majority World, is engaging in consequential and substantive discussions with the private sector, not only to make their concerns heard, but also to ensure companies improve their practices and remedy mechanisms on critical human rights issues. These companies are often the sole decision-makers behind technologies with society-wide implications, from artificial intelligence, to data governance and digital infrastructure. The Zero Draft should reflect the need for mechanisms that not only encourage meaningful participation from the most prominent technology companies, but more importantly, promote their accountability in upholding human rights, systemic transparency, and inclusive digital development.

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? \*

To achieve the WSIS vision of a ‘people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society’ in the context of emerging digital trends, it is essential to prioritise stronger private sector participation—particularly from major technology companies—within the WSIS process. Their meaningful involvement must be anchored in a renewed commitment to corporate accountability, transparency, and rights-respecting innovation.

This calls for institutionalising mechanisms that encourage tech companies to co-develop industry accountability frameworks alongside governments, and in consultation with civil society knowledge institutions, technical communities, and other interested stakeholders. In this regard, Article 32(b) of the Global Digital Compact provides a timely and relevant reference. It calls on digital technology companies and developers to work with governments and stakeholders to develop accountability frameworks that increase transparency around their systems and processes, define responsibilities, and commit to standards—as well as public, auditable reporting (in line with SDGs 9 and 17).

And whilst including tech companies in the development of accountability frameworks is relevant to uphold multistakeholderism, the main role of defining responsibilities and strengthening accountability in UN frameworks should lie with Member States, as stated in Action 55c of the Pact of the Future and Paragraph 34c of the Seville Commitment. Stronger private sector participation would be best achieved if guided by public authorities and intergovernmental institutions, who have the critical role in shaping and setting norms and standards for corporate accountability in the digital ecosystem. Drawing on lessons from existing privacy regulations and data protection frameworks, future action should prioritise advancing global standards on ethical AI, trust and safety, and systemic transparency.

These steps are crucial to guide companies and to ensure that the digital transformation aligns with human rights principles and sustainable development objectives, and that the benefits of technological progress are distributed equitably.

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

N/A

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

Yes, the current formulation of Article 47 rightly highlights the increasing concern over information integrity and platform accountability in light of the rise of generative AI. However, we suggest expanding its scope to reflect a broader range of systemic challenges posed by digital platforms beyond generative AI alone.

Proposed revision:

"Information integrity, platform accountability, and the role of content regulation and self-regulation have gained greater resonance in the evolving digital ecosystem. Beyond the emergence of generative AI—which has significantly lowered the barriers to producing realistic and potentially misleading content—other structural challenges such as algorithmic amplification, opaque content moderation practices, and the monetisation of harmful content also demand attention. Addressing these concerns requires a public standards, coordinated multistakeholder approach that promotes transparency, ethical standards, and effective safeguards to protect human rights in the digital space."

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

N/A

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

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

Please enter an email