

ITU CWG WSIS&SDG Call for Inputs on the WSIS+20 Review: Response

Response 41 – 26/12/2024 03:55

Respondent

1. Organization name

Child Online Africa

2. Organization type

Civil Society

3. Organization country

Ghana

Implementation of the WSIS Process

4. What are the **main achievements** of the implementation of the WSIS process in the past 20 years?

Enhanced access to ICT and communication technologies.

Strengthened partnerships and creation of frameworks and policy which sought to address the digital divides and emerging technologies.

5. What are ITUs main contributions towards the implementation of the WSIS Process in 20 Years?

Facilitating a multistakeholder approach of the WSIS processes while implementing the outcomes.

Engaging stakeholders to review, input and engage around the processes.

6. The WSIS process stands as a strong example of global digital cooperation in action for over two decades now. How can we ensure that this inclusive multistakeholder model is sustained and further strengthened?

Governments should create a structure which allow for the decision-making process to make way for children's voices to be heard.

7. What are the challenges that remain in the implementation of the WSIS process?

Having all stakeholders to be on same page as far as processes are concern to implement the outcomes.

Building the quality data which reflects the true implementation of the outcomes.

WSIS Action Lines

8. Which specific Action Lines have had the most significant impact, and why?

Action Line 7 because my interest is in the enhancing the capacities and capability of children and young people.

9. Considering that the WSIS outcomes have demonstrated their relevance and applicability to new and emerging areas, how can the implementation of the WSIS principles and corresponding WSIS Action Lines be enhanced to effectively address these topics?

Localizing the process a little further by developing materials to train facilitators in Children's rights in order for them to engage children extensively at the local level. Recommend to government to create local level structures which are safe to enable children to express themselves freely about their experiences.

10. Have you any suggestions and inputs on the WSIS+20 Review Action Lines, highlighting key milestones, challenges and emerging trends beyond 2025 prepared by the WSIS Action Line facilitators.

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/About#actionLines>

We must acknowledge that child online safety is now more critical than ever. At the beginning of the digital age, this issue was not as pronounced. Today, however, the risks are real, persistent, and evolving. We cannot afford to fold our arms or throw them in the air in despair. The stakes are too high, and the future of our children demands action, innovation and accountability.

WSIS Action Line for advancing the SDGs

11. How can the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs be strengthened towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

When global level process and frames are design to receive feeds from the local level while having the high level structure feedback the local level.

Future Vision and WSIS beyond 2025

12. How can we further strengthen multistakeholder platforms such as the WSIS Forum as the platform for digital development and IGF as the platform for governance and policy issues?

Implement comprehensive digital literacy initiatives in schools targeting children to ensure they understand and can engage with digital technologies effectively.

Be intentional to include or consult children in the decision making process.

Develop training processes tailored for children to equip them with skills to participate.

13. How can the implementation of the WSIS process and the Pact for the Future and its Global Digital Compact be aligned to achieve shared goals?

1. Ensure children's voices are integrated in the discussion and decision-making process.

2. Promote digital literacy programs tailored for children to understand the societal implications which will go a long way to achieving the SDGs.

3. Address barriers to access: particularly for children and marginalized groups to equitable opportunities.

14. What are the key emerging digital trends and topics to be considered by ITU in the WSIS+20 review and future vision beyond 2025?

AI & ML governance and ethics

Bridging the digital divides

Enhancing safety measures for children online to protect them from threats.

Promote resources which support children's education and development in digital environment.

Engage diverse stakeholders to ensure policies prioritize children's rights in the digital landscape.