

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

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Respondent

1. Organization name

AFNIC

2. Organization type

Academia / Technical Community

3. Organization country

France

Implementation of the WSIS Process

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

AFNIC would like to thanks the ITU and the Council Working Group on WSIS & SDGs for the work done and for holding a public open consultation.

In the last twenty years, since the WSIS, the digital transformation of society has been extensive.

The Internet has allowed millions of people to connect and to exchange ideas, laying the foundation stone for the common vision « where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge ».

AFNIC considers that major progress has been made in implementing a number of specific WSIS outcomes. Significant progress has been made toward digital inclusion. But results are mixed and uneven depending on the region of the world, 33% of the world is still unconnected, and inequalities are still patent. AFNIC as a public service concession is committed to an open internet that benefits everyone, promoting the French vision of a secure and stable internet open to innovation. Alongside, the AFNIC Foundation for Digital Solidarity which supports local initiatives to promote digital inclusion.

We strongly believe that implementing the WSIS outcomes has been facilitated by multi-stakeholder cooperation in both the development of internet technical standards and policy discussions. For that reason, AFNIC is involved in global Internet governance by actively playing a role in coordinating and representing the various French stakeholders within international bodies; and by contributing to the development of new internet standards and services.

The implementation of the multistakeholder model in the past 20 years has also demonstrated the importance of involving stakeholders in discussions on the governance and evolution of the Internet.

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

The ITU within the framework of its mandate, has contributed to providing a platform for addressing issues raised by ICTs and raise awareness to key challenges pertaining to the deployment of new and emerging technologies.

The ITU also promotes cooperation toward building global connectivity.

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?

AFNIC strongly believe that implementing the WSIS outcomes has been facilitated by multi-stakeholder cooperation. Such a cooperation is playing a key role in both the development of internet technical standards and policy discussions.

The multistakeholder model requires active engagement and further commitment to enable inclusive and concrete outcomes. AFNIC is actively involved in the work carried out by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) with the aim of contributing to the development of policies and sharing good practice and expertise.

We also actively contribute to Standards Developing Organisations, first of which the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), as well as in ITU work, both in the French Delegation and as a Sector Member, to help shaping the future of the internet and Internet governance.

Promoting Culture and linguistic diversity on the Internet is also key to help bridge the digital divide and facilitate the participation of the widest audience in their own languages and scripts, as well as accessing content in their native language.

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

Building a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information society is still a global challenge to be met in 2025, 20 years after the WSIS.

We strongly believe that one of the key challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes remains the digital divide and persistent difficulties to achieve meaningful access and participation in the information society.

Culture and linguistic diversity online need further commitment and work to allow for the emergence of a multilingual and diverse internet, as well as the development of local contents. Recalling paragraph 53 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles « The creation, dissemination and preservation of content in diverse languages and formats must be accorded high priority in building an inclusive Information Society The creation, dissemination and preservation of content in diverse languages and formats must be accorded high priority in building an

inclusive Information Society », multilingualism is a key enabler and allows for better dialogue and promoting tolerance and collaboration.

WSIS Action Lines

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

The WSIS outcomes have demonstrated their relevance and applicability to new and emerging areas, as well as the need to continue working toward

Implementing the WSIS outcomes has been facilitated by leveraging the multistakeholder approach of governance. We believe that strengthening multistakeholder and diverse cooperation is essential if we are to find innovative and sustainable solutions to the emerging problems we face.

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>

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

Regarding WSIS Action Line C11 – International and Regional Cooperation, we would like to highlight the importance of multistakeholder partnerships and cooperation, including the technical community, academia, civil society, the private sector, IGO and governments, to address global challenges and build a sustainable future.

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?

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?

Strengthening multistakeholder platforms and initiatives should go hand to hand with leveraging and reinforcing existing initiatives and avoiding duplication of efforts.

We strongly believe that one of the key challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes remains the digital divide and persistent difficulties to achieve meaningful access and participation in the information society. Improving multilingualism and inclusivity of these initiatives and platforms (capacity building, diversity of backgrounds, cultural and linguistic diversity, etc) is also key to improving their impact and outcomes.

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?

A Comprehensive mapping of action lines and the global digital compact is a prerequisite to advance shared goals.

The Internet Governance Forum, including the network of National and regional initiatives, and the WSIS framework, offer a good and recognized platform for allowing multistakeholder cooperation and engagement and demonstrated its adaptability to the emergence of new issues.

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?

Key topics to be considered by ITU in the WSIS+20 review and future vision beyond 2025 could include meaningful connectivity and helping bridge the digital divide.