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

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Respondent

1. Organization name

Permanent Mission of Armenia to the UNOG and other international organizations

2. Organization type

Government

3. Organization country

Armenia

Implementation of the WSIS Process

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

Armenia recognizes the activities of other UN bodies and agencies in facilitating international cooperation on the implementation of the WSIS action lines.

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

The 20th anniversary of the World Summit on Information Society is a milestone event to undertake a comprehensive review and take stock of the achievements, challenges and opportunities since the adoption of the Geneva Plan of Action.

We commend the work of the ITU as a leading UN agency in mobilizing international efforts to implement the Geneva Plan of Action.

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?

When it comes to Internet Governance and promotion of ICTs for sustainable development, we welcome the multistakeholder approach, bringing together the Governments and international organizations, civil society, women's organizations, young people, Indigenous Peoples, academia and private sector in implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.

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

> The development of reliable and meaningful connectivity and affordable access with the aim of unlocking the full potential of digital technologies for all, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups and countries in special situations, including Landlocked Developing Countries.

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?

> As the humanity continues to face the adverse impacts of the climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and land degradation across all areas of sustainable development, the WSIS action line on the ICT applications, E-environment will continue to remain highly relevant. Armenia stresses the importance of a stronger focus on the application of the ICTs in sustainable consumption of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and protection and other areas of environmental protection.

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

> Armenia approaches the WSIS+20 Review, guided by the ultimate goal of having an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital future for all.
>
> We stand ready to engage constructively in deliberations in the framework of the WSIS+20 Review for jointly shaping a way towards more inclusive, affordable, environmentally-friendly, safe and secure global digital connectivity, to reap the benefits of digitalization and thrive in the digital economy, while leaving no one behind.

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?

> Armenia attaches particular importance to the development of the digital cooperation at all levels, to fully utilize the enormous potential of ICTs for the wellbeing and advancement of people, societies, and as an important driver for achieving Sustainable Development Goals.
>
> The establishment of effective international cooperation for the advancement of people-centered, development-focused, human rights-based, affordable and accessible digital

technologies is imperative in terms of ensuring the meaningful contribution of ICTs to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and closing the digital divide.

Digital technologies accelerate achievement of the SDGs and enable upholding human rights. Equally, the misuse of digital technologies can undermine sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental, widen digital divides between and within countries, reinforce structural inequalities and biases, incite violence, hatred, racism and xenophobia, thus affecting enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Therefore, Armenia advocates for a particular focus on identification of risks and threats stemming from the new technologies on the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular incitement of violence, racism and hate crimes on ethnic and religious grounds and spread of disinformation. In this regard, we believe that upholding human rights in digital space should be an integral component of the WSIS vision to establish a "people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society"

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?

Empowerment of women and girls in the field of ICT and their access to technology, digital tools and innovation should remain an important priority. As a leader of the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition "Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality", Armenia is committed to reduce by half the gender digital divide across generations by 2026 through accelerating meaningful access to digital technologies and universal digital literacy.

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?

We stress the need to align the future work of ITU with the main principles and purposes outlined in the Global Digital Compact. WSIS+20 Review will be instrumental to identify how WSIS processes can support practical implementation of Global Digital Compact commitments and actions, including by adapting WSIS action lines.

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?

The ICTs and Artificial intelligence play a growing role in promoting and popularizing culture and art, preserving cultural diversity, monitoring, preservation and restoration of cultural monuments. In this regard the international cooperation on promotion of cultural diversity, protection and preservation of cultural heritage through the use of new technologies and innovation need to stay an important priority in future vision beyond 2025.