



**General Assembly’s overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes**

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**Official Form for Written Submissions**

**A. Your Information**

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Please specify your Institution/Organization and your position.

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**B. Formal Input**

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Some guiding questions for your submissions are listed below:

1. To what extent has progress been made on the vision of the people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society in the ten years since the WSIS?

Social and economic reforms are initiated revolving around the subject area of Inclusive Development. Inclusive development strives to eliminate the barriers to employment and enables the specially – abled persons to actively participate in the main sections of society. Accessibility proves to be the technology which enables inclusive work culture. New methods are being formulated for reforms in the education sector. This is termed as the inclusive education. Through the usage of mobile handset ICT devices, education is delivered to the disabled persons, as well as to the remotely located persons. This is carried out via maximized ICT penetration index.

**Digital India** is an initiative of Government of India to integrate the government departments and the people of India. It aims at ensuring the government services are made available to citizens electronically by reducing paperwork. The initiative also includes plan to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India has three core components. These include:

- The creation of digital infrastructure
- Delivering services digitally
- Digital literacy.

The project is slated for completion by 2019. A two-way platform will be created where both the service providers and the consumers stand to benefit. The scheme will be monitored and controlled by the *Digital India Advisory group* which will be chaired by the Ministry of Communications and IT. It will be an inter-ministerial initiative where all ministries and departments shall offer their own services to the public Healthcare, Education, Judicial services etc. The Public-private-partnership model shall be adopted selectively. In addition, there are plans to restructure the National Informatics Centre. This project is one among the top priority projects of the Modi Administration.

Digital India is a programme which aims to achieve the below mentioned targets:-

- Broadband Highways
- Universal Access to Phones
- Public Internet Access Programme
- e-Governance – Reforming government through Technology
- e-Kranti – Electronic delivery of services
- Information for All
- Electronics Manufacturing – Target NET ZERO Imports
- IT for Jobs
- Early Harvest Programmes

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## 2. What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes?

The Government of India entity Bharat Broadband Network Limited which executes the National Optical Fibre Network project will be the custodian of **Digital India** (DI) project. BBNL had ordered United Telecoms Limited to connect 250,000 villages through GPON to ensure FTTH based broadband. This will provide the first basic setup to achieve towards DI and is expected to be completed by 2017.

The **Digital India** initiative is a promising initiative of the Indian Government. Many companies have shown their interest in this project. It is also believed that E-commerce would facilitate the DI project. However, it is not free from challenges and legal hurdles. Some believe that DI cannot be successful till mandatory e-governance services in India are introduced. Having incomplete implementation of the National e-Governance Plan of India will only affect the success of the DI project. India has poor regulations in the field of privacy protection, data protection, cyber law, telegraph, e-governance, e-commerce, etc. Further, many legal experts believe that e-governance and DI without cyber security is useless. The cyber security trends in India have exposed the vulnerability of Indian cyberspace. Even the National Cyber Security Policy 2013 has not been implemented till now. In these circumstances, Critical infrastructure protection would be a really tough task to manage for the Indian Government. The project also lacks the concept of proper E-waste management.

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3. What should be the priorities in seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends?

Inclusive Development spanning across the Sustainable Development Goals is a priority area. For reaping the benefits of social and economic progress of society, innovation in scientific/ technological/ non-technological areas are the primary focus areas. Disability – inclusive approach in the society would create full participation – leaving no one behind. Thus enabling the specially – abled persons to be heard by the decision makers. This would provide mechanism for citizen engagement – thus accounting for all the citizens in the nation – including those who were at one time previously, discriminated and isolated.

For provision of inclusive development agenda, ICT devices and applications remain as being considered as the capital. Adopting all the measures, would strive to lead to achieving the WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account the emerging trends.

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4. What are general expectations from the WSIS + 10 High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly?

As considering the Sustainable Development Goals to be the best approach for Inclusive Development, adopting the SDGs would be ideal.

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## 5. What shape should the outcome document take?

Outcome document should include the high level policy statements and international agreements. It should also include the messages conveyed by all the speakers. Examples and case studies submitted by various participants featuring the Sustainable Development Goals could also be included in the outcome document. Finally, all the agreements which the countries have adopted in the WSIS + 10 High Level Meeting could also be added into the outcome document.

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End of all question and answers