Response to ten year review of WSIS implementation

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On behalf of EU Kids Online

7. To what extent, in your experience, has the "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society", envisaged in the opening paragraph of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles, developed in the ten years since WSIS?

In the past 10 years, much effort has focused on improving internet access globally. In developing countries, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) reports that some 3 in 4 households in the global North have internet access. Yet in the global South, this number decreases to less than 1 in 4, though steadily increasing. The population of these countries dwarf those of developed countries. Between one-third and a half of those populations are children, indicating we are at a tipping point in the growth of the online child population. It is therefore timely to consider children's rights in the digital age.

Often "people-centred" tends to assume a competent and responsible adult 'user' who lacks only access and a little skills training to engage online. As governments promote ICT so that businesses can compete in the global economy, they are formulating policies stuffi

ce when applied to young users, even though such assumptions are rarely considered sufficient offline.

There is much room for improvement to achieve the 'people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society' for children. Current protection and provision for children are fragmented and unevenly implemented, even in developed countries, and largely non-existtttttt2.562h5( ) 6 wi(3o 168906 29 TJET Q 0.24 0 0 0.24 453.796 216.72 cm BT 45 0

9. How has the implementation of WSIS outcomes contributed towards the development of a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society"?

10. What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes? What are the challenges that have inhibited the emergence of a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society"?

As the primary driver of technological innovations remains economic, it is difficult to foresee the rights and needs of children being prioritised without conscious effort. A firm commitment must be made to safeguarding and empowering young internet users.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), though formulated in the pre-

11. How are these challenges being addressed? What approaches have proved to be effective in your experience?
To move from recommendations to tangible actions, clear objectives must be established, with measurable outcomes to determine whether the objectives have been

What options are open to WSIS? Past efforts have included the World Programme of Action for Youth and the ITTU Global Youth Summit (2013). While these efforts involved youth and encouraged empowering activities such as civic participation and having a voice in decisions that affect them, they did little to safeguard children's rights globally. Do we to move beyond awareness-raising and promote policy that truly addresses children's needs in the digital age? At the very least, we hope this consultation will stimulate further deliberation and evidence-gathering to guide governments and governance processes around the world.

14. What role should information and communications play in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda?

15. Please add any other comments that you wish to make on the subject of the review that you believe would be helpful.

16. We would also welcome any documents, reports, etc. that you can forward which you think will provide useful evidence for the review. Please send these to cstd-