

Chair of the WSIS PrepCom-2 Sub-Committee

COMPILATION OF AFRICAN COMMENTS ON CHAPTER ONE OF THE
OPERATIONAL PART (IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM)

Note: New text in bold. Deleted text in ~~strike~~through.

1. We recognise that it is now time to move from principles to action, by encouraging stakeholders to take the Plan of Action one step further, identifying those areas in which progress has been made in implementing the commitments undertaken in Geneva, and by defining those areas where further efforts and resources are required.

2. We acknowledge the leading role of governments in implementing the WSIS Action Plan at the national level. We encourage, as appropriate, those governments that have not yet done so to elaborate comprehensive, forward looking and sustainable national e-strategies, as an integral part of national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, in partnership with other stakeholders, by 2008.

3. We **support** regional and international integration efforts as a contribution to the development of the global Information Society, and strong cooperation within and among regions is indispensable. The regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity-building and to the development, as appropriate, of national e-strategies and, regional implementation strategies. South-South cooperation shall be enhanced in order to foster knowledge sharing.

4. Exchange of views and the sharing of effective practices are essential to implementing the Geneva **and Tunis** decisions at the regional and international levels. To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share useful knowledge and know-how, related to the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of national e-strategies and policies, as appropriate, in order to bridge the digital divide.

5. We reaffirm that, through the cooperation and partnership of all stakeholders, it will be possible to succeed in our challenge of harnessing the potential of ICTs as a tool to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration and thereby to continue improving the social welfare and development of all human beings.

6. We are committed to achieving the indicative targets, set out in the Plan of Action, that serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015, and to using ICTs as a tool to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, by:

a. mainstreaming and aligning national e-strategies across national **and regional** action plans, as appropriate, with in-built time-bound measures/if possible, by 2008, aimed at achieving the development goals of the Millennium Declaration;

b. designing and implementing enabling policies and a regulatory environment that is supportive of ICT entrepreneurship and that promotes investment and the mobilisation of domestic resources;

c. building the ICT capacities of people **and institutions**, and improving educational programmes to allow greater access to ICTs;

d. promoting community volunteerism and community access to promote ICT applications;

e. promoting public policies aimed at making/providing/ensuring affordable accessibility to hardware as well as software to populations living in developing regions, in particular in rural areas;

f. improving access to the world's health knowledge, in areas as diverse as global cooperation in

emergency response, to reaching health professionals and individual citizens to improve healthcare and quality of life;

[new 6f bis.] f. bis. local content production and link to rural life. Supporting the local production of content and combating poverty in rural areas;

g. establishing monitoring and early-warning systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

g . establishing monitoring and early-warning systems, using ICTs, **in all areas of the world at risk, in order** to forecast and and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

h) Providing increased attention and support to human resource development and education for the information society with emphasis on the youth and women in order to increase contribution to the broader knowledge economy.

i) Since Small and Medium Size Entreprises (SMEs) are playing an important role in ICT development and usage in most of the developing countries, obstacles that are stopping these companies from fully participating in Information Society development should be overcome. In this context, SMMEs should be supported in capacity building, creation of joint ventures and access to capital and markets at the regional and country levels.

j) earmarking adequate budgetary resources for the goals established in the e-strategies, through a Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

7. The Geneva Plan of Action identifies international performance evaluation and benchmarking, taking into account different national circumstances, as an important aspect of the follow-up and evaluation. We applaud the initiatives taken in this area, including by those key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of ICTs who have joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development". We encourage national statistical offices to assist these efforts by providing data and technical support.

7. *[second sentence]* We applaud the initiatives taken in this area, including ~~by~~ those key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of ICTs who have joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development".

7. *[last sentence]* We encourage national statistical offices, **UN Regional Commissions, sub-regional organizations and other stakeholders**, to assist these efforts by providing data and technical support, **as appropriate**.

8. We recognize that our goals can be accomplished through the involvement and cooperation of all Information Society stakeholders. We encourage continuing co-operation between and among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, for instance through the promotion of Multi-stakeholder partnerships including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), in a joint effort and dialogue with less developed countries, donors and actors in the ICT sector.

8. *[after first sentence]* **We also recognize that structuring optimal partnerships requires expertise and call upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to set up a working group as part of the Tunis outcomes, to serve in an expert advisory capacity in the evolution of multi-stakeholder partnerships at the national, regional and international level.** We encourage

9. We commit ourselves to evaluate and follow-up progress in bridging the digital divide, taking into account different levels of development, so as to reach internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to assess the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the Information Society. We encourage all WSIS stakeholders to continue to contribute new and updated information on their activities to the WSIS stocktaking database, which was launched in October 2004 by the WSIS-ES and will be maintained by ITU, so that it becomes a valuable tool, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis Phase of the Summit.

9. *[after first sentence]* **All countries are invited to establish an information gathering mechanism at the national level with the involvement of all concerned parties.** We encourage all WSIS

10. In order to assure the sustainability of the WSIS process after the completion of its Tunis phase, we agree to establish an implementation mechanism for the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action, based upon co-operation among governments and all stakeholders, with the overarching goal of helping countries and societies to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. To that end, for each Action Line in the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action (as identified in the Annex), a team of stakeholders will work together to promote implementation. We request the UN Secretary-General to nominate, from among existing UN bodies or specialised agencies, those that will [moderate/coordinate] the work of each team, based on respect for their mandates and leveraging on their expertise, and within their existing resources.

10. *[after last sentence]* **We also recommend the establishment of multistakeholder partnerships at the regional level around the UN Regional Commissions to ensure implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions and organize Regional follow up Conferences every two years.**

11. The [moderator/coordinator] of each team identified in the Annex should periodically prepare a report on the implementation of the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action based upon the information provided by, and the outputs from collaboration among, stakeholders, focussing particular attention on the progress towards achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, and submit it to [a defined coordination body]. The [head of a defined coordination body] will submit regular reports to the UN General Assembly, following its existing rules of procedure.

11 *[after last sentence]* **The head of a central coordinating body (ITU/WSIS-ES) or/and the Global Alliance on ICT and Development to work closely with action line focal points and the UN**

Regional Commissions at the regional level;

[Options for a defined coordination body (with participation of representatives of all stakeholders):

ITU/WSIS-ES;

“existing UN division” (within UN DESA) for following-up major UN conferences;

Newly-created UN Inter-agency task force, HLSOC-type, (supported by a 2-3 person secretariat);

Newly-created UN ICT Task Force-type forum (supported by 2-3 person secretariat);

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Compilation of comments on Chapter four, operational part

Russia	Annex	
	Action Lines	[Moderator/Coordinator]
	C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for Development	-- UN Regional Commissions (UN RCs) +Regional political bodies
	C2. Information and communication infrastructure	ITU + UN RCs
	C3. Access to information and knowledge	ITU + UN RCs
	C4. Capacity building	ITU/UNESCO + UN RCs+Regional political bodies
	C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	UN RCs +Regional political bodies
	C6. Enabling environment	ITU + UN RCs +Regional political bodies
	C7. ICT applications	ITU + UN RCs
	• E-government	
	• E-business	
	• E-learning	UNESCO
	• E-health	WHO
	• E-employment	ILO
	• E-environment	WHO/UNEP/UN-Habitat
	• E-agriculture	FAO
	• E-science	UNESCO
	C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	UNESCO +UN RCs
	C9. Media	--
	C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	UNESCO
	C11. International and regional cooperation	ITU+ UN RCs+Regional political bodies
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	B. Objectives, goals and targets	-- ITU+UN RCs+Regional political bodies
	D. Digital Solidarity	-- Regional political bodies
	E. Follow-up and evaluation	-- ITU +UN RCs + Global Alliance on ICT and Development

