

The Civil Society and ICTs Policy Conference, 6-8 November 2002, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Wednesday, 6th November 2002

“The Addis workshop was an opportunity to share and learn from the experiences of African partners in the promotion of ICT on the continent.” Milton Aineruhanga, Program Officer, WOUGNET

Introduction

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC), ARTICLE 19 and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) held a five-day information and communications technology (ICT) policy and civil society workshop from November 6th to 10th, 2002 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The final day of the workshop was spent on an ICT policy training session whose objective was to demystify and explain technical terminology.

The meeting also used the occasion to present to Schoolnet Namibia the 2002 Hafkin award on ICT Policy. Finalists included bridges.org, Hazviperi Betty Makoni/Rusape Girls Empowerment Village; The Kubatana Trust of Zimbabwe; DigIT Africa (Digital Information Technologies in Africa); and Paradigm Initiative. Turn to Annex I for additional information.

The organizers, APC, Article 19 and the ECA have been pioneers in promoting ICTs in Africa’s democratization process. In organizing this workshop, the 3 organizations demonstrated the strength that Civil Society Organizations - CSOs can gain from closer interaction with institutions such as the ECA whose primary mandate is engaging policy makers in Africa’s development. As noted by ECA’s Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane during her opening remarks, "Increasing the participation of civil society in harnessing ICT for development in general and ICT policies in particular is one of the key objectives of the African Information Society Initiative and is considered a priority for ECA." The ECA is working with some thirty-two countries in Africa, assisting them in developing national ICT policies and civil society in these countries need to be involved in the evolving policies.

"Few civil society organizations are aware of the policy developments taking place at the global, regional and national levels that can impact on their ability and potential to use ICTs as tools in their work...."
Emmanuel Njenga, APC

Except for a few NGOs who have consistently advocated for the use of ICTs as tools to support democratic change, ICT policy issues have remained in the backburner of development priorities. Emmanuel Njenga Njuguna, APC's ICT project coordinator pointed out that few Civil Society Organizations are aware of the policy developments taking place at the global, regional and national levels that can impact on their ability and potential to use ICTs as tools in their work, let alone own or control the production and application of these technologies locally.

The workshop was attended by approximately 80 representatives from Non-

Governmental Organizations, human rights organizations, media groups, women's organizations, development groups and researchers from 24 countries throughout Africa along 3 main objectives:

- to exchange experiences and build on existing knowledge and expertise;
- to identify the needs that need to be addressed in order to develop ICT policy at both national and international levels, and;
- to identify the strategies required to meet those needs.

Participants discussed the role that African civil society needs to play in national, regional and global ICT policy-making and drew the issues from the bulk of work done by organizations such as the APC, Article 19 and the ECA. The meeting was enriched by the preceding month-long animated electronic discussion hosted by the ECA on the role of Non Governmental Organizations in promoting ICT policy and governance in Africa.

Smaller working groups were formed around four main areas of ICT policy-making, including the right to communicate; freedom of expression and information exchange; diversity of content, language, ownership and control; and global, regional and national governance of the information society. A statement on African civil society's engagement in ICT policy development and a Plan of Action concluded the meeting. These 2 documents will form the basis for mobilizing other organizations not present at the meeting.

The statement recognizes the centrality of civil society in ICT policy-making and the role it plays in the development of an inclusive information society through its proximity to the needs of people and society at large. Recommendations are made along the lines of 'freedom of expression', 'policy and enabling environment', 'governance', 'content creation and overcoming barriers', 'open source' and 'brain drain'.

The Action Plan sets out a clear course of action for participants to engage in information sharing, lobbying at national and international levels (especially at the World Summit on the Information Society), an open source software task force, and the development of a cross-regional information exchange for community radio organizations.

The workshop was particularly timely, as it provided a basis for a much-needed concerted African civil society input to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to be held in December 2003 in Geneva, and in Tunis in 2005. The resolutions adopted at the WSIS will have a profound impact on Africa's development. African CSO's need to drive the process in a way that yields tangible benefits that will help bridge the development divide between rich and poor nations. Getting involved will ensure that the agenda reflects CSO concerns and aspirations and thereby help to shape the future of the Information Society.

Funding for the meeting was funded by the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA), and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD). It was organized as part of the APC's Africa ICT Policy Monitor project, supported by HIVOS and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

1. About the Organizers

Association for Progressive Communications - The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is an international network of civil society organizations dedicated to empowering and supporting groups and individuals through the strategic use of ICTs, especially Internet-related technologies. APC and its members pioneer practical and relevant uses of ICTs for civil society, especially in developing countries. APC is an international facilitator of civil society's engagement with ICTs and related concerns, in both policy and practice. The network of members and partners spans the globe, with presence in Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America. <http://www.apc.org>.

One of APC's area of focus is the Africa ICT Policy monitor project whose website, launched in May 2002, aims to demystify the concepts of ICT policy-making. APC hopes that the content on the website content will stimulate discussion between users from around the continent about the use and relevance of ICTs for development in Africa, and facilitate the development of a network of civil society organizations promoting African Internet rights issues. More information on this project can be found on <http://africa.rights.apc.org>

ARTICLE 19- ARTICLE 19 works to promote, protect and fulfill freedom of expression, including access to information and to the means of communication. This is done through advocacy, campaigns, research, litigation and the building of partnerships. Article 19 engages global, regional, state institutions and the private sector in dialogue and holds them accountable for the implementation of international standards. The Africa Centre for Free Expression is based in the African office of ARTICLE 19 in Johannesburg. Article 19 believes that democracy and social justice are promoted and protected through the full exercise of the right to freedom of expression, including access to information and to the means of communication. More information can be found on <http://www.article19.org>

Economic Commission for Africa – ECA is the regional arm of the United Nations secretariat, mandated to support the economic and social development of its 53 member States, foster regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. The Commission has been a key pioneer in the area of ICT for development over the last decade. ECA is also the implementing agency for the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) - an action framework for bridging the African digital divide that was adopted by the conference of ministers of planning and economic development in 1996 and endorsed by African Heads of State.

AISI's major activities and objectives include the development of national ICT policies and strategies, and building Africa's information and communication infrastructure and capacity involving all major stakeholders. Since its inception, AISI has been supported and implemented through partnership. An important vehicle for AISI partnership is the Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa (PICTA). ECA is also a leading member of the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP).

Among the work being done by AISI is support to African countries to develop their own National and Information Infrastructure policies, plans and strategies. Other activities include capacity building for decisions makers and technical training. AISI has promoted sectoral applications of ICT for eradicating poverty and improving quality of life as well as support for educational processes that meet the needs of Africa's youth. Engaging civil society in debates on ICTs has been a key area of focus and has resulted in a number of initiatives, such as the ICTs radio series, the media and ICT award and online debates on key issues. Website: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi>

“Unless African civil society informs itself of the issues at hand and advocates vigorously to be included at this level of policy formulation, it is likely that the WSIS resolutions will have little bearing on the daily realities of African people” – Kubatana, Zimbabwe

2. Reflecting on African Society interventions in ICT Policy

a) Civil Society Voice in ICT Policy, Dr. David Souter

In his presentation, David Souter informed participants that International policy decisions about information and communications technologies (ICTs) have far-reaching implications for developing countries. Yet developing countries are poorly represented when agendas are set and decisions made. Africa has only recently begun to apply development principals to policy-making in the ICT sector. One of the challenges of this new dynamic is that on the one hand we are dealing with technologies that change quickly while development problems are somewhat static.

The issues of access, ICT applications and requisite skills have their basics in enabling communities to make use of ICTs in the most effective ways for development. As depicted in 'Voices', a report on civil society organizations' experiences in using ICTs for development, there is an international deficit of Africans in ICT policy; an issue that plagues both governments and CSOs. The report, compiled by the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization and Panos refers to Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa (<http://www.cto.int>).

He asked participants to consider the following critical issues that CSOs need to reflect and act on:

- The analytical capacity and the skills necessary to engage with policy formulation processes is insufficient and needs developing;
- Building the capacity for CSOs to engage their constituencies and influence the policy-making process is important.
- Increasing awareness of the relevance and importance of the policy questions at play should not be the work of a few individuals within an organization; and

There is a need for continuous and up-to-date information on *inter alia* policy interventions, policy options, country updates and the role CSOs are playing in these cases.

b) The scope of ICT policy? Why it is Important and Why CSOs should care,
Emmanuel Njenga

Emmanuel Njenga's presentation focused on breaking down the elements of ICT policy and offered the reasons why CSOs should care.

- **Infrastructure policies:** These mainly focus on the development of national infrastructure and deal with telecommunications, wireless communications (mobile and satellite); frequency allocations and fixed telephony. Internet domain names, security and privacy issues are defined. Infrastructure policies are an important part of creating National ICT/IT policies or strategies. In recent years, African governments such as Rwanda have developed National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) bolster its sectoral development in such areas as agriculture, education and health.
- **Vertical information policies:** These are policies that address sectoral needs such as education, health, manufacturing and so on. They would mainly refer to media policy, which includes radio and television broadcasting. In recent years, Community media is becoming an accepted third sector in broadcasting policy.
- **Horizontal information policies:** These impact on broader aspects of society, and they include freedom of information and expression, press freedom, content and applications diversity and languages, user rights and ownership. As more applications become popular, their role in e-governance, health, trade-e-commerce, and human capacity development define the need for policies.

Regional and international initiatives have been instrumental in defining and implementing ICT policies. Examples at the regional level include the African Information Society Initiative – AISI; NEPAD and the African Telecommunications Union – ATU and Internet forums such as the East African Internet Forum-EAIF www.tespok.co.ke/eaif.

International Initiatives and processes focus on among other issues, Internet governance. Examples include the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); United Nations ICT task force (UNICT); and the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).

In all these processes, a number of cross-cutting issues due to their impact on all sectors and all ICT-policy related sectors. Among them: gender equity; universal access; communication rights; freedom of expression; intellectual property; privacy and security; content and diversity; ownership and control.

Why is ICT Policy Important?

An in-depth understanding of ICT policy implications cannot be overstated. However, CSOs need to gain ownership and control of both the production and application aspects of these technologies and thereby increase their impact on social development. Further, ICTs can contribute greatly to poverty alleviation and attract support for micro-finance initiatives for small and medium enterprises and the delivery of such services would be enhanced by sound policies. In addition, essential government information and knowledge that contributes to development assistance would benefit from policies.

ICT policy making needs to be participatory and can be enhanced through the use of e-governance to increase dialogue on elements that civil society need to have a stake on.

Why should Civil Society Care?

- ICT policies impact on CSO's ability and potential to use ICTs.
- Governments and the private sector are defining the terms that will govern the Information society;
- Important decisions are constantly being made in regional and international processes such as NICI, NEPAD, ICANN, WSIS and CSOs need to contribute to ICT-specific agenda.;
- There are very few entry points for Civil Society participation and hence the need to engage in these processes.

Njenga concluded by urging participants to get involved in the APC's - Africa ICT Policy Monitor project and the APC Global Internet Rights work. These projects mobilise African civil society around the importance of ICT through raising awareness; building an ICT policy clearing house; developing guidelines and checklists; networking; and supporting and mobilizing participation.

More information on the projects can be found on <http://africa.rights.apc.org/>.

c) Issues in Media Sector and Broadcasting Policy, Tracy Naughton

This presentation outlined the convergence factor in broadcasting, satellite and other forms of ICTs, and stressed the importance of media diversity and freedom in the information age. Naughton underscored the importance of advocacy to ensure transparency, independence from government interference.

She noted that although convergence and digitization are providing opportunities to explore their right to communicate, issues such as privatization and licensing remain elusive. Further, digital broadcasting is challenging traditional policy-making structures and privatization of the media is doing little to promote pluralism, diversity and an editorially independent media.

Although media licensing is widespread and has increased competition on the media terrain, the process has not been fair. There is need for independent regulation as the way to ensure quality, relevant content and universal access. Without regulation the democratic nature of the independent media may be lost.

d) Mainstreaming Gender in ICT Policy, Jennifer Radloff

Radloff referred the meeting to the Kampala Know-How Conference where ICT and women's empowerment issues were a main area of focus on. Women bear the brunt of the digital divide due mainly to the unequal power relationship that already exists in society. Further, ICTs are divided along traditional lines of development which reinforce gender divides. Women are at the deep end of this digital divide and a great deal of analysis already exists that investigates unequal power relations between different groups in society in order to engage with policy issues from an informed and gendered perspective. Mainstreaming gender in ICT policy would include the following issues:

- Access and control and gendered allocation of ICTs;
- Education, training and skills development as illiteracy rates are higher among women;
- Content and language predomination as well as cultural bias and the question as to whether women's views being aired?
- Power and decision-making in ICT policy formulation
- Privacy and security issues;
- Trafficking, pornography and censorship; and
- Putting ICTs to strategic use.

A Gender Working Group on the WSIS has been formed and among the issues critical to the group are capacity building and training; facilitating women's active participation in the ICT sector; reform of the decision-making processes in the ICT sector; and finding innovative ways to link ICTs to peace, equality and development.

e) Communication Rights, Internet rights and Freedom of Expression, Peter Benjamin

Peter Benjamin emphasized that the right to communicate is a basic human right and pointed out that the information age is primarily private sector-driven, a factor that could erode communication and information rights. CSOs need to be conscious and fight against this.

The notion of Internet rights opposes the privatization of information. An information society that is driven by profit amounts to a reduction of common space.

Internet rights emphasize empowering the structures of civil society by using technology effectively for development and the enhancement of human rights. Through the use of ICTs communities can strengthen their social economic and cultural aspirations. The

Information Society is a society in formation and to use a metaphor, “the concrete is still wet” and we can still mould it to suit our ways and the time to act is now”

Among the networks that are involvement in the Internet rights issues and the right to communication are Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) is one of the main networks that are involved in the issues around the right to communicate. Website at <http://ww.communica.org/cris>

f) Freedom of Expression, Fatou Gagne

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human that right includes the right to receive and disseminate information. Freedom of expression is a pillar of democracy, but it is often abused – especially in Africa where authoritarian states develop laws to legitimate its suppression. The Internet and other new technologies are also increasingly being threatened. The legal framework for freedom of expression is broadly be broken down into 3 main era:

- In 1947 the UN declared that freedom of expression is one of the most fundamental human rights;
- The African Charter of Human Rights (1969) strengthens the right to freedom of expression. There is a limit to international laws but the legal framework does impel states to implement these laws to some extent; and
- Evolution in the legal framework: 1973 UN was given the mandate to provide guidelines for limits to freedom of expression.

Mechanisms exist to report violations of the freedom of expressions and are at the disposal of Civil Society. Positive advancements in the declaration of the need for freedom of expression have been made in the case of the NEPAD and the African Commission. However, despite formal guarantees, violations do occur.

Following September 11, many African States are implementing “anti-terrorist” laws which have threatened freedom of expression in Africa. This right has to be protected. Freedom of expression is the oxygen of democracy. Public opinion and debate on how these laws impede on basic freedom is needed so that consensus can be fairly arrived at.

During the ensuing discussions, participants concluded that certain restrictions are necessary in a democratic society. It was also felt that CSOs should concern themselves with advocating for the right to communicate because it has a far greater social impact. Freedom of expression cannot be left in the hands of legal systems as they are subject to far too many influences. The right to communicate is about developing the space and raising awareness to enable CSOs work with communities a lot more effectively.

3. Regional and International ICT Policy Initiatives; What Role for Civil Society Organizations?

a) ICT Civil Society and Governance, Challenges and Opportunities for Civil Society in ICT, Habib Sy

This presentation highlighted issues of poverty and bad governance and made reference to globalization and lack of accountability of governments and the international community. Habib Sy called on CSOs to use ICTs to promote good governance and to strengthen existing networks and their capacity to influence policy. Sy pointed out a number of governance-related challenges as follows:

- Globalization has become one of the key challenges of Africa's development, resulting in inequalities in the lives of those who are suffering.
- Peace, security and poverty: It is no coincidence that the highest number of refugees in the world are in Africa
- Cultural issues: the new world order that revolves around the capacity of people to use technologies presents a cultural challenge
- Technological and infrastructural hurdles: Africa is the only continent that doesn't have its own regional satellite; the infrastructure is insufficient and requires a regional approach
- Although radio is said to be the new drum in Africa, its penetration is still marginal in many African countries.
- Political challenges: Governments need to be accountable on matters that relate to trade decisions as well as the failure of structural adjustment.

He concluded by asking participants to foster partnerships between NGO's in the north and the south and work toward creating a space for sharing and focus on capacity development increase training.

b) The role of Parliamentarians in the Formulation of ICT Policies, Kouferidji Ramanou

African parliamentarians can play an important role in the formulation of ICT policies; however they need to be sensitized on ICTs issues and policies as the terminology is often intimidating.

CSOs need to define a plan for raising public consciousness. Local people can promote ICT policy changes and action at the parliamentary level. For instance, e-government would help the public have easier access to public policies, laws and so on.

c) The Role of Civil Society in NICI Plans and Strategies, Lishan Adam

Adam elaborated on ECA's NICI - National Information and infrastructure policies as a key strategy and framework for implementing the AISI. As a mechanism, NICI implements the vision of AISI at a national level and allows countries to articulate their

needs and priorities in terms of ICTs. CSOs need to be aware of these processes and participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation processes.

A basic NICI starts with defining national priorities and proceeds to develop a framework and implementation plans. A few common areas are identified as the pillars of the plan – including infrastructure and regulatory plans. He pointed out that Civil Society can play the following role:

- **Policy formulation:** in countries where civil society organizations are involved in NICI processes, there is a positive inclusion of social concerns, the inclusion of marginalized communities, and a broad-based intelligent intermediation between the needs on the ground and the formal policy making process;
- **Intellectual vision:** this consists of defining development paradigms and the promotion of specific policy agenda;
- **Policy implementation:** Supplementing the services of the government and provision of financial support to carry out certain activities
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the elements in the policy.

Africa prides itself in a large number of organized, vibrant civil society organizations such as represented at the workshop. However, very few are involved in ICT policy formulation or advocacy. There is therefore a need for capacity building of policy advocacy strategies for CSOs. Governments also need to open up to involving CSOs in national policy decisions such as in the regulatory environment.

Civil society needs to build strong networks and allies, draw from country experiences and build on lessons learnt by other CSOs in policy formulation.

e) E-governance and Civil Society, Mme Nnenna Nwakanma and Mohammed Timoulali

The presenters reported back on the AISI online discussion forum on e-governance and civil society that preceded the workshops. The forum lasted more than 7 weeks and had more than 22 people participating and addressed the following issues:

- ICTs and good governance;
- Barriers and bottlenecks for introducing e-government/e-governance initiatives
- Institutional reform and work process redesign
- ICT infrastructure
- Resources for e-government
- Human resources
- Policy and regulatory framework
- Evaluation of e-governance
- State of e-governance in Africa and country best practices

- Challenges to e-governance
- Suggested e-governance models
- Overall strategies for e-governance development
- Mobilizing resources for designing and implementing e-governance programs in Africa

After discussions on the various definitions of e-governance and how it differs from e-government, the participants concluded that a preliminary requirement for e-governance is good governance and agreed that technologies cannot resolve development problems where there is no democratic culture.

However, technologies can be instruments of achieving good governance when they provide access to government information which can make governments more accountable. Examples from various countries and lessons learnt were shared, as was the need for building the capacity of government to understand the importance of e-governance and e-government.

Participants observed that:

- Resolving the lack of good governance is a first step to ensuring that e-governance can be implemented effectively.
- CSOs need to question the broad ideological paradigms that govern any discussion about ICTs. The market cannot alleviate poverty.
- Governments do not necessarily care about owing information to the people, other than information that will help win elections? Most of the basic information is labeled 'secret'.
- Civil society should also be held accountable.

A detailed report of the e-governance online discussion can be found at <http://www.uneca.org/aisi>

4. Africa wide initiatives relevant to ICT Policy in Africa

a) The African Information Society Initiative (AISI) Aida Opoku-Mensah

Aida Opoku-Mensah presented an overview of the work of the AISI, a regional framework for ICT development designed to address Africa's economic and social development challenges. AISI's Action Plan has three components including developing an enabling environment; looking at sector applications and the impact of ICT activities. In the section about the organizers, more details are provided on the relationship between the ECA and the AISI.

AISI's major activities and objectives include the development of national ICT policies and strategies, and building Africa's information and communication infrastructure and capacity involving all major stakeholders. Since its inception, AISI has been supported and implemented through partnership. An important vehicle for AISI partnership is the

Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa (PICTA). ECA is also a leading member of the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP). Among the work being done by AISI is support to African countries to develop their own National and Information Infrastructure policies, plans and strategies.

Other activities include capacity building for decisions makers and technical training. AISI has promoted sectoral applications of ICT for eradicating poverty and improving quality of life as well as support for educational processes that meet the needs of Africa's youth. Engaging civil society in debates on ICTs has been a key area of focus and has resulted in a number of initiatives, such as the ICTs radio series, the media and ICT award and online debates on key issues. Website: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi>

b) New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Makane Faye

Makane Faye explained the NEPAD process, and the structure as comprising of the African Union, Head of States Implementing Committee, Steering Committee and Program Coordinators. Senegal is responsible for the Infrastructure, Energy, Environment, and ICT sectors.

AISI is the regional framework of the ICT component of NEPAD. NEPAD aims to double tele-density to two lines per 100 people by 2005; lower the cost and improve the reliability of service; achieve e-readiness for all countries in Africa; and to develop and produce a pool of ICT-proficient youth and students from which Africa can draw trainee ICT engineers, programmers and software developers; and to develop local content software, based especially on Africa's cultural legacy. Among the activities put in place by NEPAD are:

- working with regional agencies such as the Africa Telecommunications Union and Africa connection to design model policy and legislation for telecommunications reform, and protocols and templates for e-readiness assessments;
- working with the regional agencies to build regulatory capacity
- establishing a network of training and research institutions to build high-level skills;
- promoting and accelerate existing projects to connect schools and youth centers;
- working with development finance institutions in Africa, multilateral initiatives (G-8 DotForce, UN Task Force) and bilateral donors to establish financial mechanisms for mitigating and r reducing sector risks.

c) The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Anne-Rachel Inne

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a non-profit corporation that was formed to assume responsibility for the IP address space allocation, protocol parameter assignment, domain name system management, and root server

system management functions previously performed under U.S. Government contract by IANA and other entities As a public/private partnership, ICANN serves as a forum to leverage the entire Internet community. It is unique in that it is dedicated to administering a key set of Internet resources in the public interest and on behalf of the global Internet communities.

Incorporated and headquartered in California, ICANN is structured to make decisions on the basis of Internet community consensus. As ICANN's start-up phase progresses, its Board of Directors will be elected in part by a global membership of individual members of the Internet community, and in part by supporting organizations representing the business, technical, non-commercial and academic communities.

It is important for CSOs to participate in ICANN activities by providing feedback from the grassroots.. In the past, CSOs haven't been aware of the existence of ICANN, or understood what it can do. By getting involved in the ICANN process, CSOs can help determine the future of the Internet's systems of unique identifiers, through awareness, policy-making and implementation.

Recently ICANN has undergone some major transformation and reform into a global, rather than a US body. Structural differences have now been made to develop strong partnerships with public and private sector. <http://www.icann.org>

**“By getting involved in the ICANN process, CSOs can help determine the future of the Internet’s systems of unique identifiers, through awareness, policy-making and implementation”
Anne-Rachel Inne**

d) World Summit on Information Society; the African Preparatory process (Bamako 2002/Prepcom 1), and the process so far, Tracey Naughton

Tracey Naughton presented an update on the WSIS process. WSIS has been convened to focus on a contested notion: the Information Society. Once again the international community is bringing together major players to address global information and communication issues. In 1948 there was the UN conference on the Freedom of Information in Geneva, followed by a debate in the 1970s on a New World Information and Communication Order. Instead of resolving the issues, the conferences only helped to create ideological rifts.

WSIS is supposed to ensure a multi-stakeholder dialogue but it is unclear whether this will really happen. A set of principals aimed to identify the priorities have been put in place.

A number of themes were identified to create the foundation for the adoption of a final document and declaration. These themes include around universal access, local content for cultural diversity, and the promotion of development oriented ICT applications for all etc.

The African regional meeting, Bamako, Mali: The formation of the African caucus African regional meeting in Mali focused on African perspectives on ICTs for development. The Bamako Declaration was the outcome of the meeting. Civil society organizations will be able to sit as observers and may make oral submissions to questions that they have expertise on. This is problematic because civil society involvement is marginal and not integrated fully into the process. Also, the accreditation process is incredibly complex, has been made more difficult by the new requirements aimed at CSOs and there are new requirements while on the other hand private sector accreditation is almost automatic.

The CRIS (Communication Rights in the Information Society) campaign has been very effective but general results have been less than initially hoped for.

What can civil society do?

- lobby effectively for civil society inclusion in the preparatory process at national regional and international levels;
- work towards the adoption of the right to communicate;
- ensure that civil society positions are representative for civil constituencies and that there is an intensive process of exchange with these constituencies at national and other levels; and
- use the WSIS as a unique opportunity to raise people's awareness of the urgency of information and communication issues.

The involvement of civil society groups during the Summit is essential and a constant reminder that the Information Society of the future should be inclusive - we don't need information societies, we need communication societies. In addition, you can have information without development but you can't have development without information.

f) UNESCO's support for NGOs Gunter Cyranek

Some recommendations by civil society during a workshop on WSIS organized by UNESCO during the WSIS consultation with NGOs in Bamako, Mali.

Cyranek informed participants that the consultation adopted a resolution that made a number of recommendations along the lines of promoting interaction and information on the WSIS; issues to be addressed by the WSIS; Infrastructure and infostructure issues; cultural diversity and public domain of information; freedom of expression and right to information in the information society; education in and for the information society among others. A follow up committee was also established to make sure the results of the working group would be taken into account in the WSIS preparation.

The discussions also focused on:

- the establishment of a fund to ensure effective civil society participation;

- the creation of a national development fund for information and communication technology and universal access,
- the promotion development and use of open source software and the support of local creativity especially through local content initiatives.

6. ICT and CSO applications in Africa

b) Adaptive Technology center for the Blind, Geta Mulatu

Geta Mulatu's presentation focused on Adaptive Technology (ATCB for visually impaired individuals. The focus of the presentation was to show-case the possibilities of ATCB and to urge participants to remember people with disabilities in ICT policy formulation.

ATCB can provide virtual equality between visually impaired individuals and their sighted peers within the emerging information society. With the aid of appropriate technological devices, visually impaired persons can independently access, process, store and transmit the same information handled by sighted people. Both use computers to manipulate this information. The only difference lies in the form in which the information is displayed.

The vast proportion of employment, education and daily living activities require access to electronic information. Technology can, in a myriad of instances, assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired to become active participants in their societies.

There are essentially three methods of output that can render computers and printed materials accessible for individuals who are blind or visually impaired: Speech synthesis, electronic Braille displays, and text magnification.

Speech Synthesizers and appropriate software convert computer outputs and text by entering cues into major spoken languages. The person with visual impairment can access computers with the help of speech output and can use any word processor application to write letters, school assignments and so on.

The exploration of the Internet and sending e-mail are made possible for a blind individual through the use of a speech synthesizer. Additionally, there are devices that convert ordinary print or computer symbols into an exact tactile replica.

Braille Display: There are also read-write systems, mostly doubling as word processors and computer terminals. Braille text is entered and manipulated by means of a simple six-dot keyboard and a few additional keys or switches. Text is displayed on a small tactile screen. To produce hard copy, the device is interfaced with ordinary standard printers or with Braille embossers.

a) Keneya Blown a Possible Model of Medical Network and Portal for African Countries Ousmane Ly

This pilot telemedicine project seeks to provide an online network for all hospitals and health districts in Mali. Although physicians are currently the sole users of the site, other health care workers are invited to consult the site and to contribute content.

The network is centered at the French-language-only Keneya-Blown site. Five hospitals are currently networked - three in Bamako, one in Segou, and one in Timbuctou. The technology that links the hospitals is TCP/IP; a future possibility is to introduce a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

The site invites users to search for information in categories such as the following: pharmacies, traditional medicine, current medical events, travel and health, public health, HIV/AIDS, telemedicine, tropical medicine, and first aid. The network also provides information about lectures that are conducted using teleconferencing technology by physicians at the University of Geneva and various Mali hospitals. Examples include:

- Antiretroviral treatment (conducted by an HIV/AIDS specialist);
- Exploration of the arteriovenous ducts at the insufficient kidney;
- Two dermatological aspects of HIV/AIDS;
- Conference led by the regional obstetrics/gynaecology team in Bamako; and
- The environment and health: the role of the librarian in the diffusion of information in Bamako

A device for the diffusion of an online course is in the process of being installed. The first phase of the program addressed network architecture and content and services range from electronic mail to medical references, transfer of medical data, research, teleconferencing, and training.

Partners include the Faculty of Medicine, University of Mali; University of Geneva.

More information can be found on <http://www.keneya.org.ml> in French. This English summary provided here is reproduced from <http://www.comminit.com/pdskdv72002/sld-5022.html>

c) Touch Screens for HIV/AIDS – Information Technology Center for Africa, Girma Desalegn

The Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA) is an ICT- focused exhibition and learning Center established to demonstrate to African policy makers and planners the value of ICT for African development.

The concept of ITCA has grown out of the need to wrap a framework around the growing number of mandates and ICT related outreach activities spearheaded by

ECA. ITCA offers an opportunity to reach the approximately 18,000 conference participants that pass through the ECA's United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) to attend over 1500 events annually. ITCA intends to provide its exhibition and training services both to ECA and non-ECA sponsored conferences in the framework of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI). In responding to the AISI framework, ITCA aims to focus on enhancing the awareness and commitment of African policy and decision-makers in assuming leadership and championing the diffusion and utilization of ICTs to development endeavors in Africa. This will open up significant new markets for ICT products and services throughout Africa, even in the medium term, which will further accelerate the continent's socio-economic development and growth.

One of its main accomplishments has been the setting up of HIV/AIDS Multimedia Kiosks comprised of touch screens that could be made available to the public at community centers. Touch-screens enable those with little or no literacy to touch visual images on screen which are then linked to audio, thereby increasing access to relevant information, such as HIV/AIDS.

d) AfrISPA, “The halfway proposition” -Increasing Africa's Capacity to run affordable efficient networks, Eric M.K Osiakwan

AfrISPA's main focus is to increase Internet access in Africa as well as build Africa's IT capacity to run Internet networks effectively. AfrISP is a network of about 7 ISPA's around Africa. Its focus is to push the 'halfway proposition' for Africa to reduce the cost of Internet. AfrISPA's objectives are:

- To provide industry perspective on policy formulation and regulation as it relates to the Internet industry and to act as an interface with Governmental bodies and the public at large.
- To develop policies and positions in the best interest of the Members and protect and promote these interests in regional and International Fora.
- To promote the development of key Internet Infrastructure on the Continent.
- To promote the development of a free and open telecommunications market.
- To facilitate the establishment of national ISP Associations in Africa and to provide common services to them.
- To provide and promote educational opportunities that will enhance and empower technical and policy understanding of the Internet.
- To build, maintain, and publish relevant industry data for Members

The current burden of paying for International Internet Bandwidth Costs is unfairly weighted onto countries in Africa. The existence of these reverse subsidies is the single largest factor contributing to high bandwidth costs. A cursory look at the figures will show that these reverse subsidies are costing the continent anything between US\$ 250 and 500 million per annum.

Redressing the balance through regulation by the ITU is not the way forward. It would be far better to allow the process to be driven by the private sector. To do so requires overcoming certain obstacles, putting in place building blocks, and changing policies and finding donor support. The Halfway Proposition has articulated these requirements into a cohesive plan involving a few specific steps:

- **Step 1 - Create Traffic Aggregation within Africa** - Through the creation of Internet Exchange Points; Through the emergence of Regional Carriers facilitating regional peering
- **Step 2 - Create Digital Arteries to carry the traffic Regionally.** Regional Fibre Optic Infrastructure would reduce the costs of regional peering; International Fibre Optic Infrastructure would reduce the costs for IBSs to establish PoPs at Points Of Aggregation in Africa.

This strategy requires the active participation of a number of players:

- **ISPs.** Through the efforts of AfrISPA, ISPs need to ensure that traffic at the National level is kept that way through cooperating in the creation of effective National IXPs.
- **National Regulators & Policy Makers.** They need to provide the required enabling environment.
- **ATU/AU/NEPAD.** These geopolitical organizations need to ensure that governments are providing the necessary enabling environment to allow National and Regional Peering to evolve quickly. They also need to ensure that the International community is fully sensitized to the existence of these reverse subsidies that Africa is currently paying.
- **G8 Donor Governments.** Donor governments have long lamented about the Digital Divide in Africa without fully acknowledging that its existence is to a large extent the result of fallout from their policies on globalization and free trade. Reversing the situation will require the financial support of these G8 Donor Governments.

There is no doubt that bridging the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world involves a multitude of issues. However, if connectivity costs can be dramatically reduced, Africa will have gone a long way towards providing the required environment for resolving them. The strategy articulated by the Halfway Proposition will achieve this.

e) Schoolnet Namibia, Joris Komen

Schoolnet Namibia was established to explore and implement creative ways of ensuring the sustainability of school networking activities; create low-cost solutions that extend the democratization of access, especially to rural areas. Schoolnet develops local applications and educational content; and encourages the critical role of ICT champions can play to ensure sustainability.

Since February 2000, more than 180 schools have benefited from internet service provision, refurbished hardware and training from SchoolNet's core of volunteer technicians and trainers. The organization aims to wire more than 500 schools by 2005, and is co-operating with other SchoolNets across the continent to bring its innovative, low-cost, locally developed ICT solutions to learners in other countries. Resources need to be made available in open source technology.

f) Bridges.org

Bridges.org is an international non-profit organization with a mission to help people in developing countries use information and communications technology (ICT) to improve their lives. Bridges.org was born from the intersection between international policy and cutting-edge technological developments, and we have seen first-hand how policy can affect technology growth, implementation, and real use by society at large. Yet because we work on the ground in Africa our ideas are based in the reality of the daily problems people face in developing countries and disadvantaged communities. With offices in Cape Town, South Africa and Washington DC, bridges.org is building connections between international perspectives and developing world contexts.

Bridges.org promotes Real Access to ICT information and communication technology (ICT) by researching, testing, and promoting best practices for sustainable, empowering technology use. We implement discrete projects that, taken together, represent a comprehensive approach to the range of problems of the digital divide. Bridges is involved in the following:

- Provide information and resources on the digital divide (website newsletter resource database) ;
- Advise decision-makers on key issues (e-readiness assessment policy briefs and recommendations, workshops);
- Support grassroots projects, local businesses and e-government efforts (advisory consultation, case studies, public outreach center);
- Offer an e-literacy tool for basic computer use and informing Internet citizens (bridges.tech.guide); and to
- Implement pilot projects (to demonstrate and refine our points with concrete examples).

g) Women's Farmers Advancement Network

WOFAN was founded in the early 1990s. WOFAN works with 250 women's groups in five different states in northern Nigeria. Much of the work is carried out by local extension agents with training in fields such as health, agriculture, literacy, income generation and early childhood development.

Development through Radio (DTR) is an important part of WOFANs work. Women's groups tape their issues and have them aired and thereby reach policy makers. Other

activities include showing video demonstrations of educational development content.
<http://www.rnw.nl/development/html/wofan020123.html>

h) ACW-ICT (African Centre for Women and ICT)

Based in Kenya, ACW-ICT advocates for the use of ICTs by women. It's network Horn of African Women's Knowledge Center (HAWKNet) is a website that aims to provide women with the opportunity to discuss national/regional issues, participate in global debates particularly as pertains to marginalisation of women; the information age, national ICT policies human resource development; exchange information on available opportunities; such as trade, health, FGM, news and events.

Objectives:

- To facilitate advocacy for gender responsive policies on ICT for development in the Horn of Africa Region;
- To amplify the voices, issues and concerns of women in the region in ICT for development;
- To provide a regional forum for women and women's organizations to organize and network around issues that affect them;
- To provide a one stop regional portal for knowledge and information on gender issues and concerns including services, opportunities and activities undertaken by women and women's organizations;
- Increasing availability of information and knowledge on gender, ICTs and Empowerment;
- To provide a forum for educating each other on current developments in the ICT world; an
- Act as a databank and virtual resource centre for women and ICT in the region.

More information on HAWKNET can be found at
<http://www.acwict.or.ke/Hawknet/hawknet.htm>

c) Kubatana, Zimbabwe

The Kubatana Trust of Zimbabwe, incorporating the NGO Network Alliance Project (NNAP), aims to strengthen the use of email and internet strategies in Zimbabwean NGOs and civil society organizations. Kubatana will make human rights and civic education information accessible to the general public from a centralized, electronic source.

Immediate objectives of the project are to:

- Develop a central Zimbabwean development and human rights portal: the portal will contain editorial material highlighting the work of the organizations hosted on the portal – Kubatana means “working together”.

- Develop an electronic fact sheet for each organization hosted on the portal
- Develop an e-activism page for on-line campaigns
- Link existing Zimbabwean NGO and civil society web sites to the portal
- Advertise the portal widely: locally, regionally and globally

By focusing solely on Zimbabwe and being committed to the regular updating and development of the portal, **www.kubatana.net** will become the most important source of Zimbabwean human rights and development information on the internet.

Kubatana's main also builds the capacity of CSOs to use of ICTs to share news, research and reports and is building an important archive of Zimbabwe's Human rights history.

j) E-Brain Zambia

E-brain is a national think-tank that concerns itself with bringing to the fore the use of ICT *with* development. E-brain is looking at how to resolve the high cost of Internet access through addressing policy and advocacy. E-brain's objectives are to share ideas and best practices, network, advocate and influence policy at macro (Government) and micro (business) level.

Considering that Zambian poverty levels of 80 and illiteracy levels of 60 per cent are alarmingly high these can be tackled through use of ICTs. E-brain's aim is to coordinate innovations and bring together "big brains" to develop common knowledge.

7. Learning from Past Initiatives – Role of Civil Society

A discussion on learning from past CSO initiatives led by Gideon Hayford Chonia and Rabia Abdelkerim-Chick made the following observations:

African CSOs lack the capacity to generate and transfer knowledge in a systematic manner, and the north-south technology and skills transfer model has recorded very little success. We need to develop a south-south plan and build on the experiences in the south.

- Civil society is not necessarily homogenous, and does not always approach issues on the basis of a grand unified "African" vision. There is not enough networking, sharing knowledge, learn the value of consultations and create learning spaces.
- CSOs need to become more credible and constantly seek to learn and receive training, particularly in networking methodologies to better influence ICT policy; the idea that CSOs know everything and the constituencies know nothing is false.
- CSOs need to not only proclaim success, but also analyze the causes of failure and document the lessons learnt in the process; there are lessons to be learnt in adopting good business practice and approaches to program delivery.

d) Way Forward, Recommendations and Action Plan

Participants worked in four groups and came up with the following recommendations and Action Plan. The plan identified activities, concrete regional mobilizers and dates by which to begin coordinating activities.

Regional mobilizers:

1. WEST AFRICA: Habib Sy is an overall regional coordinator · Tunji and Wangonet will be the regional coordinators for English · ENDA and CRISP – French speaking countries
2. EAST AFRICA: Johnson Nkuuhe: jnkuuhe@parliament.go.ug; Leopold Rweyemamu: itvision_tz@yahoo.com/poldmr@digitafrika.org and Catherine Njuguna: Catherine@alin.or.ke
3. SOUTHERN AFRICA: The Partnership and Brenda Burrell from Kubutana will coordinate

All organizations will send about 50 names and contact details of other organizations around

Habib Sy – Publication of a compendium of organizations in ICTs in Africa.

In 6/12 months APC Africa site will be trilingual

1. Infrastructure and Finance; enabling policy and regulatory frameworks

Activities

- a) Ensure that the African Commission Declaration on Expression and the African Charter on Broadcasting as a basis for future policy discussion and advocacy is endorsed by the WSIS and that this issue is included in the African caucus agenda.
- b) Distribute copies of the above documents and inform CSOs about their relevance and use in partnership with regional partners.
- c) Recalling that the ITU have sent a letter to government delegations encouraging civil society support, these documents should be used at a national level. Further, collaborate with government delegations during the WSIS process, – Fatou will send out letters to civil society organizations informing them about their options. Around WSIS, participants will contact and arrange meetings with national delegations in order to discuss their participation and inform and request information from the partnership about where their needs lie.

- d) Compile a comprehensive list of all media laws around the continent and expose governments that do not support the principals of freedom of expression. Article19 will be the focal point for this project.
- e) Article 19 will coordinate the compilation of all ICT laws in Africa and download information to send to the APC by March. The material will be published by the APC on <http://africa.rights.apc.org>
- f) Lobby for States to ensure that all businesses operating in the field of ICT infrastructural development be required to deliver services and infrastructure to under and not served areas including marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- g) Lobby for all regulation and legislation to make adjustments in order to meet the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, the illiterate, the economically disadvantaged, people with disabilities, people living in rural areas.
- h) Civil society organizations in each country should gather knowledge about the policy processes, hold meetings to discuss policy position and then lobby governments to adopt and implement fair policy processes in relation to ICT.

Who is going to do what? Article 19, APC in partnership with regional partners and members

2. Information Security, applications development (open source promoting small business health and education)

Activities: Creation of a civil society taskforce on open source – Open Source Task Force for Africa (OSTA) and the following related actions:

- a) Advocate for the use and implementation of open source solutions at the regional, national and local level
- b) Advocacy to donor governments that have already embraced open source at national levels (such as Germany, Sweden, Norway and France)
- c) Creation of a clearinghouse or knowledge factory – resources, database of local expertise, website, CD-ROM, brochures etc.
- d) Definition of minimum standards, guidelines and advisory parameters for the foundation
- e) Building localized/Africanized capacity to work on software development f) Ensure a discourse on open source during the NICI processes and addendum for the NICI processes that have already been completed.

Who is going to do what?

- Establish the committee of Open Source members by December 2002 – members of the working group working as a network: · Joris Komen · Tunji Lardner · Bildad Kagai · Abil Thompson · Idre Osman Ahmed – Djibouti · Gideon Hayford Chonia
- Recommendation for the creation of the Open Society for Africa Foundation by the Pre/Com February 2003 – Members of the above working group
- Avail a resource document (via www.osta.org) by January 2003 for distribution to members geared towards the forum in Geneva 2003 –To be done by Bildad Kagai

3. Barrier to information society access to language culture and diversity – content and language issues

Activities

- a) Conduct an audit and establish a database of African ICT policy expertise.
- b) Bush Radio will develop a template for broadcasting to be shared by community media practitioners – including those with no access to advanced technologies;
- c) In partnership with research institutions, develop human language technologies (such as voice-enabled technologies for people with disabilities)
- d) Explore funding and strengthen Youth participation in the world forum, and include young African women.
- e) Repackage content (e.g. on CD-ROM) taking into consideration the diversity inherent in African communities (literacy issues and so on).
- f) Lobby for legislation that recognizes community radio as a third sector.

4. Role of government UN bodies, private sector and CSO and Capacity Building

Activities

- a) Awareness building on ICT Policies, the Summit by targeting CSOs and Government policy makers, private sector. Conduct Socio-economic impact of ICTs.
- b) Engage in advocacy activities that establish links with local ICT sector and identify specific partners and who to target. Draw up MOUs for Head of State/MPs, others especially Foreign Affairs, ICT CSOs and ICT Departments and regulatory bodies
- c) Build strategic alliances with relevant ICT private sector, government officials such as MPs, Agencies, Regulatory Bodies, Use of CPOs Academia, Students and Religious Leaders.

Who is going to do what?

AIFA/PALOP
UIN/UGANDA
DEVNET/NIGERIA
AMARC/AFRICA
WANEP
NATIONAL NGOs Councils
APAC
AWMC
FEMNET
BRIDGES.ORG
Anais.AC
ENDA
FROA
REDA
NATIONAL/INDEPENDENT RADIO AND TV ASSOCIATIONS
JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION
e-BRAIN
DIGIT AFRICA
APC
AFRICA PULSE.ORG
SANGONET
ONE WORLD
PANOS
AID TRANSPARENCY
FURIT –
GROUP ACS

When: December 2002- November 2003

“This workshop is one of the milestone events in ICT policy-making in Africa from a civil society perspective,” said participant, Ewan McPhie, Policy Director at Bridges.org. “It is difficult to estimate the value of providing a venue where civil society organizations from Africa could meet, share views and experiences and get to know each other better.”

Annex I

APC 2002 Hafkin Prize

On 7th November, and as part of the expected outcome of the program, APC award the 2002 Hafkin Prize was awarded to Schoolnet Namibia. Bridges.org was the runner-up.

Joris Komen, Director SchoolNet Namibia <http://www.schoolnet.na> made the following remarks:

“We are very excited and honored by the award - APC Hafkin Prize 2002 - and the impact we trust this significant award will have on our further work in Namibia and further a-field; importantly it comes at a time when a lot of attention has been given to Open Source solutions in education and other CSO development areas, and I can only hope that our government (and those of other African countries) will appreciate the great value of such Open Source solutions! We intend to use the prize to seed a start-up Open Source R&D team comprising young African "geek", empowering them and subsequent youthful local expertise to develop open source applications in education - curricular content, life-long learning skills, distance learning and special education needs of persons with disabilities.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of SchoolNet Namibia, I would also like to express SchoolNet Namibia's deep appreciation to APC and its alliance of partners for recognizing our efforts here in Namibia! Viva APC and all the many wonderful CSOs pushing back ICT frontiers in Africa!”

The following were the finalists:

- The bridges.org ICT policy programme, South Africa
- Hazviperi Betty Makoni/Rusape Girls Empowerment Village, Zimbabwe
- SchoolNet Namibia, Namibia
- The Kubatana Trust of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
- DigIT Africa (Digital Information Technologies in Africa), Tanzania
- Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, Nigeria

Annex II. List of Participants

1. African Women's Development & Communications Network (FEMNET)
2. Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)
3. Représentant Légal de ISOCB Internet Society Bujumbura Chapter –
4. Pount People's Action - REPUBLIQUE DE DJIBOUTI
5. AMARC Africa
6. Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) - SOUTH AFRICA
7. National Community Radio Forum (NCRF) - SOUTH AFRICA
8. APC Africa Women
9. Bush Radio - SOUTH AFRICA
10. Freedom of Expression Institute - SOUTH AFRICA
11. Media Institute of Southern Africa
12. Panos Southern Africa
13. FMOI - CIC - TUNISIE
14. ONIGT (Ordre national des ingénieurs Géomètres Topographes)-MOROCCO
15. APAC - CAMEROON
16. Anais.AC - CAMEROON
17. Enda TM (Environnement and Développement Actions, Third World) - Senegal
18. Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) - UGANDA
19. Inter-African Network for Human Rights and Development - ZAMBIA
20. CITRED Community Initiatives -GHANA
21. Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
22. Article 19
23. Radio Afrique Espoir FM - GROUPE ACS - BENIN
24. Conseil Régional de l'Epargne Publique et des Marchés Financiers -CÔTE D'IVOIRE
25. PALOP - GUINEA BISSAU
26. DEVNet - NIGERIA
27. Fantsuam Foundation - NIGERIA
28. Women Farmers Advancement network- WOFAN - NIGERIA
29. Western Africa NGO Network (WANGONET) - NIGERIA
30. TIWA Systems Ltd - NIGERIA
31. CRESP - SENEGAL
32. Aid Transparency - SENEGAL
33. African Women Media Centre - SENEGAL
34. Radio FM - GAMBIA
35. Forut Media Center - SENEGAL
36. Bridges.org - SOUTH AFRICA
37. SchoolNet Namibia - NAMIBIA
38. DigIT Africa/IT Vision - TANZANIA
39. Paradigm Initiative Nigeria - NIGERIA
40. The Kubatana Trust of Zimbabwe - ZIMBABWE
41. SchoolNet Africa - SOUTH AFRICA
42. The African Centre for Women, Information and Communications Technology (ACWICT) – KENYA

43. Circuits & Packets Communications Ltd - KENYA
44. Keneya Blown - MALI
45. E-Brain Forum of Zambia
46. West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP) – GHANA
47. Economic and Dev Centre (ECODEV) - KENYA
48. OneWorld Africa - KENYA
49. CRDA - ETHIOPIA
50. EIIPD/Matmino - ETHIOPIA
51. British Council - ETHIOPIA
52. Nexwave - ETHIOPIA
53. ICANN
54. Media Foundation of Western Africa - GHANA
55. Sidama Development - ETHIOPIA
56. Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) - KENYA
57. ICTAFRICA - ETHIOPIA
58. ICT Focus ETHIOPIA
59. REDA - CAMEROON
60. African Development Bank (ADB) - COTE D'IVOIRE
61. Ms. Shalon Simmons Global Internet Studios - ETHIOPIA
62. Various UN Agencies represented at ECA