



**Joint UNESCO and ITU**

**Global Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet**



# **Session 7 : Thematic Session on Software for Multilingual Internet Highlights & Conclusions**

**Seleman S. Sewangi**  
**University of Dar-el-Salam, Tanzania**  
**Dawit Bekele**  
**University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Chairman: Claudio Menezes  
Senior Programme Specialist  
Information Society Division  
UNESCO

Geneva, 9-11 May 2006



# Challenges of creating terms for localization into Developing Languages: the Case of Kiswahili terms for the Kilinux Project



- o Kiswahili language has its own particularities and cannot be simply translated into other languages;
- o Cooperation of IT specialists and linguistics is essential for operating system localization
- o Committee and participatory work is a key factor in Kilinux project



## Highlights from Presentation 2

### Free Open Source Software for facilitating language flows



- o Only economic dimension is privileged by private sector and is an obstacle to inclusion of new languages in cyberspace
- o Hardware not available for some languages
- o Multilingualist in digital world does not map world linguistic diversity
- o Challenge: map into the digital world the linguistic diversity



## Highlights from Presentation 2 “A Digital Infrastructure enabling Multilingual Internet”



- o List the main issues / conclusions from the presentation (not more than one slide per presentation)



## Conclusions



- o Culture context is important in localization of languages to Internet. Examples in Kiswahili are valid for other software localization
- o Interdisciplinary dimension - including linguistics and computer science specialists - is a key factor to succeed in software localization
- o Economic dimension has prevented some languages to be better represented on the digital world. FOSS is an option being adopted in many linguistic communities.



## Conclusions



- o Standards is a major issue for inclusion of new languages on the digital world (e. g. Amalric)
- o Interfaces in local languages (e. g. operating systems, software applications) are an important component to promote multilingual internet
- o Networking and contribution from diasporan speakers can contribute for the promotion of new languages on the Internet.
- o Better coordination (e. g. through language academies) can contribute to optimize scarce resources for multilingual Internet.