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Chairman of Working Group of Sub-Committee 2

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO SUB-COMMITTEE 2

Mandate and working methods

1. At its meeting on Monday 24 February, WSIS Sub-Committee 2 decided to establish a Working Group with a mandate to work on the Declaration and Action Plan. Three interim reports were presented to Sub-Committee 2.
2. The Working Group held [six] meetings in closed session [and one in public session] between Monday 24 February and Thursday 27 February. The Working Group used as its basic document the compilation of the outcomes of the regional meetings, available as Document DT/1. In addition, the Group drew upon many other inputs, notably the orientation paper of the President. The Group allocated three sessions to discussing the Draft Declaration, two sessions to discussing the Draft Action Plan and one session each to discussing the revised texts of those two working documents.

Discussions and outputs

3. The Working Group discussed the draft at length and delegations have made many valuable inputs. We did not have time to incorporate all these inputs, but they have been noted in synthesis tables. All delegates emphasised that we should have a shorter, and more concise Declaration and Action Plan that flows well, is of Head of State quality and that could be easily understood.

Recommendations

4. I would like to propose the following recommendations for consideration by Sub-Committee 2:
 - a) That the two documents, (DT/2 and DT/3), attached to this report, which represent work in progress from the Working Group, serve as the basic working documents for the further work of the PrepCom. The documents will not be a reflection of agreed text. All of the text should be considered as being in square brackets.
 - b) That, with the help of the Secretariat, I be mandated to complete the work of incorporating the comments made to the two documents and providing a revised draft by [21 March 2003]. The working documents would then be posted on the website and sent to all accredited participants.
 - c) That inputs from observers at the meetings be incorporated into the revised documents.

5. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the delegations that have contributed to the work of the Working Group in a positive and constructive spirit.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the secretariat team that supported me as well as the interpreters and translators who made it possible for our Working Group to make very good progress.

Enc: Working documents on the Draft Declaration and the Draft Action Plan.
