

Israel

REMARKS TO THE WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT OF INFORMATION SOCIETY

Israel would like to congratulate the organizing committee, executive secretariat, the host country and all those involved in the preparatory process of the World Summit of Information Society, for the efforts put into drafting the proposal for the working documents: the Draft Declaration of Principles and Draft Action Plan.

Israel attaches great importance to the preparations for the World Summit of Information Society. For this purpose, it has convened a steering committee involving top experts from several government ministries, private sector and academia. The ongoing dialogue within Israel on the social, ethical, legal and commercial aspects of the Information society was given another dimension by the above-mentioned preparatory work.

In light of this dialogue, the Israeli steering committee, prepared its enclosed remarks to the working documents for the World Summit of Information Society.

We hope this will be of contribution for the preparation of the Summit documents and the success of WSIS

Israel's remarks on the Draft declaration of Principles for the WSIS Summit Geneva 2003

Israel is hereby happy to pass to the Organizers of the WSIS forum its remarks on document WSIS/PCIP/DT/1-E Draft declaration of Principles.

General Remarks

1. Israel believe that the phrase "equitable and ubiquitous" (Arts. 9 and 22) is somewhat misleading. Hence, Israel suggests that there will be a definition of terms and that two different terms will be used:
 - a) "Open" – in the sense of accessible to all persons; and
 - b) "Free" – in the sense of free of charge.

Then the terms "equitable and ubiquitous" will be replaced by the phrasing "open to everyone and free to those who cannot afford it" ("Free to those who cannot afford it" – taking into consideration that there are sections of each society who can afford to pay the price of connecting to the World Wide Web, while there are those who cannot afford it and need to be taken care of by some other stake holder in society (the Government or some other section of the Public Sector).

2. Although it is most unusual in the format of a declaration to have some kind of definitions part, Israel believe that it is advisable to have some of the terms used in the declaration defined in a proper way. These terms include, among others, the differences between data, information and knowledge (which are used widely both in the draft declaration and the draft action plan).
3. It is Israel's view that **Art. 52** which deals with the Ethical dimensions of the Information Society should be given a higher priority in the general context of the WSIS. Hence it is Israel's suggestion that the above-mentioned Article will be placed as new Article 9. Following this change the numbering of the rest of the articles should be changed accordingly.

Furthermore, Israel believes that in order to facilitate the ethical purpose further process of self-standartization should take place. Hence, Israel suggests that at the end of new Article 9 (as suggested above) another paragraph will be added to read as follows: "Information is not knowledge. In order to make valuable information into knowledge, we are obliged to promote a process by which value-adding information will become a part of the public domain. This will be done by anchoring international known standards, of content, of safety and of security (such as provided by PKI technologies) in the World Wide Web."

In light of the above-mentioned General Remarks here are Israel's more definite remarks to the Draft Declaration:

1. **Art. 9:** Israel believes that the Article should read:
"The Information Society is a higher form of social organization, where highly-developed ICT networks, Open and Free to those who cannot afford it access to information, appropriate content in accessible formats and effective communication should enable all the people to achieve their full potential, promote sustainable economic and social development, improve quality of life and alleviate poverty and hunger."
2. **Arts. 12 + 13:** It is Israel's opinion that the formulation of these articles should change as follows:

Art. 12: "The Information Society Should serve the interests of all nations, in a manner that secures the fair, balanced and harmonious development of all the people of the world. Most particularly, the interests of the developing and least developed countries (LDCs), Smaller Islands Developing States (SIDS), economies in transitions and post-conflict countries, should be addressed, taking into account the unique geographic features and demographic diversity of nations and regions."

Art 13: "The Information Society shall be oriented towards eliminating existing socio-economic differences in our societies, averting the emergence of new forms of exclusion and becoming a positive force for all of the world's people by helping to reduce the disparities between and within countries."

4. **Art. 14:** "Empowerment and inclusion are fundamental characteristics and objectives of the Information Society. Accordingly, special attention must be paid to:
 - The marginalized, including migrants and refugees, unemployed, underprivileged and disenfranchised peoples.
 - The vulnerable, including children, youth and the elderly, the disabled, and those with special needs.
 - Indigenous peoples, minorities, women and other communities."

5. **Art. 18:** Israel believes that the futuristic technological developments should be taken into account in the Declaration. Hence, Israel suggests the following addendum to be added at the end of the existing Article:

"Some information and application requires high-capacity transmission channels in order to be effective and efficient. Therefore, we shall provide high-capacity transmission channels in order to enable accessibility to all types of information and applications. "

6. **Art. 19:** Israel believes that the marked addition to the Article should be considered positively:

"Community access points: Public access from community centers such as post offices, libraries, ~~and~~ schools, and information kiosks (that can provide wireless connection), provides an effective and efficient means for promoting universal access and in particular in rural and remote areas and poor urban areas."

7. **Art. 22:** In light of the first General Remark made above, Israel believes that this Article should be formulated as following :

"Access to knowledge: Individuals and organizations should benefit from access to information, knowledge and ideas. The sharing and strengthening of global knowledge for development can be enhanced by ensuring open and free for those who cannot afford it access to information for educational, scientific, economic, social, political and cultural activities."

8. **Art. 27:** Israel believes that this Article should be formulated as following :
 "All partners—public, private sector and civil society organizations—have a stake in the development of information and communications and should be fully involved in decision making at the local, national, regional and international levels. The Public Sector, including Governments, should work in close coordination with private enterprise, academia, and civil society."
9. **Art. 30:** Israel believes that this Article should be formulated as following :
 "All people should be enabled to acquire the necessary skills in order to participate actively in, and understand, the Information Society and knowledge economy thus benefiting fully from the possibilities it offers. Special attention must be paid to training of trainers as well as building the institutional capacities to collect, organize, store and share information and knowledge."
10. **Art. 32:** Israel believes that this Article should be formulated based on the suggestion made in **Section II Observers' contributions to the Declaration of Principles to Document WSIS/PCIP/DT/1-E.** Hence Israel believes the Article should read as follows:
"Capacity Building to enable people to benefit from the opportunities provided by ICT's: Human Resources Development: Developing countries cannot enter the Global Information Society without strengthening their human, institutional and organizational capacities and without increasing awareness for production of local ICT contents and use of local languages for ICT through:
 - Capacity-building and training programmes;
 - Knowledge and expertise transfer."
11. **Art. 35:** Israel believes that also this Article should be formulated based on some of the suggestions made in **Section II Observers' contributions to the Declaration of Principles to Document WSIS/PCIP/DT/1-E.** Hence Israel believes the Article should read as follows:
"Secure and reliable infrastructure: Confidence, trust and robust technical reliability are essential to the full functioning of the Information Society, and should underpin measures taken to protect users of media, communication and information networks against any misuse (ethical, terrorist and criminal) and the violation of privacy and confidentiality. However, effective security of information systems is not merely a matter of government and law enforcement practices, nor of technology. A global culture of cyber-security needs to be developed (UNGA Resolution 57/295, of 20 December 2002)."
12. **Art. 36:** Israel believes that this Article should be formulated as following:
"Role of stakeholders : Governments Should promote awareness in their societies of cyber security risks and seek to strengthen co-operation with the private sector and civil society to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for unethical, criminal or terrorist purposes, so as to build confidence and trust in the use of ICTs and the Information Society. The community, ~~and~~ the family, and the individual levels also have a special role to play in this regard."
13. **Art. 37:** Israel believes that this Article should be formulated as following:
"International cooperation: International, regional and national efforts to improve ICT security, in both civil and military fields, may be coordinated, taking into consideration the importance of secure infrastructure and data flow, in concordance with international standards and guidelines."

14. **Art. 49:** Israel believes that this Article should be formulated as following:
"Cultural and linguistic diversity: Cultural identity, linguistic diversity, multilingualism and local languages are driving forces for the process of developing content for local and international use (UNESCO, Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001). Therefore, and taking into consideration the following Article 50, we believe that the creation of local content must be accorded high priority, as a basic condition to prevent future conflict."

15. **Art. 51:** Israel believes that also this Article should be formulated based on some of the suggestions made in **Section II Observers' contributions to the Declaration of Principles to Document WSIS/PCIP/DT/1-E**. Hence Israel believes the Article should read as follows:
"ICTs can strengthen traditional media such as broadcasting and print, which will continue to have an important role in disseminating content in the information Society. Digital broadcasting, with its interactive enhancements, will be an essential tool for making the services of the information society widely available, thus contributing to bridging the digital divide. Transition to digital therefore needs to be actively promoted."

Israel's remarks on the Draft Action Plan for the WSIS Summit Geneva 2003

Israel is hereby happy to pass to the Organizers of the WSIS forum its remarks on document WSIS/PCIP/DT/2-E Draft Action Plan.

General Remarks

1. Although it is most unusual in the format of an Action Plan to have some kind of definitions part, Israel believe that it is advisable to have some of the terms used in the Action Plan defined in a proper way. These terms include, among others, the differences between data, information and knowledge (which are used widely both in the draft declaration and the draft action plan).
2. Furthermore, as Israel has stated at its remarks to the Draft Declaration of Principles there is a need to make clear the difference between an open-source and a free-source. Hence,

Israel suggests that there will be a definition of terms and that two different terms will be used:

- a) "Open" – in the sense of accessible to all persons; and
- b) "Free" – in the sense of free of charge.

Then the terms "equitable and ubiquitous" will be replaced by the phrasing "open to everyone and free to those who cannot afford it" ("Free to those who cannot afford it" – taking into consideration that there are sections of each society who can afford to pay the price of connecting to the World Wide Web, while there are those who cannot afford it and need to be taken care of by some other stake holder in society (the Government or some other section of the Public Sector).

3. Regarding article 58 on reporting by International organizations and UN specialized agencies, particularly ITU, Israel thinks that further discussion should take place on the engagement this would entail for governments. Particularly, we would appreciate receiving more details about the scope of the reporting involved, the nature of information that governments will be requested to prepare etc.

Definite remarks

4. With regard to **Article 4** it is Israel's suggestion that the Article will be formulated as following:

"Broadband: It is essential to strengthen regional and international most modern broadband network infrastructure in order to provide the capacity to match the needs of countries and their citizens and for the delivery of new services."

5. Israel believes that **Article 6** should read:

"Low cost connectivity: Universal access policies shall promote the best possible level of connectivity at a reasonable cost for under-served areas. In particular, unused existing satellite capacity should be used to improve low cost connectivity in developing countries."

6. Israel believes that **Article 19** should read:

"ICT manufacturing capabilities: It is essential for governments to encourage technology transfer and investment, including venture capital, in the creation of national and regional ICT production facilities:

- Incentives ~~Priority~~ shall be given placed on to strengthening local micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through their integration into the digital economy. Partnership mechanisms and business models should be developed for fostering clustering and partnership between SMEs in developing countries and industrialized countries....."