
Document WSIS/PC-3/CONTR/109-E

1 June 2003

English only

The DAISY Consortium

Hiroshi Kawamura

Project Manager

DAISY for All Project

The DAISY Consortium

hkawa@attglobal.net

phone: +81 (0)3 3309-6651

fax: +81 (0)3 3305-4994

On behalf of the DAISY Consortium, I submit this comment and proposal on the “Draft Declaration of Principles”. The DAISY Consortium is a not-for-profit international organization accredited by Prep-Com 2.

Please accept our comments and proposal to alter the text of the “Draft Declaration of Principles” as follows:

Comment 1.

In paragraph 14, people with disabilities are referred as “the disabled” although paragraph 31 refers “people with disabilities”. In order to keep consistency of the language, we propose to replace “the disabled” with “people with disabilities”.

In addition, it is more appropriate to separate those who have special design as well as functional requirements of ICTs from “the vulnerable”.

Therefore the DAISY Consortium proposes to alter the text as follows:

[original]

- The vulnerable, including children and the elderly, the disabled, and those with special needs.

[revised]

- The vulnerable, including children and the elderly.
- Those with special needs including people with disabilities.

Comment 2.

In paragraph 25, disability dimension, which is one of the major measurements of barriers in the society, is missing. We propose to insert “disability” in between “age” and “income”.

[revised text of paragraph 25: added text is underlined]

25. Barriers: Barriers to equitable access result from differences in education and literacy levels, gender, age, disability, income and connectivity, as well as from a lack of user training and cultural and linguistic constraints and particular conditions of access to the relevant technology. ICTs can also be used in order to overcome these and other barriers in society.

Comment 3.

Since we recognize the importance of standardization to promote barrier free and inclusive design, the DAISY Consortium believes that people with disabilities are invaluable partners to develop ICTs designed for everybody including people with special functional/design requirements including but not limited to Braille input/output or signed messages. To ensure the development of ICTs that accommodate the special needs of people with blindness, deafness, deaf-blindness, severe motor disabilities, or cognitive/intellectual disabilities and psychiatric treatment users.

Therefore, we propose to add the following text at the end of the paragraph 41.

[revised paragraph 41: added text is underlined]

41. Standardization: Standardization is one of the essential building blocks of the

Information Society. International policy dialogue at global, regional and sub-regional levels should promote the identification and application of interoperable standards, the transfer of know-how and the provision of technical assistance. The development and use of open standards are particularly important for developing countries. In this regard the increased use of open-source software can contribute greatly to increasing access and to adding to the diversity of choice of software for consumers. To strengthen the Design for All in ICTs at minimum cost and time, specific design needs and requirements of all stakeholders including people with disabilities must be encouraged at the earliest stage of standard development.