



world summit
on the information society
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005



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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU Position on Implementation and Follow-up

1. The International Telecommunication Union wishes to maintain the views it previously submitted on this issue during PrepCom-3, in particular the proposal submitted jointly with UNESCO in Doc WSIS-II/PC-3/DT3 (rev2). In light of document DT/9 rev. 2 and DT/26, there is widespread agreement that the multi-stakeholder nature of WSIS should be maintained through the overall implementation and follow-up process after Tunis.
2. The WSIS addresses a wide spectrum of issues that involve many different parts of governments, most UN agencies and a broad segment of the private sector and civil society. This can be clearly seen in the Action Plan adopted in Geneva. Implementation and follow-up will be a complicated process, with many tasks and operating at many levels, so a clear division of responsibilities is vital for an effective process that produces concrete results.
3. Paragraph 17 of DT/9 rev. 2 provides a very useful framework upon which to organize the implementation and follow-up, as it recognizes 3 fundamental elements following the Tunis Summit. These are: (1) implementation (2) evaluation and (3) review, policy debate and follow-up. An explanatory diagram, showing a possible division/allocation of tasks under the framework in para. 17, is attached. This paragraph has been deleted from DT/26.
4. This diagram is based on the framework in para.17 of DT9 (rev.2), as well as the following elements.
 - a. The WSIS outputs provide a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to collaborate on a new issue, which is cross-cutting in nature, and to develop new work modalities that can effectively respond to the requirements in the outputs.
 - b. The implementation activities organized along the Action Lines of the Plan of Action (para. 17a) require an appropriate and light multistakeholder approach, in which individual Action Lines could be moderated/facilitated by UN agencies. ITU and UNESCO are ready to play a leading managerial role in organizing meetings of coordinators of action lines and reporting on implementation.
 - c. The follow-up (para. 17c) of WSIS must be in line with UNGA Resolution 57/270 B to ensure that WSIS is part of an integrated approach to all UN Summits and that ICTs are mainstreamed into the Development agenda of the UN. In that respect, existing UN processes and procedures can play an useful role, including those of ECOSOC, on review, policy debate and follow-up.

- d. There is widespread recognition of the need for stocktaking, statistical indicators and analytical assessment (Para. 17B) as an evaluation component of the implementation and follow-up activities.
5. The tradition has been that each UN style Summit establishes its own and specific implementation process and different models have been chosen by each Summit. Several of the key elements in DT/26, including much of para. 29, were already considered at PreCom-3. ITU considers that the final Outcome document of WSIS should provide more specificity than is set forth in DT/26 as to the roles and responsibility of different entities, so that concrete results can truly be achieved.

International level

