



## **WSIS FORUM 2010 - REPORT concerning Action Line C2 Facilitation Meeting**

### **AGENDA OF THE SESSION:**

#### **Interactive Facilitation Meeting on WSIS AL C2 (Infrastructure) (11 May 2010, 11:00 – 13:00)**

Pursuant to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, ITU is playing a facilitating role for the implementation of the WSIS Action Line C2: Information and Communication Infrastructure. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the work carried out in the area of ICT Infrastructure under Action Line C2 and the way forwards.

It is important to consider if National ICT Policies and Worldwide Broadband Implementation levels are aligned with WSIS Connectivity Goals. The questionnaire feedback that was sent out to Administrations in early 2010 will help to answer these questions, among others concerning the status of implementation of Action line C2 outcomes

#### **ICT Infrastructure Update midway towards 2015**

The meeting will focus the discussion on the following aspects:

- Where do the 12 outcomes of Action Line C2 stand
- ITU roadmap update & feedback from the questionnaire sent to Administrations.
- Presentation of new ITU/BDT Web Gateway for C2
- Presentation : Broadband Internet Access in Rural Areas of Slovakia
- Presentation : Connect a School/Connect a Community
- ICT Infrastructure Development: Challenges and way forwards till 2015

Moderator: Mr. **Behdad Emamgholi**, Chief of PRI, BDT, ITU

Opening Remarks: **Mr Sami Al-Basheer**, Director of BDT, ITU

#### **Panelists**

- **H.E. Mr. Hassam Baryalai**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Afghanistan
- **Mr. Adel Gaaloul**, CEO of SOTETEL, Tunisia
- **Mr. Ivan Istvanffy**, Director General of the Section of the Foreign Financial Assistance Management and Implementation of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic
- **Ms. Susan Schorr**, Head, a.i. Special Initiatives Division, BDT, ITU

## OUTCOMES OF THE SESSION:

It was highlighted during the initial presentation on the status of the Action Line C2 outcomes that more feedback is needed from the administrations. About 15% of administrations sent back the completed questionnaire on implementation levels that was sent out to them, with a good balance on the returns between regions and levels of development. This is a good start as for relevant status updates, but we should continue to receive feedback through this questionnaire continuously, to enable further updates for WSIS-related reporting on the way to 2015.

IF YOU ARE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS NOT YET FILLED OUT AND RETURNED THE QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE DO SO WHENEVER POSSIBLE, AS IT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE OUR CONTINUOUS UPDATING & REPORTING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION LEVELS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE WILL SEE WHERE THE GAPS NEED TO BE FILLED! THE QUESTIONNAIRE CAN BE FOUND FOR DOWNLOAD UNDER STATISTICS, ON THE WEB GATEWAY.

The new web gateway for WSIS Action Line C2 activity reporting was presented to the audience, which serves as the active repository for the roadmap of ITU's ongoing and planned activities, as well as feedback (through the answers to the questionnaire) from the administrations on best practices, calls for assistance, or general comments. Statistics, upcoming events, reports, etc. can also be found on the new web gateway, which can be found here: [www.itu.int/ITU-D/wsis/C2/](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/wsis/C2/)

ICT infrastructure projects that have been implemented by partnerships is the way forward according to several interventions by the chairman and panelists. One example out of many is the project that was implemented recently on establishing the main laboratory for ICT education and development in Afghanistan, for which the Deputy Minister of Afghanistan expressed his gratitude, as the ITU and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran partnered in achieving this.

Tunisia presented comments on mobile broadband infrastructure development in Tunisia, showing how the implementation of digital TV, now covering 90% of the country, will enable the re-allocation of the unused frequency spectrum 862-790 Mhz (Digital dividend) in order to develop Mobile Broadband next generation networks.

The presentation by Slovakia on Rural broadband connectivity presented an interesting relation statistically between regions that were the most un-connected and levels of un-employment. Some remarks from the audience and panelists stated that these kind of studies should be undertaken in other countries as well, to see how far the relevance goes between un-employment and access or not to broadband.

There was an intervention from Algeria, about the implementation of broadband in rural areas of Slovakia. "What has been done in some countries is not directly replicable in countries that are vastly different geographically and economically, so that the approach to broadband network implementation needs to be done on a case by case scenario".

Concerning the presentation of ‘Connect a School – Connect a Community’ several comments were made from the audience and from the panel that wherever possible and necessary, schools make a great starting point in connecting a larger community, as this is where there is a captive audience and where lies the future of each and every given area. Efforts should be sustained and developed to connect all schools in underserved or unserved areas as this will benefit the local communities at large.

An intervention from the African Union stated that more harmonization needs to take place on implementing infrastructure projects across Africa, between all partners involved, as there seems to be notable duplication of efforts in some areas and countries.

Finally, it was reminded that all stakeholders are expected to play their roles and make concerted efforts at national, regional and international levels in order to meet Action Line C2 requirements.