



FINAL AGREED DRAFT

WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

A. Preamble

The ITU coordinated WSIS+10 High Level Event took place in close collaboration with all UN Agencies under their respective mandates, pursuant to ITU Council Resolution 1334.

This Vision and the related WSIS+10 Statement have been developed keeping in mind the following principles: [agreed]

- a. Focus on the WSIS Action Lines and measurement of their implementation. [agreed]
- b. Develop a vision upon existing framework of Action Lines, identifying emerging trends, challenges and priorities for new decade, without making existing framework of Action Lines obsolete. [agreed]
- c. Geneva Declaration and Geneva Plan of Action still remain valid until further decisions by the UN General Assembly. [agreed]
- d. Restrict the proposals on Action Lines, under the responsibility of the respective UN Agencies, to the Geneva Plan of Action. [agreed]
- e. Avoid proposals referring to the outcomes of the Tunis phase of WSIS on the following, implementation mechanism, follow up, internet governance (other than internet issues relevant to action lines), IGF, enhanced cooperation, CSTD. [agreed]

f. Avoid prejudging the outcomes of the 68th Session of the General Assembly on modalities of the Overall Review. [agreed]

g. Respect mandates given by Tunis Agenda and respect for the multi-stakeholder principles. [agreed]

In 2003 and 2005, at the two phases of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS), the international community agreed on a set of commitments that recognize information and communication technologies (ICTs) as enablers for development. World leaders representing Governments, private sector, civil society and the international organizations translated the common vision and guiding principles into concrete Action Lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, to advance the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. [agreed]

The Action Lines identify and seek to capture the potential of ICTs in enhancing access, especially of vulnerable populations, to information and knowledge, education, health care and other public services; provision of ICT Infrastructure; creating enabling environments; building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, information and knowledge creation, sharing, acquisition and preservation purposes. The role of ICTs for protecting the environment, for mitigating natural disaster risks, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable food production and for women's empowerment are also key to the implementation of WSIS outcomes. [agreed]

While considerable achievements have been made since the first phase of WSIS in 2003, during which the Geneva Plan of Action was adopted, however numerous challenges remain. Moreover, the ICT landscape and their uses have continued to evolve and new challenges and opportunities have emerged. [agreed]

Several new trends have emerged in the inclusive Information Society such as broadband, social networks, mobility, digital inclusion, massive open online courses (MOOCs) and e-participation, amongst others¹. Many of these trends bring rapid innovation, diffusion and uptake of mobile technologies, as well as, improved access to ICTs, which has led to the great expansion of the

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Emerging trends in 11 WSIS Action Lines both in terms of Policy and Technology are produced as an Outcome of WSIS Forum in a multistakeholder environment on an annual basis.

gamut of opportunities that ICTs offer to promote inclusive and sustainable development. As demonstrated by the progress made in the implementation of Geneva Plan of Action, international cooperation and multi-stakeholder collaboration on the strategic use of ICTs to address a wide range of issues during the past decade has produced a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise – resources which constitute a valuable foundation for future cooperation. [agreed]

Within the last 10 years, several efforts have been made towards international and regional cooperation in the implementation of Geneva Plan of Action. The WSIS Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators (ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD UNDESA, FAO, UNEP, WHO, ILO, WMO, UN, ITC, UPU and Regional Commission), has proven to be an efficient mechanism for coordination of multistakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and continues to provide assistance in developing multistakeholder and public/private partnerships to advance development goals. Regional commissions play a vital role in facilitating regional inputs, feeding outcomes of regional meetings, strategies and evaluation towards the WSIS Forum. [agreed]

The evolution of the information society over the past 10 years is contributing towards, inter alia, the development of knowledge societies around the world that are based on principles of freedom of expression, quality education for all, universal and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. When mentioning the information society, we also refer to the above mentioned evolution and to the vision of inclusive knowledge societies. [agreed]

Exchange and sharing of information on the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, reporting on good practices, success stories and examples of the ICT projects on regular basis through the WSIS Stocktaking Database, maintained by the ITU, became an important process for building capacities necessary to accelerate implementation of WSIS activities as well as crucial platform to assist facilitation work of the WSIS Action Lines. As an integral part of this process the annual contest of the WSIS Project Prize, as well as other best practice initiatives encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for sharing these best practices at the global level, and, recognizing *excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives* that contributes towards achieving the goals of the Geneva Plan of Action. [agreed]

Yet the WSIS aims of bridging the digital, technology and knowledge divides and of creating a people-centric, inclusive, open and development-oriented information society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge still remains vastly relevant. [agreed]

A number of issues and challenges that existed and number of those that have emerged during the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society are still valid. Hence, UN Agencies together with all relevant stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities, are to collaborate to address those challenges. [agreed]

Since 2004, the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development has helped improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, enhanced the statistical capacity of Governments and coordinated the work of UN and other relevant International Agencies in the collection of ICT data. [agreed]

ICTs will play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking into account the ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (MDG review process) and the WSIS implementation process, all stakeholders have indicated the necessity of increased interaction between both processes in order to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent and coordinated to achieve maximum and sustainable impact. [agreed]

We envision a world of inclusive Information Society in which:

1. *We reaffirm* the vital role of youth and youth organizations as recognized in paragraph 11 in the WSIS Declaration of Principles, stating that "youth should be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and wellbeing". The role of youth was also underlined in the World Programme of Action for Youth, where ICT is identified as one of the 15 priority areas, in the sense that it can provide youth with the opportunity to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage. In addition, the ITU Global Youth Summit in 2013 declared youth as a force for progress, and assured the importance of their full participation in decision making processes to improve democracy, marking that the spread of information

among young people can directly foster empowerment and innovation on a global scale (BYND 2015 Global Youth Declaration). While progress has been made, it is important to exert greater efforts to ensure the implementation of mentioned program, declarations and others alike. [agreed]

2. We reaffirm the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and we also reaffirm paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 18 of the Geneva Declaration." [agreed]
3. While there is recognition of the potential of ICT as a tool for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women accessing and using ICTs, a "gender divide" has also been identified. We reaffirm the importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women empowerment, guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society and taking into account the mandate of the newly established agency UN-WOMEN, the recommendations of the High Level Panel in the post-2015, The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.. We therefore wish to recall and emphasise the importance of taking into account throughout the WSIS+10 Statement and Vision para 12 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles stating that the development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society. We are committed to ensuring that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. To this end, we should mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end. [agreed]
4. Recalling the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities, the Geneva principles paragraph 11, 13, 14 and 15, Tunis Commitment paras 20, 22 and 24, and reaffirming the commitment to providing equitable access to information and knowledge for all, building ICT capacity for all and confidence in the use of ICTs by all, including youth, older persons, women, indigenous and nomadic peoples, people with disabilities, the unemployed, the poor, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people and remote and rural communities, it is crucial to increase the participation of vulnerable people in the building process of information Society and to make their voice heard by stakeholders and policy-makers at different levels. It can allow the most fragile groups of citizens worldwide to become an integrated part of their economies and also raise awareness of the target actors on the existing ICTs

- solution (such as tolls as e-participation, e-government, e-learning applications, etc.) designed to make their everyday life better.
5. The WSIS multistakeholder approach which is essential in building the information society should be harnessed emphasising its benefits, recognising that it has worked well in some areas; and that it should be improved, strengthened and applied in some other areas.
 6. Digital inclusion remains a cross-cutting priority, going beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications, including in rural and remote areas. The digital, technology and knowledge divides will be bridged to reap the benefits of ICT and broadband in transforming the lives of communities.
 7. Indigenous and traditional knowledge are recognised as pathways to develop innovative processes and strategies for locally-appropriate sustainable development. This knowledge is integral to a cultural complex that also encompasses language, systems of classification, resource use practices, social interactions, ritual and spirituality. These unique ways of knowing are important facets of the world's cultural diversity, and provide a foundation for comprehensive knowledge society.
 8. There is full respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, and for everyone's right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work and local content in the language of their choice. The preservation of digital heritage in the information society is ensured.
 9. There is effective cooperation backed by adequate funding and assistance for inclusive ICT initiatives for the benefit of the developing and least developing countries.
 10. Scientific knowledge is a key factor in the innovation process and in finding pathways to sustainable, inclusive and equitable development, respectful of the environment. Science is acknowledged as a common or public good that is to be shared universally.
 11. Strengthening the trust framework, including information security and network security, authentication, privacy and consumer protection, should continue to be a prerequisite for the development of the Information Society and for building confidence among users of ICTs. A global culture of cybersecurity needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies. These efforts should be supported by increased international cooperation. Within this global culture of cybersecurity, it is important to enhance security and to ensure the protection of data and privacy, while enhancing access and trade. In addition, it must take into account the level of social

and economic development of each country and respect the development-oriented aspects of the Information Society.

12. Legislative and regulatory reforms will spur fair competition to ensure affordable access to ICTs, in addition to public access, to all people, in particular, marginalised and vulnerable people. This does not only have the potential to transform the lives of people and societies, but also to help marginalized and vulnerable persons by empowering them and their communities, including in rural and remote areas, and expanding their rights and possibilities.

B. Priority areas to be addressed in the implementation of WSIS Beyond 2015.

A number of priority areas have been identified by WSIS Stakeholders that should be considered in the implementation of WSIS+10 beyond 2015 due to their importance for sustainable development and for strengthening the move towards building inclusive Information Society. These priorities come in light of the changes that emerge from the ICT sector itself, in addition to the demands of the other sectors of the economy and the society which urges its enhancement. They are also due to technologies becoming more widely accessible, and they happen with the increasingly diverse and innovative uses for social, cultural, educational and economic purposes.

With the rapid development of ICTs over the past ten years and the mainstreaming of ICTs into everyday life, the link between ICTs and human development is increasingly important. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the development of the inclusive information society in the broader context of the post-2015 development agenda.

We, the WSIS Stakeholders have identified the topics below as priority areas to be addressed in the implementation of Geneva Plan of Action Beyond 2015:

1. The need to protect and reinforce all human rights, and to recognize their importance to realize economic and social development, ensuring equal respect for and enforcement of all human rights online and offline.
2. Encouraging *and facilitating* people-centered and inclusive governance models and mechanisms.
3. *Strengthening open*, democratic, transparent and inclusive WSIS multistakeholder approach, enabling all stakeholders to participate according to their respective roles and responsibilities, in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.
4. *Ensuring* a clear and direct link and an explicit connection between the key aim of the WSIS, that of harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies

to promote and realize development goals, and the post 2015 development agenda, so as to contribute to the realisation of the latter.

5. *Expanding* access to and use of ICTs to all, including broadband and mobile services, particularly to vulnerable and marginalised people who must have a variety of opportunities to strengthen their social position through ICTs and e-services, through continued and increasing practical measures of inclusion, while at the same time taking steps to enhance trust in the use of ICTs.
6. Promoting the development and availability of simplified devices, including text-free interfaces and applications aimed at digital inclusion.
7. *Considering* the evolution of existing universal service programmes into programmes for digital inclusion that support broadband services for all people as well as those in rural and remote areas where not only market forces exist but public investment may be necessary.
8. *Mainstreaming* gender issues across all WSIS action lines and from strategies and planning through to implementation, to ensure action lines take account of continuing gender issues, redress discrimination and contribute to ending violence and harassment.
9. *Ensuring* universal access to information and knowledge and the capacity to use ICTs for all people, including by offering services and ICTs that are inclusive of, accessible and affordable for persons with disabilities, e.g. by providing assistive technologies and through the effective implementation of appropriate international interoperable technical standards, disability-inclusive development frameworks and enabling policy environments, incorporating accessibility issues in public procurement policies and in international regulatory fora.
10. *Bridging* the digital divide by promoting inclusiveness and by facilitating countries' economic growth. Through the development and advancement of ICTs including broadband networks as well as the provision of affordable access and public access points.

11. *Assisting* developing countries to expand broadband infrastructure and take measures (such as Internet Exchange Points) to improve the quality, increase the connectivity and resilience of networks, foster competition and reduce the costs of local/national, regional and international, and interconnections, including enabling more local content and local e-Services to be provided in those countries.
12. *Encouraging* governments and intergovernmental organizations as well as private institutions and organisations to pursue policies and programs that advocate for and promote media and information literacy (MIL) and lifelong learning for all, so as to help users develop their abilities to evaluate and interact with online information resources.
13. *Fostering* ICT capacity building and ensuring that professional expertise keeps pace with advancing technology by building mechanisms for ICT skills development, to support economic development, help generate jobs and allow more people to benefit from the information society.
14. *Harnessing* ICTs with scientific and educational initiatives and activities, including exploring mechanisms for accreditation of on-line learning.
15. *Working towards* a more culturally and linguistically diverse world, with multi-lingualization of ICTs, including Internet, email, search engines and native capability for international domain names (IDN) and Unicode and by encouraging relevant and useful multilingual and local digital content, so that all members of the community are able to understand and participate in online life and contribute to online content.
16. *Ensuring* the preservation of digital heritage in the information society by putting into place cohesive, conceptual and practical digital strategies, supported, to the extent practicable, at international level, for the preservation of and access to recorded information in the digital environment in all its forms while respecting individual privacy.
17. *Prioritizing* the sharing of existing expertise and best-practice solutions between all stakeholders and creating replicable and sustainable ICT projects.

18. Reiterating our commitment to deepening and strengthening the actions taken in implementing the WSIS Action Lines, with an evaluation of the lessons learned over the past ten years so that others may benefit from the experience and to address the challenges we face today.
19. *Promoting a Digital Economy*, ensuring equal opportunities for all in creating and providing online services and promoting e-commerce and international free trade while addressing the tax challenges of the digital economy.
20. *Addressing* e-environment issues and challenges, developing Green IT and using ICTs to mitigate climate change.
21. Recognizing the importance of maintaining open ICT standards development processes for innovation in the ICT sector as key enablers for an inclusive information society.
22. *Supporting* providers of public access in the local communities such as libraries to help people access information resources they need and develop information literacy skills to improve their lives.
23. *Urging* governments and intergovernmental organisations with involvement of all stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities to continue to support and facilitate enabling regulatory, legal and investment environments for ICT for Development.
24. *Maximising* opportunities to leverage the ICTs , and transformative technology more generally, as enablers for social and economic development by creating appropriate national strategies and policies for the advancement of WSIS /ICT for development goals and by encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities at the national, regional and global levels to further the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.
25. *Supporting and encouraging* stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities, to work together for the continued technical evolution of the ICTs to address known

weaknesses and to increase capability, while maintaining full interoperability and stability.

26. *Furthering* the multistakeholder dialogue on Network neutrality, as appropriate.
27. *Building confidence and security* in the use of ICTs, notably on topics such as personal data protection, privacy, security and robustness of networks.
28. *Enhancing* national and regional capacity to address cybersecurity challenges by encouraging a culture of responsibility and joint efforts of all involved parties according to their roles to address security risks. In this respect, further *strengthening* cooperation between all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels is required.
29. *Promoting* a culture of online security and safety, empowering users, and encouraging national, regional and international cybersecurity strategies to protect users, including children.
30. Reaffirming our commitment in regard to Ethical Dimensions of the use of ICTs in regard to para 25 of Geneva Plan of action and as described in para 43 of the Tunis Agenda.
31. Promoting professional standards and continued research on the ethical dimensions on the uses of ICTs.
32. *Providing* assistance for those countries that would like to adopt legal frameworks to promote their domestic ICT markets in the future, and providing other forms of assistance.
33. *Encouraging* the full deployment of IPv6 to ensure the long-term sustainability of the addressing space, including in light of future developments in the Internet of Things.
34. *Developing* agreed goals and time-based measurable targets data and *indicators* along with enhanced monitoring and reporting.

35. Encourage the ongoing assessment of progress towards the information society, as envisaged in the WSIS Outcomes, including through efforts such as the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development which has been essential for evaluating the implementation of WSIS Action Lines.
36. In this respect, it is necessary to continue to develop appropriate ways and means to make such measurements.