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Turning targets into action



WSIS+10

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

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Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

C10 Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society

Recognizing the central role of infrastructure for the development of inclusive Information Society as well as the efforts dedicated towards implementation of WSIS Outcomes, in particular related to Action Line C2, since 2003 significant progress has been achieved and several emerging trends and challenges have been identified.

Following provides guidance and priorities for implementation of WSIS Action Line C10 beyond 2015,

1. **Protect privacy, personal data and human rights** in the digital environment.
2. **Promote user education and user awareness** to advance protection of human rights on-line and **engage private sector** in this **effort through corporate social responsibility programmes**.
3. The debate on the ethical challenges of emerging technologies and the information society is **increasingly international, inter-disciplinary and displays a multi-tiered character that implicates policy and advisory bodies**.
4. Support for **enhancing the participation of developing countries** in the debate on the ethical dimensions of the information society, **responding to their specific needs** and providing **support for research** as well as **capacity building** is needed.
5. **Emerging areas of inquiry include:** examining the interface between information technologies, social transformation and governance are the relation between human rights and ethical principles for the information society; the challenges of inter-culturalism in information ethics; the possible tensions between freedom of expression

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and moral harm; issues of privacy and security; issues of free access to public and governmental information; and the fundamental question of personal and collective identities in a digital world.

6. Additional concerted efforts to **enhance the safety of children online** are required.
7. The important role of **ethics** and related initiatives **as a component of Internet-based business activities** must be emphasized and pursued
8. Ensure equitable participation by all stakeholders and **build national and regional capacity to identify analyze and address the ethical challenges** of the information society.
9. **Information literacy is essential for empowering users** to make informed choices as well as for enabling them to exercise and protect their human rights. Information literacy should be promoted at all levels.
10. Launch **information literacy programme** at all levels to empower users to make informed choices, exercise and protect their human rights
11. **Build consensus** around **and promote principles based on universal values and human rights** that **advocate tolerance, respect, freedom of expression and inclusion** as the basis for guiding actions and behavior across all platforms of the information society
12. **Information literacy must** go beyond technical competence and skills and seek to **inculcate moral and ethical behavior and attitudes amongst users.**
13. There is expanded recognition that the **Internet and ICTs can be key enablers for Human Rights.**
14. **The Internet should remain open.** An open Internet **empowers users** to seek, received and impart information regardless of frontiers and **users should benefit from the same human rights safeguards both online and offline.**

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16. **Arbitrary blocking of content may impede** the legitimate data and information flows necessary for **economic development** and limit the **enjoyment of basic human rights**. Stakeholders should oppose such measures.
17. Efforts aimed at **strengthening the role of ICT and social media** as an enabler of **citizen-participation** in policy and decision-making at the local; regional and global level, should be strengthened.
18. **Develop ethical guidelines** through inclusive processes based on human rights and universal values.
19. Proactive measures to **combat intolerance** should be pursued **without banning speech or restricting freedom of expression**. Laws must be put in place to deter and punish those who go beyond speaking and engage in acts of discrimination and violence.
20. UNESCO and its Information for All Program (IFAP) efforts are **establishing criteria** for assessing ways of enhancing discussion, building capacity for decision-making at national and regional levels, and **conducting research to measuring developments in the field of information ethics**.
21. **Promote the exercise of freedoms of expression, association, and assembly on-line** as well as active measures to enhance dialogue, **support conflict resolution, tolerance and inclusion.**

B) What are areas that have not been adequately captured by the framework of the existing 11 WSIS Action Lines and would need to be addressed beyond 2015? Please specify the Action Line you are providing an input for.

1. **Build** and/or strengthen **regional and national** capacity to analyse, discuss and respond - including through the formulation of policy - **to the ethical challenges of the information society**. Advantage could be taken of intergovernmental initiatives in this area such as those led by UNESCO.
2. Support **equitable participation** of all stakeholders.

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3. **Reaffirm freedom of expression** as a fundamental right and as the basis for reflection on its responsible use in the context of broader consideration of freedom of access to information, particularly public and governmental and of the right to communication in a framework of cultural sensitivity, tolerance and dialogue;
4. Formal and non-formal education initiatives including life-long learning must address the ethical implications of the information society.
5. **Equip all citizens** – especially youth - with the skills and competence to **participate** actively and knowledgeably in the information society.
6. Pedagogical material and **training programmes that address new modes of global citizenship and info-ethic and info-civic paradigms must be developed.** This material should address the roles of digital media and virtual political spaces. This training should not be limited to e-learning.
7. **Examine the ethical principles that** impact technological and social issues in the information society and **underlie specific regulatory frameworks**, whether or not such principles are enshrined in existing normative instruments or codes of conduct.
8. Analyze gaps and lags that hamper policy in the face of the ethical challenges of the information society.
9. Support policy-makers and stakeholders to **move in synchrony with technological advances** rather than reacting after the fact.
10. **Devote specific resources** to address user education and awareness.
11. **Establish and promote standards** for on-line corporate social responsibility
12. **Promote** the development of regional and international **frameworks for ethics** of information society. These should address cooperation, responding to abusive uses of the Internet, ownership and ethical use of data, the development of related training. Guidance is also needed in developing approaches to address such challenges as the balance between freedom of expression and moral harm, and privacy and security;

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13. **Conduct research to understand the drivers** of social change and ethical behavior amongst individual and groups on-line.
14. **Recognize the right to disconnect** and its implications.
15. **Promote on-line participation and inclusion** of women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other potentially marginalized stakeholders.
16. Promote access to government, development-oriented information content supporting the use of local languages, fostering the development of forums where citizens can access public information and other local content.
17. Recognizing the right to disconnect and its implications.
18. Promote the rights to communication and relevant information literacy training as a main pillar for realizing human rights in the emerging Information Society through relevant national strategies and legislation.

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