

**Document Number: V1/A/7**

**Submission by: UNESCO, International Organization**



Draft WSIS+10 Vision for inclusive and sustainable Knowledge Societies beyond 2015

Preamble

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 ICTs as enablers for development. World leaders representing Governments, civil society, private sector 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.

The Action Lines capture the potential of ICTs in enhancing access, especially of vulnerable populations, to education, health care and other public services, provision of ICT Infrastructure, creating enabling environments, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs for information, knowledge and financial purposes, and the role of ICTs for the protecting the environment, for mitigating natural disaster risks, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable food production and for women’s empowerment.

The first WSIS+10 Review in February 2013 highlighted the considerable achievements made over the last decade, since WSIS 2003, the ICT landscape and their uses having changed dramatically, several new trends have emerged in the information and knowledge societies like broadband, social networks, mobility and digital inclusion. These trends bring new rapid innovation, diffusion and uptake of mobile technologies and improved access to the Internet have greatly expanded the gamut of opportunities that ICTs offer for inclusive development. As demonstrated by the ongoing overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes, 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, which constitute a valuable foundation for our future vision and action.

Taking into account the ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (MDG Review Process) and the WSIS+10 review process, all stakeholders have repeatedly stressed the necessary interaction between both processes, to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent and coordinated thus achieving a maximum and sustainable impact.

The aim of bridging the digital and knowledge divides and of creating people –centred, inclusive and development oriented information and inclusive Knowledge Societies, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, remains vastly relevant.

**Document Number: V1/A**

Note: This section was shifted from the WSIS+10Statement to the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015. WSIS Stakeholders are invited to review this document, using track changes, and submit the document to [wsis-info@itu.int](mailto:wsis-info@itu.int) by 17 November 2013 (non-extendable).

*We envision inclusive Knowledge Societies, in which:*

1. **Human Rights and fundamental freedoms** enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are realized online and offline for all citizens of the world and information and communication technologies are used to contribute to peace and sustainable development.
2. The **full participation of all citizens in the digital world** must be a priority for inclusive Knowledge Societies. The key to empowering people to fully in knowledge societies is education and offering lifelong learning opportunities for all, including through information and communication technologies (ICT). Promoting and protecting **Freedom of expression** enables all, and particularly women, indigenous peoples, older and young people and people with disabilities to fully contribute to the democratic governance, development of policies and practices concerning information and inclusive Knowledge Societies, which is essential if their concerns, needs and aspirations are to be fully addressed.
3. Universal access to information and knowledge, with due respect for free flow of information, is ensured and the active contribution of the poorest and most marginalised people the active contribution of the poorest and most of our societies is fully supported, which does require necessarily as their starting point a **rights-based approach** to development.
4. There is full respect for **cultural and linguistic diversity**, and that everyone has the right to express themselves, to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice.
5. Youth, women, the poor, indigenous people and persons with disabilities benefit from the opportunities to access information and knowledge provided by ICTs should remain a **cross-cutting priority for bridging the digital and knowledge divides, [reinforced by accountability. ]**
6. **Digital inclusion** goes beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications. It recognizes there are additional needs for different marginalized groups that include accessible ICTs for persons with disabilities, information and media literacy training for women, youth and indigenous peoples, and the use of ICTs for social and economic empowerment, including, e.g. ICTs to promote youth employment and entrepreneurship.
7. that in order to remove **gender inequalities in knowledge societies** and that the knowledge societies actively empowers women in all aspects of their lives, it is necessary to apply a gender lens in all aspects of inclusive knowledge societies, across sectors and from strategies and planning through implementation and investments. This includes on the demand and supply side, from awareness, literacy and meaningful engagement to affordable access, appropriate policy frameworks and relevant content. An important way of ensuring this is realized is though women’s leadership and participation in decision-making.
8. Provision of an **equal opportunity and universal design for all to make use of the benefits and opportunities** of new technologies.
9. Better cooperation with **more funding and assistance for inclusive ICT initiatives** in developing countries.
10. **Scientific knowledge** is a key factor in the **innovation process** and in finding pathways to sustainable, inclusive Knowledge Societies, which are respectful of the environment. Science is acknowledged as a common or public good that is to be shared universally.
11. Establishing the **ICT infrastructure** and its easy access that can provide access to all the communities, including in rural remote areas, and make available simplified devices, including text-free interfaces and applications aimed at digital inclusion
12. **Safe spaces**, both online and off, should be available to build confidence in ICTs and their uses.
13. Reach of **broadband infrastructure and affordable services** to everyone, including through universal service and universal access.
14. Bridging the digital and knowledge divides to cross and reap the benefits of **ICT and broadband** in transforming the lives of communities particularly the youth, women, poor, and persons with disabilities.
15. Relevant and useful **multilingual and local digital content** should be available to ensure that all members of the community are able to understand and participate in online life.
16. In order to harness the opportunities provided by the ICT’s to the women, poor and persons with disabilities there is an urgent need to **establish international technical standards, disability-inclusive development frameworks and promotion of proper policy and regulation.**
17. **Further development of national and regional policy, legal and regulatory initiatives and approaches** to pay specific attention to youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous people when addressing the range of issues that impact their ability to benefit from the opportunities of ICTs and the information and inclusive Knowledge Societies.
18. **All persons have a voice** in the development of policies that are important to them, as different marginalized and disadvantaged groups have different needs.
19. **Indigenous and traditional knowledge** are fundamental in building 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 societies.
20. **Incorporation of accessibility issues in the public procurement policies** and in international regulatory fora.
21. Increased **involvement of all stakeholders** in leveraging the transformative potential of ICT and a better and more sustainable socio-economic development in order to reach an inclusive and people-centered inclusive Knowledge Societies.
22. Deepening of the current **multistakeholder model** with particular emphasis on the benefits of the decentralized decision-making structure to ensure participation of youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.
23. **Training and capacity building** in ICTs, including media and information literacy be available to help users develop their abilities to evaluate and interact with online information resources.
24. An enhanced learning experience for those with a range of disabilities through **assistive technologies**.
25. Increased **participation of youth in decision-making processes** as vital ingredient for improving democracy.
26. Fostering policies and projects that ensure **para and per-Indigenous approaches** to ICTs, that is policies and projects designed with and by Indigenous Peoples themselves.
27. following **inclusive approaches to e- science**, including a citizen science approach, where local communities, indigenous peoples, youth, women, the poor, people with disabilities etc. can participate fully in the scientific process.
28. An enabling **environment** with adequate market and regulatory reforms would spur competition and improve access to ICTs by making them more affordable.
29. **Affordable access to ICTs**, that not only has the potential to transform lives of citizens and communities, but also to help the marginalized persons with disabilities and indigenous people by empowering them and their communities.
30. Availability of **affordable user devices**, including through subsidization programs.
31. An information and inclusive Knowledge Societies where the most vulnerable, especially **children, feel secure and protected online.**
32. That regulators and policy makers may consider **transforming existing universal service programmes into programmes for digital inclusion** that support broadband services for all citizens while further facilitating the access to ICTs of women, girls, the disabled and indigenous people.
33. **inclusion of people in rural and remote areas** where not only market forces, but investment from the government might be necessary.