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**Submission by: United Kingdom, Government**

***Please note that this is a submission for the Third Physical meeting of the WSIS +10 MPP to be held on the 17th and 18th of February.***

Draft WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

### B. Overview of the implementation of Action Lines

Substantial progress has been made since the two phases of WSIS towards building the people-centered, inclusive, development-oriented information society called for in the WSIS Declaration of Principles. The number and diversity of people around the world empowered by ICTs increased dramatically accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development promoting freedom of expression, increasing accountability and transparency in society, creating new business opportunities, facilitating trade and serving as a platform for cultural exchange amongst others.

**CUBA:**

We emphasize that the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of 2003 and the Agenda and Tunis Commitment of 2005 remain fully in force. The commitments and actions adopted in respect of them continue to be an essential guide for all. Still remaining fully in force are several challenges that have been identified in the WSIS, as follows:

* Promoting measures to ensure the benefits of ICTs for the countries with the highest needs.
* Continuing to set realistic goals and decisive action to reduce the gap between developed and developing countries in terms of the use of communication technology.
* Continuing to reduce the digital divide and that this translates into a reduction of the development gap. Overcoming the negative socio-economic situation of developing countries that affects, as regards to ICT, the ability of creating infrastructures and the training of the necessary human resources.
* Ensuring that human rights are fully promoted and protected in the information society.

The most important achievement of the current implementation process of the WSIS is the interest of so many actors, institutions, national, regional and international, in the initiative of jointly shaping the inclusive Information Society and making all stakeholders aware of the challenges that this process entails, including the future development of a true Knowledge Society.

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The most important achievement of the current implementation process of the WSIS is the interest of ~~so many~~ some actors, institutions, national, regional and international, in the initiative of jointly shaping the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society(ies )and making all stakeholders aware of the challenges that this process entails.

1. *We note* that the WSIS Action Lines have helped in building a common understanding of the desirability and **framework** for realizing the goal of globally interconnected inclusive Information Society.
2. *We recognize* that this implementation framework based approach on the WSIS Action Lines has helped to draw attention to the crucial role that **ICTs can play in realizing development goals**, notably reducing **poverty and promoting literacy.**

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*We recognize* that this implementation framework based approach on the WSIS Action Lines has helped to draw attention to the ~~crucial~~ role that **ICTs can play in realizing development goals**, notably reducing **poverty and promoting literacy.**

1. *We commend* the WSIS Process for reinforcing the strategic role of **multi-stakeholderism which has led to** strengthened **engagement of all stakeholders** to work together in order to accomplish some of the objectives reflected in the Geneva Plan of Action.

**CUBA***:?*

1. *We recognize* that the WSIS Action Lines have helped **raise awareness within the international community** about the challenges many communities face in realizing the benefits of the inclusive Information Society.

**4bis)** *We note with satisfaction that the* WSIS outcomes have led to the development of regional and national strategies and plans for the development of inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) that are regularly updated, and the based on internationally agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration, which are premised on international cooperation, and that the indicative targets given in WSIS Plan of Action item 6 have become the basis in the establishment of the national targets, considering national and regional circumstances.

1. *We acknowledge* the significant efforts made towards the realization of a global digital economy (refers to an economy that is based on digital technologies), in particular through contribution of all stakeholders and adoption of appropriate **national ICT policies.**
2. *We note* with satisfaction that in the area of **digital inclusion there is greater** awareness of the importance of promoting digital inclusion for youth, women, the vulnerable and marginalized, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, including age related disabilities, while promoting the wealth of the world’s languages.

6b) We *highly appreciate* the WSIS Forum, regularly arranged by ITU jointly with UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, attracting all stakeholders as asite for open exchange of opinions on the issues of development of information society, implementation of Action Lines and presentation of best practices. We acknowledge the significant contribution of all UN Agencies facilitating Action Lines actively contributing to WSIS implementation including ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNDESA, ITC, UPU, WHO, ILO, UNEP, WMO, FAO, UNWOMEN and the UN Regional Commissions.

6c) We *particularly emphasize* the importance of the work carried out by the “*Partnership on Measuring ICT for development”* on the development of the framework for a set of core ICT indicators, as well as, acknowledge the ICT Development Index (IDI).

*We further recognize that:*

1. Countries have made **considerable progress in implementing the Action lines** in the form of tangible policies, projects and services in all of the society’s vital sectors, as well as integration of the **WSIS Objectives within national ICT policies.**
2. WSIS Action Lines have contributed to a deepened **understanding and significance of ICT for development** among policy and decision makers.
3. The majority of developing countries now **feature ICTs as key enablers of their national visions and plans for sustainable development.**
4. The increase in **access to information and knowledge has widened and deepened in the past 10 years** with more opportunities available to exercise freedom of expression and engage in social networking than ever before.
5. The emergence of new services, including **social networks and cloud computing**, in the last few years has increased the means to communicate and to access and distribute information.
6. There has been increasing awareness by policymakers of the importance of **public access to ICTs and tools** to combat the digital divide, and reiterate the value of libraries in this regard.
7. There has been an increased level of **mobile penetration and rise of broadband penetration.**
8. There has been increased **knowledge, acceptance and capacity building** in ICT Applications like E-Government, E-business, E-learning, E-health, E-employment, E-environment, E-agriculture and E-science by the user and the provider
9. There has been significant awareness of the need for greater collaboration among all stakeholders to address different aspects of enhancing confidence and security in the use of ICTs [including legal measures, technical and procedural measures, organizational structures, capacity building and international cooperation, as well as literate use of the Internet and ICTs.]
10. There is increased awareness of the need to strengthen the respect for freedom of expression and the right to privacy and to protect personal data.

**CUBA:?**

1. **ICT infrastructure development has been boosted** by several enablers such as new technologies including mobile, innovative policies including Universal Service Funds, planning and background data, and international standards.

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1. A new-generation of ICT policies and regulations were adopted in the majority of countries designed to advance the deployment of broadband, encourage innovation and enable digital inclusion of all.
2. In the area of E-science the **WSIS process has contributed to supporting research on emerging trends in e-Science** which has provided a better understanding of emerging trends, its impact and future direction.
3. There is a growing awareness of the importance of cultural diversity in all spheres of life, including for the Information Society.

20.1) A holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development is required, taking into account the important contribution of cultural diversity to environmental protection and social and economic development.

1. There is an increasingly shared understanding that **ethical principles** for inclusive Information Society derive from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ICCPR and that the same rights that people have offline must also apply online and comprise the right to freedom of expression, universal access to information, particularly that which is in the public domain, the right to education, the right to privacy and the right to participate in cultural life.
2. Improved access to **ICT in education** over the past 10 years enhanced users capacities for individual development and active participation in society as well as supporting the development of a skilled workforce for a global economy and giving also new opportunities for social mobility.
3. There is greater recognition among policy makers that achieving digital inclusion goes beyond questions of network deployment and affordability. This includes ensuring that **ICTs are** **available, accessible and affordable for everyone,**.
4. ICTs play an important role in **promoting the employment and entrepreneurship of youth, women, indigenous people and persons with disabilities**.

**CUBA:**

ICTs play an ~~crucial~~ important role in promoting the employment and entrepreneurship of youth, women, indigenous people and persons with disabilities.

1. Visibility has been raised on a global scale on the need to ensure that **women take up ICT careers**, so that women become creators of essential ICT tools as well as provide input into ICT policy directions.
2. The need has been recognized to address, , the promotion of ethical codes, and where appropriate, self-regulation and where appropriate, regulations established by law of professions involved in the production, distribution and archiving of information, communication and knowledge.
3. Improved and innovative financial mechanisms as well as adequate and sustainable investments remain a priority in order to continue to meet the challenges of ICT for development

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Improved and innovative financial mechanisms as well as adequate and sustainable investments ~~remain a priority~~ can contribute in order to continue to meet the challenges of ICT for development .

1. We recognize with appreciation all of the efforts exerted to increase affordable access in the developing countries and in particular LDCs.
2. the needs of the growing population of aged citizens and the role of ICT in to enable such citizens to continue their lives in an independent and autonomous living conditions.
3. The opportunities offered by new technology may present new accessibility barriers. Affordable solutions exist but are language dependent, sharing this knowledge and observing accessibility will ensure that inclusive Information Society for all.