

**Document Number: WSIS+10/4/50**

**Submission by: Internet Democracy Project, CDT, Global Partners Digital, International Federation of Library Associations, Access, Civil society**

**Note: Submission to the WSIS+10 MPP Vice Chair’s (Egypt’s) proposal for Chapter A Preamble**

**Document Number: WSIS+10/4/4**

**Note: This document is the WSIS+10 MPP Vice Chair’s (Egypt’s) proposal for Chapter A, Preamble. This is the clean and summarized version of the proposed draft by the Vice- Chair.**

Draft WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

1. **Preamble**

Ten years ago, at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in its two phases (Geneva 2003, & Tunis 2005), ~~the governments representatives of the peoples of the world adopted~~ a common vision on the Information Society was adopted, identifying its main principles and challenges towards a people-centered inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. The fundamental aim of the WSIS process was ~~not to establish new governance models, but~~ to foster the use of technology to improve peoples’ lives and to bridge the digital divide.

The uses of ICTs have developed tremendously and become a part of everyday life for many since the second phase of the WSIS in 2005, accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development, promoting freedom of expression, increasing accountability and transparency, and offering new opportunities to leverage technology, in developed and developing countries. ~~The Internet~~ Technology has thus also demonstrated its value in contributing to reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). ~~However, major challenges still lay ahead for counteracting the wide disparities in development and enabling entire groups and countries to benefit from universal access to information and knowledge.~~

Since the WSIS process started, emphasis has been given to the multi-stakeholder approach and its vital importance in the WSIS implementation at the national, regional and international levels and in taking forward the WSIS themes and Action Lines. Such approach has led to strengthening the engagement of governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations, enabling all relevant parties to work together.

~~As we reflect on the outcomes of WSIS and establish a vision beyond 2015, we should also find ways in which implementation of the WSIS Action Lines can be measured, in-spite existing budget concerns, alongside ways in which WSIS processes can be mainstreamed into broader UN developmental activities~~

However, major challenges still lay ahead for counteracting the wide disparities in development and enabling all ~~entire~~ groups and countries to fully benefit from universal access to information and knowledge.

The WSIS+10 Review aims at identifying the challenges and priorities for the post 2015 era in conjunction with the Post 2015 Development ~~Millennium Development Goals~~ Agenda, based on multi-stakeholder consultations when taking decisions on issues relating to the implementation of the eleven Action Lines and on the inclusive Information Society.

~~The potential of ICTs as key enablers of development and innovation, is fully recognized in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.~~ Taking into account the growing importance of relevant content, skills and an enabling environment, ICTs should be fully recognized as tools empowering people. ~~The Post-2015 Development Agenda reflects lessons learned during the past decade in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes~~. There is an urgency to build on what has been learned on the uses of ICTs since the MDGs were established in 2000, and acknowledge how ~~the two phases of~~ the WSIS ~~Summit have~~ has stimulated significant international cooperation and collaboration on ICTs as enablers for development.

***In this context;***

*We invite* the UN system organizations in collaboration with all other stakeholders to take full advantage of ICTs in addressing the development challenges of the 21st century and to recognize them as cross-cutting enablers for achieving the three pillars of sustainable development.

*We also encourage* all stakeholders to take further actions to address the needs of youth, women and persons with disabilities, as follows:

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.
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; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the Geneva Declaration; and recall [Human Rights Council Resolutions A/HRC/20/8 on The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet[, A/HRC/24/4 on The right to development, A/HRC/24/14 on Human rights and unilateral coercive measures, and A/HRC/23/16 on Promotion of the rights to peace]; and] Resolution A/RES/68/167 of the UN General Assembly on The right to privacy in the digital age.~~
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's 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 and The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. ~~, and RESOLUTION 70 (Rev. Guadalajara 2010) Gender mainstreaming in ITU~~. We therefore wish to recall and emphasise the importance of taking ~~to take~~ 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.
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 marginalised ~~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.

Further:

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; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the Geneva Declaration; and recall [Human Rights Council Resolutions A/HRC/20/8 on The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet[, A/HRC/24/4 on The right to development; and] Resolution A/RES/68/167 of the UN General Assembly on The right to privacy in the digital age.

As appropriate, this chapeau language does not preclude the possibility that individual groups of vulnerable people may need to be referenced specifically in some action lines. We recommend that this chapeau language should be explicitly referenced at the beginning of each action line.

We recommend the inclusion of “knowledge societies” as it emphasizes the progress made in the development of Information Society, and therefore shows the successes of the WSIS process. It also indicates the current thought on the need to move beyond information society and stress on the importance of knowledge for societies and for economies