



World Summit Geneva 2003
Tunis 2005
on the Information Society
Turning targets into action



Document Number: WSIS+10/4/22

Note: This Executive Summary captures the main achievements, challenges and recommendations of the Action Line during the 10-year period of WSIS Implementation; this has been submitted by the Action Line Facilitator in response to the request by the participants of the Third WSIS+10 MPP meeting. The complete report on the 10-Year Implementation of the Action line was submitted to the Third WSIS+10 MPP meeting held on 17-18 February 2014 and is available at the following url: www.itu.int/wsis/review/reports/#actionline

**10-Year WSIS Action Line Facilitator's Reports on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes
WSIS Action Line – C11: International and Regional cooperation
Lead Facilitator: UNDESA**

Executive Summary

1. Achievements

International and regional cooperation among all stakeholders is vital in the advancement of the Information Society for supporting sustainable development beyond 2015.

Various international organisations including UNDESA, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD, WIPO, UN regional commissions and other United Nations entities have continued to work towards fostering international and regional cooperation and work with intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies through holding events, conferences, meetings and joint programmes. In addition, intergovernmental organizations including the World Bank and international financial institution (IFIs), private-sector and civil-society associations play a significant role in cooperation as well.

The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, a direct response to a request made by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to produce official statistics to monitor the information society, is an example of successful inter-agency collaboration that has allowed partners to combine human and financial resources to avoid duplication while maximizing outreach. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at improving the availability and quality of internationally comparable ICT statistics, which are critical for policy making and for assessing countries' advancements in the use and impact of ICTs. As a result, collection and dissemination of ICT statistics has improved significantly in the past ten years, making internationally comparable indicators widely available and increasingly collected at the national level. Most progress has been made on collecting ICT indicators through household surveys.

Furthermore, to achieve international and regional cooperation in Internet governance, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) has provided a unique multi-stakeholder platform for the discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the

sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet. The IGF has held 8 highly successful annual meetings, bringing together thousands of thought leaders in the field of Internet governance from all stakeholder groups including governments, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector, Internet technical community, civil society and academia, among others. The IGF works year-round in consulting these stakeholders, conducting outreach and carrying out important capacity building activities. More than 30 National and Regional IGF initiatives have been established around the world, allowing multi-stakeholder Internet governance discussions to take place.

The IGF has embodied the multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance, responding to the Tunis Agenda. The continuing growth of the Internet, across all technology platforms, has reinforced the need for open policy dialogue which brings all stakeholders together on an equal footing. It is this kind of dialogue that gives strength to the IGF and consolidates its relation with the various other Internet governance institutions and processes, not only through bringing their representatives together at the same discussion table, but, more importantly, through picking up from these discussions and feeding them into decision making processes that are shaping the future of the Internet. The IGF has also positively contributed to global social and economic development discussions, both in follow-up to the MDGs and in shaping the post-2015 agenda. IGF discussions have highlighted the numerous ways in which the phenomenal growth of access to the Internet as well as the content and knowledge it disseminates has advanced human development.

The WSIS Stock-taking is another important initiative undertaken to strengthen international and regional cooperation. It is intended to fulfil the dual purpose of providing an inventory of activities undertaken by governments and all stakeholders in implementing the Geneva decisions (WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action) and taking stock of the progress made in building the Information Society. It was launched in October 2004 and continues to be updated as a dynamic portal serving as a rich source of information that is available to all.

Finally, the WSIS Forum is still the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community that contributes to the strengthening of international and regional cooperation. The Forum provides structured opportunities to network, learn and participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on WSIS implementation and builds upon the tradition of annual WSIS May meetings, and its format is the result of open consultations with all WSIS Stakeholders.

2. Challenges

- One primary challenge in Internet governance policy making has been ensuring openness and transparency in the operation and delivery of the Internet to all users. The various institutions involved in Internet governance need to be more responsive, innovative and supportive of the Internet as catalyst of change. Challenges have arisen in ensuring basic human rights and freedom of expression in the online world.
- Another challenge has been ensuring the safety of all users of the Internet. Cyber-crime threats have increased significantly and major collaborative work needs to be done to address new threats as they arise. Revelations of Internet surveillance activities have put Internet governance issues near the top of the global diplomatic agenda.
- Innovations have created a truly hyper-connected world that poses significant opportunities, as well as threats. The Internet is a multi-faceted economic and social space that has become the central nervous system of the information society. Major challenges are being addressed

in policy debates throughout the world around issues such as net neutrality, data protection, Big Data and the protection of children online.

3. Recommendations

- Harness information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the Internet for accelerating development goals beyond 2015 through enhanced international and regional cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration
- Encourage development aid in ICTs particularly for developing countries including the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition; encourage greater input of developing countries on the deployment of funds for enhanced ownership and accountability
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange among experts and stakeholders through the forums such as WSIS
- Ensure better protection of all citizens in the online environment to reach a proper balance between actions driven by national security concerns and the respect for internationally recognized human rights, such as the right to privacy and freedom of expression.
- Rebuild the trust of Internet users, which has been seriously affected by online surveillance activities.
- Ensure that Internet becomes a space that promotes peace and security, enables development and ensures human rights.
- Enhance data collection and dissemination related to the core list of ICT indicators at both the national and international levels, based on international standards and definitions. Include ICT statistics in national strategies for the development of statistics and in regional statistical work programmes. Strengthen local statistical capacity by assessing capacity needs and delivering targeted training on ICT statistics.
- Further develop international ICT indicators with agreed standards and facilitate data collection; promote open data by paying particular attention to quality, disclosure, and publishing
- Further promote the inclusive and open multi-stakeholder model to increase the collection of ICT related data with agreed indicators and standards.