



WSIS+10 High-Level Event

Open Consultation Process

Official Submission Form #1 on the Outcome Documents of the WSIS +10 High-Level Event 13-17 April 2014, Sharm el-Sheikh

Background: The WSIS+10 High-Level Event will be an extended version of the WSIS Forum to address the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes related to the WSIS Action Lines under mandates of the participating agencies, while providing a platform for multistakeholder coordination of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, with involvement and participation of all WSIS action line facilitators, other UN agencies and all WSIS stakeholders.

The WSIS+10 High-Level Event will review the WSIS Outcomes (2003 and 2005) , in particular, related to the Action Lines with a view to developing proposals on a new vision beyond 2015, potentially also exploring new targets. The meeting will be organized taking into account decisions of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly.

This open and inclusive open consultation process will result in:

- Draft Outcome Documents for consideration by the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, by 1st March 2014:
 - Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes
 - Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of the participating Agencies

(Please see the Official Submission Form #1)

- Multistakeholder guidance on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format of the WSIS +10 High-Level Event.

(Please see the Official Submission Form #2)

Please note that formal submission should be sent to the wsis-info@itu.int not later than **20 September 2013**.

A. Your Information

Title: Mr

First name: Paul **Last name:** Redwin

Organization: Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)

Organization type: Government **Country:** United Kingdom

B. Formal Input on the WSIS+10 High-Level Event Outcome Documents

Referring to the background documents i.e. the WSIS +10 Visioning Challenge, the Final Statement and Final Recommendations from the WSIS+10 Review Event Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development, the Booklet WSIS Forum 2012 & 2013: Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015 and the WSIS Forum 2013 Outcome Document, all WSIS Stakeholders are kindly invited to provide formal submissions and inputs towards the Outcome Documents of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

1. Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

(Please note that the anticipated length of this Statement is two pages)

Since the two Summits, in 2003 and 2005, WSIS Stakeholders have made every effort in implementing a common vision of the Information Society.

Overall;

- a) What are the main achievements in the area of the information society, in particular, in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines, in the past ten years?

The main achievements is first fold that awareness of the need to provide suitable and robust ICT infrastructure in developing countries is there – which will help in delivering the Millennium Development Goals post 2015. Also as infrastructure like submarine cables; Internet Exchange Points (both locally and regionally) and mobile phone networks have become more available the benefits of lower International interconnection costs and the creation of local content is becoming established to the benefit of local citizens and businesses, as well as governments being able to start to deliver government services to its citizens. There has also been good moves in public-private partnerships to accelerate implementation of infrastructure projects.

- b) What key identified challenges would need to be addressed in the next 10 years?

The main challenges for developing countries are two-fold, the first is to ensure that the momentum in infrastructure projects is increased, especially in delivering robust broadband networks (fixed; mobile and satellite) where they are needed, and especially in land-locked countries – which will enable their citizens and businesses to take advantage of the technology and services that can run over the broadband network. The second challenge for telecoms and other ICT related markets, especially in developing countries is to embrace the ‘liberalized markets’ concept by ensuring that their telecom/ ICT domestic markets are non-discriminatory to new entrants and that their markets take on competitive regulatory regimes which will encourage

direct inward investment for developing their ICT infrastructure and services in the future – which will benefit their citizens and businesses alike.

- c) What do the WSIS Stakeholders envision for an information/ knowledge society ensuring that the youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples benefit from the enormous opportunities provided by the ICTs?

There should be a basic principle that ICT infrastructure and electronic services that run over it – whatever technology is employed – should be made available to all users irrespective of their status – whether that is by age; sex or disability. There should be greater emphasis on ensuring that ICT products and services follow the ‘universal design for all’ principles from the outset – which allows them to be used by all users wherever possible.

2. Draft WSIS +10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of the participating agencies (Definition of new priorities and objectives for WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015)

Please note: Participating agency refers to the Agencies tasked by the WSIS Outcomes to lead facilitation of WSIS Action Lines; See Annex to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

- a) In your opinion, what are the **key emerging trends** in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) landscape that should be considered in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015? **Please specify the Action Line you are providing an input for.**

Please note: You may wish to refer to the WSIS Forum 2012 & 2013 Booklet on Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015, available at www.wsis.org/review/mpp.

- C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
 - The key trend is with regard to governments worldwide increasingly setting out their ICT strategies for a given fixed period – which has aided the investment of its infrastructure and ICT services – which has allowed for an enabling environment (to some extent) to allow citizens and business community to benefit.
- C2. Information and communication infrastructure
 - Take-up of existing and new ICT technology is increasing – which has both social and economic benefits for the global community. This is especially true for broadband services which are/ will be vital in all countries realizing their economic and social development goals post 2015. There is also a distinct trend, especially now in developing countries of embracing technology such as Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) – which has helped to bring down International interconnection costs – as well as providing a platform for more local content to be made available.
- C3. Access to information and knowledge
 - There has been good progress in developed nations in utilizing ICT's for the benefit of students and education professionals alike – which has allowed innovative ways of working and receiving education to become available. There has also been a push by most developed nations to ensure that all its citizens have access to the Internet, including making the Internet free to access at local libraries and other local authorities buildings. The same needs to be repeated in developing countries – so that their citizens can benefit in a similar fashion.

- C4. Capacity building
 - See answer for C3.
- C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
 - The main emerging trend on confidence and security in the use of ICT's is the realisation of the need to establish strategies and capabilities at the national level to ensure protection of national critical infrastructures, while enabling prevention and prompt responses to cyberthreats. Also the establishment of Computer Incident Response Teams (CERTs) with national responsibilities and national cybersecurity frameworks are key elements towards the achievement of cybserecurity. There is also the need to work with the business sector on a more regular basis by governments.
- C6. Enabling environment
 - Not enough governments ensure that their legislative and regulatory framework are adapted in order to have lighter and smarter regulation which will attract more inward investment and which will drive down costs for citizens and businesses alike.
- C7. ICT Applications:
 - E-government
 - There is a general trend for most governments throughout the world now to provide some of its services online.
 - E-business
 - In developed countries the explosion of e-commerce as had both good and adverse effects. It has provided new business models – which especially in the retail and goods distribution sectors as made them more lean and efficient, and which has provided consumers with another platform to shop/ conduct business from. The Internet has also provided the base for different content related businesses to emerge – which has added to the social fabric of society.
 - E-learning
 - See answer for C3.
 - E-health
 - E-health products and services are now beginning to become mainstream in a number of developed nations, especially with the advent of technologies that make up the “Internet of Things” – where remote monitoring and e-consultations are becoming common. These technologies and services need to be adapted to ensure that developing countries can also benefit from them in the near future.
 - E-employment
 - ICT's are increasingly globally becoming an enabler of economic prosperity – which is enabling more people to do their jobs in other and efficient ways.
 - E-environment
 - There is recognition globally of the need to ensure that adverse effects of increased use of ICT products to the environment and climate needs to be addressed at a national/ regional and global level.
 - E-agriculture
 - In developing countries the use of mobile technology has been a real plus in farmers and businesses in the agricultural sector being able to access real-time data and to be able to sell their crops/ produce remotely.
 - E-science
 - The main trend here especially in developing countries has been the rise of peer-to-peer technology that has provided the platform for knowledge to be shared and communicated.
- C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

- It is recognized that those countries that have well developed ICT infrastructure and light regulatory and competitive regimes in place have more vibrant domestic ICT markets which allows for more local content and e-services to be provided both for their citizens and businesses alike.
- C9. Media
 - There is a continuing trend to ensure that the principles of freedom of expression and privacy should be adhered to whether possible. Since 2005 – there has also been a trend for public/private service broadcasters with the advent of digital services providing more media platforms to show their programmes and services.
- C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
 - ICTs in general have provided citizens to have more of a say in policy and decision-making both at a local; regional and global level, whether it's through the advent of social media or more traditional forms of electronic communication technologies.
- C11. International and regional cooperation
 - Since WSIS – at first there was a silo mentality amongst international and regional organisations – but that over recent years has begun to be addressed with increased dialogue and mutual respect amongst International organisations like the ITU and ICANN/ IETF for instance.
The IGF has served as a primary catalyst for much of the cooperation that has developed over the last 10 years because it has brought the key players together in a single forum. Furthermore, the emergence of national and regional multi-stakeholder fora has provided opportunities for multi-partner cooperative initiatives to develop at a local level. The existence of these fora and the cooperative initiatives they have triggered have also been a major contributory factor in more effectively addressing shared problems such as tackling cybercrime and also ensuring that Internet-related public policymaking has kept pace with innovation and rapid technology change.

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.**

- C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
 - There continues to be a need to ensure that a multi-stakeholder approach is used in promoting the use of ICT's for development to ensure that all sectors and communities are involved, and which will maximize both inputs and outputs with regard to this particular action line. For instance, there needs to be increased recognition of the importance of policymakers and regulators involving stakeholders in the development of national and regional digital/ ICT strategies through advisory groups, steering committees and similar participatory mechanisms. It should also be recognized of the value of information and best practice sharing through engaging in multistakeholder fora and cooperative initiatives.

There is also the issue of integrating spectrum policy in digital strategies in recognition of the impact of mobile technologies in developing the knowledge economy, social welfare, banking and in business sectors such as agriculture. Lastly, there is the issue that since WSIS – advances in multilingualism in the domain system and greater cultural diversity on the Internet has created new economic and social opportunities, especially for developing countries.
- C2. Information and communication infrastructure

- There needs to be (especially for developing countries) more emphasis on robust and secure broadband roll-out which enables both economic and social wellbeing on those particular countries, and especially landlocked countries.
- C3. Access to information and knowledge
 - There is still a lot that needs to be done in ensuring that ICT products and services are made available in mainstream education, especially in developing countries – which will help both education professionals to deliver bespoke courses, as well as helping students to reference material which will enhance the education that they receive.
- C4. Capacity building
 - See answer to C3
- C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
 - Assistance should be provided to countries needing help in setting up national cybersecurity strategies and the creation of national Computer Incident Response Teams (CERTs). This could be provided in a number of ways including by bilateral assistance from those countries that have already set up national strategies and CERTs.
- C6. Enabling environment
 - There is a need for countries to ensure that their legislative and regulatory frameworks allow for competitive markets to exist – which will help with direct inward investment in ICT infrastructure and services.
- C7. ICT Applications:
 - E-government
 - There is still a need for assistance to be provided to some governments in extending the range of services that are made online – which will assist their citizens and businesses alike.
 - E-business
 - There needs to be more assistance and tools made available to developing countries on ensuring that locally they can build vibrant ICT content and services – which aides both economic and social wellbeing.
 - E-learning
 - See answer for C3.
 - E-health
 - The benefits that e-health technologies and services provides – needs to be further explored, especially with regard to the benefits that developing countries could experience with regard to the health of their citizens in the future.
 - E-employment
 - More emphasis needs to on training people in ICT related technologies to enhance their employment credentials and to provide extra capacity in developing ICT enabled economies in the future.
 - E-environment
 - Issues around eWaste and the effects ICTs on the climate need to be addressed more at national/ regional and global levels.
 - E-agriculture
 - Greater emphasis on ICT's assisting farmers in developing countries needs to be further explored, whether it is from services available from mobile/ fixed/ satellite broadband technologies.
 - E-science
 - The main issue here for developing countries is one of access to open source software and peer-to-peer technology to ensure that knowledge is increasingly shared.
- C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
 - More emphasis needs to be made on all countries employing light regulatory and competitive regimes in place – which enables for more local content and services to be provided.

- C9. Media
 - Freedom of expression online and online privacy issues will need to be continued to be addressed in the future to ensure that the information society is a fair and transparent place for citizens and businesses to operate in.
- C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
 - There are a number of conflicts that need to be addressed post 2015, including issues around freedom of expression and moral harm, and privacy and security to name a few.
- C11. International and regional cooperation
 - More needs to be done both at a regional and international level to ensure that there is less duplication of effort with regard to the creation and setting of ICT standards and roll-out of ICT services in the future. Because the current ICT ecosystem has many actors with specific roles and responsibilities, International organisations should work hand-in-hand, making the most of their respective expertise and remit for the benefit of all nations and peoples.

c) In your opinion are there any priority areas that need to be addressed in the implementation of WSIS Beyond 2015.

To provide developing countries with assistance in rolling out broadband infrastructure and Internet Exchange Points – which will enable more local content and local e-Services to be provided in those countries. There should also be more assistance provided for those countries that would like to embrace light regulatory regimes for their domestic telecoms/ ICT markets in the future.

3. Ensuring accountability of the WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015 (Targets and Indicators for an open and inclusive information/knowledge society for all beyond 2015)

Please note that information provided under this point will be relevant to the second physical meeting of the open consultation process on WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

a) How can the **monitoring and evaluation** of future implementation of the WSIS process, in particular, the Action Lines be better enabled?

Although the current ten year review provides enough time to properly review progress, there is a case that after five years – new action lines should be added if needed.

b) What are the **priority areas** that the post-2015 WSIS process should focus on and which goals and targets could monitor the new vision for WSIS beyond 2015?

1. Assistance in broadband and Internet Exchange Points rollout in developing countries (and especially landlocked countries); 2. Assistance in help to provide light regulatory and competitive ICT markets globally; 3. More emphasis on training people in ICT related technologies to enhance their employment credentials and to provide extra capacity in developing ICT enabled economies in the future.

4. Any additional comments or suggestions

There may be a need for the broadband rollout issue to have a separate WSIS Action Line post 2015, to try and fast-track assistance to developing countries. Also WSIS Action Lines C3; C4 and C7 (E-Learning) should be merged and enhanced– as there they are duplicating in nature.