



**world summit
on the information society**

Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

WSIS

A call for implementation



WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (1)

Geneva had two main outcome documents:

- Geneva Declaration of Principles
- Geneva Plan of Action

Chapter B of the Declaration and Chapter C of the Plan of Action are structured along 11 Action lines.

WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (2)

11 Action lines (C stands for “chapter”)

- C1 The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
- C2 Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive information society
- C3 Access to information and knowledge
- C4 Capacity building
- C5 Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- C6 Enabling environment
- C7 ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life (subdivided in 8 sub-chapters)
- C8 Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
- C9 Media
- C10 Ethical dimension of the information society
- C11 International and regional cooperation

WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (3)

Action Line C7 was subdivided into 8 sub-chapters

- e-government
- e-business
- e-learning
- e-health
- e-employment
- e-environment
- e-agriculture
- e-science



WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (4)

Geneva Plan of Action: Inspired by the MDGs, the Summit decided a set of connectivity targets to be reached by 2015

- a) to connect all villages with ICTs
- b) to connect all educational institutions
- c) to connect all scientific and research centres;
- d) to connect all public libraries, museums and archives
- e) to connect all health centres and hospitals;
- f) to connect local and central government departments
- g) to adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the Information Society;
- h) to ensure that all have access to television and radio services;
- i) to encourage the development of content on the Internet;
- j) to ensure that more than half the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach.



WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (1)

Tunis had also two main outcome documents:

- Tunis Commitment
- Tunis Agenda for the Information Society

The structure of the Tunis documents followed the principles laid down at PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase. At Hammamet, it was decided that the Tunis phase should concentrate on financial mechanisms, on Internet Governance and on implementation and follow-up

WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (2)

Consequently, the Tunis Agenda is structured along the 4 main chapters:

- Introduction
- Financial Mechanisms
- Internet Governance
- Follow-up and Implementation

As to the distinction between follow-up and implementation, the former is basically considered to be a process more within the UN System (with exceptions), while the latter is clearly considered to be a multi-stakeholder process. And sometimes the text uses both expressions as synonyms.

WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (3)

Let us first look at « follow-up »: The Tunis Agenda:

- Requests the UN-SG to report to the UN General Assembly through ECOSOC by June 2006 on the modalities of the inter-agency coordination.
- Requests ECOSOC to oversee the system-wide follow-up of WSIS and requests ECOSOC to review the mandate of the CSTD, including considering the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the multistakeholder approach
- Requests the UN General Assembly to make an overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015

WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (4)

Let us now look at implementation. Implementation is a task as national, regional and international level. In his speech at the first Action Line Moderators/Facilitators meeting, Mr. Utsumi stated the following:

« Implementation is a multi-stakeholder process which involves the organization of activities conducted in the field, through projects and partnerships. These are the engines that will turn the WSIS principles and goals into concrete actions to bridge the digital divide. The players in multi-stakeholder implementation are governments, private sector, NGOs, civil society and international organizations, as well as regional organizations. »

WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (5)

Para 108 of the Tunis Agenda contains what follows:

« We attach great importance to multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level, which should be organized taking into account the themes and action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, and moderated or facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate. An Annex to this document offers an indicative and non-exhaustive list of facilitators/moderators for the action lines of the Geneva Plan of Action. »

WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (6)

Regarding the content of these facilitation meetings, para 110 Tunis Agenda states the following:

« The coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities would help to avoid duplication of activities. This should include, inter alia, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public/private partnerships »



WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (7)

Thirdly, regarding the practical modalities of implementation, para 109 of the Tunis Agenda states:

« The experience of, and the activities undertaken by UN agencies in the WSIS process - notably ITU, UNESCO and UNDP, should continue to be used to their fullest extent. These three agencies should play leading facilitating roles in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and organize a meeting of moderators/facilitators of action lines, as mentioned in the Annex [to the Agenda]. »



WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (8)

Finally, the second part of para 103 of the Tunis Agenda:

- Requests the SG of the UN to establish, within the CEB, a group on the Information Society (UN-GIS), consisting of the relevant UN-bodies and organizations, with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes and suggests to CEB that, in considering lead agencies in this group, it takes into consideration the experience and the activities in the WSIS process undertaken by ITU, UNESCO and UNDP.

WSIS Tunis Summit outcomes (9)

A meeting took place on 24.2. 2006 at Geneva to discuss possible lead facilitators. Based on the annex of the Tunis Agenda, the following entities were proposed as provisional lead facilitators:

- ITU for C2 and C5
- UNDP for C4 and C6
- UNESCO for C3, C8, C9, C10 and for e-learning, and e-science
- UN-DESA for C1, C11 and e-government
- UNCTAD for e-business
- WHO for e-health
- ILO for e-employment
- FAO for e-agriculture
- WMO for e-environment