



**world summit  
on the information society**

Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

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# WSIS:

## Building the Information Society: a global challenge in the new Millennium

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## WSIS: Origins and status

- WSIS originally proposed by ITU PP in 1998
- Formally endorsed by the UN in 2001
- Regional meetings, 2002 - 2003
- PrepCom process, started in July 2002
- First phase, Geneva 10-12 December 2003
- Regional and thematic meetings, 2004-05
- Second phase, Tunis, 16-18 November 2005



## WSIS first phase: some numbers

- More than 11'000 participants
  - 176 UN member states
  - About 50 Head of States and Governments and Vice-Presidents
  - 3'300 representatives of from civil society
  - 514 business representatives from 98 organizations
  - 87 international organizations
  - More than 1'000 media representatives
- More than 300 Summit events



## Adoption of a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action which:

- Create a common vision of the information society
- Set out an agenda for building an inclusive development-oriented Information Society
- Establish a framework which will involve all stakeholders
- Request the UN Secretary General to initiate action in a number of crucially important areas such as the creation of a Digital Solidarity Fund and Internet Governance



## A common vision of the Information society

“We [...] declare our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life...” (Declaration, Paragraph 1)



# WSIS Key Principles

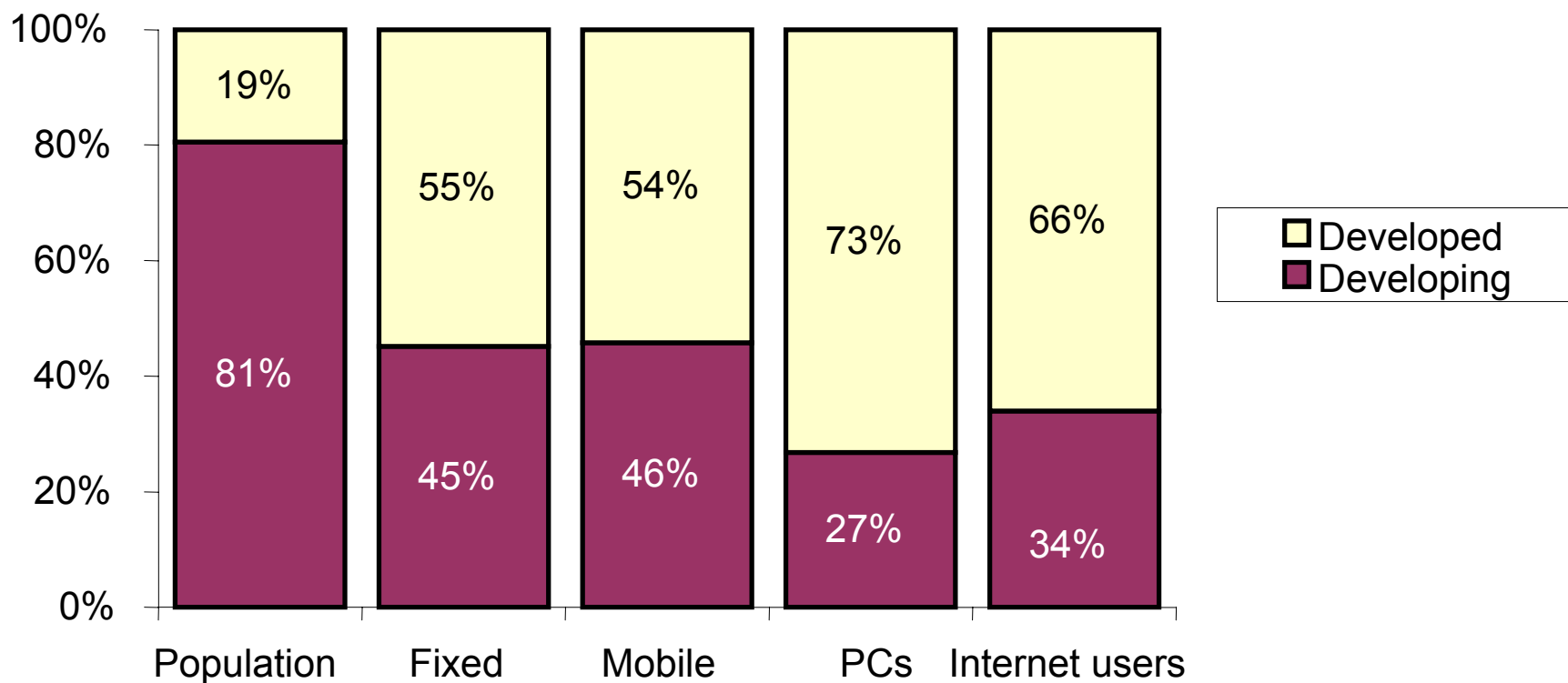
- 1) **The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development**
- 2) **Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive information society**
- 3) **Access to information and knowledge**
- 4) **Capacity building**
- 5) **Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs**
- 6) **Enabling environment**
- 7) **ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life**
- 8) **Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content**
- 9) **Media**
- 10) **Ethical dimensions of the information society**
- 11) **International and regional cooperation**

# Summit Objectives 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.



# Distribution of population and ICTs, 2002







## Pending issues: Internet governance

- The UN Secretary General is asked to set up a working group on Internet governance, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums, to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005 (Paragraph C6, 13 b) Plan of Action)



## Pending issues: Digital solidarity fund

- A review - to be completed by the end of 2004 - of the adequacy of current financial mechanisms and the possibility to create a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, will be conducted by a Task Force under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and will be submitted for consideration to the second phase of this summit (Paragraph D2 f) Plan of action)



## From Geneva to Tunis

- The second phase of the summit will take place in Tunis from November 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005
- Preparatory process:
  - PrepCom-1, Hammamet, 24-26 June 2004:  
Focus and output of Tunis Phase
  - PrepCom-2, Geneva, 17-24 February 2005:  
Financing Mechanisms
  - PrepCom-3, September 2005: Internet Governance
- Regional and Thematic Meetings
  - E.g., ITU WSIS Thematic Meeting on Countering Spam, Geneva, 7-9 July 2005



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**Thank you**

