



**world summit
on the information society**
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

Helping the world communicate



**International
Telecommunication
Union**

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Digital Divide

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KADO/APWINC Digital Opportunity Conference,
Seoul, 24 November 2004**





Agenda

- WSIS: Origins and First Phase
- Digital Inclusion
 - Availability (Digital divide)
 - Accessibility (Social inclusion)
 - Affordability (Wealth/Age divide)
- What does WSIS say about the Digital Divide?
- WSIS: Tunis Phase



WSIS: Origins and status

- WSIS originally proposed by Tunisia at ITU PP in 1998
- Formally endorsed by the UN in 2001
- PrepCom process, started in July 2002
- Regional meetings, 2002 - 2003
- First phase, Geneva 10-12 December 2003
- PrepCom process, restarted in June 2004
- 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

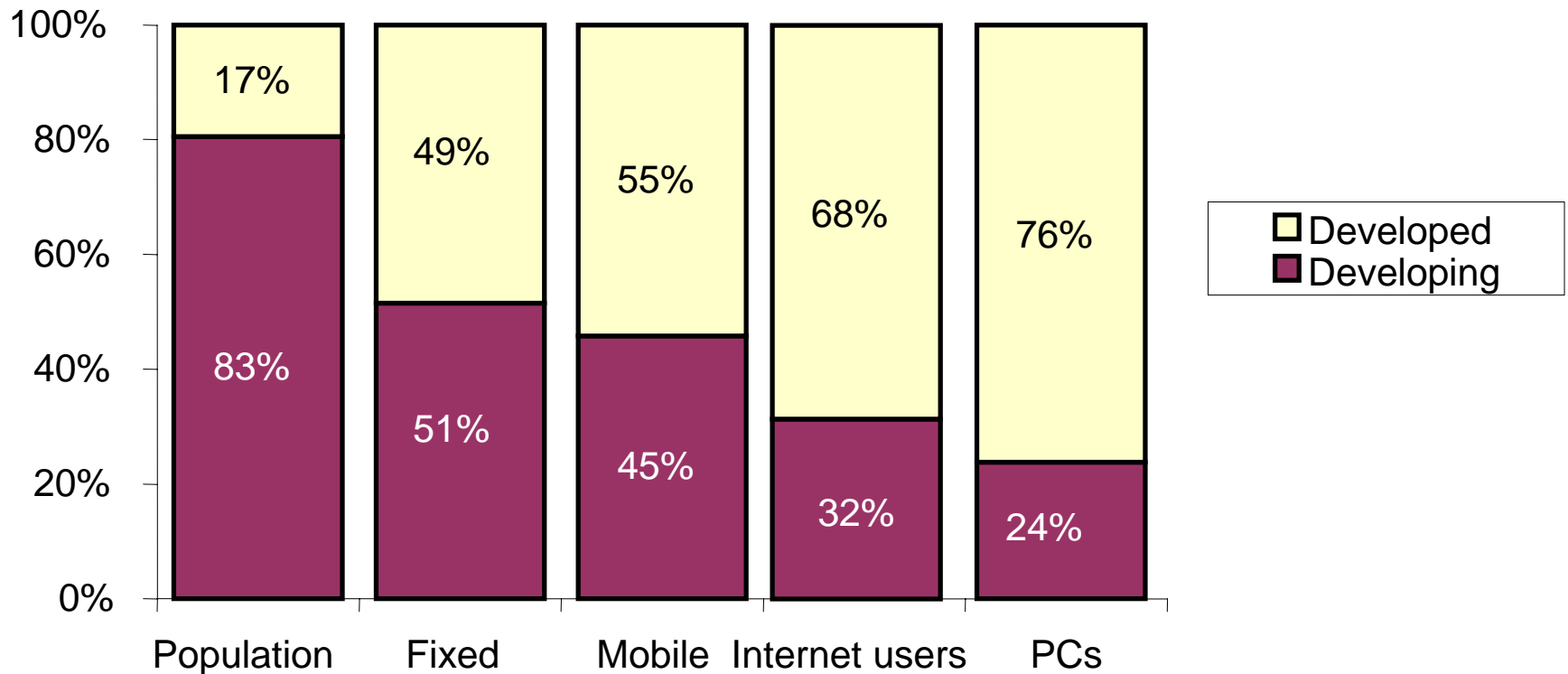
Summit Objectives by 2015

- 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.



Digital Divide: Availability of ICTs

Distribution of population and ICTs, 2003





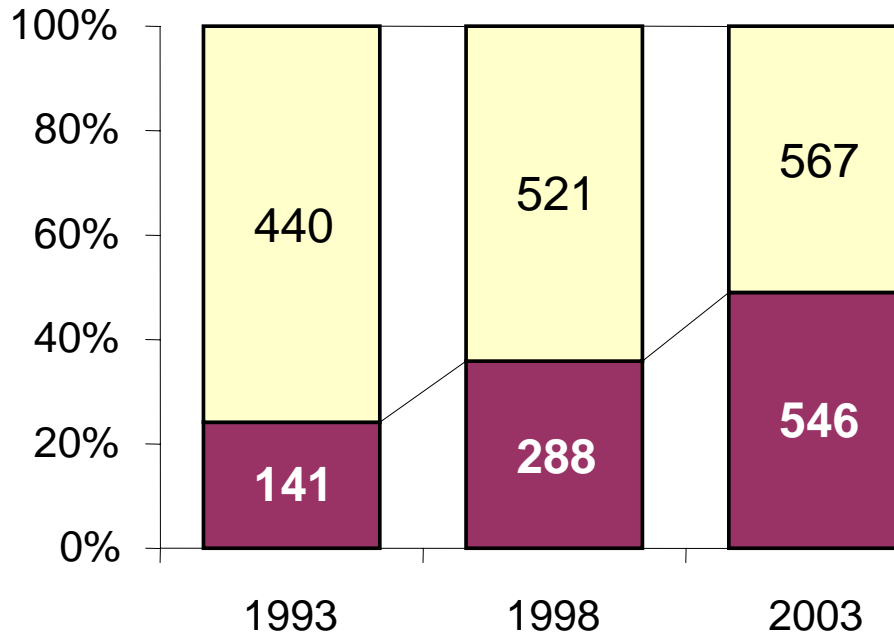
Effective teledensity, 2002



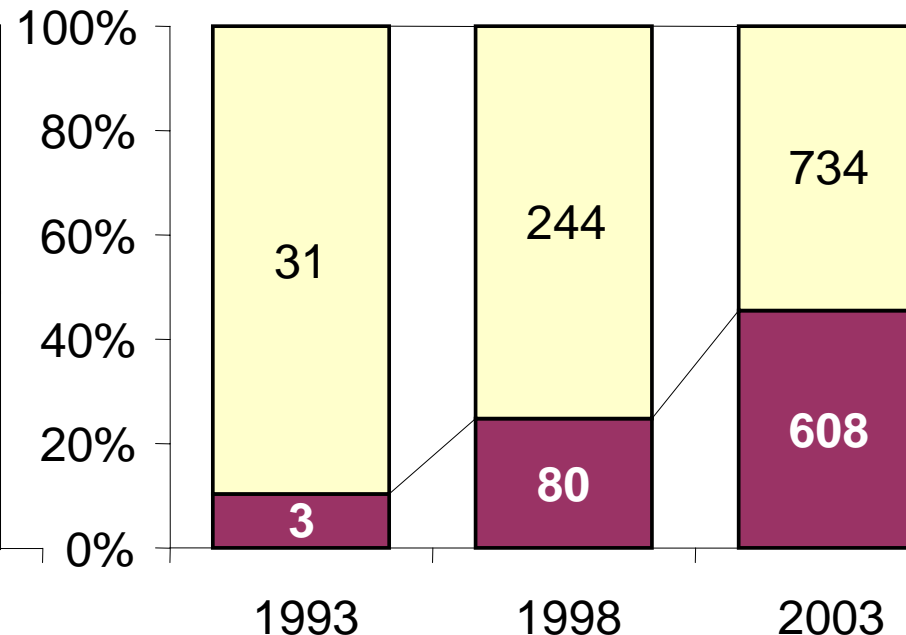


The shrinking digital divide

Fixed-lines (million)



Mobile (million)

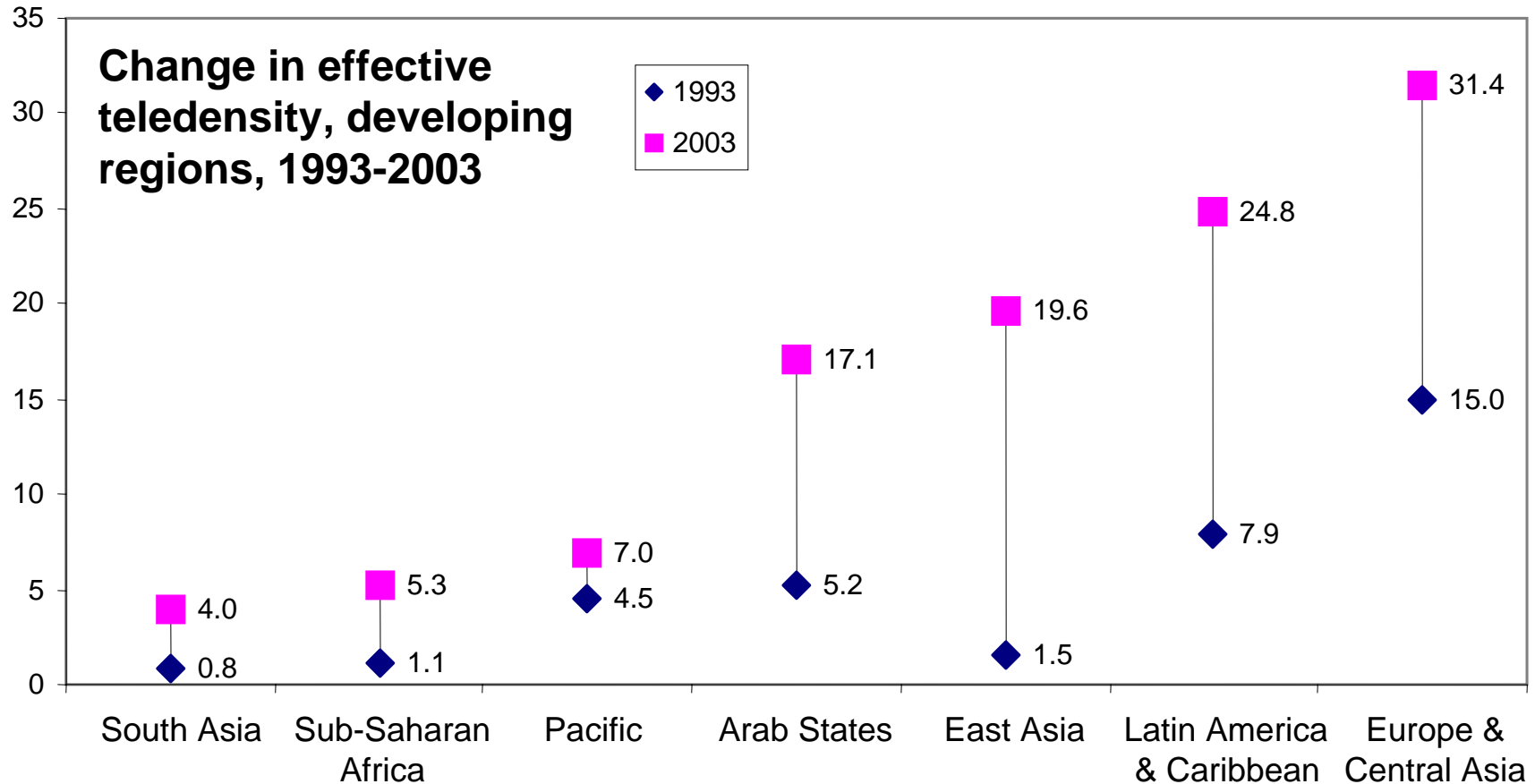


Developed
Developing





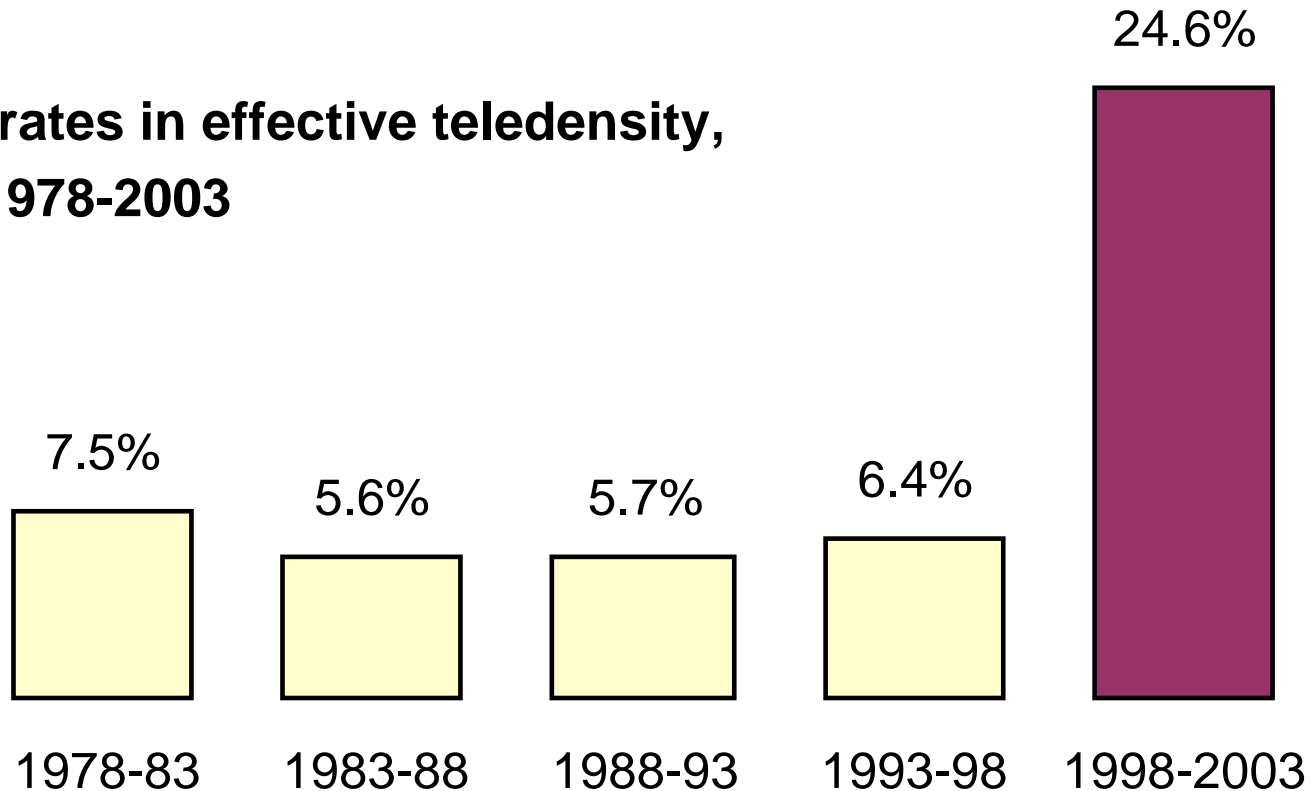
All developing regions are doing well





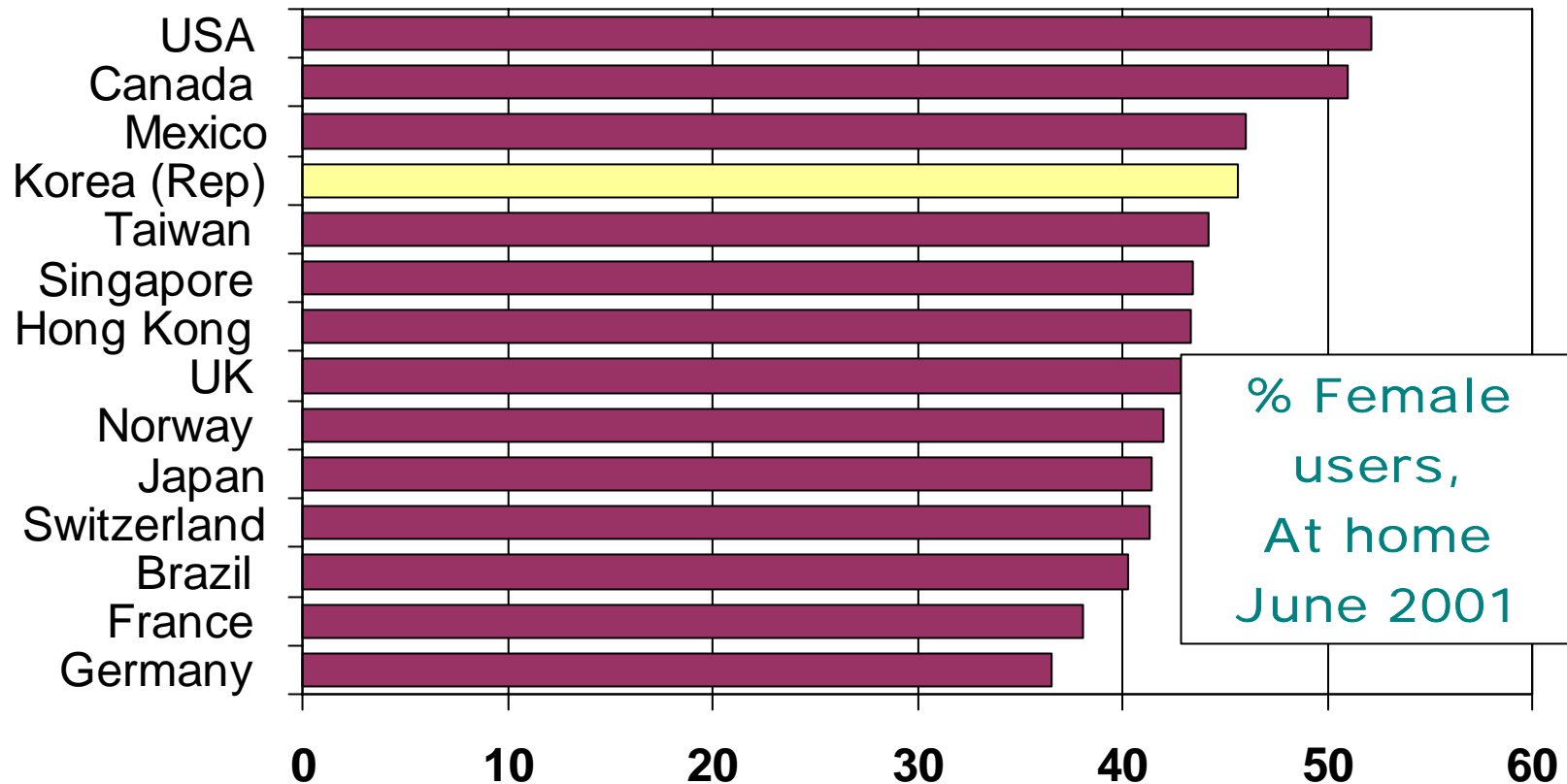
Mobile communications leading to a new era of growth

**Growth rates in effective teledensity,
Africa, 1978-2003**



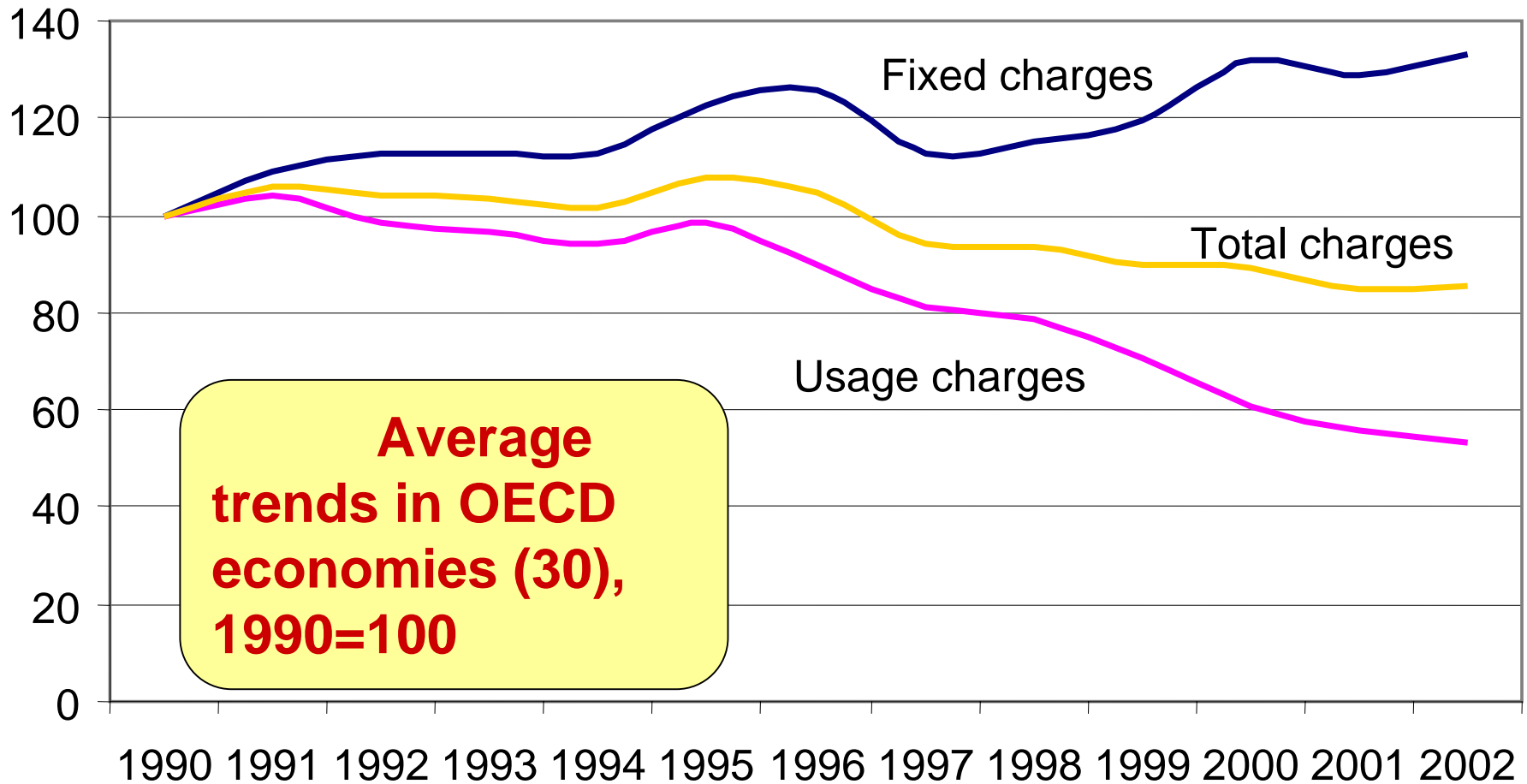
Digital inclusion (2): Accessibility

Gender balance in ICT usage





Digital Inclusion (3): Affordability





What does WSIS say about the digital divide?

- We are fully committed to turning this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized. (Declaration, para 10)
- Realizing that the ambitious goal of this Declaration—bridging the digital divide and ensuring harmonious, fair and equitable development for all—will require strong commitment by all stakeholders, we call for **digital solidarity**, both at national and international levels. (Declaration, para 17)



Preparatory process for Tunis Phase

- The second phase of the summit will take place in Tunis from November 16th to 18th, 2005
- Preparatory process:
 - Drafting work carried out by Group of Friends of Chair
 - 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 2004
 - E.g., Govt of Japan/ITU/UNU on Ubiquitous Network Society, Tokyo



Outline of the preparatory process

June 2004

Feb 2005

Sept 2005

Nov 2005

PrepCom 1

PrepCom 2

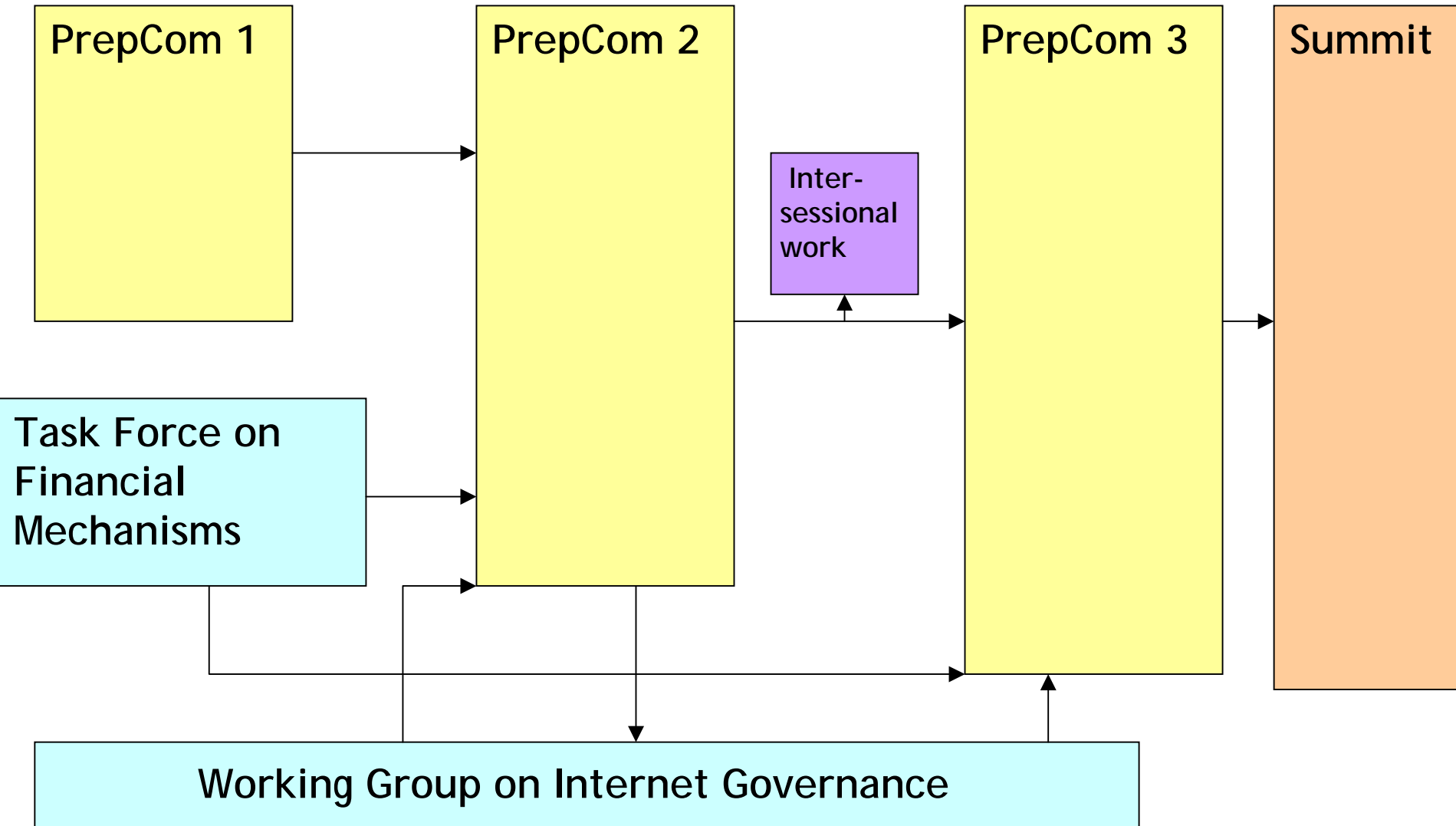
PrepCom 3

Summit

Inter-
sessional
work

Task Force on
Financial
Mechanisms

Working Group on Internet Governance





Focus of the Tunis Phase (PrepCom 1)

- Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, with particular attention to the challenges facing the Least Developed Countries;
- Consideration of the report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and appropriate action;
- Internet governance: consideration of the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and appropriate action.



Tunis Focus (1): Follow-up and implementation

- **Stocktaking**
 - Creation of database of WSIS-related activities
 - See www.itu.int/wsis/stocktaking
- **Measuring ICT for development**
 - Partnership bringing together ITU, UNCTAD, OECD, UN regional commissions and others
 - WSIS Thematic Meeting, February 7-9 2005, Geneva
 - Regional meetings to establish a core set of indicators
- **WSIS regional and thematic meetings**



Tunis Focus (2): Internet governance

- The UN Secretary General is asked to set up a working group ... to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005 (Paragraph C6, 13 b) Plan of Action)
- Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)
 - Chaired by Nitin Desai, Head of Secretariat, Markus Kummer
 - Initial Consultations, 20-21 September 2004
 - First meeting, 23-25 November 2004
 - Future meetings in February, April and June 2005
 - Final report in July 2005
- For more information: www.wgig.org



Tunis Focus (3): 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 UN Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) (Paragraph D2 f) Plan of action)
- Task Force under auspices of UNDP
 - Membership announced October 2004
 - Report to UN Secretary-General, December 2004



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Thank you

