THE UN WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY
THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

REFLECTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

(FINAL DRAFT)

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Introduction

1.   The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), whose aim is "to develop a common vision and understanding of the Information Society and to draw up a strategic plan of action for concerted development towards realising this vision", to be held in two phases, the first in Geneva, 10-12 December 2003, hosted by the Swiss government and the second in Tunisia in 2005, is the single, most important political event in this area since the term Information Society was coined. It takes place at a moment that there is world-wide recognition that the society has, and continues, to change as a result of the past-paced changes of information and telecommunications technology and thereby driving economic, social, and cultural changes to extend never held for possible.

The Summit has been endorsed by the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, devoted to addressing the key challenges of our time. In December 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution which gives the WSIS the status of a formal UN Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government. The resolution[1] calls on governments to actively participate in Summit preparations and to be represented at the highest possible level. It has also asked for the active participation and effective contribution to the Summit and its preparations by all relevant United Nations and intergovernmental organisations, including international and regional institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations, the civil society and the private sector.

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[1]   A/RES/56/183

Part A the themes

I   Issues for a World Summit

2.   The aim of the WSIS "*to develop a common vision and understanding of the Information Society and to draw up a strategic plan of action for concerted development towards realising this vision*" is setting the scene: major issues are directly linked to the changes accompanying the emergence of the Information Society.

As stated by President Prodi of the European Commission: "These changes, the most significant since the industrial Revolution, are far reaching and global. They are not just about technology. They will affect everyone everywhere. Managing the information represents one of the central economic and social challenges facing Europe today."

The process is sustained by a long and dynamic technological progress since half a century and there is still room for further breakthrough. These changes are intervening in an context where they enter in synergies with other major transformations like the development of transportation facilities, the progress in the educational levels, the increasing role of the media, the central role of the scientific and technological progress in the economy, etc. And, despite the pervasive effect of ICTs, their impact on societies and economies is still only at the first stage.

These changes are accompanied by a number of new challenges and threats but at the same time, they offer new potential and new models to deal with.

3.   The digital divide will be a central theme of the Summit. There is an evolution in the way in which the international community, as well as governments and companies concerned were required to contribute to reducing the distance between poor countries and rich countries from the point of view of telecommunications. In 1984 at the time of the Maitland[2[2]] Commission, the accent was exclusively on infrastructure. This involved primarily mobilising financial energy and the resources to increase the density of telephone lines in developing countries. When in 1994 Vice President Al Gore argued for the Global Information Infrastructure (GII), optics had already changed, and the accent was put as much on the teledensity as on the importance of the implementation of suitable, likely legal frameworks to attract private investment and to reduce the costs for the end-user. Quickly, this new emphasis was also going to include the development of applications likely to contribute to the aims of economic development of developing countries, electronic trade in particular.

Actually, the debate associates all the actors concerned, and includes, in addition to the questions of infrastructure/access, regulation/competition, and applications, the following topics: content (respect of languages and practices and local socio-cultural sensitivities; development of local contents), knowledge (training of the human resources required by the Information Society), and participation (implication of the civil society in the economic and technical local and international choices).

4.   Precisely, a Summit is appropriate to discuss the broader political and societal challenges, and agree on a common understanding of the notion of Information Society. In particular, it would be an occasion to progress towards a Global Deal on a few key topics:

2[2]   Reference to the Missing link, title of the report of the Commission chaired by Sir Maitland

- **ICT policies aiming at poverty alleviation and economic wealth creation :** debate between industrialised and developing countries in a relatively neutral field, a number of interests are shared, the perspective and the speed of growth in the sector give the feeling that there is still openness and a margin for a win-win exercise.

- **Access to knowledge** which would address numerous access issues such as in relation to telephony, Internet, information, and knowledge, and in a variety of dimensions.

- **Participation and new mechanisms for governance :** here is the challenge of a "mondialisation régulée"; the audience and the legitimacy of the UN system would offer developing countries an opportunity to be fully associated to the debate and decision process.

II   Information Society at the top of the international agenda

5.   The WSIS is the result of the growing political attention the International community and leaders are paying to Information Society related issues. Since the G7 Conference on the Information Society hosted by the European Union in Brussels in 1995 expressed concern about the digital divide separating the industrialised countries from the developing countries and called for "a shared vision of human enrichment", and the following G7 Midrand Conference in 1996, digital divide issues have become one of the international priorities.

At the Okinawa Summit of July 2000 the G8 produced the "Okinawa Charter" on the global Information Society and created a "Digital Opportunity Task Force". The "**DOT Force"**, as it is colloquially known, produced a report, *"Digital Opportunities for all: meeting the challenge"*, that was submitted to the **G8 Summit in Genoa** in July 2001.

6.   At the occasion of its millennium session, the UN General Assembly paid special attention to ICTs on the basis of a report by a high-level panel of experts and a UN ICT Task Force has thus been created as a practical step aimed at strengthening the UN system's role and leadership and in developing effective partnerships with the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The July 2001 ECOSOC session revisited the theme of ICTs with a special emphasis on knowledge networks and a further special session of the General Assembly is foreseen during 2002.

Among the UN Agencies, the **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)** plays a key role in the area of telecommunications through its Telecommunications Development Bureau, and organised World Telecommunications Development Conferences in 1994 in Buenos Aires, in 1998 in Valetta and in Istanbul from 18 to 27 March 2002. This last one focussed on objectives and strategies for the balanced world-wide development of telecommunications, giving particular consideration to developing countries and the mobilisation of resources.

UNESCO and **WHO** are exploring the role of ICT in education and health respectively. Of the UN Economic Commissions, the **Economic Commission for Africa** (ECA) has been particularly active in supporting analytic work and policy formulation in the context of the African Information Society Initiative.

In recent years the **UNDP** has launched several initiatives and partnerships with the private sector and foundations. The 2001 Human Development Report focuses on the role of new technologies in development.

7.   Several other international organisations are active in ICT issues within their respective remits. The WTO adopted in 1996 an Agreement on Trade in Information Technology Products and concluded in 1997 an agreement on basic

telecommunications services that opened the market for investments and introduced pro-competitive regulatory frameworks in a number of countries.

Building partly on the work done by ECA, the **New Partnership for African development (NEPAD)** that was launched by a group of five African Leaders in July 2001 called for African states to "extricate themselves and the continent from underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world". ICTs feature explicitly as part of the overall strategy and an eAfrica Commission has been set up.

The debate in developing countries has been also very active during the last years, following the Midrand conference of G7 countries and developing countries held in South Africa in 1996. Events like the regional Telecommunications Development Conferences organised by ITU, the "Passerelles du développement 2000 " in Bamako, the participation of the developing countries in the ECOSOC debate and in the G8 DotForce show the interest for the potential of ICT in the context of development.

Furthermore the rapidly increasing amount of projects and initiatives everywhere, like the African connection project supported by ATU, the African information society initiative launched by the UNECA, or the epolicies adopted by Brazil, Morocco or Mexico reveal that more and more countries are joining the group of the emerging performers and demonstrate a real maturity in the field.

8.   A number of private sector fora are addressing ICT such as the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** which launched in April 2000 a Global Digital Initiative to transform the digital divide into an opportunity for growth and adopted a plan of action in October 2001. Priority has been given to actions aiming at adoption of e-strategies by governments, development of human resources and incentive to entrepreneurship. The implementation of the plan is notably carried done through the regional meeting and projects supported by the WEF.

The Global Business Dialogue on eCommerce (GBDe) also pays due attention to the digital divide and is working closely with the WEF in addressing the matter.

Civil societies are taking an increasingly visible role on their own. It is notably the case of the community networks as illustrated by their Barcelona conference[3][3] and as demonstrated by the increasing amount of initiatives on the ground.

New mechanisms for exchange of information are emerging, like the Stockholm Global Challenge and contribute to original form of co-operation, considered by some people as the early beginnings of a global social movement against the digital divide.

III   The Information Society at the core of the European Union policies

9.   One of the main priorities of the European Union is the adoption of policies which support the growth of a European Information Society. This emphasis has been given concrete shape by the e-Europe initiative and the associated plans which were adopted at the level of Heads of state or Government. Furthermore, the eEurope 2002 plan became a pillar of the EU's Lisbon agenda which aims to make the EU the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy.

The eEurope initiative aims to bring the Information Society closer to all citizens of Europe, develop the economic wealth, address growing social needs, and focus on

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[3][3] First Global Congress on Community Networking, Barcelona 2-4 November 2000 (www.cnglobal2000.org)

cultural identity and diversity. The implementation has been organised along three main lines : to develop a faster, safer and cheaper Internet access, to invest in people and knowledge and to stimulate the use of the Internet.

This initiative was based on the frameworks of the existing policies and it concentrated on a number of priorities such as young peoples' access to the digital age, the growth of e-commerce, on-line health services, intelligent transport or on-line government. It was complemented by a benchmarking mechanism within the Union. The results are tangible: the action plan allowed to accelerate the adoption of the necessary legal and regulatory measures; making of decisions in other key fields like the pan-European research networks; the reorientation of the existing financial support programmes and the benefit of a clearer vision of the progress made thanks to the benchmarking. But, most significantly a powerful dynamic has been triggered: the Internet is now a political priority for all the EU Member States.

More recently, the European Council of Barcelona has requested that the Commission present an eEurope action plan for 2005. It will deal first of all with the on-line public security forces of the Internet and the access to high flows of information with a degree of confidence. It will aim at strengthening a digital cohesion for all the citizens.

10.   A central issue has been the review of the legal framework for telecommunications services. Elaborated in 2001, this new regulatory framework has been adopted in particular to respond to convergence trends (i.e the trend for similar services to be delivered over different types of network). The new framework will therefore cover and place on an equal footing all electronic communication networks, including those used to carry broadcasting content such as cable television networks, terrestrial broadcasting networks and satellite broadcasting networks, associated facilities and electronic communication services. This involves a number of simplified and flexible texts which take into account market trends and for the implementation of which the national Regulatory Authorities will be responsible. The 15 EU Member States will have the new legislation in force by the summer of 2003. It is one of the essential pillar of the information society in Europe.

11.   The European Union does not limit itself to the formulation of policies; it also carries out support programmes. As regards research and technological development, the Information Society Technology Programme (IST) gives support to projects and encourages the emergence of an Information Society by ensuring that appropriate technological platforms are developed. The priority of this programme is technological convergence which involves key interrelated actions, in particular: the systems and the services for the citizens, the new working methods and electronic trade, the contents and the multimedia tools and key technologies and infrastructures.

In this context, specific actions have been taken in connection with eEurope, such as Go digital, which is a programme that encourages SMEs to use digital technologies through awareness-raising and distribution sharing networks of the good practices.

Another aspect of EU policy concerns the support of less-favoured regions of Europe. In this field the use and strengthening of capacities with regards to ICT creates new prospects for growth, competitiveness and social cohesion. The financing of the basic infrastructures has passed to actions aiming to stimulate the demand in a competitive neutral way and to guarantee that all citizens and companies have access to the Information Society. Main actions concern computer literacy, the modernisation of the public services, the promotion of e-business and the strengthening of the digital infrastructures. The latter is strictly limited to remote regions where services cannot be ensured on a commercial basis in a satisfactory way. The essence of the Regional policy programme is focused on helping the regions to develop their own networks, to develop local contents and applications, in particular aiming at the modernisation of

the administration. Lastly, an important share of the effort also goes to education and to training within the framework of employment policies.

12.   Many partner countries have shown an interest in the European approach to the challenges and opportunities of the Information Society. The eEurope initiative has been taken as a model for policy initiatives by many countries; EU candidate countries adopted an eEurope+ Action Plan modelled on eEurope, and emerging economies such as ASEAN, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and Rwanda adopted e-strategies.

But, as mentioned before, the Information Society cannot be considered in isolation but as part of an overall policy approach; numerous fields are directly or indirectly involved e.g., telecommunications, development, social affairs, education and culture, employment, security, consumers and fiscal affairs.

In this context, the EU's Information Society policies help contribute to the strengthening of our relations with the partner countries, whether in trade, co-operation or development aid. This dimension of the policy is clearly illustrated by the Communication "Information and Communication Technology in development: The role of the ITC in the Community development policy" COM 2001 (770) adopted in December 2001.

13.   Against this background, the Commission has maintained a close dialogue with numerous partner countries on the theme and set up specific co-operation programmes. Such an example may be seen in Accession Countries (which are developing an initiative parallel to e-Europe) Mediterranean Countries, Latin America and also Asia.

With the developing countries in Asia, a programme ASIA IT&C has been carried out since 1999 which supports almost 40 different projects in scopes of ICT like agriculture, education, health transport tourism or electronic trade.

With the partner countries of the Mediterranean, co-operation involves an action for a New Approach for Policies of Telecommunications (NATP) and a programme for the development of information society (EUMEDIS) which deals with projects in five priority fields: education, health, tourism and cultural heritage, electronic trade and finally the distribution of ICT in SMEs. A complementary initiative aims to strengthen the networks of research and teaching between the UE and its Mediterranean partners.

Finally, the Alliance programme for the Information Society (ALIS),a potentially more ambitious project for Latin American countries aims to build the dialogue and co-operation as regards digital policies and legal frameworks in the fields of telecommunications, electronic trade or standardisation. The programme also aims to improve the interconnections between networks of research and education for each region, and finally to implement about 20 scale projects in education, health local government and more generally e-inclusion.

These experiences gained in the Community together with emergent countries could find an extension in the future within the dialogue with signatory countries of the Cotonou agreements.

Part B The process

IV   The need for an enabling process of preparation

14. The format and positioning of the Summit will be key factors for an event which would attract attention, not only at political level but also in society at large. And it seems that a traditional UN Summit, limited to Heads of State and Government, would not be appropriate in view of the promise that the private sector and the civil societies would be part of the entire process. It is noteworthy that both the G8 DOT Force and the UN ICT Task Force adopted precisely a similar format as did recent UN Conferences, e.g. Monterrey.

    The preparatory process is very important and representation from all interested groups should be sought in order to give a clear signal of an all-inclusiveness. The European Union has spearheaded a co-operative form of progressing policy making processes by close working together of civil societies and interest groups, the private sector, and governments. This co-operation is essential in today's world in order to understand and discuss the complex nature of the questions facing society.

    Furthermore, around many Summits of different kinds (Seattle, Prague, Genoa) over the recent years there has been considerable public resentment based on the perception that policy making processes are not sufficiently transparent and are taking place behind closed doors. Time has come for a political reaction: this UN Summit offers an excellent occasion to experiment with a new formula and show the public at large that inclusive processes are not only of interest to them, but also possible.

    In this context, the preparatory process could result from a twofold approach : a regional preparatory consultation mechanism led by the governments but open to other participants on the one hand and a thematic preparatory mechanism able to bring new vision and proposals on the other.

    In this particular case, the two sessions involving the organisation of the Summit will permit to assess many of the outcomes of these events, at the Tunis-2005 part of the Summit.

15. The regional approach is based on the traditional way of organising the Summits in the United Nations, but in the present process it will represent also an asset in the way to focus political attention. The existence of historic links and cultural commonalties as well as in many cases, areas of economic integration will facilitate the identification of common challenges the countries have to face, offer concrete example of pioneers and their achievements, and could facilitate pairing activities as well as benchmarking for the review of the progress made.

    The key concepts for the Regional preparatory mechanism would then be to :

    -   Design a process aiming at establishing national and regional e-Strategies, focussing on realistic targets and related capacity building in term of access, human capacities, and development of applications in the priority fields;

    -   Set up enabling regulatory and legal frameworks for the development of infrastructures, the improvement of access to networks and the availability of communication services at an affordable cost;

    -   Adopt and implement indicators in order to benchmark the progress made.

    This approach will obviously benefit from the dynamism of leaders countries and regional initiatives (like NEPAD in the African case) and will be basic for pairing activities and benchmarking as the EU did in the framework of the eEurope initiative.

16. The European Union is of a firm opinion that the UN World Summit on the Information Society should not be an exclusively event for Heads of State/Government but should be complemented and opened up to include all spheres of interest.

To that effect the European Union proposes a "Networked Series of Events" in which stakeholders are invited to take responsibility for the organisation of the relevant events, for example as follows:

"Political Summit"; with a Declaration and Action Plan, focussed on a "Common Understanding of the Information Society" and a "Global Deal on Access to Knowledge"; attended by Heads of state/government, civil societies, and private sector; to be organised by the UN and its Member States along the established procedures.

"An investment marketplace"; where bilateral and multilateral donors meet with actors from developing countries; with as output a list of deals, projects, and existing and new financing mechanisms; to be organised by the financial sector.

"Thoughts for the future"; a meeting place for academics and visionaries to discuss social, cultural, economic and political elements of the future Information Society; with as output an agreement on areas of future study and research; to be organised by academics.

"Issues for society"; a standard conference to discuss issues such as cultural diversity, local content and knowledge, education and health, youth and the elderly; to be organised jointly by all stakeholders.

"Governance in the Information Society", a conference of all stakeholders on the shared vision, elements of the above mentioned Deal, national e-strategies, new governance models and related issues on various aspects including data protection and illicit and harmful contents.

A world-wide "Media" event; by the media sector with two elements: a discussion of the role of the media in the Information Society, as well as coverage of all of these events and outreach to the population all over the world.

In addition, specific events will involve **Youth and Women,** even if their participation as stakeholders in the other events is already foreseen and if **Gender equality** should be mainstreamed in each opportunity.

17. Such a networked Summit offers a number of advantages. The first one is to give an opportunity for broad participation by all stakeholders (contrary to a traditional Summit with many logistical and protocol restrictions) and to pave the way for a bottom-up participation which would lead to broader and more serious commitments.

In addition, such an approach will allow for discussions of many aspects of Information Society in some considerable depth and from a variety of perspectives, rather than only a series of declarations. Possibility for disagreement would enrich the debate and could be expressed without undermining the notion of a consensus agreement on the Declaration and Action Plan to be adopted at the Political Summit.

Finally, Heads of State/Government would have the possiblity, not only come to address their national constituency via the media, but also to participate in debates in the other elements of the Summit.

V   Preliminary ideas for the "Networked Series of Events"

(1) **The Market place** should be organised with investors, NGOs, providers, donors and business to promote access to investment and infrastructure. It will be the place where bilateral and multilateral donors meet with actors from developing countries, with as output a list of deals, projects, and existing and new financing mechanisms.

Key concept : brokerage on financing the projects with a grass roots approach;

Constituencies involved : NGOs, civil society, local development actors, financial community.

Interaction within the Networking Summit : identification of difficulties to found specific phases of the projects (i.e the initial or consolidation phase), the challenges represented by the scaling up of local success stories which represent one of the ways to deploy applications, notably in the fight against poverty and in the delivery of public services, and the relation with the other actors (government and private sector) for the development of a project.

(2) **Connectivity :** the opportunity to address the infrastructure and the question related to networks access.

Key concept : how to develop large infrastructures, finance the universal access, deploy pan-regional projects and initiatives, spread benefits. Ways and means of new partnership between private and public sector .

Constituencies involved : multilateral/regional organisations, private sector, governments , financial community.

Interaction within the Networking Summit : identification of obstacles to found infrastructures (concrete example in the case of wireless local loop), better synergies between private and public, national and regional, identification of best practices..

(3) **Thoughts for the future :** an open forum (theoretical, technical, economic, etc.) for academics and visionaries to discuss social, cultural, economic and political elements of the future Knowledge Economy, with as output an agreement on areas of future study and research; to be organised by academics.

(4) **Issues for society** : a standard conference to discuss issues such as cultural diversity, local content and knowledge, education and health, youth and the elderly; to be organised jointly by all stakeholders.

Key concept : an open debate without a predetermined agenda, more focussed on technological issues for the first one and on social transformation for the second.

Constituencies involved : academic, research, network communities

Interaction within the Networking Summit : Both event will make their report available for the Summit and will provide key elements for trends and needs.

(5) **Governance in the Information Society:** a conference of all stakeholders on the shared vision, elements of the above mentioned Deal, national e-strategies, new governance models and related issues. The conference will deal with the various levels of governance. At national level : eStrategies, regulatory frameworks, dialogues associating all stakeholders, improve efficiency in delivering the public services, fight against poverty, increase transparency and accountability and improve democracy (government local and global responsibilities), eGovernment. At global level : governance of ICT sector, questions related to security, protection of data, privacy, but also the Global Solidarity effort for Co-operation: activities of multilateral organisations, increase synergies between public donors, increase priority to ICT in the development aid policies.

Key concept : the responsibility and the role of governments and multilateral organisations in the era of the knowledge economy.

Constituencies : policy makers and decision makers from the private sector and the civil society.

(6) **Media** : a world wide event by the media sector with two elements: a discussion of the role of the media in the Information Society, as well as coverage of all of these events and outreach to the population all over the world.

Key concept : transformation occurring in the role of the media and directly related to the knowledge economy era, didactic role of the media in the changing environment;

Constituency : media from all over the world

Interaction with the NS : the media will play its role between the public and the Summit, insuring the communication until the last couple of miles and reaching the citizens everywhere.

(7) The Political Summit, to be attended by Heads of state/government, civil societies, and the private sector will appear as the convergence point of the networked Summit with the Political Declaration and the Action Plan reflecting the broad preparatory process completed, and focussed on a "Global Deal for the Knowledge Economy".

VI   Outcome for a World Summit

18. The Summit's preparatory goal is a process leading to a Political Declaration, and in turn to a results based Plan of Action. These contents need to be identified, negotiated and agreed upon (at least broadly) in the lead up to Phase One of the Summit. The Political Declaration would notably include : a shared vision of the future Knowledge Society, a list of agreed objectives, a set of common principles offering a sound bases for policies and rules as well as clear solidarity mechanisms.

Beyond the Political Declaration, the Summit is also intended to trigger a broad movement which will take the political and social lead of the ongoing transformations towards the Knowledge Economy.

To have an effective impact, such a movement needs to associate all key national, regional and international stakeholders and allow each of them to develop a real ownership on the matter. Furthermore it will aim to provoke a large scale social appropriation of the use of ICTs and their applications which implies, from the beginning, a close association of the media and the educational sphere.

The participation of the various stakeholders in the process will obviously contribute in a very positive way to address the following main chapter in the Political Declaration, by providing a bottom up input to the Summit. But it will in particular insure an effective follow up resulting from the commitments made by the various stakeholders and from the mainstreaming effect of the Summit on their strategies and behaviours.

In fact one the major challenges is to convey to all participants as well as to the average citizen and small and medium enterprises that the ongoing changes related to the Information Society are not just about technologies and sophisticated financial market mechanisms, but also about their daily way of life and working process. For that reason, they should be part of the political process in which they have their own voice.

19. In such a context, the preparatory process is almost as important as the political outcomes of the Summit itself. The format and positioning of the Summit will be key factors for an event which will attract attention and activate a decentralised follow up process, not only at political level but also in society at large.

Such an organisation for the Summit and its preparatory process is also taking into account the more general trend towards the growing interdependence and increased globalisation. Some issues at stake have a global nature and call for global approaches as well as the involvement of global actors or constituencies.

20. The objectives of the WSIS could be :

-To outline a **shared vision of the future Knowledge Society** based on a global understanding of the ongoing transformations; and to raise awareness among all stakeholders, notably the various components of the civil society;

-To indicate a set of **common principles** underlying future actions and initiatives :

- 1) **ICT policies aiming at poverty alleviation** and economic wealth creation in relation to the UN Millennium Declaration, and in particular how to harness the potential of the "digital opportunity" in order to insure a better delivery of key public services and to improve efficiency and transparency in the governmental sphere, insuring a more democratic functioning of the institutions.

- 2) **Access to information** and knowledge by removing obstacles to the development of communication networks and fully seizing the technological potential - in particular wireless technologies are being of crucial importance in the struggle against digital divides and third generation mobile communications as well as digital TV could play a key part in easing general access to interactive services.

- 3). **Participation and new mechanisms for governance** at global and national levels encompassing a) **issues related to the sector** like electronic communications regulatory frameworks, data protection, network security and Cyber Security, legal aspects of e-commerce and internet governance as well as b) **more general issues** related to the new citizenship in the information age;

-To set up priorities reflected in a list of **few agreed key objectives** in term of **setting the rules :**

- 1) by promoting appropriate e-Policies and strategies,

and **building blocks** :

- 2) address Access issues such as telephony, Internet, information and knowledge;

- 3) Enhance human capacity development, knowledge creation and sharing;

- 4) benefit from digital opportunities and develop local applications and contents

- 5) Foster Entrepreneurship for sustainable economic development.

-To identify and mobilise **solidarity mechanisms** in order to :

- 1) Establish and support dedicated initiatives for the ICT inclusion of the least developed countries;

- 2) Promote ICT for health care to fight HIV/AIDS and other infectious and communicable diseases; and

- 3) Prioritise ICT in development assistance policies and enhance co-ordination of multilateral initiatives.

-To translate into a Plan of Action, taking the form of the First Framework Programme for Knowledge Economy Development with goals, commitments made by government and non government participants, deadlines and review mechanism.