



**OPEN CONSULTATIONS ON THE INCLUSION OF RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS IN
THE ACTIVITIES OF ITU RELATED TO WSIS**

QUESTIONNAIRE TO ITU MEMBER STATES

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- a) **What are the spheres of competence that ITU Member States reserve for themselves with regard to WSIS stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) and the possible denunciation of their participation in ITU?**

All spheres of competence which are exclusively part of the State Members competence don't change: Decisions on the budget, decisions taken by Council, by ITU-R (Spectrum Management, Decisions taken on RAG, WRC and RA levels), by ITU-T (Numbering and addressing questions; Decisions taken on TSAG and WTSA levels), by ITU-D (TDAG and WTDC levels).

In other words, The ITU Member States shall keep and have the final decisions. However, all relevant stakeholders may of course contribute to the discussion on subjects within the sphere of competence of the Member states

Furthermore, the stakeholders should not have more "rights" then any other sector members or Associates. All depends on the "status" i.e. the "chapeau" that ITU gives to stakeholders (see our answer in c). The rules of denunciation should be then in conformity with the "status" of stakeholders

- b) **Are the current definitions of Sector Members, Associates and experts contained in the ITU basic texts sufficient to include participation of all stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) in ITU WSIS-related activities?**

NO, ITU basic texts (to include participation of stakeholders in ITU WSIS related activities), are not sufficient;

- c) **What are possible amendments to the definitions of Sector Members, Associates and experts, in the ITU basic texts, which would enhance participation in ITU WSIS-related activities?**

c.1) Stakeholders under the umbrella of the present CS & CV provisions:

By keeping the present definitions, the only light amendment, is to add the term "WSIS related activities or Projects" in parallel to "Question", which means that a stakeholder could be Sector

Member, Associated or Expert, but participating to “WSIS related activities or projects” instead of “Questions”

c.2) Stakeholders under the umbrella of new modified CS & CV provisions :

We would propose to examine the introduction of a new concept of “Partner” as follows:

- One-Project-Partner i.e. stakeholder partner by participating in one ITU WSIS related activity (project)
- Multiple-Projets-Partner i.e. stakeholder partner by participating in multiple ITU WSIS related activities (projects)

d) **What might be the financial implications of the participation of all stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) in ITU-WSIS related activities?**

Positive implications as it is the case presently of sector members or Associates

Furthermore, stakeholders can bring in their “know-how” in addition to their financial contributions

However, there should be a discussion about the amount to pay for a “partnership” as proposed, so that it encourages stakeholders to be member in ITU and in this case, to analyse whether there are any supplementary costs for the ITU. Any fees charged for such a partner status should be as low as possible in order to include as many relevant stakeholders as possible, but they should cover as much as possible the financial burden their participation brings to ITU.

e) **What are the other challenges to the Union and its members posed by the participation of all relevant stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) in the activities of the Union related to WSIS, and how can such challenges be met?**

The existing ITU structure of private sector participation as sector members or associates has proved to be working well and is important for the success of ITU’s work. Any mechanism to enhance the participation of relevant stakeholders in ITU’s activities related to WSIS should not endanger the advantages and benefits of private sector participation through the existing membership structure in ITU.

Increased participation of relevant stakeholders (non-members) in ITU’s work should give more quality, weight, relevance and attention to ITU’s work and should thus result in making it even more attractive for private sector entities to become ITU sector members and associates.

f) **What “added value” might stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) bring to the work of ITU in its WSIS-related activities?**

A true multi-stakeholder approach – effective cooperation among governments, private sector, civil society and the United Nations Organisations is the key for success in meeting the challenges in the information society.

In addition to possible financial and human resource contributions, the involvement of relevant civil society organisations can serve to enrich discussions, bring diversity and fresh perspectives to ITU’s work.

Many civil society and other organisations have a lot of technical, economical and social field experience that they can feed into ITU’s work.

Relevant stakeholders including civil society and universities might help to raise relevance, efficiency and outreach of ITU’s activities, especially in the Standardisation and the Development Sectors.

They can help to bring more visibility for ITU, in non technical speciality, they can be useful for political lobbying and especially relevant civil society organisations can attract the commitment of donors.

- g) What criteria could be suggested for defining which stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) might be “relevant” to participate in ITU activities related to WSIS, taking into account a) above?**

The main criteria are the expertise and know-how of stakeholders in the field of cooperation with ITU. Relevant stakeholders should have to give evidence that they share the objectives of the Union and that they operate on a non-commercial basis.

It is up to the Secretary General and the Directors of the three sectors to appreciate whether a stakeholder is “relevant” or not.

In its report to the next plenipotentiary conference, this Working Group should make concrete proposals for such criteria, taking into account and making use of existing practices in other UN institutions (ex. ECOSOC, UNESCO, WSIS or IGF, etc).

- h) What are the challenges (including financial) to stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) posed by their participation in the activities of the Union related to WSIS, and how can such challenges be met?**

As a principle – as stated above – any financial contribution of relevant stakeholders should be as low as possible in order to include as many relevant stakeholders as possible, but they should cover as much as possible the financial burden their participation brings to ITU.

Such issues are to be included in the specific issues discussed in the daily business of the ITU.

- i) How can existing mechanisms (e.g. partnerships, symposia, seminars, workshops, focus groups, policy forums, experts) for participation by stakeholders (that are not members of ITU) be used more effectively, and what other mechanisms could be suggested?**

i.1) Stakeholders should be also invited to participate in the organisation of these mechanisms and not only participate as “contributors” of content

i.2) An “other mechanism” would be to create a high level civil society advisory board that would regularly meet with the high level ITU representatives (ITU Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General as well as the Directors of the three sectors of ITU:

- This advisory board would only have a consultative function and no direct influence on any decision taken within ITU
- This board would regularly exchange opinions about the political and strategic aspects of ITUs activities of ITU as a whole or of its sectors.

- j) What specific efforts may be needed to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) from developing countries, and stakeholders in the development field?**

ITU should create and setup local cooperation for local mechanisms (partnerships, symposia, seminars, workshops, policy forums, etc.) in the country or the region of these stakeholders

Furthermore, ITU could facilitate online remote participation to facilitate participation of representatives of developing countries in its work.

ITU could set up a “civil society portal” on its website that would give more prominence to the role civil society plays in ICT for development. (Example: ICT success stories)

ITU should provide as much of free access to its publications, recommendations, etc. in order to support the activities of organisations of developing countries.