



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

QUESTIONNAIRE TO ITU MEMBER STATES

Name: Ö. Faruk KOÇAK

Title/Position: Head of International Relations and EU Coordination Department,
Telecommunications Authority

Country: Turkey

E-mail: ofkocak@tk.gov.tr

- 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?**

It could be argued that ITU tends to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach. The structure based on Sectors within the Union reflects this approach. The main activities of the Union are being carried out through Sectors.

Believing the benefit of the involvement of all stakeholders to complement and broaden traditional international relations, all the areas except those are relating to national sovereignty should be open for WSIS stakeholders. The success of participation of all stakeholders in ITU WSIS-related activities may exemplify for the future of the Union.

- 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?**

It is believed that current definitions are adequate to include participation of all stakeholders in ITU WSIS-related activities.

- 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?**

It is considered that the insufficiency of participation of stakeholders in ITU activities does not emanate from the definitions in the ITU basic texts.

- 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?**

It is obvious that participation of too many stakeholders in ITU-WSIS related activities will result in increases in the costs of these activities in the short-term due to increases in the duration of the meetings, in the number of staff to be assigned etc. However, the involvement of all the stakeholders may decrease the costs in the long run with the financial contributions of their membership that should be supported. Therefore, every effort ought to be exerted in order to ensure broad participation of all stakeholders in ITU-WSIS related activities.

- 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 harmonization and compilation of the wider range of opinions of many stakeholders will cause too many burden. However, this process will produce its own solutions in the course of time.

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

Each party, individuals, companies, public institutions, etc., has different knowledge and experiences. ITU’s WSIS-related activities may provide each party the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences as well as creativity and resources. These knowledge and experiences enables relevant parties, the Union and Member States to develop better, and more applicable and interoperable documents such as recommendations, resolutions, and standards and so on.

Also, participation of stakeholders in ITU-WSIS related activities will increase the efficiency of ITU in its relevant work and bring in ITU a broader vision.

- 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?**

Transformation to Information Society has become one of the top priorities of all countries. This transformation requires a multilevel and multi-stakeholder approach. “Inclusiveness” is one of the main features and a sine quo non for the success of this transformation. Taking this fact into account the involvement of stakeholders should be defined as broad as possible that covers any stakeholder who assumes it as relevant to any ITU WSIS-related activities. In order to concretize the issue, any party engages and is interested in information, computer, communication issues should be included.

- 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?**

It is observed that stakeholders from the developed countries do not encounter noteworthy barriers in participating in ITU activities. However, the stakeholders from developing and other countries have to overcome some legal and economic barriers in order to be able to participate in such activities. In order to tackle these problems, ITU should undertake a proactive role. In this context, fellowship opportunities in ITU should be increased with the contributions of stakeholders from the developed countries thus enabling stakeholders that are face with economic deficiencies to attend its activities. Besides, ITU should organize its meetings and conferences at the locations as close as possible to the developing regions. Moreover, regional offices of the ITU should be strengthened and reinforced.

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?**

1. Regional activities such as symposia, seminars and workshops, can be fostered and outcomes of these activities can be prioritized.
2. ITU can actively apply ICTs and develop and use the necessary systems, applications and infrastructures that enable e-seminars, e-workshops, e-conferences.
3. Stakeholders should be fostered to take place active role in the events and organizations.

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?**

N/a.