
Document WSIS/PC-2/CONTR/5-E
3 December 2002
Original: Spanish

Venezuela

Venezuelan proposal of topics
for the World Summit on the
Information Society

1 Introduction

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela attaches particular importance to the question of the information society and consequently considers the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to be a major opportunity for countries to discuss the benefits and opportunities that should be afforded equally to all by that society.

We consider it important to take steps to incorporate guidelines aimed at satisfying the requirements of all countries, particularly the developing countries, in the declaration of principles and the plan of action resulting from the Summit.

We believe that, for the elaboration of those instruments, consideration should be given to the guiding principles set forth in the Decision of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Marrakesh in 2002.

Set out below is a preliminary set of topics which, in our view, should be included in the agenda of WSIS, and consequently in the declaration of principles and the plan of action of the Summit.

2 Topics for inclusion in the agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society

A preliminary set of four (4) topics has been identified for inclusion among those to be dealt with by the *United Nations World Summit on the Information Society*.

They are listed below with an indication, in each case, of the subject area to which they would relate.

2.1 Resources for the development of the information and knowledge society

This would be included as a new topic in the *Vision* subject area.

Justification: Taking as a starting point the premise that the resources (human, financial and material) available to countries, particularly developing countries, are limited, it is necessary to promote their efficient and effective use with a view to providing countries with an infocommunication system which guarantees that they enter the information and knowledge society with the tools they need to perform successfully, with the resulting economic, cultural and social benefits for all countries.

This subject area could include the development of strategies geared to defining formulas for improving access for all citizens to the global information infrastructure, as well as reaching agreement on a methodology to achieve such access in a competitive market environment.

To that end, the strategies in question should be directed towards promoting and coordinating national and international initiatives designed to optimize the use of human, financial and material resources in the construction of the information and knowledge society.

2.2 Democratization of Internet access

This would be included as a new theme in the *Vision* subject area, or as one of the topics to be considered under *Developing a framework* in the same subject area.

Justification: The international community must be highly alert to the fact that, apart from its important advantages, the Internet also entails serious "*distortions*" which must be addressed in order to prevent any increase in the "*digital divide*" and contribute to its reduction, so that the peoples concerned do not become outcasts from the *information and knowledge society*. The following are some of the main Internet distortions that need to be rectified:

- The huge sums of money paid by developing countries in international settlements for charges pertaining to Internet traffic, which, in most cases, is only transit and not terminal traffic.
- The lack of transparency in the distribution of IP (Internet Protocol) address blocks, which does not correspond to the needs and opportunities for participation in commercial dealings of the geographical areas covered, but rather to the operating requirements of the companies which provide international Internet access.
- A lack of mechanisms for more democratic participation at international level in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which would give greater representation to the countries and regions of the world.

2.3 Promoting the establishment of a legal framework for computer crime and national security matters

This theme would be included among the topics for consideration under *Developing a framework* in the *Vision* subject area.

Justification: Given the importance of information media and the global nature of the *information and knowledge society*, there is an obvious need to establish common criteria as a basis for the adoption of principles to be incorporated in an international agreement to combat computer crime and its relationship with national security matters, in accordance with the national legislation of the participating countries. Those principles would be directed towards solving the following problems among others:

- Violation of the confidentiality of Internet communications.
- Unauthorized commercialization of "sensitive data" concerning users on the part of companies providing certain Internet services.

2.4 Teleworking and the real opportunities it offers

This would be included among the topics for consideration under *Services and applications* in the *Applications* subject area.

Justification: One of the areas of society on which infocommunication technologies will exert a major impact is that of labour. Infocommunication technologies are the medium through which new opportunities have appeared on the labour market. They should be promoted in the developing countries through the establishment of an environment favourable to the development of teleworking in these countries, as well as by means of exchanges with the developed countries in this field.