Cuba
CUBA

Proposals of the Republic of Cuba for the Draft Final Substantive Outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society:

On Enabling Environment

- "Affirms that the enhancement of international cooperation towards an Information Society should be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter, inter alia, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State"

- "Reaffirms that global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the cost and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most" (based on par. 6. Solidarity, GA Res. 55/2 entitled "United Nations Millennium Declaration")

On Freedom of Information

- "Decides to promote a free, just, accurate, effective and balanced international information and communication order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries"

On compliance with International Law

- "Decides to take steps with a view to the avoidance of and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the fulfilment of an Information Society and to the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary social services". (built on paragraph 96. Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development)
On Digital Divide

- "Decides to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in narrowing the digital divide, creating digital opportunities and harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development, through technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the provision of financial and technical support" (Paragraph 45 shortened. Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development)

- "Emphasizes the importance of the use of information and communication technologies, where appropriate, as tools to increase the frequency of communication and the sharing of experience and knowledge, and to improve the quality of and access to information and communications technology in all countries, without discrimination, building on the work facilitated by the United Nations Information and Communications Technology Task Force and the efforts of other relevant international and regional forums". (Built on Paragraph 106 shortened. Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development)

On Globalization

- "We note that the process of globalization constitutes a powerful and dynamic force which should be harnessed for the benefit, development and prosperity of all countries, without exclusion. We recognize that developing countries face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. While globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its cost are unevenly distributed. We thus express our determination to prevent and mitigate the negative effects of globalization. These effects could aggravate, inter alia, poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, cultural homogenization and economic disparities. We further express our determination to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation to increase equality opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity". (from par 11 Declaration of the World Conference Against Racism...)

On Freedom of opinion and expression and non-discrimination

- "We recall that the dissemination of all ideas based upon racial superiority or hatred shall be declared an offence punishable by law with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" (par. 86. Declaration of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance)
- “We express deep concern about the use of new information technologies, such as the Internet, for purposes contrary to respect for human values, equality, non-discrimination, respect for others and tolerance, including to propagate racism, racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and that, in particular, children and youth having access to this material could be negatively influenced by it” (par. 91. Declaration of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance)

On Cultural Diversity

- “Urges all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion” (par. 148 Programme of Action of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance)

- “Emphasizes the importance of recognizing the value of cultural diversity and of putting in place concrete measures to encourage the access of marginalized communities to the mainstream and alternative media through, inter alia, the presentation of programmes that reflect their cultures and languages” (par. 142 Programme of Action of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance)

- “Underlines the importance of cultural cooperation for all peoples and all nations, which should share with one another their knowledge and skills, and that international cooperation, while promoting the enrichment of all cultures through its beneficent action, should respect the distinctive character of each” (par 8. Commission on Human Rights Res. 2002/26 “Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for different cultural identities)

- “Affirms that each culture has a dignity and value which must be respected and preserved and that every people has the right and the duty to develop its culture” (par 4. CHR Res. 2002/26 “Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for different cultural identities)

- “Underlines that market forces along cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development, and from this perspective, recognizes that the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed” (par 13. CHR Res. 2002/26 “Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for different cultural identities)

On Foreign Debt

- “We note with concern the persistence of the external debt problem and its unfortunate consequences in the South, where the vicious cycle of debt and underdevelopment has become even further entrenched. We are alarmed at the fact that debt servicing has grown at much greater rate than the debt itself, and the burden of debt payments has
become heavier in many countries of the South, including countries with low middle incomes. We therefore underline the need collectively to pursue a durable solution for the external debt problem of developing countries, including middle-income developing countries, which also addresses the structural causes of indebtedness.

- "We affirm the need to reduce unsustainable debt burden through such actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones. Therefore, debt relief measures should, where appropriate, be pursued vigorously and expeditiously, including within the Paris and London Clubs and other relevant forums, in order to contribute to debt sustainability and facilitate sustainable development, while recognizing that debtors and creditors must share responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations, and that external debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can then be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development." (par. 83 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit of Sustainable Development)