
Document WSIS/PC-3/CONTR/36-E
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English only

ETHZ/EPFL/EMPA

This statement is supported by our constituents such as GeSI (with reservations except for the AP, 1-3b.) and WWF, which you can find listed on our Website, especially the Global Contract Foundation and YOIS.

The Declaration should include a passage in your section no. 10 now reading...

- The adherence to international undertakings with respect to peace and security, sustainable development, equality, solidarity, tolerance, human dignity, economic progress, and the protection of the environment and building of new values, trust and norms with respect to the use of ICTs.

...to the effect that:

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can and should serve sustainable development. More harmony between the two goals of the Information Society and sustainable development could be achieved if there were better coherence and coordination among the major global UN summits such as the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, the Basel Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the International Conference on the Financing for Development, keeping in mind the outcomes of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Integrated Follow-up to Major UN Conferences and Summits. Resource efficiency could be improved by ICT, the use of natural resources reduced and waste reduced by using ICT to dematerialize (i.e. reduce the use of natural resources, the inputs needed for our economic activities) and to achieve sustainable production and consumption patterns. However, as ICT helps change our perspectives to alter our consumption and production patterns with a rebound effect, attention by policy and decision makers is needed to ensure that ICT really reduces, not increases, environmental impacts. Other risks needing attention by policy and decision makers include that of ICT equipment and ICT systems causing unnecessary electricity consumption while on standby. We pledge to promote increases in the useful life of ICT and to improve recycling conditions, in particular those resulting from trade in waste between the OECD member countries and developing countries.

Please add to the Plan of Action under your current section no. "11. Environmental protection: Governments and the business community must initiate actions as well as develop and implement programmes and projects for the environmentally safe disposal (including recycling) of discarded ICT hardware and parts."

the following passage:

1. Ask all relevant International Financial Institutions (WTO, WB, IMF, the regional development banks [including EIB], and the Regional Commissions, etc) to develop, and by the Tunisia segment of the WSIS in 2005, to present a strategy for the use of ICT for sustainable development, and as an effective instrument to help us achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as adhere to the provisions of all ratified, relevant environmental agreements.

2. Recommend that Governments and the private sector explore, and by 2005 implement, different instruments that can help to extract the maximum environmental benefits from ICT and speed the development of sustainability solutions throughout society.

3. Mainstream information and communication technology into sustainable development. Principal action areas should include:

- a. Dematerialization and reducing waste
 - b. Consumption and production patterns (the role for ICT to reduce environmental impacts)
 - c. Eliminate unnecessary standby losses of ICT equipment and ICT systems
 - d. Increase their useful life
 - e. Improve recycling conditions, in particular those resulting from trade in waste between the OECD and developing countries. Switzerland, for instance, is planning to publish a handbook and Website to help developing countries to cope with the amount of electronic waste, which is expected to grow as they enter an Information Society already threatened by environmental risks.
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