
Document WSIS/PC-3/CONTR/136-E
30 May 2003
English only

Korean National Commission for UNESCO

Korea Forum on the World Summit on the Information Society

23-24 May 2003, Seoul, Korea

Statement

The Korea Forum on the World Summit on the Information Society requests that the World Summit on the Information Society consider the following points with importance.

1. We recognize that the development of information and communications not only causes fundamental changes in the lives of humankind, but also serves as a locomotive force for social development and security.
2. We recognize that in order to fully reap the potential benefits of ICTs, all members of society must strive together to overcome the challenges facing us, such as overcoming the digital divide, recovering network reliability, and ensuring the protection of personal information.
3. The information society we envision is a human-centered society where ICTs are used for the benefit of humankind, thus enabling all to create and share information and knowledge freely. Everyone must be provided with equal access to information and knowledge, which should be applied and disseminated for political, economical, social, and cultural development, and which should contribute to improving the overall quality of life and eradicating poverty.
4. The following aims should be achieved in order to comprehensively realize an ideal information society;
 - 4.1 Human rights and fundamental freedoms should be respected. In particular, freedom of expression, the right to privacy, and free access to information media must be guaranteed.
 - 4.2 Various forms of information media should be used for social development and the convergence of opinions, and the disclosure of public information should be broadened to increase transparency in the policy-making process. The principles of democracy and good governance shall be observed, while the fact that all nations have a unique system of law shall be recognized.
 - 4.3 ICTs should be used to respect the commitments of the international society towards peace and security, sustainable development, equality, participation, respect for human dignity, economic growth, and environmental protection.
 - 4.4 In the pursuit of transparent and fair market competition, ICTs should be used to increase the level of information disclosure by corporate entities. Market

competition should be promoted in ICT-related areas, and an environment should be fostered that will protect the rights and interests of consumers and users.

- 4.5 An environment for network reliability, security, and the protection of personal information should be established. This should result in the generation of trust and reliability in regard to the utilization of ICTs.
- 4.6 The quality of life should be improved through a diffusion of understanding about the information society and recognition of the benefits of ICTs and the development of human capabilities. Particular effort should be applied towards the participation and empowerment of women in the utilization of ICTs and policy development.
- 4.7 Creativity and diversity across various areas should be promoted and the identity of each culture and the diversity of language should be recognized, while nurturing an environment for the production and development of local contents.
- 4.8 As the rights to access and communicate information and knowledge function as tools for social development by increasing general participation in the sharing of information and knowledge, they should be understood as the very essence of the information society. In order to strengthen the right to access information, the public domain for information sharable by users should be expanded, and the development and use of open sources and free software should be encouraged and promoted.
- 4.9 Not only should efforts be directed towards overcoming the existing gender, regional and socioeconomic inequalities, but focus must be placed upon preventing new forms of alienation as well. Particular attention should be given to the underprivileged, such as youth, women, elderly, and the disabled.
- 4.10 All actors within the public sector, business, and civil society shall make common efforts to build the information society by participating together in the policy-making process. The governments of each nation shall endeavor to maintain close cooperative relationships with the business sector and the civil society.

In this spirit, the participants of the Korea Forum on the World Summit of the Information Society pledge to continue efforts for cooperative participation by the public sector, business sector, and the civil society in planning, converging opinions, making policy, and overseeing the execution and evaluation of matters regarding the formation of the information society well into the future.