[**Draft Declaration of Principles**

[NOTE: the whole text of this Draft Declaration is in square brackets]

A[B]. Our Common Vision of the Information Society

1.   [We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, declare our common desire and commitment to build an inclusive Information Society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, ~~and~~ communities and peoples to achieve their full potential and improve their quality of life in a sustainable manner.]

We also reaffirm our commitment to a development oriented Information Society, geared to the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the achievement of a balanced and comprehensive social and economic development for all.

B[A]. Building the Information Society: a new global challenge in the new Millennium

2.   **We envisage** this information Society premised on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and characterized by universal access to and use of information for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. Nothing in this declaration shall be construed as impairing, contradicting, restricting or derogating the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, any other international instrument or national laws. ~~[1.   Our challenge is to harness the potential of the information technology to promote the goals of the Millennium Declaration for the attainment of [development for all in] a more peaceful, just and prosperous world~~This Information Society is premised on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is characterized by [universal] access to and use of information for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge.~~

3.   **We reaffirm** ~~that [all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated]~~ the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, [OPTION A: including the right to development] and their ties to the principles of a democratic society~~, [*upholding the sovereign equality of all States*]~~, good governance, ~~[and]~~ the rule of law ~~[at national and international level]~~ and sustainable development, [*upholding the sovereign equality of all States*]. [OPTION B: We are committed to making the right of development a reality for everyone.]~~Our challenge is to harness the potential of the information technology to promote ~~the goals of the Millennium Declaration for the attinment of a more peaceful just and prosperous world.~~the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; achievement of universal primary education; promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; reduction of child

mortality; improvement maternal health; to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; the ensuring of environmental sustainability; and in development of a global partnership for development for the attainment of a more peaceful just and prosperous world.]

3bis   The information society shall take fully into account the requirements of ethics and morality and shall accord the wider possible protection and assistance to the family which is the natural and most fundamental unity of our society

4.   [1A. Communication is a fundamental social process, a basic human need and the foundation of all social organization. It is central to the information society. Everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate and no one should be excluded from the benefits the information society offers. Freedom of expression and freedom of opinion, the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas regardless of frontiers [as enshrined in Article 19 [and 29] of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights] are the necessary premise of the information society.]

5.   [1bis.   Nothing in the present declaration shall be construed as impairing or contradicting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or as restricting or derogating from the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.]

6.   [4.] **We recognize** that that education, knowledge, information and communication are at the core of human progress, endeavour and well-being. Further, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have an immense impact on virtually all aspects of our lives. The capacity of ICTs to reduce the impact of many traditional obstacles, especially those of time and distance, make it possible for the first time in history for the vast potential of these technologies to be used by and for the benefit of millions of people in all corners of the world.

6bis   **We recognize also that** Opoptimizing their potential of ICTs to develop and promote people to people dialogue [within and among nations and civilizations], to increase productivity, to generate economic growth, and to improve the quality of life—particularly for the majority of the peoples of the world who risk being left behind and further marginalized—is a serious challenge for all of us. We reiterate our commitment to the achievement of sustainable development and of UN agreed development goals, as contained in the Millennium Declaration [Johannnesbourg Declaration and Plan of Implementation] and [the Monterrey consensus], and other documents of relevant UN Summits.

We are aware that technology alone cannot solve any political and social problems. ICTs should therefore be regarded as a tool and not an end in themselves.

7.   [6.] **We recognize** that building an inclusive information society requires new forms of solidarity, partnership and cooperation of all of us—governments, the private sector and civil society- individually and collectively. Volunteers, as an expression of solidarity in action, in both south and North, provide a vast and important resource to bring about an inclusive information society. Volunteers, too, provide a vast and important resource, functioning on every level from international to local, from collective to face-to-face, to bring the information society to life.

We are committed to realising our common vision of the information society for ourselves and for future generations.

8.   **We recognize also** that the breadth of this challenge extends beyond the usual players. Yyoung people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs, decision-makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to creating conditions that provide for the development of ICT applications and services that take into account the well-being, protection, and harmonious development of children.

9.   **We affirm** that development of ICTs provides enormous ~~promise~~ opportunities for women, who must be an integral part o~~f the information society~~ and are. ~~We are committed to ensuring that our information society fosters the emancipation and empowerment of women, promotes gender equality and portrays women fairly and respectfully.~~ key actors in the information society. We are committed to ensuring that the information society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes.

9bis   We should also pay particular attention to marginalized and vulnerable groups of society, including migrants and refugees, unemployed and under-privileged people, the elderly, the disabled, minorities, and those living in remote and rural areas.

10.   [12]**We shall continue** to pay special attention to the particular needs of developing countries, countries with economies in transition ~~and emerging economies~~, Least Developed Countries, Small Islands Developing States, ~~and~~ landlocked developing countries, highly indebted countries, post-conflict countries, and occupied territories. Viable solutions need to be found in order for these countries to participate fully in the information society. In addition, particular attention must be given to the special situation of indigenous people[s], and to the promotion and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

11.   [53]**Realizing** that the ambitious vision of this Declaration – bridging the Digital Divide – will require a strong commitment by all stakeholders, we, call for digital solidarity, both at the national and international levels. Sustained efforts for universal access and capacity building for the use of ICTs are essential in building the Information Society.

C. An information Society for all: key principles

12.   **We are encouraged** by the rapid pace of development of ICTs–unprecedented in history-which allow for the development of applications that can make it possible that no one is left behind and that those who were left marginalised in previous development cycles can have a real opportunity to attain higher levels of development without having to follow the traditional path nor its time requirements.

13.   **We are resolute** in our quest to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer. We agree that to meet these challenges, all stakeholders have to work together to increase access to information and communication infrastructure, as well as to information and knowledge, build capacity and trust~~confidence~~, increase confidence ~~trust~~ and security in the use of ICTs, create an enabling environment at all levels, develop and widen ICT applications, foster and respect cultural diversity, promote media development, address the ethical dimension of the information society, and encourage international and regional cooperation. We agree that these are the key principles for building an inclusive information society.

1)[3)] **The role of *all stakeholders* in the promotion of ICTs for development**

14.   [27] All stakeholders – governments, as well as private sector, ~~and~~ civil society organizations ~~as well as~~ and UN and other international organizations – have an important role and responsibility in the development of the Information Society and, as appropriate, in decision-making processes. {The Internet has evolved into a global public {good}/[infrastructure]/[resource] and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda.} Building a people-centred Information Society is a joint effort ~~of all stakeholders and~~ which requires cooperation and partnership between all ~~parties~~stakeholders.

14bis   the family, in all its cultural and organisational diversity, ensures, together with schools and the media, the socialisation of future generations.

Local authorities, at the level of the municipalities and regions, play a role as they are close to the citizens, have the knowledge of their social needs and assume the responsibility of local governance.

2)[1)] **Information and communication infrastructure [:an essential foundation for the information society]**

15.   [17] Connectivity is a central enabling agent in building the Information Society. [Universal,] [ubiquitous] [, equitable] and affordable access to ICT infrastructure and services, including access to powerenergy, and postal services, constitutes one of the primary challenges of the Information Society and must be an objective of all stakeholders involved in building it, in conformity with the domestic legislation of each country.

16.   [18] A well-developed information and communication network infrastructure and applications, adapted to regional and local conditions, easily-accessible and affordable, and making greater use of [broadband/innovative technologies] as much aswhere possible, , is essential forcan accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all citizens and communities. It is a central element in all national strategies to develop the Information Society and takes into account the development, deployment, maintenance, and modernization of the world's communications and information networks and facilities.

17.   [Policies that create a favourable climate for stability, predictability and fair competition at all levels should can be developed and implemented in a manner thatn not only attracts more private investment for ICT infrastructure development but also enables public service obligations to be met in areas where traditional market conditions fail to work.]

18.   [20] Monitoring and evaluating, with appropriate indicators [under the auspices of ITU], will beis essential to measuring our the progress in addressing bridging the digital divide, and to assessing the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the information society.

3)[2)] **Access to information and knowledge**

19.   [21-22] In building the information society in which everyone has and can exercise the right to freedom of opinion and expression including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, [through any media and regardless of frontiers]/[subject to limitations determined by law], *the ability for all to access and contribute their information, ideas and knowledge is essential.*

20.   The sharing and strengthening of global knowledge for development can be enhanced by removing barriers to equitable access to [available] information for economic, social, political, health, cultural, educational, and scientific activities and by easing facilitating access to public domain information.

21.   [23] A vibrant and rich public domain is an essential element for the growth of the Information Society, creating multiple benefits such as educated public, new jobs, innovation, business opportunities, and the advancement of sciences. Information in the public domain should be easily accessible and transparent to support the Information Society, [and must be protected from misappropriation]. The strengthening of public institutions such as libraries and archives, museums, cultural collections and other communities based access points can promote free and equitable access.

22.   [24A. The growth of an information society should be encouraged through the adoption of open source strategies for software applications as they contribute to increase access and enhance

diversity for software users. Multiple software models exist which promotes the principle of technology neutrality, these include open source, free and proprietary software, and are ~~Choice among software applications contributes to increased access and enhanced diversity for software users. Multiple software development models exist which help promote this principle, [including open source which is a~~ valuable model that supports more affordable access to ICTs ~~].]~~

23. [11C+47C] Scientists, universities, academic, research and other institutions have a central role in the development of the information society. Many of the building blocks of the Information Society are the result of scientific and technical advances made possible by the sharing of research results. We encourage promoting universal and equitable access to ~~Equal opportunities to access~~ scientific knowledge and the creation and dissemination of scientific and technical information ~~are crucial~~.

4)   Capacity building

24.   [30] ~~——~~ Everyone should have the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in order to understand, participate actively in, and benefit fully from, the Information Society and the knowledge economy. Literacy and universal primary education are key factors for building a fully inclusive and participative information society. Given the wide range of ICT and information workforce required at all level, building the institutional capacity to plan, guide, monitor, ~~specialists required at all levels, building the institutional capacities to~~ collect, organize, store and share information and knowledge deserves special attention.

25.   [31] ~~——~~ The use of ICTs in all stages of ~~for~~ education, training and human resource development should be promoted taking into account the special needs of ~~the~~ disabled and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. ~~—~~ Content creators, publishers, and producers, as well as teachers and trainers, ~~can~~ should play an active ~~crucial~~ role in promoting the Information Society, particularly in the Least Developed Countries. ~~-~~

26.   [33] ~~——~~ Continuous and adult education, re-training, life-long learning, and other special measures are fundamental to benefit from the new possibilities offered by ICTs for traditional jobs, self-employment and new professions.

26bis   Partnerships between developed and developing countries in research, manufacturing and marketing of ICTs are crucial for promoting capacity building and global participation in the information society. The manufacture of ICTs presents a significant opportunity for creation of wealth.

5)   Building confidence, trust and security in the use of ICTs

27.   [34.Strengthening the trust framework including [network and information security] authentication, privacy and consumer protection, is a prerequisite for the development of the Information Society and for building confidence among users of ICTs. A global culture of cyber-security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in co-operation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies. These efforts should be supported by increased international co-operation. Within this global culture of cyber-security, it is important to enhance security and to ensure the protection of data and privacy, [as well as to avoid the creation of barriers to access and trade]. In addition, it must take into account the level of social and economic development of each country and respect the development-oriented aspects of the Information Society.

28.   While recognizing the principles of universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations, and recalling the relevant resolution of the UNGA, ICTs can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their

security [in both civil and military fields]. It is necessary to prevent the use of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes [, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information] [in accordance with the legal system of each country].]

29.   Unsolicit4ed electronic mails (SPAM) raise issues such as privacy, illicit content, misleading and deceptive trade practices and network issues that should be dealt with at appropriate national and international level. ~~Spam and cyber security should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels.~~

6)   Enabling environment[1]

30.   [38A] The rule of law, accompanied by transparent and predictable regulation, that takes into account national realities, is essential for building confidence, trust and security in the Information Society. A clear regulatory framework assures the users empowerment and the full respect of the rights of individuals and especially the rights of children.

31.   [38+40] Governments need to foster a supportive, transparent, pro-competitive and predictable policy, legal and regulatory framework, intervening, as appropriate, to correct market failures, in order to enhance the development of the ICT services, infrastructure and applications, and to maximize economic and social benefits. Access by countries to the benefits of the digital revolution requires adherence to the universally accepted principles of non-discrimination within the framework of negotiations based on a spirit of justice and equity. An enabling international environment supportive of transfer of technology and financial assistance to developing countries is also instrumental to their benefiting of the gains of digital revolution.

32.   [39]   The Information Society must support [participatory] democracy, transparency, efficiency and accountability.   Strengthening relations with citizens is an essential investment in policy-making and ~~a core element of good governance.~~ ICTs should be used as a key tool for good governance and more accessible government.

33.   [40C] Intellectual property protection is essential to encourage the innovation and creativity in the Information Society. However, ~~S~~striking a fair balance between protection of intellectual property, one the one hand, and its use, and knowledge sharing, on the other, is essential to the Information Society. This balance is reflected by protection and flexibilities included in existing Intellectual Property agreements which should be maintained. ~~,~~ ~~f~~Facilitating meaningful participation by all in intellectual property protection and production through awareness, capacity building and development of legal framework is ~~an~~ fundamental part of an inclusive Information Society.

34.   [41]   Sustainable development can best be advanced in the Information Society when ICT-related efforts and programmes are fully integrated in national and regional development strategies. ~~Governments are responsible for promoting a domestic regulatory system in order to stimulate more investment and innovation and trade.~~ The distribution of the benefits of ICT-driven productivity gains contributes to ~~the~~ poverty reduction~~, opportunities,~~ and sustainable development.

35.   [42]   Standardization is one of the essential building blocks of the Information Society. There should be particular emphasis on the development of international standards. The development and use of open, interoperable, non-discriminatory and market-driven standards that take into account needs of users and consumers, based on the principle of technological neutrality,

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[1] Note: The coordinator of the working group on enabling environment, noting that the whole draft declaration is in square brackets did not indicate areas for further discussion in this text. However, he noted that some delegations needed further consultation, especially with regard to paragraphs 33 and 37 provided here.

is a basic element in the development of ICTs and more affordable access to them, particularly in developing countries.

36.   [43]   The radio frequency spectrum should be managed in the public interest and in accordance with principle of legality, with full observance of national laws and regulation as well as relevant international agreements.

37.   [45]   Governments must/should 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, that hinder the well-being of their population, including the benefit from the Information Society.

38.   [NEW 33C]Recognizing that ICTs are progressively changing our way of working, the creation of a secure, safe and healthy working environment, appropriate to the utilisation of ICTs, *respecting core labour standards,* is fundamental.

39.   [44.][The Internet has evolved into a global public [good]/[infrastructure]/[resource] and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.

40.   The management of the Internet encompasses both technical and policy issues. The private sector has had and will continue to have an important role in the development of the Internet [at the technical level].

41.   Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues should be the sovereign right of countries.

42.   [Internet issues of an international nature related to public policies should be coordinated

Alternatives:

   a)   between governments and other interested parties.

   b)   through/by appropriate intergovernmental organizations under the UN framework.

   c)   as appropriate on an intergovernmental basis.

   d)   through/by appropriate international organizations.

   e)   through appropriate and mutually agreed international organizations.]]

7)   ICT-Applications: benefits in all aspects of life.

43.   [46]   The usage and deployment of ICTs should seek to create benefits in all aspects of our daily life including government operations, health care, education and training, employment, management of natural resources, disaster prevention, business and culture, agriculture, and for alleviating poverty. ICTs should also contribute to sustainable production and consumption and production patterns, through improved efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production [processes] [and in improving market access for all]. Application should be user-friendly, accessible to all, affordable, suited to local needs by adapting to local languages and culture and support socio-economic and sustainable development of the local community.

8)   Cultural [[identity]] and cultural and linguistic diversity, and local content [and media development]

44. [48] The Information Society [can enhance/ should be founded on] and should stimulate respect for [religious and] cultural identity and cultural and linguistic diversity and foster dialogue among cultures. The promotion, protection and preservation of diverse cultural [identity/identities] and languages [as well as public policies to that end / as reflected in UNESCO's Declaration on cultural diversity], will further enrich the Information Society.

45. [49] The creation, dissemination and preservation of content in diverse languages must be accorded high priority in the Information Society. It is essential to promote the [production and /free flow] of accessibility of educational, scientific and cultural content [and content of commercial value] in diverse languages. The development of local content suited to domestic or regional needs will encourage social and economic development and will stimulate participation of all stakeholders. This approach would be particularly useful for meeting the needs of, including people living in rural, remote and marginal areas.

46. [50] The preservation of cultural heritage is a crucial component of identity and self – understanding of individuals that links a community to its past. The information society should harness and preserve cultural heritage for the future by all appropriate methods, including such as digitization digitization.

9)[8a)] Media

47. [51] The existence of [independent pluralistic and free] media [in accordance with the legal system of each country and] based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [particularly on Articles 19 and 29] is crucial to any conception of the Information Society. [Individuals and media should have access to available information]/[Freedom of access to and use of information for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge are important principles of the Information Society.] [Pluralism of information and diversity of media ownership should be encouraged]. Traditional media in all its forms will continue to have an important role in the Information Society and ICTs should play a supportive role in this regard. [Formulation of professional and ethical standards in journalism is the responsibility of media professionals.]

10)[9)] Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

48. [52.

The Information Society should

uphold universally held cultural, ethical values, such as peace, freedom equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, shared responsibility, truth, trust, honesty, justice, and human dignity [without prejudice to the moral, social and religious values of all societies].

OR

in accordance with the universal declaration of human rights, uphold the values of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as well as other uphold fundamental values such as peace, freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. Of particular importance to the information society are also truth, trust, honesty, justice, human dignity, transparency and accountability.

OR

Be subject to universally held cultural, ethical values such as truth, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human dignity, shared responsibility, transparency and accountability, without prejudice to the moral, social and religious values of all societies.

All actors in the Information Society should seek to promote the common good, protect privacy, and to *foster responsible uses of ICTs* and prevent abusive uses of ICTs ones[, such as acts of racial discrimination, xenophobia, and paedophilia and pornography]. The freedom of use of ICTs should

respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of others, including personal privacy, freedom of thought, conscience and religion. ~~These values are particularly relevant when commercial activities are conducted through networks.~~]

11)[10)] International and regional cooperation

49. [53] We aim at making full use of the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies, notably to assist effectively in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. We therefore invite all stakeholders to join in the "Digital Solidarity Agenda" which contains the actions we plan to undertake and the targets we set ourselves in this report.

50. [54] We commit ourselves to strengthening cooperation to seek common responses to the challenges of the Information Society and to the implementation of the Plan of Action, which will realize the vision and the key principles incorporated in this Declaration.

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