

[Draft Declaration of Principles

(WSIS/PCIP/DT-1 refined through the intersessional mechanism and incorporating government contributions received before established deadline)

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

Typographical conventions:

Underlined: new text

Underlined text with slashes: /new text/from several/member states

~~Strikethrough: deleted text~~

~~[square brackets, strike through, slash, underline]: [old text/new text]~~

Italics: Comments

A footnote indicating: "See comment from XXX" refers to the Member State(s) comment(s) appearing in the Reference document (WSIS03/PCIP/DT/3) for the same paragraph.

Indented texts: alternate text for paragraph and new paragraphs, included in this order. Footnotes provide name of Member States making the proposed change/addition/deletion at the paragraph level. Additions or deletions below the paragraph level, that is, bullet points, sentences or phrases, have been incorporated but for the sake of clarity, the name of the member state proposing such changes is not provided.

Alternate text for a given paragraph keeps the same number. New paragraphs are numbered with letters after the number of the previous paragraph. Example:

21. ICTs in education. [Original text]

Alternate paragraph 21. [Alternate text for paragraph 21]¹

21 A. [New paragraph]²

21 B. [New paragraph]³

¹ Proposed by XXX.

² Proposed by YYY.

Section I

Summary of general comments:

- *The documents (Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action) should be clear, concise, focused, logical, convincing and forceful.*
- *They should be expressed in a language accessible to the public at large, which can be approved by Governments leaders and have a lasting value.*
- *They should reflect the consensus of the international community.*
- *One may consider merging the two documents in a single one.*

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

1. **We the representatives of the peoples of the world**, assembled at 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 a new kind of society, the Information Society, in the process of transition toward the knowledge societies premised on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations UNESCO's Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and characterized by universal access to and use of high-quality information for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. [In this society/and in which] new technologies, in particular information and communications technologies (ICTs) become an essential tool, accessible to all, for the enhancement of the services provided by governments, enterprises and the organizations of civil society, for the attainment of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world based upon our common humanity in all its diversity and to promote dialogue among cultures and civilizations.⁴

1A. We recognize the right to communicate and the right to access information and knowledge as fundamental human rights. Everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate in the information society and no one should be excluded from the benefits it offers. In a world based on knowledge and information, the right to communicate and the right to access information and knowledge are essential requirements to the attainment of others internationally recognized human rights, including the right to freedom of expression, universal access to the information and communications infrastructure and to the Internet is essential to the information society.⁵

1B. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.⁶

³ Proposed by ZZZ.

⁴ See comment from Czech Republic.

⁵ Proposed by Brazil.

⁶ Proposed by Iran (Islamic Rep. of).

1C. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.⁷

1D. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.⁸

1E. We reaffirm the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural - and their ties to the principles of a democratic society, the rule of law and sustainable development. In the hopes and perils of the transformation to the information society, we are determined to maintain and strengthen all these values.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) provide unprecedented opportunities for realizing all human rights.⁹

2. We recognize that knowledge, information and communication are at the core of human progress, endeavour, and well-being and that, although the dramatic increase in the volume, speed and ubiquity of information flows, which has been made possible through new information and communication technologies, have already brought about profound changes in peoples lives, and are creating enormous new opportunities, they have yet to benefit the vast majority of the peoples of the world. We also recognize that writing and printing has already left similar impact on growth of knowledge in the history of mankind.

3. **We recall** our common resolve as reflected in the Millennium Declaration to promote democracy, good governance, the rule of law and respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development and re-iterate our commitment to sustainable development development as an integral part of human rights. We are fully aware that certain basic human right needs and internationally agreed principles such as education and basic health care for all remain to be addressed within the information society. We reiterate our commitment to Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development and recognize the development challenges posed by the digital divide.

⁷ Proposed by Iran (Islamic Rep. of).

⁸ Proposed by Iran (Islamic Rep. of).

⁹ Proposed by Switzerland.

3A. We are committed to a more open and equitable global economy and truly shared global Information Society, to the benefit of all, especially people in less favoured parts of the world. To this end we will promote relentlessly the dialogue among civilizations and contribute to strengthening global governance and expanding the reach of international law.¹⁰

4. **We are convinced** that the information and communication revolution is still in its infancy, and the untapped potential of ICTs to develop and promote dialogue within and between nations, and to improve standards of living, productivity and quality of life, productivity are ~~is a serious issue challenge~~ for all of us, particularly for the majority of the peoples of the world who live in developing countries and countries with economies in transition who risk being left behind and further marginalized.

4A. ICTs can be a powerful instrument of change in the emerging knowledge-based international economy. They promote new forms of organization and production and the technological infrastructure for globalization. Access to ICTs and the regulation of the digital revolution will tend to redefine the way in which countries position themselves within the world economic and political system as well as the interaction among individuals, cultures, citizenship and the exercise of power by States and corporations. Knowledge will be an increasingly important determinant of competitiveness in the global economy. Access to it should be open in the general interest of the public, particularly in developing countries, as a means towards bridging the digital divide.¹¹

4B. We acknowledge the need to tackle the ever-increasing digital divide between developed and developing countries, which feeds on a pre-existing historical divide of a social and economic nature. If left to their own course strictly under the influence of market forces, ICTs may actually deepen social inequalities within countries, and widen the gap between developed and developing nations.¹²

4C. We express our concern with the situation of developing countries. During the past decade many developing countries have made significant progress in curbing fiscal imbalances, reducing inflation, increasing the pace of export growth, pursuing regional integration processes, attracting foreign direct investment and resuming economic growth. These efforts, however, have been insufficient to overcome poverty and exclusion. Most developing economies continue to face pressing problems related to low savings and investment rates, sluggish job creation, external vulnerability and fragility in their financial systems. They are still faced with decreasing participation in international trade as a whole, especially in the more dynamic technology intensive segments, as the international economy moves from its reliance on the traditional factors of production to a knowledge based and ICT intensive paradigm. This situation requires close analysis, new thinking, and new forms of international action with a view to redressing these basic asymmetries that prevent developing countries from reaping the benefits of globalization under the multilateral rules-based trading system.¹³

¹⁰ Proposed by European Union.

¹¹ Proposed by Brazil.

¹² Proposed by Brazil.

¹³ Proposed by Brazil.

5. **We are fully aware** that our individual and collective ability to create and share knowledge, through intensive use of ICTs and mechanisms of digital participation [~~has become/is~~] a driving force in shaping our future, and declare that concrete action and global commitment are now required; to ensure that these [~~new/rapidly developing~~] technologies accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals ~~that we set for ourselves at the Millennium Summit~~.

6. **Faced** with complex and ever-evolving challenges, all of us - governments, parliaments, the private sector and civil society - [~~commit ourselves~~, will need] to develop new forms of solidarity and cooperation and face to take upon new or increased roles and responsibilities.¹⁴

Alternate paragraph 6

6. **Faced** with complex and ever-evolving challenges, all of us - governments, the private sector and civil society – must assume new roles and responsibilities that will require new forms of solidarity and cooperation, including the Action Plan, in order to realize the principles formulated.

B. Our Common Vision of the Information Society¹⁵

~~We declare:~~

7. The Information Society that we seek to build is one which is inclusive, where all persons, without distinction of any kind, [~~are empowered freely~~/have the right] to create, seek, receive, share and utilize information, ideas and knowledge, in any media and regardless of frontiers, where privacy is respected, and subject to restrictions provided in/ Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as in/point 3, Article 19/and Article 20/of Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, namely for respect of the rights or reputations of others, for the protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals.

Alternate paragraphs 7 and 8: The Information Society that we seek to build is one which is inclusive, where all persons, without distinction of any kind, exercise their right to freedom of expression and access to and use of high-quality information, in order to create, receive, accumulate, disseminate, share and utilize information and knowledge, in any media and regardless of frontiers, through intensive use of ICTs and in accordance with the legal system of each country at the service of humankind, in order to contribute to its economic, social, cultural and political development.¹⁶

7A. Information society is more than just technology, and must be understood as a development oriented concept based on the idea of using ICTs as tools for the social and economic progress of countries, under new and enhanced forms of international cooperation and through innovative partnerships involving governments, the private sector, international organizations and civil society.¹⁷

7B. The information society should be based on ethics and moral values and should be an environment where dignity of humankind is comprehensively respected and fostered.

¹⁴ See comment from Tunisia.

¹⁵ See comment from Tunisia.

¹⁶ Proposed by Mexico.

¹⁷ Proposed by Brazil.

The information society creates an environment where all national sovereignties and interests without any discrimination are respected and protected.¹⁸

8. The Information Society should be people-centered, with citizens and communities at its core, and be at the service of all humans/humankind. It should be ~~an environment~~ a society where information and knowledge are disseminated and utilized without any discrimination, by all [sectors of the population, for their economic, social, cultural and political development/ people to achieve their full potential]. It should work to promote sustainable economic and social development, improve quality of life, alleviate poverty and hunger and protect the environment.¹⁹

9. The Information Society [~~proposes a new/is a new and higher~~] form of social organization, where highly-developed ICT networks, open and free to those who cannot afford it, access to information and where, equitable and ubiquitous access to information, appropriate content in accessible formats and effective communication, with accessible information and communication equipment and services, [must/will/should] enable [all the people/individuals and communities] to achieve their full potential, promote sustainable economic and social development, improve quality of life and ~~reduce~~ alleviate poverty, hunger and social exclusion.²⁰

*Alternate paragraph 9: The Information Society is a new and higher form of social organization, where highly-developed ICT networks, equitable and ubiquitous access to information, appropriate content in accessible formats and effective communication must enable and facilitate the exchange of best practices through digital participation by all people in order to promote sustainable economic and social development, improve quality of life and alleviate poverty and hunger.*²¹

10. ~~The essential requirements for the development of an~~ An equitable Information Society include ~~should~~:²²

*Alternate paragraph 10: There is a need to build the global Information Society under a human rights perspective, meaning a global Information Society that would develop while respecting, preserving and enforcing fundamental human rights. This would only be possible when all the stakeholders (governments, business entities, international organizations and entities of civil society), as well as individuals, are committed to promoting the development and use of ICTs and services. The basic requirements are:*²³

– The respect for the rights to communicate and to access information and knowledge and for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms [Notably/including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, [including the right/and the freedom] to hold opinions without interference and seek to, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers in accordance with article 19 and 29 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to unhindered access by individuals to communication media and information sources. New ICTs represent new

¹⁸ Proposed by Iran (Islamic Rep. of).

¹⁹ Mexico proposes to merge paragraphs 7 and 8.

²⁰ European Union and Russian Federation suggest to delete this paragraph.

²¹ Proposed by Mexico.

²² See comments from Australia and Mexico.

²³ Proposed by Mexico.

channels for the free flow of information and should contribute to pluralism, economic and social development, democracy and peace. The access to and the use of these new media should be afforded the same freedom of expression protections as traditional media.²⁴

Alternate bullet point: The respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. Notably the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with the legal system of each country and with article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- [~~Commit/The commitment~~] to the rule of law, democracy and good governance, both at national and international levels, as well as the existence, [in accordance with the legal system of each country/in accordance with the legal system of each country], of independent, pluralistic and free mass and other communication media in their various forms, as an important means of fostering public information, societal development and social cohesion.
- The existence of independent and free communication media, in accordance with the legal system of each country, is an essential requirement for freedom of expression and a guarantee of the plurality of information. Unhindered access by individuals and communication media to information sources shall be ensured and strengthened in order to promote the existence of vigorous public opinion as a pillar of civil responsibility in accordance with article 19 of the United Nations Declaration of human rights and other international and regional instruments dealing with human rights.
- ~~The adherence to international undertakings with respect to peace and security, sustainable development national sovereignty of all States, 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.²⁵
- The building of an environment that inspires confidence and trust in using ICTs, and ensures security of networks and information, [~~in particular/~~while at the same time providing for] the protection of privacy. This is a joint responsibility that must be shared with all the interested parties. This condition is especially crucial for all matters relating to electronic commerce.²⁶
- Ensuring the adequate development of [~~human/the~~] capacity in order to be able to fully exploit the benefits that ICTs and building public awareness of the capabilities of ICTs to improve the lives of people by circumventing traditional obstacles like distance and time.²⁷
- [~~The nurturing of creativity and support for the flourishing of free flow of a multiplicity of ideas from a diversity of sources, recognizing/~~Promote] cultural [~~identity in all its variety, and~~] linguistic diversity, [~~and multilingualism/as well as the creating/and create~~] favourable conditions for the production, processing, dissemination and protection of local content.

Alternate bullet point: The nurturing of creativity and support for the flourishing of free flow of a multiplicity of ideas from a diversity of sources, recognizing cultural identity in all its variety, linguistic diversity, and multilingualism as well as the creation of favourable

²⁴ See comment from Czech Republic.

²⁵ See comment from Czech Republic. European Union suggests to delete this bullet point.

²⁶ European Union suggests to delete this bullet point.

²⁷ European Union suggests to delete this bullet point.

conditions for the production, processing, dissemination, protection and creation of digital cultural assets of local content.

- The responsibility for managing global threats and challenges, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, taking fully into account the special difficulties faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- The building of an environment that inspires respect for fundamental values of all cultures.
- All the social partners - public authorities, civil society and the private sector - have a stake in the development of communications and should be fully involved in decisions relating to the building of the Information Society.
- The pooling of the resources available at the global and/or regional level is a vital necessity in order to extend the benefits of the NICTs to all the people of the world.
- To ensure that persons with impaired vision have access to ICTs using the senses of touch and hearing, given that these technologies are designed basically only for the sighted.
- Ensuring the conditions for the all-round education of the population and for scientific development.

11. The Information Society ~~must~~ should respond to the additional development challenges posed by the digital divide and help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of [~~combating poverty and hunger, , eliminating illiteracy, reducing infant mortality, improving the status of women, improving maternal health, combating disease and promoting environmental sustainability/~~ eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development]

11A. A focus on the gender dimensions of ICTs is essential not only for preventing an adverse impact of the digital revolution on gender equality or the perpetuation of existing inequalities and discrimination, but also for enhancing women's equitable access to the benefits of ICTs and to ensure that they can become a central tool for the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality. Policies, programmes and projects need to ensure that gender differences and inequalities in the access to and use of ICT are identified and fully addressed so that such technologies actively promote gender equality and ensure that gender-based disadvantages are not created or perpetuated.²⁸

11B. Health should not be seen as a narrowly-defined ICT application, but as a part of a health system. In the same way that education is understood as fundamental to development, health also plays a crucial role in development, since health-related investment can spur economic development, as highlighted in the 2001 report released by the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, which specifically mentions ICTs.²⁹

²⁸ Proposed by Canada.

²⁹ Proposed by Mexico.

C. An information Society for all: key principles³⁰

12. The Information Society [~~must~~/should] serve the interests of all nations, in a manner that secures the fair, balanced and harmonious development of all the people of the world. [~~Most particularly, the interests of the developing and least developed countries (LDCs), Smaller Islands-Developing States (SIDS), economies in transitions and post conflict countries, should be addressed, taking into account the unique geographic features and demographic diversity of nations and regions.~~It must be oriented towards eliminating existing socio-economic differences in our societies, averting the emergence of new forms of exclusion, while taking fully into account, for example the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), as well as the countries, regions and groups with special needs, and mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels of actions.] ICTs should empower developing countries in their national efforts to reduce and overcome poverty, while modernizing the economy on an inclusive and competitive basis.³¹

Alternate paragraph 12: The Information Society must serve the interests of all nations and all the people of the world, in a manner that secures their fair, balanced and harmonious development. Most particularly, the interests of the developing and least developed countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), economies in transition and post-conflict countries, should be addressed, taking into account the unique geographic features and demographic diversity of nations and regions.³²

12A. ICTs as a tool for development: Being a horizontal platform for economic development and a tool for social integration, information and communication infrastructures and services must be, without delay, extensively deployed and used in all developing countries in order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in particular to help in promoting a sustainable development and in eradicating poverty.³³

12B. The traditional media of radio and television will long remain the major providers of information to the large majority of the world's population, particularly in the developing world. As such, they must be developed and exploited to the full as basic foundations of the information society and as providers of content to newer media made possible by ICTs.³⁴

12C. Special circumstances of landlocked countries with extremely difficult topography: This small group of countries characterized by extremely difficult land access, scattered settlements and unique problem of providing its citizenry with basic services, peoples livelihoods depending on subsistence economy, high costs of equipment, connectivity and communications charges will require special attention and tailored solution to meet their needs.³⁵

³⁰ See comment from Tunisia.

³¹ See comment from New Zealand.

³² Proposed by Mexico.

³³ Proposed by Mexico-observers.

³⁴ Proposed by Mexico-observers.

³⁵ Proposed by Nepal.

12D. Vulnerable groups: Unequal and often inhuman treatment meted out to vulnerable groups in the society such as downtrodden, landless, indigenous and tribal, by those in power or in position of privilege on account of caste, creed and religion or simply because of their preferred way of living, have made these groups vulnerable to exploitation and denial of their fair share of benefits from the socio-economic advancements in the country. Special attention needs to be given to such groups to increase their access to ICTs to enable them to participate in development mainstream.³⁶

12E. Special circumstances of regional small island developing States: These countries, vulnerable to environmental hazards, and characterized by small, homogenous markets, high costs of access and equipment, human resource constraints exacerbated by the problem of the "brain drain", limited access to networks and remote locations, will require particular attention and tailored solutions to meet their needs.³⁷

13. The Information Society [~~must/shall/should~~] be oriented towards eliminating ~~existing~~ socio-economic differences ~~in our societies~~, averting the emergence of new forms of exclusion and becoming a positive force for all of the world's people by helping to reduce the disparities between and within countries.³⁸

14. Empowerment and inclusion are fundamental characteristics and objectives of the Information Society. Accordingly, special attention [~~must/should~~] be paid to the marginalized and vulnerable, including and also to:

- ~~The marginalized, including~~ migrants and refugees, unemployed, underprivileged and disenfranchised people;
- ~~The vulnerable, including~~ children, youth and the elderly, the disabled, and those with special needs;
- Indigenous peoples, minorities, women and other communities.³⁹

Alternate paragraph 14: Full participation and inclusion are fundamental characteristics and objectives of the Information Society. Accordingly, particular attention must be paid to: the marginalized, including migrants, refugees, the unemployed, the vulnerable, including children, the elderly, the disabled, and indigenous peoples and communities.⁴⁰

15. Unequal power relations and other social and cultural aspects have contributed to differential access, participation and status for ~~men and women~~ women and men. More attention ~~must/should~~ be given to overcoming these constraints and ensuring that men and women can equally benefit from the increased use of ICTs for empowering themselves by full participation in shaping political, economic, ~~and~~ social and cultural development and improving their lives.⁴¹

³⁶ Proposed by Nepal.

³⁷ Proposed by Samoa.

³⁸ European Union suggests to delete this paragraph.

³⁹ European Union suggests to delete this paragraph.

⁴⁰ Proposed by Mexico.

⁴¹ European Union suggests to delete this paragraph.

Alternate paragraph 15: More attention must be given to overcoming the constraints that have contributed to differential access and participation for men and women. The Information Society must ensure that women benefit equally from the increased use of ICTs so as to fully participate in the political, economic and social development of their countries.⁴²

16. Young people constitute ~~[the majority of the world's population]~~ a significant proportion of the world population, and are leading creators and ~~users adopters~~ users adopters of ICTs. Yet too many of them, especially those in developing countries, remain disadvantaged and ~~[disconnected/ without access to infocommunications]~~, due to lack of financial and material means. More and Special attention must should be given to ~~empower~~ empower young people as ~~learners~~ citizens with special needs as learners and as ~~members of the future workforce, especially in developing countries. and as citizens with special needs, especially in developing countries.~~⁴³

Alternate 1 paragraph 16: Young people constitute the majority of the population, and are the future workforce and leading creators and adopters of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered as learners, especially those in developing countries.⁴⁴

Alternate 2 paragraph 16: Amend the wording of paragraph 16 to read as follows:

Young people constitute ~~the majority~~ a significant proportion of the world's population, and are leading creators and adopters of ICTs. Yet too many of them, especially those in developing countries, remain disadvantaged and ~~disconnected~~ without access to infocommunications. More and special attention must be given to empower young people as learners, the future workforce, and citizens with special needs.

1) **Information and communication technologies infrastructure**

17. Universal, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs [must/should] be [guaranteed without limitation nor restriction/an objective of all stakeholders involved in building the Information Society], in conformity with domestic legislation of each country and relevant international instruments, and in order to bridge the digital divide mainly caused by regional circumstances or lack of educational opportunity, utilization of Internet access and broadband networks will be necessary^{45, 46}.

18. **Building the infrastructure:** A well-developed and easily-accessed and affordable information and communication network infrastructure is essential for the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of [all citizens and communities/all social segments and communities]. [The improvement of connectivity/the provision of connectivity and digital participation], with adaptation for disabled, is of special importance in this respect⁴⁷. Some information and application requires high-capacity transmission channels in order to be effective

⁴² Proposed by Mexico.

⁴³ European Union suggests to delete this paragraph.

⁴⁴ Proposed by Mexico.

⁴⁵ See comments from New Zealand and USA.

⁴⁶ EU: new paragraph merging former 17 and 18.

⁴⁷ See comments from Ethiopia.

and efficient. Therefore, we shall provide high-capacity transmission channels in order to enable accessibility to all types of information and applications.

17 and 18 alternate text: Connectivity is a central enabling agent in building the information society. Universal, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs infrastructure and services constitutes one of the primary challenges of the information society and must be an objective of all stakeholders involved in building the Information Society. A well-developed, adapted to local conditions, and easily-accessed and affordable information and communication network infrastructure is essential for the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all citizens and communities. Building of universally accessible ICT infrastructure should be a central element in any national strategy to develop the information society. ⁴⁸

19. **Community access points:** Public community access points⁴⁹ such as post offices, libraries, ~~and~~ schools, and information kiosks (that can provide wireless connection provides an effective and efficient means for promoting universal access and in particular in rural, remote and poor urban areas.⁵⁰

19A. Sustainable telecom public service and Universal Access finance mechanisms: Democratization of a community's access to content cannot take place without ensuring Universal Access. However, deployment of access is not always economically viable, particularly in markets which are too small to attract foreign direct investment (fdi). Consequently, there is a need for pro-active government policies to ensure Universal Access. The extent of a national telecom public service including a Universal Access roll-out should be defined by every country taking into account the specific needs of its population. These policies need to be defined and implemented in a transparent manner and in cooperation with private sector and civil society.

They could take the form of a mechanism based on national funds to finance Universal Access, financed according to the principle of solidarity, i.e. on the basis of levied fees or taxes. The funds can be used for the development of isolated or disadvantaged regions whenever the universal access obligation appears to be unprofitable. Any such policy should not infringe on the principle of awarding licences to private operators, of free competition and of non-discrimination.⁵¹

20. **Measuring and mapping the Information Society:** Indicators, including sex-disaggregated data, and particularly data on community connectivity, are essential to measure the evolution of the Information Society, ~~more particularly~~ notably the needs and performance of developing countries and countries whose economy is in transition and their particular conditions. Targets should also be set to benchmark the penetration of ICTs services within communities in urban and rural areas.⁵²

⁴⁸ Proposed by European Union.

⁴⁹ Mexico: in Spanish version ... centros comunitarios digitales, ~~tele-como~~ oficinas.

⁵⁰ EU: this paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

⁵¹ Proposed by Switzerland.

⁵² See comments from Australia, EU: this paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

20A. Appropriate indicators and benchmarking should clarify the magnitude of the digital divide, and keep it under regular assessment, with the purpose of measuring the effectiveness of international cooperation and transfer of technology mechanisms. New indicators/methodologies should be studied and researched with a view to improving assessment of ITC impact, with particular attention to their applicability in regards to the different levels of social and economic development and national contexts. Methods for quantifying the digital divide, therefore, cannot be based solely on ICT density, infrastructure or consumption, but must track global progress in the use of ICTs to achieve millennium social and development goals.⁵³

2) Access to information technologies and knowledge

21. [The right to [communicate/of expression] and the right for citizens to access information, and knowledge that is clear and truthful, are/ The right of everyone to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information is] fundamental to the Information Society. ^{54, 55}

21A. In the Information Society, free access to information sources by individuals and consequently by communication media must be guaranteed and strengthened, as the underpinning for the vigorous exercise of public opinion sustained by civic duty.⁵⁶

22. **Access to knowledge:** All individuals communities and organisations should benefit from affordable, unhindered access to information, knowledge and ideas. [The sharing and strengthening of global knowledge for development can be enhanced by ensuring equitable access to information for educational, scientific, economic, social, political, environmental and cultural activities that is open and free for those who cannot afford it/The sharing of knowledge and strengthening of equitable access to information are necessary for that purpose.⁵⁷

21 and 22 alternate text: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. The sharing and strengthening of global knowledge for development can be enhanced by removing barriers to equitable access to information for educational, scientific, economic, social, political and cultural activities and by easing access to public domain information and promoting the use of open standards and open source software.⁵⁸

22A. Affordable Access to knowledge by all people: Where market forces cannot deliver universal access to basic information and communication services at affordable rates, government, and/or regulatory intervention is necessary. Through the establishment of competitively neutral subsidy schemes, service can be delivered to high cost areas at below-cost prices, without distorting competition. Low-income

⁵³ Proposed by Brazil.

⁵⁴ EU: new paragraph merging former 21 and 22.

⁵⁵ See comments from USA.

⁵⁶ Proposed by El Salvador.

⁵⁷ See comments from Sri Lanka.

⁵⁸ Proposed by European Union.

consumers can be offered service at discount rates. As well, donors and/or governments should directly fund the establishment of public access sites in communities, for use by those who cannot afford access in their homes. Such intervention is likely to be needed even in the most competitive markets, given the inherent limitations of market forces.⁵⁹

23. **Access to public domain information:** [A vibrant and rich public domain is an essential element for the growth of the Information Society. Information in the public domain [must/should] be easily accessible./Information in the public domain must be easily accessible and transparent to promote the Information Society./ Information in the public domain must be easily accessible and affordable for everybody. Public institutions such as libraries and archives function as trustworthy information brokers to guarantee free access.⁶⁰

23A. Libraries: Libraries, information centres and librarians offer relevant and safe access to information and knowledge for economic and cultural advance. They encourage social inclusion by striving to serve all those in their user communities regardless of age, gender, economic or employment status, literacy or technical skills, cultural or ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability. Libraries in developing countries have an important role to play in the development and maintenance of a democratic society.⁶¹

23B. Archives: Archives and records play an essential role in the management and development of a global information society and the preservation of its history. Records and archives are the direct and authentic product of human activities and constitute evidence documenting the development of humankind and the environment. They are fundamental to the historical and cultural identities of individuals and peoples as well as to understanding diverse cultures, both between and within countries, and they are essential for effective governance and are a prerequisite for accountability. Archives are the most extensive existing sources of publicly available information and provide free and unlimited use of public domain information by citizens.⁶²

24. **Open international standards and open source:** International Open standards open on a non-discriminatory basis to the relevant bodies of all countries, at policy level and at any stage of standards development are and open source software [are basic elements in the development of a more affordable access to ICTs and full participation in the information society/basic elements in the development of more advantageous access to ICTs.]^{63, 64}

24A. Open source software : The open source model for implementation of technical standards and dissemination of software is a valuable model to enable and support more affordable access to ICTs. Increased use of open source software can

⁵⁹ Proposed by Samoa.

⁶⁰ EU: this paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

⁶¹ Proposed by Switzerland.

⁶² Proposed by Switzerland.

⁶³ EU: this paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

⁶⁴ See comments from USA.

contribute greatly to increasing access and to enhancing the diversity of choice of software for consumers.⁶⁵

24B. United Nations international organizations, with ITU in the forefront, are called upon to step up their work on open standards for ICTs and on the coordination of research and development activities in that regard.

25. **Barriers:** Barriers to equitable access result from a wide range of factors, including differences, *inter alia*, in education ~~and~~ literacy, levels, gender, age, ~~income and connectivity~~, lack of user training, ~~cultural and~~ linguistic constraints and economic income, as well as particular conditions of access to the relevant technology, including inaccessible technologies for disabled persons and including those resulting from the external debt burden of developing counties. ICTs can be used to overcome these and other barriers in society.^{66, 67}

26. **Information flows:** A better balance of the information flows should be sought in building the Information Society without impairing or impeding freedom of expression.^{68, 69}

26A. Threats: Increase the awareness of decision makers, users, and the general population, especially those in developing countries, of the threats of ICT, especially pornography, scams and money laundering. The impact of these threats may create an increase in cyber crime and a dysfunctional information society.⁷⁰

26B. Interoperability: Working towards open and flexible interoperability standards is an important issue for all countries. This is an essential element in promoting widespread online trade by reducing technology lock-in and by better integrating emerging and established technologies. The net effect is to reduce the cost and complexity of e-commerce to SMEs.⁷¹

27C. Volunteers: Volunteers can be seen as the human and dynamic "last-miles" of connectivity and access, often as part of civil society organizations. They extend the products and benefits of access to many more people who do not have the means for direct access - most of whom are "information poor". In this regard, these "last-mile" volunteers can be effective in the advancement towards the ultimate goal of "information and communication services for all".⁷²

⁶⁵ Proposed by Switzerland.

⁶⁶ EU: this paragraph should be deleted.

⁶⁷ See comments from Samoa.

⁶⁸ See comments from Australia, Canada.

⁶⁹ EU: this paragraph should be deleted.

⁷⁰ Proposed by Samoa.

⁷¹ Proposed by Australia.

⁷² Australia supports the inclusion of contribution 26A from Section II of the Civil Society observers' contribution to the Declaration of Principles.

3) **The role of governments, United Nations international organizations, the business sector and civil society in the promotion of ICTs for development**⁷³

27. All [stakeholders/partners] - public, private sector and civil society organizations as well as international organizations - have [an important role/stake] in the development of [the Information Society/information and communications] and should be fully involved and engaged in decision making at the local, national, regional and international levels on its development. Building a people centred Information Society is a joint effort of all stakeholders and requires cooperation and partnership between all parties. In so doing, a gender perspective should be taken into account. The Public Sector, including Governments, [should/shall] work in close coordination with private enterprise, academia and civil society to create a favourable environment for investment and for the development of new network services. Multi-stakeholder approaches and the creation of public-private partnerships should be fostered. United Nations international organizations, with ITU in the forefront, are called upon to step up their work on open standards for ICTs and on the coordination of research and development activities in that regard.⁷⁴

27A. Governments must have a central role in promoting social inclusion through ICTs for development. The private sector and NGOs could act as partners in this endeavour, through clearly defined social responsibilities and cost sharing in the development of infrastructure, relevant content and ICT mainstreaming.⁷⁵

27B. Strengthening relations with citizens is a sound investment in better policy-making and a core element of good governance. It allows government to tap new sources of policy relevant-ideas, information and resources when making decisions. Equally important, it contributes to building public trust in government, raising the quality of democracy and strengthening civic capacity".⁷⁶

28. **ICTs manufacturing capabilities:** As most developing countries are lagging behind in this respect, it is essential for governments, private sector and civil society organizations to encourage technology transfer and investment, including venture capital, in the creation of national and regional ICT production facilities, research and development (R&D), incubation schemes and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).⁷⁷

28A. **ICTs for poverty alleviation through wealth creation:** ICTs make it possible for businesses in all countries to compete on a more equal basis using e-business principles and mechanisms. The success of indigenous businesses in developing countries is an essential ingredient in combating poverty through local wealth creation. Governments and corporations should facilitate the success of local e-business in both domestic and international markets through good policy choices as well as direct involvement in e-business processes. In addition, e-business capabilities should be used to stimulate international trade, a creator of wealth.⁷⁸

⁷³ Tunisia.

⁷⁴ See comments from Ethiopia, Tanzania, US.

⁷⁵ Proposed by Brazil.

⁷⁶ Proposed by Switzerland.

⁷⁷ See comments from Argentina. Australia suggests that this paragraph be excluded from the declaration. European Union: This paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

⁷⁸ Proposed by Switzerland.

29. **Demand-driven applications** : Growth in the demand for applications (such as e-government, e-learning, e-health, e-business and e-agriculture) will create a favourable environment for the private sector to invest in the development of new goods and services.⁷⁹

29A. The Impact of ICT on the Environment : To promote the enhancement of eco-efficiency and transparency through public access to environmental information and encouragement of cleaner production and sustainable consumption patterns. Major positive and negative impact of ICT on the environment must be observed and expected. While ICT reduces energy consumptions, they are likely to be harmful to the environment if global policies are not developed to address the issue of ICT disposal.⁸⁰

4) **Capacity building**

30. [All people must/Everyone should] be offered the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills in order to understand, participate actively in, and benefit fully from [the possibilities of the/the economic benefits of the], the Information Society and the knowledge economy. In front of the wide range of ICT specialists required at all levels, building the institutional capacities to collect, organize, store and share information and knowledge and appropriate training trainers, including instructors of ICT deserves special attention. In doing that, such education principles as information literacy and life-long learning should be considered. The Governments should develop comprehensive and forward looking strategies to respond to the new human capacity needs and to utilize the immense opportunities that ICTs offer in human resource development. Special attention must be paid to building institutional capacities to collect, organize, store and share information and knowledge.⁸¹

30A. The shared aspirations of developing countries to become full-fledged members of the information society on an efficient and sustainable basis, within the framework of the global knowledge-based economy, must be taken into account.⁸²

30B. The needs and interests of women and girls should be taken into account and support provided through training programmes and mentoring systems.⁸³

31. **ICTs for education**: The use of ICTs for education and human resource development, including ICT literacy, should be promoted, with special reference to the requirements of [people with disabilities/disadvantaged groups], and to the specific needs of girls and women.⁸⁴

32. **Enabling people to benefit from ICTs**: Individuals should be engaged in defining their own needs and in developing programmes to meet those needs. Technological change requires life-long learning and continuous training by all. Public policy should take into account inequalities in access to quality education and training, particularly in the case of vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities, women and underserved or remote areas.⁸⁵

⁷⁹ European Union: This paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

⁸⁰ Proposed by Samoa.

⁸¹ See comments from Ethiopia and USA.

⁸² Proposed by Brazil.

⁸³ Proposed by Canada.

⁸⁴ European Union: this paragraph should be moved to the action plan.

⁸⁵ See comments from European Union and Tunisia.

32A. Human resources development. Developing countries cannot enter the Global Information Society without strengthening their human, institutional and organizational capacities and without increasing awareness for production of local ICT contents and use of local languages for ICT through:

- capacity-building and training programmes,
- knowledge and expertise transfer⁸⁶

33. **Training ICT specialists:** The increasing demand for a wide range of ICTs specialists at all levels must be addressed with targeted support for the participation of women as engineers, technicians and ICT specialists.⁸⁷

33A. Globalization and developing countries: The positive integration of developing countries into the knowledge-economy depends largely on capacity building in the areas of education, technology, know-how and information. These are quickly becoming major factors in determining development, competitiveness, and the flow of trade, services and investments. Developing countries must be given greater access to these resources, including financial support from multilateral agencies.⁸⁸

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

34. [An adequately developed/A robust and secure] infrastructure and a set of ethical guidelines is a precondition for secure and reliable access to information by all stakeholders, and for the upgrading of relevant services. Information security and protection of privacy are essential in building trust in ICTs and thereby promoting their use.⁸⁹

Alternate paragraph 34: The benefits of the Information Society can only be fully harnessed if there is confidence that the new information and communication technology is reliable and secure. An adequately developed infrastructure is a precondition for secure and reliable access to and communication of information by all stakeholders, and for the upgrading of relevant services. Ultimately, a global culture of cybersecurity needs to be developed in cooperation with all the stakeholders and these efforts should be supported by increased international cooperation. Therefore governments should work in close coordination with private enterprise, civil society and with international expert bodies in the field of network and information security. Within this global culture of cybersecurity it is important to strike a balance between, on the one hand, measures to enhance security and, on the other hand, the need to ensure the protection of data and privacy, as well as to avoid the creation of new barriers to trade.⁹⁰

34A. Government should develop strategies and incentives to keep their own IC human resources from moving to developed countries in search of better pay and better working environment. At the same time, government should emphasize that ICT experts taking part in ICT4D projects, especially in developing countries, should

⁸⁶ Proposed by Israel.

⁸⁷ European Union: this paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.
Comment from Mexico: this paragraph should be merged with paragraph 30.

⁸⁸ Proposed by Brazil.

⁸⁹ See Ethiopia and US. Mexico for Spanish translation.

⁹⁰ EU.

make sure that disseminating skills and knowledge is a key requirement of all terms of references.⁹¹

35. **Secure and reliable infrastructure** : [To realize the full benefits of ICTs, networks and information systems must be sufficiently robust to prevent, detect and to respond appropriately to security incidents/Confidence, trust and robust technical reliability are essential to the full functioning of the Information Society, and should underpin measures taken to protect users of media, communication and information networks against any misuse (ethical, terrorist and criminal) and the violation of privacy and confidentiality.] In addition to government action and law enforcement, a global culture of cyber-security needs to be developed [on a multilateral, democratic and transparent basis, with due respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to privacy and freedom of expression/while enacting suitable statutes at national and international level, wherever necessary, on priority] or effective security of information systems (UNGA Resolution 57/295, of 20 December 2002). Efforts to achieve secure networks and information systems must ensure that human rights and civil liberties, such as privacy and legal protection are appropriately and adequately guaranteed.⁹²

Alternate paragraph 35: Confidence in the full benefits of ICTs, networks and information systems must be sufficiently robust to provide for, detect and respond appropriately to security incidents. Effective security of information systems is not merely a matter for governments. It requires law enforcement and technology. Hence, a global culture of cyber-security needs to be developed (UNGA Resolution 57/295, of 20 December 2002). Building this culture requires the accountability of all participants.⁹³

35A. The responsibility for securing the cyberspace shall be shared by all countries, according to their level of social and economic development, and taking into account that developing countries have limited financial resources to invest in ICT social applications, such as telemedicine, e-education and job training.⁹⁴

35B. Trust: Strengthening the trust framework (security, authentication, privacy, consumer protection) is a prerequisite for the maturation of the Information Society and for inspiring confidence among all users of the Internet. It requires the involvement of all participants.⁹⁵

35C. Ensuring international information security in an increasingly ICT-oriented world

As is noted in a number of United Nations General Assembly resolutions (resolutions 53/70, of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001 and 57/53 of 22 November 2002), information technologies and facilities can potentially be used for purposes that are incompatible with the efforts being made to ensure international stability and security that could have a negative impact on the integrity of State infrastructures by infringing their security in both the civil and military spheres.

⁹¹ Proposed by Samoa.

⁹² See comments from Japan. European Union: This paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

⁹³ Proposed by Mexico.

⁹⁴ Proposed by Brazil.

⁹⁵ Proposed by Switzerland.

It is therefore necessary to become aware of and to examine on a multilateral basis, taking into account the measures already undertaken by the United Nations in that regard, existing and potential threats in the area of information security and possible measures to be taken in order to limit such threats. It is also necessary to prevent the use of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist ends.^{95bis}

35D. Ensuring national sovereignty in regard to the use of ICTs

Issues pertaining to the use of ICTs which have a bearing on national sovereignty and which are not governed by existing international law should be resolved by means of negotiation between the representatives of all interested States.^{95bis}

36. **Role of stakeholders :** Governments [must/ should] promote awareness in their societies of cyber security risks and strengthen cooperation with the private sector and civil society to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for unethical, criminal or terrorist purposes, so as to build confidence and trust by protecting their privacy and confidentiality in the use of ICTs and the Information Society. The community, the family, and the individual levels, also have a special role to play in this regard.⁹⁶

Alternate paragraph 36: In order to build confidence and trust in the use of ICTs and the Information Society, governments in cooperation with the private sector and civil society must promote awareness in their societies of trust enhancing measures and cyber security risks. Governments must seek to strengthen cooperation with the private sector and civil society to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes.⁹⁷

37. **International cooperation:** International, regional and national efforts to improve ICT confidence and security, in both [civil and military fields/ private and public sector activities], [must/should] be coordinated, taking into consideration the importance of secure infrastructure and data flow, in concordance with international standards and guidelines.⁹⁸

37A. Information security is a relevant and sensitive issue to be considered under the appropriate context, taking into account existing as well as evolving national policies, laws and regulations. Concerns with broader international security issues should not override the development-oriented focus of the information society.⁹⁹

37B. Recognizing that confidence, trust and security are essential to the full functioning of the information Society, guarantees should be provided to users of media, communication and information networks against Cybercrime, racial and any other form of discrimination, as well as child pornography, bearing in mind the need to protect privacy and confidentiality.¹⁰⁰

^{95bis} Proposed by the Russian Federation

⁹⁶ European Union: This paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan. See Mexico for Spanish translation.

⁹⁷ Proposed by Australia.

⁹⁸ European Union: This paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan. See Mexico for Spanish translation.

⁹⁹ Proposed by Brazil.

¹⁰⁰ Proposed by Cuba.

6) Enabling environment¹⁰¹

38. The existence of a [supportive/supportive] and predictable policy, legal and regulatory framework, developed through participation and input from all organizational and individual levels of society and that transcends geographic and political borders, is an important prerequisite for enhancing trust in the development of the Information Society.¹⁰²

Alternate text from paragraph 40 modified: To maximize the economic and social benefits of the Information Society, governments need to create a trustworthy, predictable, transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment, capable of promoting technological innovation and competition, thus favouring investment in the deployment of infrastructures, transfer of technology, research and development and development of new services. The existence of a supportive, transparent, pro-competitive and predictable policy, legal and regulatory framework is an important prerequisite for enhancing trust in the development of the Information Society. The independence of a regulator is also an important requirement.¹⁰³

38A. Rule of law. The rule of law is essential for the information society to become a sphere of confidence, trust and security, where the rights of individuals - and especially children - are protected, users are empowered to avoid harmful content, and governance, administration and justice become more open and efficient. The rule of law will be a reality when state regulation, co-regulation and self-regulation work together to build a clear regulatory framework in the full respect of human rights.¹⁰⁴

39. **Good governance:** [The Information Society [must/should] support and enhance participative democracy, transparency, and accountability, at all times upholding the principle of legality/~~The Information Society must support participative democracy, transparency, and accountability, at all times upholding the principle of legality.~~]. Information is the basis of a well-functioning and transparent decision-making process [for global society and local communities/at all levels of government] and support participatory democracy transparency and accountability. ICTs [can be/should be used as] an important and very effective tool [for both good governance and more accessible government services/for good governance, including for making governments and parliaments more accessible and accountable/for making government services more accessible].¹⁰⁵

Alternate paragraph 39: **Good governance:** The Information Society must support participative democracy, long-term transparency, efficiency and accountability, at all times upholding the principle of legality. Properly organized and accessible information and records are the basis of a well-functioning and transparent decision-making process for private and public actors at all levels. ICTs can be an important and very effective tool for good governance and more accessible government. Inclusion of the citizen is the aim. That

¹⁰¹ See comments from EU and Tunisia.

¹⁰² See comments from Argentina, Ethiopia and USA.

¹⁰³ EU: replace 38 by 40 as modified.

¹⁰⁴ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹⁰⁵ See comments from Japan.

means: In spite of the distance to the offices of the authorities the citizen can interact with its authorities.¹⁰⁶

39A. Information and records management: Information and records management is a necessary condition for good governance. To guarantee long-term transparency and access to public information and records, governments must ensure proper organization, appropriate classification and financially assured archiving of their own documents.¹⁰⁷

39B. Public statistics and monitoring the Information Society: Statistical indicators and analysis on social and economic developments constitute the basic conditions for a fair, democratic debate and the evidence-based shaping of collective affairs. Public statistics also constitute an indispensable basis for continual monitoring of the Information Society. They provide core information for measuring progress towards the implementation of national ICT strategies as well as for assessing the economic competitiveness of a country and the problems of digital divide.¹⁰⁸

40. **Market environment:** [To maximize the economic and social benefits of the Information Society/to ensure maximum utilization of the full economic and social potential of the Information Society], governments need to create and foster a trustworthy, transparent, and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment, capable of promoting technological innovation and competition and at the same time protecting intellectual property, supporting consumer confidence and protection of privacy, thus favouring investment in the deployment of infrastructures and development of new services that will supply chains more efficient, especially in relation to marginal areas.¹⁰⁹

40A. E-commerce and SMEs: electronic commerce offers large opportunities to micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Governments, in close coordination with the private sector and civil society, must create an adequate environment and provide financial support to the development of SMEs through electronic commerce. SMEs have a huge, and still unexplored, potential of job creation, especially in developing countries.¹¹⁰

40B. To promote economic and social benefits, special attention should be paid to all commercial activities conducted through the electronic media. Consumers and suppliers will share joint responsibilities in building a trustworthy commercial environment.¹¹¹

41. **[Policy-making and national strategies/National strategies for decision-making]:** Strengthening the policy-making capacity in the area of ICTs to enhance national and regional ICT policy-making processes and institutions, including parliaments is of utmost importance. ICTs will advance development if related efforts and programmes are integrated in national development strategies in consultation with stakeholder groups.

¹⁰⁶ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹⁰⁷ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹⁰⁸ Proposed by Switzerland

¹⁰⁹ EU: Paragraph moved as paragraph 38 as modified.

¹¹⁰ Proposed by Brazil.

¹¹¹ Proposed by Mexico.

Alternate paragraph 4I: The Information Society can best advance economic and social development when ICT related efforts and programmes are fully integrated in national and regional development strategies.¹¹²

41A. Poverty reduction: In order to give poor people the possibility of benefiting from the advantages of the Information Society, governments need to ensure that they create general and ICT-specific environments that respond to the needs of people in poverty and empower them in overcoming it.¹¹³

41B. Social cohesion: Governments need to look for ways of overcoming the obstacles that prevent people from effectively claiming their rights and for improving the quality of life of vulnerable people such as the elderly, the chronically ill, people with disabilities and all who are at risk of social marginalization. Governments need to recognize that new technologies can also create new obstacles and new forms of exclusion, especially for the deaf, the hearing impaired and the blind. Within a broad effort to make public services more accessible, transparent and effective, governments need to seek ways of interlinking social and other public services and of improving user participation in their reshaping.¹¹⁴

41C. Economic growth: ICTs are an important enabler of growth through efficiency gains and increased productivity. The development of the Information Society is therefore important for broadly-based economic growth in both developed and developing countries. Global policy frameworks should foster ICT-driven productivity gains and applied innovations across economic sectors. Distribution of the benefits is the foundation for poverty reduction and social development. Policies that foster productive investment and enable firms to make the changes needed to seize the benefits from ICTs are likely to be the most beneficial.¹¹⁵

41D. International trade: Liberalization of trade in ICT and related services, together with domestic regulatory reform, promotes investment and innovation and makes technology more readily available for use in the economy by governments, organizations, and individual users. All countries should join the international trade policy mechanisms developed to implement and facilitate liberalization and regulatory reform as ICT is both an important component of trade and a means by which trade in other goods and services can be expanded or facilitated. Improving the preconditions for successful entry into international trade fosters e-business and economic growth both internationally and domestically. Consequently, governments should promote an open trade regime in the ICT sector and strive towards improving market access. ICTs play a key role in trade facilitation, with automation, e-customs and e-government tools reducing the costs and time associated with moving goods across borders, and enhancing the efficiency and integrity of customs operations.¹¹⁶

¹¹² Proposed by European Union.

¹¹³ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹¹⁴ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹¹⁵ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹¹⁶ Proposed by Switzerland.

42. **Standardization:** Standardization is one of the essential building blocks of the Information Society. International policy dialogue at global, regional and subregional levels should promote the identification and application of interoperable standards, in accordance with the technological reality of each country, the transfer of know-how and the provision of technical assistance. The development and use of open standards are particularly important for developing countries. In this regard the increased use of open-source software can contribute greatly raising the educational level of concerned population groups, increasing access levels and expanding ~~to adding to~~ the diversity of choice of software for consumers.¹¹⁷

42A. The State should promote this approach together with technological neutrality: it should refrain from imposing any particular technological platform, but monitor the conditions of connectivity, compatibility and interoperability.
Given the magnitude of the costs and risks of innovation, companies should cooperate to share the costs of creating and marketing innovative products and services and to reduce uncertainty.^{118.}

43. **Spectrum management:** The radio frequency spectrum [must/should] be managed in the public and general interest and in accordance with the principle of legality, with full observance of national laws and regulation as well as relevant international agreements.¹¹⁹

44. **Management of Internet domain names and addresses:** Internet governance must be multilateral, intergovernmental, democratic and transparent, supporting private sector-led industry self-regulation, taking into account the needs of the public and private sectors as well as those of the civil society, and respecting multilingualism. The coordination responsibility at the global level for root servers, domain names, and Internet Protocol (IP) address assignment should rest with [a suitable international, [inter-governmental/~~inter-governmental~~] organization/a suitable international organization which represents and is accountable to all stakeholders, and which has clear mechanisms for governmental input on issues of public policy]. While the policy authority for country code top-level-domain names (ccTLDs) should be the sovereign right of countries. There should be appropriate coordination in an international forum on common ccTLD issues so as to ensure the stability of the domain name system. Internet naming and addressing is public issues.¹²⁰

Alternate text 1 for paragraph 44: Internet governance should be multilateral, [democratic] and transparent, taking into account the needs of the public and private sectors as well as those of the civil society, and respecting multilingualism.¹²¹

Alternate text 2 for paragraph 44: The international management of the Internet should be democratic, multilateral and transparent. It should secure a fair distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet. It should respect geographical diversity and ensure representativeness through the participation of all interested States, including public authorities with competence in this field, of civil society and the private sector, with due respect to their legitimate interests.¹²²

¹¹⁷ EU: this paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan.

¹¹⁸ Proposed by Argentina.

¹¹⁹ EU: this paragraph should be moved to the Action Plan. See comments from Japan.

¹²⁰ See comments from Australia.

¹²¹ Proposed by Canada.

¹²² Proposed by EU, to be moved to the Action Plan as modified.

- 44A.** Consumer protection: A vital aspect of securing consumer confidence in electronic commerce is to ensure that consumer transactions occur within a sound legal framework. To this end, consumers using electronic commerce should be provided with protection that is at least equivalent to that provided to consumers using other forms of commerce.¹²³
- 44B.** Spam is a significant and growing problem - not just for individuals but for networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam refers to an electronic mail message that is transmitted to a large number of recipients and most or all of the recipients have not requested those messages.
- Spam raises key issues that need to be addressed and these include privacy, illicit content, misleading and deceptive trade practices and network issues.
- Privacy: issues surrounding the manner with which personal information such as e-mail addresses is collected and handled - address collectors harvest e-mail addresses off the Internet or even buy and sell them in bulk without the consent of the owner.
 - Illicit content: most promotes scams, pornography, illegal online gambling services, medical cures, get rich quick schemes or misleading and deceptive trade practices.
 - Network issues: The cost of spam is borne by the recipient in the form of higher cost Internet subscriptions due to larger downloads. The increased volume of e-mail can significantly slow Internet speeds and could threaten the viability of the entire network. In addition, there is some evidence that spam is being used deliberately in Denial of Service (DoS) attacks.¹²⁴
- 44C.** The international telecommunication union, as a specialized agency of the united nation system, shall play a leading role in the emergent information society and in the regulation of the global information and communications infrastructure.¹²⁵
- 44D.** Internet has evolved into a global public good and its governance should constitute a core issue of the information society agenda. Developing countries should have full access to and take part in all decision-making bodies and processes concerning the structure and functioning of the cyberspace, within which public, private and non-governmental agents will increasingly conduct their social and economic activities.¹²⁶

45. Access to information and communication technologies shall be secured in accordance with international law, bearing in mind that some countries are affected by unilateral measures which are not compatible with it and which create obstacles for international trade*.¹²⁷

¹²³ Proposed by Australia.

¹²⁴ Proposed by Australia.

¹²⁵ Proposed by Brazil.

¹²⁶ Proposed by Brazil.

* Reservations have been made to this paragraph: Statement of the United States: "The United States of America reserves on this paragraph and submits its objection to the language, which is inappropriate and is inconsistent with the purpose of the Conference."

7) ICT-Applications

46. The usage and deployment of ICTs create benefits in all aspects of our daily life including work, government, health care, education, environment, crop and animal production, and business. ICTs must serve sustainable development, improve resource efficiency and reduce negative environmental impacts. Governments should enact suitable laws to facilitate e-commerce within the respective country and across the borders.¹²⁸

Alternate paragraph 46: The usage and deployment of ICTs should seek to create benefits in all aspects of our daily life including government, health care, education and business, employment, management of natural resources, business and culture. ICTs should also contribute to sustainable consumption and production patterns, through improved efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes.¹²⁹

46A. Applications and content should be user-friendly, accessible to all, affordable, suited to local needs and culture and support socio-economic development of the local community.¹³⁰

47. [**Appropriate applications** : Cooperation and collaboration are enhanced through the development of applications and content suited to local needs will encourage social and economic development, particularly in serving rural and remote areas, and supporting projects ensuring the sharing of information.¹³¹

47A. ICT mainstreaming into public policies and digital inclusion programmes may be a window of opportunity in the promotion of development leapfrogging for countries of the south. Such are the magnitude of international expectations. Progress, however, must be benchmarked and measured against concrete economic and social goals in such areas as education, health, employment, job training, poverty reduction, citizenship, government transparency and efficiency and the creation of stronger and fairer democratic societies. ICT density indicators are not as efficient or as meaningful in measuring a country's progress towards the information society.¹³²

47B. E-Government: Government use of ICT can act as a catalyst for improving government services. ICTs can serve to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government processes, the delivery of services, and the connection to citizens. Therefore government should have a clearly defined strategy for developing and implementing e-government.¹³³

Statement of Canada: "Canada appreciates the efforts of the Host Government and other Governments to achieve a consensus text for this paragraph. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, Canada cannot associate itself with the final text of that paragraph."

¹²⁷ Canada: delete paragraph.

¹²⁸ See comments from Ethiopia, Mexico, US.

¹²⁹ Proposed by European Union.

¹³⁰ New paragraph proposed by the EU.

¹³¹ European Union suggests to delete this paragraph. See comments from Mexico.

¹³² Proposed by Brazil.

¹³³ Proposed by Switzerland.

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

48. The Information Society is founded on respect for, and [enjoyment of/ possibilities to enjoy], cultural expression. The possibility of having one's voice heard and hearing the voices of others guarantees peaceful coexistence and at the same time constitutes an inexhaustible resource for social development. ICTs [should/must] be used to stimulate cultural diversity and multilingualism and governments [should develop active policies/must design or reinforce policies] to that end. The Information Society would be able to serve the public interest best and reach different sections of population in a country if the local content is also developed in as many local languages of that country as possible to avoid heavy reliance on information in other languages.¹³⁴

49. **Cultural and linguistic diversity:** Cultural [identity/and] linguistic diversity, multilingualism and local languages are driving forces for the process of developing content for local and international use (UNESCO, Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001). Therefore, and taking into consideration the following Article 50, we believe that the creation of local content must be accorded high priority, as a basic condition to prevent future conflict." In terms of this cultural diversity, there is not just one but several information societies; at the local, national, regional and global level. These different information societies exist in parallel, overlap and communicate with each other."¹³⁵

Alternate paragraph 39: Cultural ~~identity, and~~ linguistic diversity, ~~multilingualism and local languages are driving forces~~ should be reflected in the ~~for the process of developing content developed for both~~ local and international use.¹³⁶

49A. Content: Creativity and the creation, processing, dissemination and conservation of local content within the information society must be accorded high priority. A diverse and widely disseminated range of cultural, educational and other products and information services can stimulate creativity and deepen access to the benefits of the information society.¹³⁷

49B. Cultural heritage: Cultural heritage is the bridge between our past and our future. The preservation of cultural heritage is a crucial component of identity and self-understanding that links a community to its past. The information society should harness and integrate cultural heritage for the future by digitalization of the cultural inventories in archives and libraries. The shared heritage includes the public domain of cultural information, especially of writings, speech, images and music.¹³⁸

50. **Content:** [The creation of local content must be [accorded/considered] high priority/~~The creation of local content must be accorded high priority.~~ Creativity as well as the creation, processing, dissemination and conservation of local content [can best be/should be strongly] stimulated [through an adequate balance between intellectual property rights and the needs of the users of information/in conformity with legal requirements applicable in each country].¹³⁹

¹³⁴ See also comments from Ethiopia and USA.

¹³⁵ See also comment from Tunisia.

¹³⁶ Proposed by Canada.

¹³⁷ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹³⁸ Proposed by Switzerland.

¹³⁹ See also comment from Tunisia.

51. **Media:** ~~ICTs strengthen the role of~~ Traditional media such as broadcasting and print, which will continue to have an important role in providing content and disseminating content in information to the Information Society. National and Global media must play its activities ensuring transparency and accountability, bearing in mind the political, social and cultural impact of its work. Media have an essential part to play in the education of children and young people in a spirit of peace, justice, freedom, solidarity and economic and social development. Democratic, responsible, accountable and participatory media play a central role in building democracy both at national and international levels. Undue concentration of private ownership and control of media undermine the required diversity in the sources of information./Governments should safeguard against the concentration of control over media by only a few entities in this process./Furthermore, to correct the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries, it is essential that their media should have conditions and resources enabling them to gain strength and expand./Digital broadcasting, with its interactive enhancements, will be an essential tool for making the services of the information society widely available, thus contributing to bridging the digital divide. Transition to digital therefore needs to be actively promoted.

Alternate paragraph 51: ICTs strengthen the role of traditional media such as broadcasting and print, which have a fundamental role in the Information Society.

- The freedom of expression and information, as enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is a keystone of our commitments.
- New electronic media and traditional media, including community media, should be developed, protected and respected on an equal footing.
- Public service broadcasting, in view of its cultural, social and democratic functions which it discharges for the common good, has a vital significance for ensuring democracy, pluralism, social cohesion, cultural and linguistic diversity.
- The plurality of opinion should not be hindered by media concentration. Specific legislation should limit the concentration of ownership in the media and guarantee the diversity among the media (private, public and community) and the types of media.
- The self regulation of the journalists plays an important role in order to insure their independence.
- Workers in the information society enjoy conditions of work that are in line with international labour standards, including recognition of rights to freedom of association, equality of opportunity and decent standards of work.
- Authors have a right to protection of the moral and material interests of their works, according to article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Media should commit themselves to act in solidarity to improve the professional training and skills of their profession, the independence of the journalists and the pluralism.¹⁴⁰

9) Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

52. [Cyberspace/The Information Society] [must/should] be subject to universally held cultural and ethical values such as truth, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human dignity, [shared responsibility/shared obligation and responsibility], transparency and accountability. All actors in the Information Society [must/should] seek to promote the common good, protect privacy, and to

¹⁴⁰ Proposed by Switzerland.

prevent abusive uses of ICTs. The freedom of the use of ICTs should not undermine the human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. These values are particularly relevant when commercial activities are conducted through networks.¹⁴¹

- 52A.** Protecting countries from bad affects of misuse of ICT: Policies regarding use of ICT must respect the laws, interest and readiness of other members and no entity should be allowed to reach into any contract with an illegal entity or with a legal entity on a matter for which it is not allowed.¹⁴²
- 52B.** Based on Article 34 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, and referring to the Declaration of the UNESCO expert's meeting on the sexual abuse of children held in Paris, 18-19 January 1999:
- As Internet use grows, so do the risks of children being exposed to inappropriate material, in particular, criminal activity by paedophiles and child pornographers. While the benefits of the Internet far outweigh its potential drawbacks, these dangers cannot be ignored. If left unanswered they pose a threat to children and will become the object of resistance to future Internet use.
 - The fight against paedophilia and pornography on the Internet requires a coalition of forces, involving children, industry, policy makers, educator and parents to ensure that users are aware of potential dangers and have available to them the necessary means to combat these threats.¹⁴³
- 52C.** An inclusive and sustainable Information Society can only develop when knowledge is clearly considered a common good and when the principle of access to and the free flow of information can come to reality.¹⁴⁴
- 52D.** Given the heterogeneity of the interests of the different parties involved in the development of the Information Society and given the cultural background and underlying values, it is almost unavoidable that conflicts, even clashes will permanently occur. Information societies will have to live with it. These conflicts should not be solved on the basis of political power or economic dominance but solutions to these conflicts need to rely and should be based on an ethical-based discourse. Any ethical discourse must respect heterogeneous interests and cultures and must build reliable partnership between governments, private sector and civil society.¹⁴⁵
- 52E.** The highest ethical standards must apply to the utilization of health and medical information, which can be used either to preserve life or to take it away.¹⁴⁶
- 52F.** Ethical dimensions of ICTs include the need to guarantee the respect of personal privacy and of human dignity, particularly in the context of growing invasive information technologies, surveillance systems and "information awareness".¹⁴⁷

¹⁴¹ See comments from Canada, Israel, USA and Tunisia.

¹⁴² Proposed by Bangladesh.

¹⁴³ Proposed by Iran (Islamic Rep. of).

¹⁴⁴ Proposed by Mexico.

¹⁴⁵ Proposed by Mexico.

¹⁴⁶ Proposed by Mexico.

10) International and regional cooperation

53. Due to the intrinsically global nature of the Information Society, international cooperation and policy dialogue [must take place/should be promoted] at global, regional and subregional levels, in accordance with domestic legal provisions, in order to facilitate or provide:

- Technical and financial assistance, without any discrimination;
- National and regional capacity-building for the maintenance and reinforcement of regional and international cooperation;
- Technology transfer;
- The sharing of experiences;
- The sharing of knowledge; and
- The development of compatible regulations and standards that respect national characteristics and concerns, including spectrum management.¹⁴⁸

53A. The private sector and many NGOs seem to be more familiar with the issue of ICTs and have a better grasp of the extent to which this new world of networking and technological convergence will impact on political and economic international relations. Developing countries' governments are the ones most in need of enhancing their knowledge and understanding about advances in the digital revolution and their implications for public policies, risks and opportunities for development, and possible new solutions to such challenges as social inclusion and poverty reduction.¹⁴⁹

53B. Innovative cooperation mechanisms, better suited to the north-south and south-south transfer of applied ICTs are urgently needed. Traditional schemes of cooperation are not always adequate for financing digital opportunity projects and programmes. Traditional cooperation, in some instances, may actually lead to reverse forms of technology transfers, by way of a south-north brain drain and the commercial development and application in the north of basic science produced at high costs in developing countries.¹⁵⁰

53C. We commit ourselves to strengthen 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.¹⁵¹

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¹⁴⁷ Proposed by Mexico.

¹⁴⁸ See comments from USA.

¹⁴⁹ Proposed by Brazil.

¹⁵⁰ Proposed by Brazil.

¹⁵¹ Proposed by EU.

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Section II¹⁵²

Observers' contributions to the Declaration of Principles¹⁵³

A. *Preamble*

[2] The media are central to any conception of an Information Society. For the political and cultural potential of the Information Society to be realized, citizens require access to full information for democratic participation at all levels, including unbiased information and a plurality of opinions, as well as access to a wide range of content, including material reflecting national and regional cultures and content relevant to local communities

[4] By harnessing and developing the potential of information and communication technologies, including the traditional mass media of radio and television, we can now provide new and better responses to vital and longstanding issues in all areas of human life, including poverty reduction and wealth creation, as well as equity and social justice.

B. *Common Vision of the Information Society*

[7] The global Information Society represents the social and human construction which is progressively built by all the vital forces of the world since they have started few decades ago. Looking at the fantastic, quick and continuous progresses made by the ICT industry and understanding the enormous possibilities that these progresses would allow in terms of networking infrastructures and services, it is necessary to consider and deal with ICTs not only as a particular economic activity among others but mainly as an economic and technological platform to be used for all human activities, involving stakeholders as well as individuals.

[8] By nature, the global Information Society is the society where all peoples of the world shall appear as representing together a unique community and where each individual shall be able, looking beyond their particular identity, to feel that they are part of this unique community. Building the global Information Society represents the first opportunity given to the international community to imagine and prepare as a whole its own future, which should help at least to narrow those imperfections, contradictions, and divides.

[9] ICTs should therefore be regarded as a tool and not as an end in themselves. They are useful only to the extent that they enrich and empower individuals through the information and capabilities they offer.

[10] The essential requirements for an equitable development of the Information Society include:

- A secure infrastructure.
- A sound and equitable education and health care system.
- A recognition of the benefits of ICT applications, such as e-learning, e-health and e-government.

¹⁵² Section not refined by the intersessional mechanism.

¹⁵³ Paragraph numbers correspond to those of the first section of this document. Where new issues are raised by observers' comments these are added with a number associated to a letter (e.g. 12A, B, etc.).

- Adoption of national legal frameworks and regulatory policies that should be pro-competitive with the aim to attract investments in all the various segments that comprise the Information Society and identification and elimination of all obstacles that delay or halt economic growth.
- Adoption of good-governance procedures at all levels which supposes transparency, accountability, sustainability, predictability and generalization of administrative reforms aiming to bring governments being e-Model Users.
- Adoption of national ICT strategies involving at all levels the development partners, in particular business entities.
- Recognition of the multi-stakeholders partnerships framework as being the key-framework for the launching of ICT-development programmes and recognition of the leading role of the business sector, in particular local SMEs with respect to the management of these programmes.

[10] There is a need to build the global Information Society under a Human Rights perspective, meaning a global Information Society that would develop while respecting, preserving and enforcing fundamental human rights. This would be possible only when all the stakeholders (governments, business entities, international organizations and entities of civil society), as well as the individuals, shall be committed to promoting the development and use of ICTs and services:

- In a manner that secures the fair, balanced and harmonious development of all the peoples of the world with particular attention to the needs and expectations of the developing countries and in each country, to those of the most disadvantaged communities such as: women, youth, inhabitants of remote, rural or desert areas, disabled, indigenous peoples.
- While respecting, preserving and enforcing by all possible legal, technical and regulatory means the religious, cultural and linguistic identities and patrimonies of the various peoples of the world, accepting their diversity with a spirit of tolerance.
- While adopting at the national level, laws, rules and regulation that enforce the individual freedom and that punish all kinds of action, activity or behaviour that would represent an attempt to this individual freedom.
- While adopting a framework for international cooperation based on a spirit of real and sincere solidarity aiming to enable developing countries to benefit from adequate means to achieve an harmonious social integration and economic development noting that such a result is the most important factor that could ensure to all peoples of the world security, peace and stability.
- Safe and healthy, secure and fair working conditions.
- Human dignity, human rights and world peace.
- Global solidarity to redress social and geographic inequities.
- Transparent and accountable government structures at local, national and international levels.
- Respect for and enforcement of universal human rights standards.
- Preserve and actively foster cultural development, linguistic diversity, cultural identity and local content.
- The supply of a diversity of creative works and content is an essential engine for social, cultural, political and economic development. Creators, publishers and producers of content thus play a crucial role in promoting knowledge, creativity and science. As such, they are fully involved in the Information Society, which offers enhanced means of communication, dissemination and transmission of knowledge.

- The right to participate in the communication and information process in conformity with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and without any obstacle to freedom of expression, and press freedom, as well as the right to access, create and disseminate information, without any kind of censorship, should be considered basic human right.

[11] Health should not be seen as a narrowly-defined ICT application, but as a part of a comprehensive health system. In the same way that education is understood as fundamental to development, health also plays a crucial role in development. Further, health-related investment can spur economic development, as highlighted in the 2001 report released by the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, which specifically mentions ICTs.

[11A] One of the priorities of the Information Society must be to drastically diminish information poverty, drawing from all available resources (including from volunteer resources). Volunteers, by actively helping people to combat this dimension of poverty, are already playing an important role in the creation and evolution of a fair and equitable Information Society. As the Information Society spreads, their participation as information agents and enablers will extend proportionately. Volunteers are instrumental in creating and energizing community and citizen networks.

C. *Key Principles*

[12] **ICT as a tool for Development:** Being a horizontal platform for economic development and a tool for social integration, information and communication infrastructures and services must be, without delay, extensively deployed and used in all developing countries in order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in particular to help in promoting a sustainable development and in eradicating poverty.

[12A] Knowledge is the heritage of all humanity.

[12B] In a democratic society, information and communications are the foundation for transparency, debate and decision-making and for informed choice of an active citizenry.

[12C] **The traditional media of radio and television will long remain the major providers of information to the large majority of the world's population, particularly in the developing world. As such, they must be developed and exploited to the full as basic foundations of the information society and as providers of content to newer media made possible by ICTs.**

[13] The Information Society shall be oriented towards eliminating existing socio-economic differences in our societies, promoting job creation, averting the emergence of new forms of exclusion and becoming a positive force for all of the world's people by helping to reduce the disparity between developed and developing countries, as well as within countries.

[14] The Information Society is one where every citizen has the opportunity not only to access information but also to produce it and exercise their creativity.

[14] The knowledge and experience of citizens should be harnessed as the driving force behind the Information Society.

[15] Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace (art. 13, Beijing Declaration).

[15] **Gender Perspective:** Building the Global Information Society shall not be possible if all stakeholders (governments, business entities, NGOs and Civil Society, international organizations) fail in incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of actions they have the responsibility to undertake and manage.

[17] Universal access to information and communication technologies, **including radio and television**, shall be an objective of all the stakeholders involved in building the information society, in accordance with the legal framework in force in each country.

1) Information and communication infrastructure

2) Access to information and knowledge

[20] The availability of power sources is a prerequisite in bridging the digital divide. It is therefore essential to elaborate an active policy in terms of renewable energy resources; this policy defined by public authorities is to be secured by all partners involved in ICT deployment, to warrant an adequate quality and a permanent availability for all users, particularly those in rural and isolated areas.

[21A] **Right to Information and Right to Communicate:** The right to information and knowledge as well as the right to communicate are recognized as being fundamental human rights and should be so added to the list of Fundamental Human Rights (UN Charter-Human Rights Charter). There is no global Information Society unless everyone, everywhere is granted the opportunity and the capacity to access an information or a communication network. This is what is meant by universal access.

[22A] Access to information is a fundamental human right. The media - both new and traditional - have a major role to play in bringing about an Information Society in which all citizens are included and can participate.

- For this purpose, the media need to be accessible and affordable for all citizens. Free-to-air broadcasting, and especially broadcasting with universal coverage, is an important means of achieving this objective; universal coverage needs to be improved, particularly in developing countries. The new opportunities offered by the information age should also be at the service of the whole range of communities.
- To fulfill their role, the media must have unhindered access to events of interest to the public, including the right to make recordings and to establish contribution links without any interference by the public authorities.

[23] Global knowledge commons and the public domain of information constitute resources that are cornerstones of a global public interest. They should be protected, expanded and promoted, in particular, via open-source and free software.

[26A] Volunteers can be seen as the human and dynamic "last-miles" of connectivity and access, often as part of civil society organizations. They extend the products and benefits of access to many more people who do not have the means for direct access - most of whom are "information poor". In this regard, these "last-mile" volunteers can be effective in the advancement towards the ultimate goal of "information and communication services for all".

3) The role of governments, the business sector and civil society in the promotion of ICTs for development

[27] Need to develop public-private partnerships to promote capacity building and human resource development.

4) Capacity building

[32] Human Resources Development: Developing countries cannot enter the Global Information Society without strengthening their human, institutional and organizational capacities and without increasing awareness for production of local ICT contents and use of local languages for ICT through:

- Capacity-building and training programmes;
- Knowledge and expertise transfer.

[32] Meaningful access to information via ICT channels requires the capacity to use those technology tools. Volunteers have a natural niche in helping people and institutions acquire the skills and capacity to make good use of these technologies, as evidenced by initiatives like UNITEs, NetCorps Canada, Volunteers in Technical Assistance, and many others.

5) Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

[35] Confidence, trust and robust technical reliability are essential to the full functioning of the Information Society, and should underpin measures taken to protect users of media, communication and information networks against any misuse and the violation of privacy and confidentiality.

[35] Efforts to achieve secure networks and information systems must ensure that human rights and civil liberties such as privacy and legal protection are guaranteed.

[36] Governments should promote awareness in their societies of cyber security risks and seek to strengthen international cooperation, including with the private sector and civil society so as to build confidence and trust in the Information Society, by respecting privacy and the free flow of information.

6) Enabling environment

[39] Adoption of pro-competitive, transparent and predictable policies that promote investment in ICT infrastructure and applications.

[39] Policy action should aim at establishing a transparent and enabling regulatory framework.

[40] Development of national ICT strategies that create an opportunity for measurable targets to assess progress toward their implementation.

[40] Commitment to an open policy-making process where all stakeholders can contribute equally, recognizing their unique contribution to policy dialogues.

[45A] **Transfer of ICTs:** Building the global Information Society shall not be possible while unilateral regulatory decisions, based on political considerations and aiming to prevent countries from access to ICT technologies, would prevail.

7) ICT-Applications

[46] Life-long learning.

[47] Enhanced possibilities for more community-level participation in governance issues.

[47] The vision for the Information Society is for open, equitable and unrestricted access to reliable (or evidence based) information for health, a global public good, by making full use of ICT in health system development.

[47A] Volunteers can participate in the development and spread of ICTs application, and contribute to raising awareness among decision-makers as well as the population in general on the opportunities that ICT brings to development.

8) Cultural and linguistic diversity, local content and media development

[49] Work on a global convention on cultural diversity.

[51] In this regard, mass media, independent and pluralistic - in their various forms - are recognized as important means of fostering public information, societal development and social cohesion.

- Limit, through legislation, excessive media concentration that undermines pluralism and free expression and sees information only as a commodity.
- Commit [all participants, especially national delegations] to a tripartite effort to support media both of developing countries and media serving vulnerable sectors in every country. Such efforts require professional training, respect for professional independence, security and protection of journalists, support to local content and community media, durability of materials and software, easier access to new technologies.
- National and global media concentration is contrary to diversity of information.
- To ensure diversity and pluralism in the Information society, monopolies and excessive concentration in the media, including those in new communication and information technologies should be subject to general anti-monopoly laws. Such general laws should be enacted where they do not already exist and strengthened where necessary.
- The existence of independent and free communication media, including community media.
- All forms of media and new ICTs should stimulate cultural diversity and multilingualism.

[51] ICTs can strengthen traditional media such as broadcasting and print, which will continue to have an important role in disseminating content in the Information Society. Digital broadcasting, with its interactive enhancements, will be an essential tool for making the services of the information society widely available, thus contributing to bridging the digital divide. Transition to digital therefore needs to be actively promoted.

9) Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

[52] An inclusive and sustainable society can only develop when knowledge is clearly considered a common good and when the principle of access *to* and the free flow *of* information can come to reality.

[52A] Due to the heterogeneity of the interests of the different parties involved in the development of the Information Society and due to the diversity of the underlying cultures and values it is almost unavoidable that conflicts, even clashes will permanently occur. Information societies will have to live with it. These conflicts should not be solved on the basis of political power or economic dominance but solutions to these conflicts need to rely and should be based on an ethical-based discourse. Any ethical discourse must respect heterogeneous interests and cultures and must build reliable partnership between governments, private sector, and civil society.

[52B] Uses of health and medical information, which can preserve as well as take away life, require application of the highest ethical standards.

[52C] Ethical dimensions of ICTs include the need to guarantee the respect of personal privacy and of human dignity, particularly in the context of growing invasive information technologies, surveillance systems and "information awareness".

10) International and regional cooperation

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