

# Global Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet

International Conference  
Centre of Geneva (CICG), Switzerland

9-11 May 2006

*This Symposium will review technical solutions and current experiences, identify open issues and discuss a roadmap for further steps in the direction of promoting multilingualism in the internet.*

**International Telecommunication Union**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International  
Telecommunication  
Union

## ***Introduction***

ITU and UNESCO will hold a Global Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), 9-11 May 2006

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted at the Tunis Phase of WSIS, highlights the importance of multilingualism for bridging the digital divide. It identifies ITU as taking the lead role in the implementation of information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), ITU/UNESCO for access to information and knowledge (WSIS Action Line C3), and UNESCO for cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content (WSIS Action Line C8).

## ***Objectives***

The symposium will examine issues highlighted in paragraph 53 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda, including:

1. Options for advancing the process for the introduction of multilingualism in a number of areas including domain names, e-mail addresses and keyword look-up;
2. Options for implementing programmes, also in cooperation with other appropriate organizations, that allow for the presence of multilingual domain names and content on the internet and the use of various software models in order to fight against the linguistic digital divide and ensure the participation of all in the emerging new society;
3. Options for strengthening cooperation between relevant bodies for the further development of technical standards and to foster their global deployment;

In addition, the event will review technical solutions and current experiences, identify open issues and discuss a roadmap for further steps to promote multilingualism on the internet.

The draft agenda of the Symposium, logistic details, background information and updates relating to the event, including the programme, presentations as well as details and practical information will be available on the website at the following address: [www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/multilingual](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/multilingual)

Participation is open to any organization or individual from a country which is member of UNESCO or ITU, and is free of charge.

Written contributions are invited on the themes of the event and should be sent in final form to [multilingual@itu.int](mailto:multilingual@itu.int) before **25 April 2006**.

## ***Sponsoring social activities***

Sponsors are sought for coffee-breaks, lunches and cocktails. Interested parties are kindly requested to contact [multilingual@itu.int](mailto:multilingual@itu.int) as soon as possible for further details.