

HELPING THE WORLD COMMUNICATE

WSIS Geneva, 10-12 December 2003



**world summit
on the information society**
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005



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ITU 032764/J.-M. Ferré

Heads of State and Government with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi on the opening day of the World Summit on the Information Society, 10 December 2003, in Geneva.



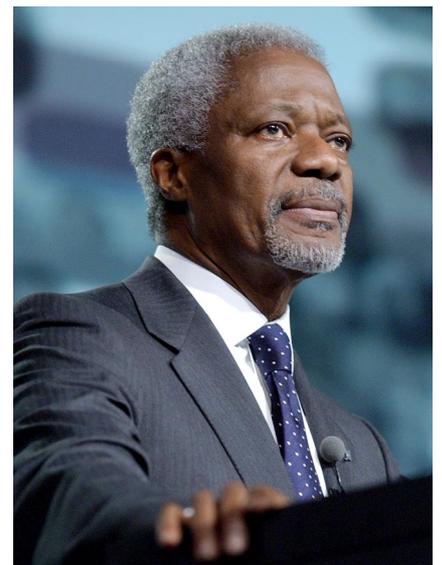
Message from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

The digital revolution is transforming society. If harnessed effectively, information and communication technologies (ICTs) have the potential to greatly improve our social, economic and cultural lives. They can serve as an engine for development in areas ranging from trade to telemedicine, and from education to environmental protection. They are tools with which to advance the cause of freedom and democracy. And they are vehicles with which to propagate knowledge and mutual understanding.

Yet the majority of the world's population has yet to benefit from these new technologies. That is why, at the Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders pledged to work together to put ICTs at the service of development as part of the eighth Millennium Development Goal: developing a global partnership for development.

The World Summit on the Information Society, convened by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva in December 2003, was a unique opportunity for all key players to develop a shared vision to bridge the digital divide and create a truly global Information Society.

Any Summit is a formidable logistical and political undertaking. This one was especially demanding because it was the first time that many issues linked to the Information Society were addressed at the international level. But in the end, despite difficulties and differences, negotiators were able to agree on a declaration of principles and plan of action that will allow Member States, and their partners in the private sector, civil society and the media, to work together to realize the enormous potential of information and communication technologies. That is a significant achievement.



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Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations



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We now look forward to the Summit's second phase, which will take place in Tunisia in November 2005. In the meantime, we must do our utmost to build on the foundations of the Information Society that have already been put in place, and draw concrete results from the many partnerships and proposals that blossomed in Geneva.

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations



Message from ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi

The digital revolution in Information and Communication Technologies has not only transformed the way we communicate. It has also dramatically changed the way we work, do business, interact, play, seek information and learn. But the challenge facing us has been to harness the potential of ICT for development and to ensure that the benefits of this revolution are accessible to all. Overcoming this challenge has been the primary objective of the World Summit on the Information Society since it was first proposed at the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001.

It is my privilege to say that the first phase of the Summit successfully created a framework for an inclusive Information Society and the shared values needed to support it.

Most significantly, world leaders agreed on the importance of ICTs in addressing many of the major social, political and economical problems and the critical role that the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge could play in reaching the development goals enshrined in the Millennium Declaration.

The global commitment to the Principles and the Action Plan of the Summit, which was endorsed by the 175 States represented, was made possible by the exhaustive preparatory process which included regional and thematic meetings, numerous Preparatory Committee meetings (PrepComs) and, most importantly, the dedicated involvement and significant contributions of representatives of all spheres of society: governments, international organizations, civil society and business.



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Yoshio Utsumi
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union



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The successful outcome of the first phase of the Summit is only the start of a long process however. We now need to transform the vision and plans adopted in Geneva into concrete action. Work has already begun and appropriate mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate progress.

We are proud of the achievements of the Summit, which are in no small way the result of an extraordinary level of cooperation and a unique multi-stakeholder strategy, as well as the dedication of ITU and United Nations staff. In particular we appreciate the efforts of the host country Switzerland in ensuring the successful outcome of a complex process. It is now critical that all stakeholders maintain the momentum so that the positive achievements of the first phase can be brought to fruition.

By working together towards the second phase of the Summit to be held in Tunis in November 2005, we can fulfil the great promise of the Information Society: a future where improved communication will make the world a more equitable, peaceful and sustainable place for all.

Yoshio Utsumi
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union
Geneva



ITU 034029/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr. Robert Kocharyan,
President of the Republic of Armenia.



ITU 034027/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr. John A. Kufour,
President of the Republic of Ghana.



ITU 032952/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Raffarin,
Prime Minister of the French Republic.



ITU 032950/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Hosny Mubarak,
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.



ITU 032945/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano,
President of the Republic of Mozambique.



ITU 032940/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr. Zafarullah Khan Jamali,
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



ITU 032932/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Khatami,
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



ITU 032816/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Bertie Ahern,
Prime Minister of Ireland.



ITU 032815/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Pedro Pires,
President of Cape Verde.



ITU 032814/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Ms Vaira Vike-Freiberga,
President of Latvia.



ITU 032811/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Marc Forné,
President of Andorra.



ITU 032805/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko,
President of Belarus.



ITU 032804/JJ.-M. Ferré

The President of Comoros,
H.E. Colonel Azali Assoumani.



ITU 032761/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Arnold Rüütel,
President of Estonia.



ITU 032797/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,
President of Azerbaijan.



ITU 032793/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Ms Tarja Halonen,
President of Finland.



ITU 032787/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Askar Akaev,
President of Kyrgyzstan.



ITU 032782/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré,
President of the Republic of Mali.



ITU 032779/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame,
President of Rwanda.



ITU 032777/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.M. King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho.



ITU 032776/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Festus Mogae, President of Botswana.



ITU 032774/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Stjepan Mesic,
President of Croatia.



ITU 032773/JJ.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Omar Bongo Odimba,
President of Gabon.



ITU 032771/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Marc Ravalomanana,
President of Madagascar.



ITU 032769/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Emile Lahoud,
President of the Lebanese
Republic.



ITU 032788/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Begum Khaleda Zia,
Prime Minister of Bangladesh.



ITU 032763/J.-M. Ferré

Zimbabwe's President
Robert Mugabe.



ITU 034024/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Wade,
President of the Republic of Senegal.



ITU 034020/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr. Ion Iliescu,
President of Romania.



ITU 032701/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Pascal Couchepin,
President of the Swiss Confederation.



ITU 032795/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali,
President of Tunisia.



ITU 032957/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada,
President of the National Assembly
of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba.



Permanent Mission of Uganda

H.E. Mr. Apolo Nsibambi,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda.



UN/DPI Photo

H.E. Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of
the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



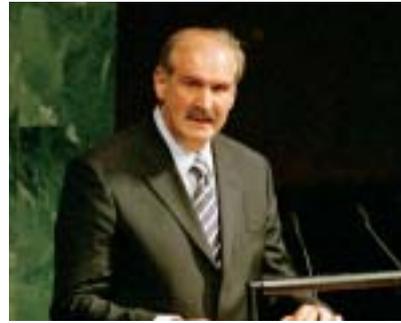
UN/DPI Photo

HRH Prince Ulukalala Lavaka Ata,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga.



UN/DPI Photo

H.E. Mr. Boris Trajkovski,
President of The former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia.



UN/DPI Photo

H.E. Mr. Otmar Hasler,
Head of Government of the Principality
of Liechtenstein.



ITU 034109/S. Berman

H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
visits the Azerbaijan stand.



ITU 034031/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr. Kayser Bazan,
Vice-President of the
Republic of Panama.



ITU 034030/A. Longchamp

H.E. Dr. Jose Rizo Castellon,
Vice-President of the Republic of Nicaragua.



ITU 032802/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Ms. Isatou Njie-Sady,
Vice-President of the Republic of
The Gambia.



ITU 032809/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Mr. Young Dae Kim,
Vice-President of the
Republic of Korea.



ITU 032935/A. Longchamp

Mr. Kofi Annan,
Secretary-General of the
United Nations.



ITU 032969/A. Longchamp

Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of ITU (left),
with Mr. Walter Fust, Head of the Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation.



ITU 032742/J.-M. Ferré

Mr. Adama Samassékou,
President of WSIS PrepCom.



ITU 032741/J.-M. Ferré

Mr. Marc Furrer, Swiss Secretary
of State for WSIS.



ITU 032975/J.-M. Ferré

H.E. Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey,
Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs at ICT4D.



ITU 034017/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr. Moritz Lueunberger,
Federal Councillor of the
Swiss Confederation.



ITU 034082/A. Longchamp

Ambassador Daniel Stauffacher.



ITU 032985/J.-M. Ferré

Mr. Kofi Annan,
Secretary-General of the United
Nations, speaking to children.



ITU 034191/J.-M. Ferré

Mr. Shashi Tharoor,
UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications
and Information.



ITU 032901/J.-M. Ferré

Ms Maria Livanos Cattai,
Secretary-General of ICC.



ITU 032906/J.-M. Ferré

Mr. T. Abu-Ghazaleh,
Chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh &
Co International.



ITU 032907/J.-M. Ferré

Mr. V. Mathivanan,
CEC CrimsonLogic.



ITU 032909/J.-M. Ferré

Mr. Noah Samara,
Chairman and CEO, WorldSpace Corporation.



ITU 033012/J.-M. Ferré

Mr Kamel Ayadi,
President of the World Federation of
Engineering Organizations.



ITU 034144/J.-M. Ferré

Mr Michael Furdyk,
TakingITGlobal, at the WSIS event for
young entrepreneurs.



ITU 034137/A. Longchamp

Journalists prepare dispatches at their
workstations in the Media Centre.



ITU 034170/J.-M. Ferré

Mr Mohammad Omran,
Chairman of Thuraya Satellite
Telecommunications Company.



ITU 034170/A. Longchamp

Delegates listen to statements from global leaders.



ITU 034123/S. Berman

Forging partnerships: ITU and Alcatel.



ITU 034170/S. Berman

Cementing a partnership with Inmarsat Ltd.



ITU 032700/J.-M. Ferré

Mr Klaus Schwab,
President, World Economic Forum.



ITU 034038/A. Longchamp

H.E. Mr Taro Aso,
Minister of Public Management,
Home Affairs, Posts and
Telecommunications of Japan.



ITU 034171/A. Longchamp

Mr. Nitin Desai,
UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser to WSIS.



ITU 034162/A. Longchamp

Hheads of state and government,
intergovernmental organizations, the business
sector and civil society at Round table
discussions.



ITU 032766/J.-M. Ferré

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with
Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide
Web, and school children.



ITU 034149/A. Longchamp

Journalists cover a WSIS Press
Conference.



ITU 034119/S. Berman

Mr. Mark Malloch Brown,
Administrator of UNDP.



ITU 034164/A. Longchamp

World media at WSIS.



*For further information
on WSIS, please contact:*

Executive Secretariat
ITU

Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 730 5511

Fax: +41 22 730 6393

E-mail: wsis@itu.int

www.itu.int/wsis