Worldwide commitment and ownership

The World Summit on the Information Society provided a unique opportunity for all key stakeholders to develop a common vision and understanding and to address the wide range of issues related to the Information Society. It succeeded in bringing the global spotlight on the power of ICT in achieving the development goals for all. WSIS also highlighted the complexities of the Information Society: it's not just about technology; it's about people – and their potential.

WSIS
IMPLEMENTING
THE ACTION PLAN

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ITU International Telecommunication Union

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

ITU International Telecommunication Union

The World Summit on the Information Society, held in two phases in Geneva, December 2003, and Tunis, November 2005, brought global commitment towards **"building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting sustainable development and improving their quality of life."**

CRITICAL TARGETS FOR GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY
to be reached by 2015

a) Connect all villages with ICTs

b) Connect all educational institutions

c) Connect all scientific and research centres

d) Connect all public libraries, museums and archives

e) Connect all health centres and hospitals

f) Connect local and central government departments

g) Adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the Information Society

h) Ensure that all have access to television and radio services

i) Encourage the development of content on the internet

j) Ensure that more than half the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within reach

The Summit established 11 key action lines to achieve the objectives, goals and targets of the Information Society

WSIS STOCKTAKING

ITU's stocktaking exercise, launched during the Tunis phase, will serve as a valuable tool in the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action.

An ongoing process, the stocktaking database has registered more than 3'000 projects.

WSIS Golden Book

The WSIS Golden Book, intended to promote new commitments and initiatives announced during the Tunis Phase of WSIS, highlights some of the valuable work being done around the world to promote ICTs for development: build infrastructure, promote ICTs in education, health and governance, ensure fair access and enhance online security.

More than 375 submissions announced to promote WSIS goals represent a total value of nearly USD 4 billion.
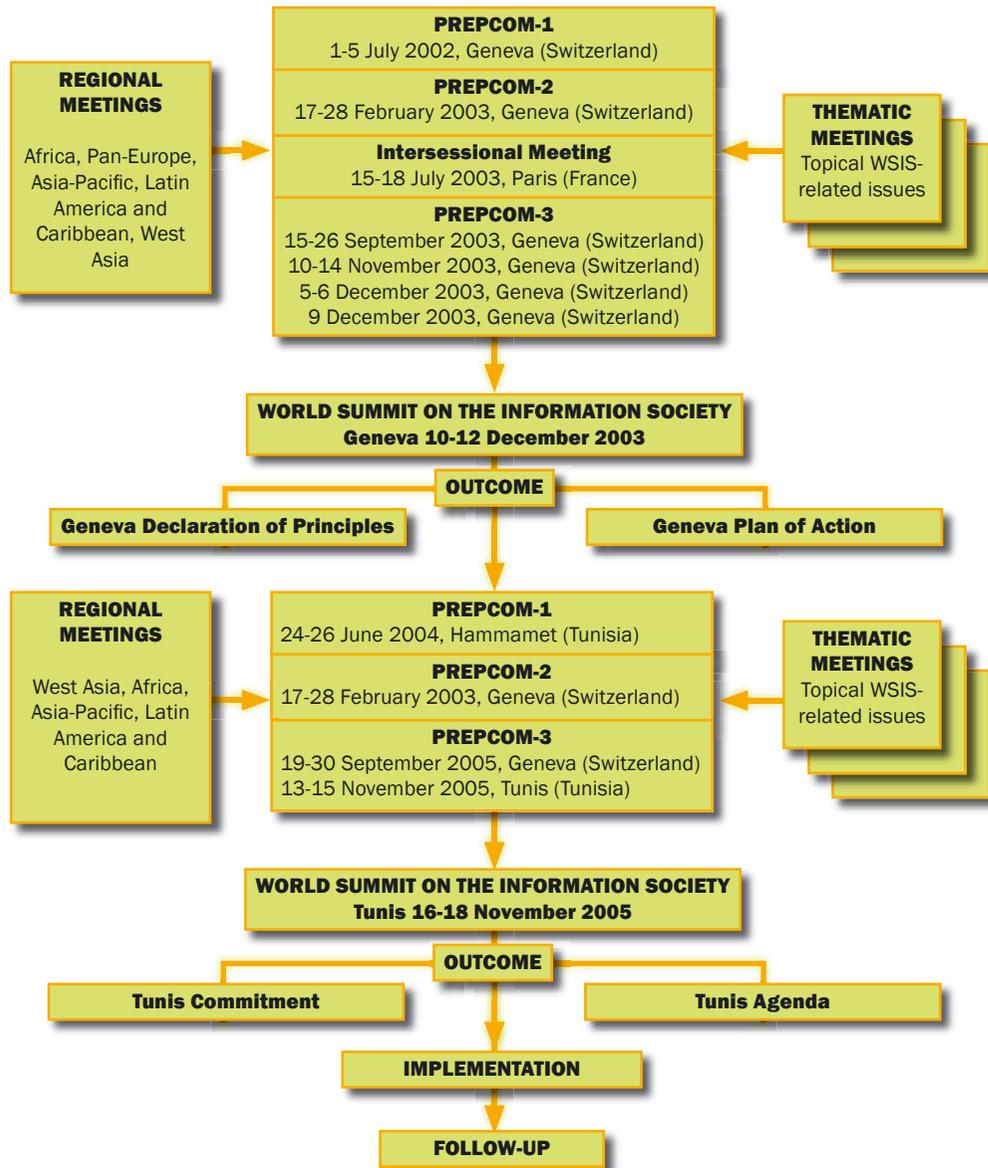
Connect the World

ITU launched the *Connect the World* initiative to encourage new projects and partnerships to bridge the digital divide and create a critical mass that will generate the momentum needed to reach remote and underserved communities by 2015.

Connect the World has identified three key areas of activity – an enabling environment, infrastructure, applications and services – which constitute the primary building blocks needed to "connect the unconnected by 2015".

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT   INFRASTRUCTURE & READINESS   APPLICATIONS & SERVICES

SUMMIT PROCESS

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Africa, Pan-Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, West Asia

PREPCOM-1
1-5 July 2002, Geneva (Switzerland)

PREPCOM-2
17-28 February 2003, Geneva (Switzerland)

Intersessional Meeting
15-18 July 2003, Paris (France)

PREPCOM-3
15-26 September 2003, Geneva (Switzerland)
10-14 November 2003, Geneva (Switzerland)
5-6 December 2003, Geneva (Switzerland)
9 December 2003, Geneva (Switzerland)

THEMATIC MEETINGS
Topical WSIS-related issues

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
Geneva 10-12 December 2003

OUTCOME

Geneva Declaration of Principles   Geneva Plan of Action

REGIONAL MEETINGS

West Asia, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean

PREPCOM-1
24-26 June 2004, Hammamet (Tunisia)

PREPCOM-2
17-28 February 2003, Geneva (Switzerland)

PREPCOM-3
19-30 September 2005, Geneva (Switzerland)
13-15 November 2005, Tunis (Tunisia)

THEMATIC MEETINGS
Topical WSIS-related issues

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
Tunis 16-18 November 2005

OUTCOME

Tunis Commitment   Tunis Agenda

IMPLEMENTATION

FOLLOW-UP

IMPLEMENTATION OF WSIS PLAN OF ACTION

Following the Tunis Summit, 16 - 18 November 2005, WSIS enters the implementation phase to meet its goals by 2015. The sustainable implementation and follow-up of the WSIS outcomes will require unremitting multi-stakeholder effort among governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Tunis Agenda describes the nuts and bolts of the implementation mechanism at the national, regional and international levels:

National Level

Governments and stakeholders are encouraged to create enabling environment and implementation mechanism
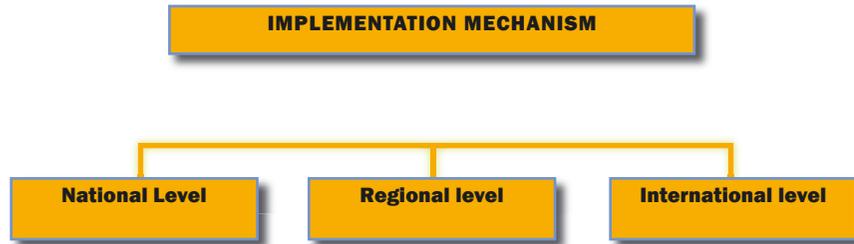
a) E-strategies integrated in national development plans
   – with Poverty Reduction Strategies
   – to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
b) ICT fully mainstreamed with Official Development Assistance (ODA)
   – for effective information-sharing and coordination among development partners
   – using analysis and sharing of best practices
   – promoting ICT for development
c) Bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes to assist governments
d) Common Country Assessment reports to include ICT for development

Regional level

a) Regional intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders
   – Exchange information and best practices for ICT for development to attain MDGs
b) UN Regional Commissions organize post-Summit activities
   – Assist Member States with development and implementation of regional strategies
c) Multi-stakeholder approach considered essential

International level

a) Implementation and follow-up based on WSIS themes and action lines
b) Each UN agency should act according to its mandate and competencies, pursuant to decisions of respective governing bodies, and within existing approved resources
c) Implementation and follow-up to be intergovernmental, based on a multi-stakeholder process

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

| National Level | Regional level | International level |

Multi-stakeholder process

Action line	Facilitator/Moderator
C1. The role of stakeholders	UN/DESA
C2. Information and communication infrastructure	ITU
C3. Access to information and knowledge	UNESCO
C4. Capacity building	UNDP
C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	ITU
C6. Enabling environment	UNDP

C7. ICT applications
   ▪ E-government
   ▪ E-business
   ▪ E-learning
   ▪ E-health
   ▪ E-employment
   ▪ E-environment
   ▪ E-agriculture
   ▪ E-science
	UN/DESA
	UNCTAD
	UNESCO
	WHO
	ILO
	WMO
	FAO
	UNESCO

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	UNESCO
C9. Media	UNESCO
C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	UNESCO
C11. International and regional cooperation	UN/DESA

UNGIS

WSIS attaches great importance to multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level, which should be organized in accordance with the 11 action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action and, when appropriate, moderated or facilitated by UN agencies.

The coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities will help avoid duplication of activities and should include exchange of information, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships.

ITU, UNESCO and UNDP have been designated to play leading facilitating roles in the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action. They will also ensure overall coordination among the different multi-stakeholder teams.

ITU is the focal point for action lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (cybersecurity). In addition, ITU serves as co-facilitator for other action lines (C1, C3, C4, C5, C7 and C11).

Interagency coordination

WSIS Tunis requested the UN Secretary-General to establish a UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) within the Chief Executive Board (CEB). UNGIS is an interagency coordinating mechanism established in April 2006 to facilitate the implementation of the WSIS outcomes by UN agencies, funds and programmes. This coordination is critical given the cross-cutting nature of many of the WSIS issues and the need to be efficient.

UNGIS will highlight the importance of ICTs in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It will interface with other development efforts within the UN system, including activities at the regional and country level. ITU, UNESCO and UNDP will serve as the rotating Chairs of UNGIS, with ITU chairing the Group in its first year.

WSIS FOLLOW-UP

WSIS requested ECOSOC to oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes and to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including strengthening it while taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach.

A report on the modalities for interagency coordination of the implementation of WSIS outcomes, including recommendations on the follow-up process, will be made by the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly will review the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action.