

BUILDING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

**Consultation Meeting on
Implementing WSIS
outcomes related to Action
Line C2**

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Summary report

Geneva, 18 May 2006, 15:00-18:00, ITU, room H

01. At the occasion of the celebration of the first **World Information Society Day** (17th May 2006), following recommendations made during previous meetings, many focal points for action line facilitation organized meetings from 9 May to 19 May 2006 in Geneva.
02. The clustering of these meetings was aimed at allowing larger participation of the different groups of stakeholders.
03. The meeting of the Action Line C2 facilitation group was held as indicated above. The agenda of the meeting is in the document [ALC2/2/01](#)¹. The opening address was delivered by Mr. Roberto Blois, Deputy Secretary-General of the **ITU**.
04. Mr. Blois recalled that ITU has been designated as provisional focal point for the facilitation of ALC2 and confirmed the commitment of the Union to continue to serve the international community if it is the wish of the latter. He also invited the meeting to accept the proposal of the Association for Progressive Communication (**APC**) to be a co-facilitator of ALC2.
05. The meeting supported the continuation of the role of the ITU and accepted APC as co-facilitator.
06. The WSIS Executive Secretariat delivered an informative presentation of the WSIS outcomes with a view to update the participants on the key drivers for a successful implementation of these.
07. As inspired by the previous meeting, the World Bank was consulted by the ITU about their possible participation as co-facilitator. It was reported that the **World Bank** welcomes the principle of participating in the activities of Action Line C2 in the future and requested to continue to receive information on the activities of this group. The need to also involve the business community as co-facilitator of action line C2 was stressed. **Siemens** committed itself to coordinate the matter and come back to the group with a proposal. (Doc [ALC2/2/02](#)²).
08. The focal point informed the meeting that the number of answers to the online consultation received so far was not sufficient to give an accurate orientation to the facilitation process. Participants were invited to fill the electronic file as soon as possible

¹ http://www.itu.int/ws/implementation/listing-all.asp?lang=en&c_event=alf|c22&c_type=all

² <http://www.itu.int/ws/c2/docs/may-18/02.pdf>

and requested that their constituencies do the same. The answers will be analysed by the focal point and shared with the ALC2 virtual group created after the first meeting. (Doc [ALC2/2/03](#)³).

09. One of the concerns of stakeholder was to keep the multistakeholder nature of the facilitation process. The following information was provided to participants during the meeting:

- An ALC2 Virtual Group containing the electronic address of those who participated in the first meeting was created in order to provide a fully transparent communication means among all stakeholders. Those who didn't attend the Doha meeting were invited to join the group;
- Starting with this meeting, all face-to-face ALC2 meetings held in Geneva will be broadcasted via the Internet so as to allow those who cannot attend to remotely follow the discussions and have the possibility to raise questions via e-mail; The sound of this meeting is archived for three months at the following address: <http://www.itu.int/ibs/sg/wsis/implementation/c2/20060518/index.html> ;
- The ITU is developing a shared workspace facility that will allow shortly the ALC2 virtual group and its possible sub-groups to share documents, include automatic versioning.

10. The meeting considered a tentative mapping of the 11 WSIS action lines, showing how intricate these were (see annex 1). The meeting restated the need for this group to pay particular attention to activities undertaken under the AL-C6 (Enabling Environment).

11. Noting the difficulty to cluster action lines at their highest level, the meeting recognized the appropriateness of envisioning the creation of sub-groups based on:

- a) priority themes relevant to ALC2;
- b) concrete initiatives requested by countries.

12. The following possible themes were considered among others:

- a) Making the case of how and how much ICT could impact human development;
- b) Mainstreaming ICT in Development, including Integrating ICT into disaster risk reduction for sustainable development;
- c) Demand/supply analysis on ICT-enabled services;
- d) Developing model policies to support national e-Strategies;
- e) Reinforcing regulatory capacities at the national level;
- f) Harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks at the regional level;
- g) Developing financing mechanisms, in particular in support of the development of national broadband networks by means of public-private partnerships;
- h) Promoting local entrepreneurship and risk mitigation,

13. Although it recognized the importance of the issues mentioned above, the meeting stressed the need to put more focus on the implementation of concrete and impact making initiatives submitted to this process by countries. In that regard, the 25 regional initiatives adopted by the 2006 World Telecommunication Development Conferences (Doc [ALC2/2/08](#)) were mentioned.

14. Although it recognized the need to cluster the themes addressed by various action line facilitation groups, the importance to cluster meetings of these, taking into consideration the strong relationships that may exist between them, was recalled. (Doc [ALC2/2/04](#)⁴).

15. Regarding the true implementation of the WSIS outcomes at the international, regional and national levels, the meeting recognized that the creation of infrastructure

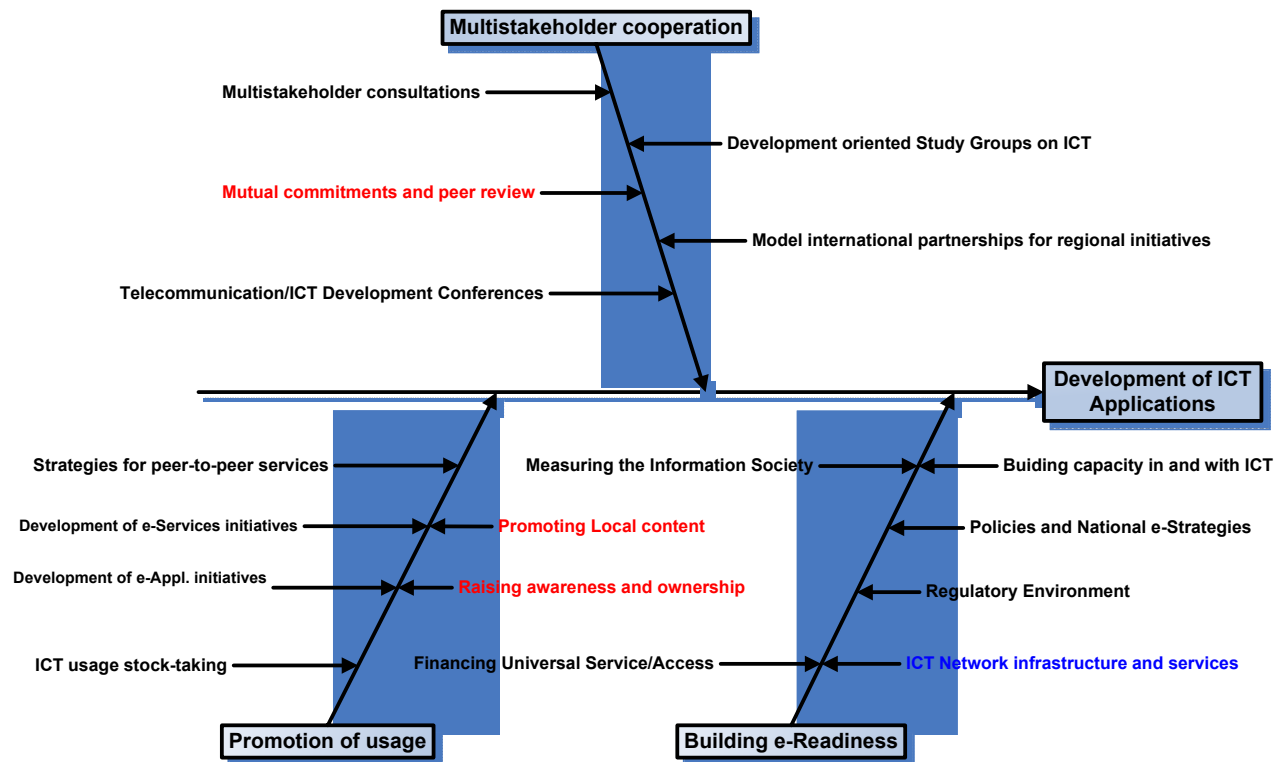
³ <http://www.itu.int/wsis/c2/docs/may-18/03.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.itu.int/wsis/c2/docs/may-18/04.pdf>

alone would not be useful if it was not to facilitate the development of ICT-enabled applications. In that regard it agreed that :

- 1) building e-Readiness,
 - 2) promoting ICT usage and
 - 3) developing multistakeholder cooperation
- were the pillars of any strategy to develop ICT-enabled applications.

16. As shown below, developing ICT Infrastructure is one of the e-Readiness factors for the development of ICT-enabled application.



17. The meeting also recognized that the core elements to focus on in view of the deployment of an ICT Network Infrastructure are: national broadband backbones, Access networks, national connectivity and Regional/International connectivity, bearing in mind that other readiness factors may also apply (differently) to each of these network components.

18. It was stressed that promoting regional and large-scale national infrastructure related initiatives aiming at the sustainable provisioning of information, communication and ICT-enabled societal applications to end-users, as described in TAIS20 was the best way to address the issue.

19. A way to link activities at the international, regional and national levels was proposed, based on ITU's activities (see annex 2), other organizations may have equivalent approaches. (Doc [ALC2/2/05](#)⁵).

20. The meeting noted the presentation of the following initiatives:
 1) The One laptop Per Child (OLPC) initiative introduced by the MIT Pr. Negroponte which aims at developing a US\$100 laptop which can be deployed everywhere. Its technology allows easy creation of local (mesh) area networks . Although the use of OpenSource based operating System and other factors may continue to inspire debates around this initiative, it seems to be moving fast to

⁵ <http://www.itu.int/wsis/c2/docs/may-18/05.pdf>

concrete implementation due to the growing commitments being made by developing countries. The first shipments are to happen in early 2007. (Doc [ALC2/2/06](#)⁶).

2) The European Commission, together with the Member States of the European Union, has been an active partner in the WSIS process and is committed to taking forward the momentum from the Summit in the implementation phase. The Commission has outlined its priorities in the field of telecommunications development throughout the WSIS process:

- setting up e-strategies defining priority applications in domains of huge societal impact, such as e-government, e-health, e-learning and e-commerce;
- the establishment of stable and predictable regulatory frameworks that give incentives to private sector investment, including human capacity building in regulatory affairs;
- emphasising the importance of international cooperation in the field of Research and Development.

Furthermore, the Commission is undertaking a special effort in favour of backbone infrastructures under its new Partnership for Infrastructures, and aims at increasing the reach of research and education networks by improving the interconnection links to the European GEANT2 network.

Besides a wide range of activities in international cooperations in the field of Information Society, the EU adopted the "Brussels consensus" which states that non-commercial e-Applications will continue to be part and parcel of the EU's development policy.

One of the most promising EU initiative with regards to Infrastructure is the recent EC-EIB Trust Fund to finance infrastructure in Africa. The Commission proposed an EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure which will benefit from the trust fund through which the EC intends, in the short term (2006-2007), to mobilize €60 million in grant and the EIB up to €260 million in loans. It was noted that this new financial tool is not restricted to ICT infrastructure only. (Doc [ALC2/2/07](#)⁷).

3) ITU introduced Resolution 17(Rev.Doha, 2006) by which 25 regional initiatives were adopted by the 2006 edition of the World Telecommunication Development Conference. Five major initiatives for each of the following areas: sub saharian Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia-pacific and CIS.

It was stressed that these initiatives were to be concretized through the definition of country-led projects on the basis of which multistakeholder partnerships will be created. In that regard it was indicated that ITU should initiate "calls for partnerships" to support concrete projects derived from regional initiatives.

21. The meeting considered that these "Regional Initiatives" should be shared with other action line groups and be considered as a substantive input of ITU to the implementation process. (Doc [ALC2/2/08](#)⁸).

22. Italy introduced the Government's policy as regards ICT-Applications. One of the Italian Government projects was submitted to the Stocktaking database and a second, promoting the use of mesh peer-to-peer networking was introduced. The document related to the last will be posted as an information document of this meeting.

23. "Connect the World" which is a multi-stakeholder platform launched by ITU and partners to connect the unconnected by 2015 was presented. Main activities include: showcasing development efforts currently underway; bringing stakeholders together to

⁶ <http://www.itu.int/ws/c2/docs/may-18/06.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.itu.int/ws/c2/docs/may-18/07.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.itu.int/ws/c2/docs/may-18/08.pdf>

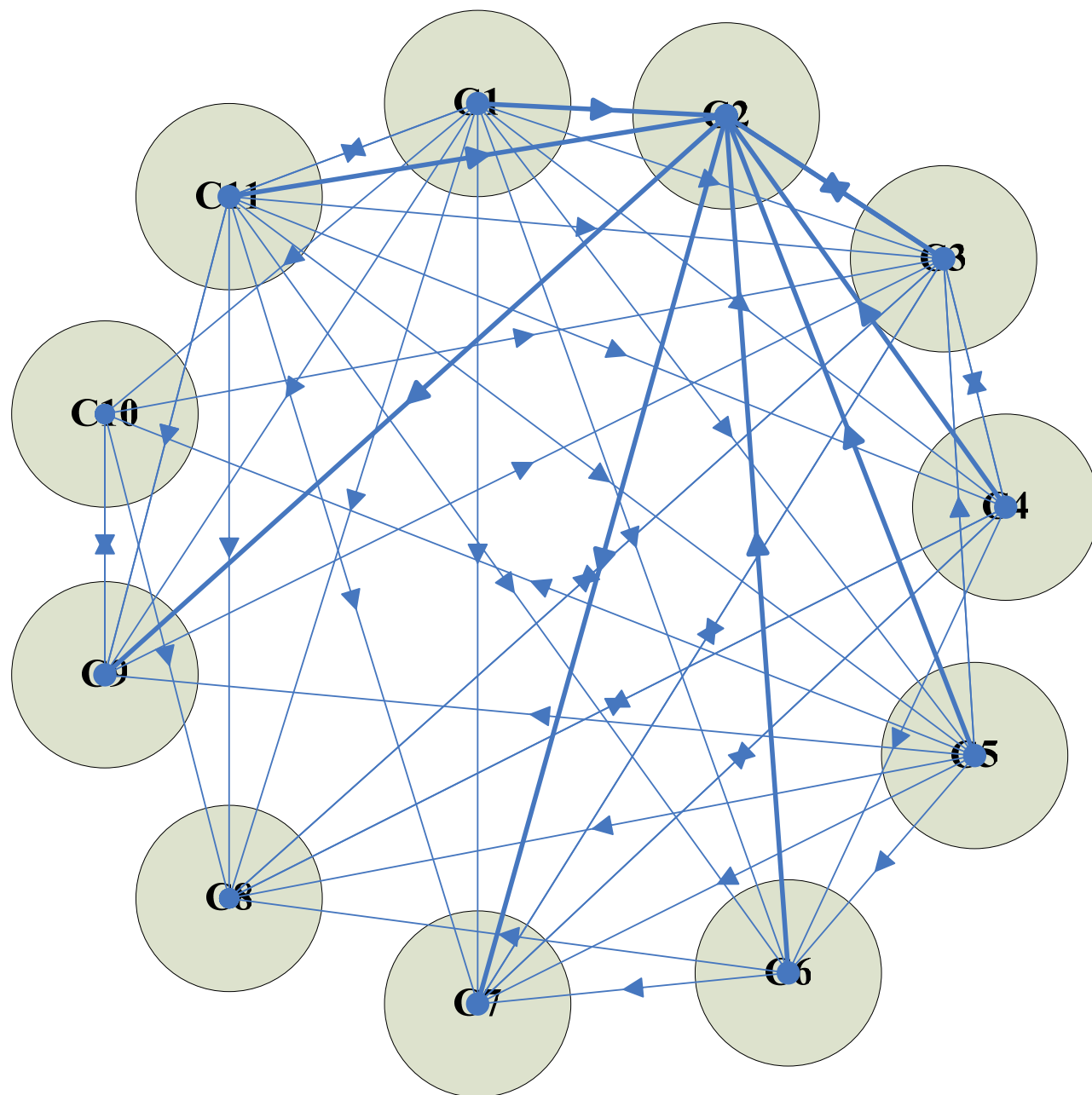
launch new partnerships (match-making) and tracking progress and identifying areas where more action is needed. It is an open initiative

24. Way forward. Proposals were made regarding how this group sees the continuation of its work. It was agreed to circulate these to the "virtual group" for comments. The proposals are as follows:

1. to take stock of demand-driven initiatives at the global, regional and national levels;
2. to organize of facilitators meeting with a view to combine/merge initiatives;
3. to build partnerships around major initiatives where applicable;
4. to further develop the online ICT development assessment tools.
5. to take stock of existing national e-Strategies;
6. to take stock of all studies and publications related to the impact of ICT-enabled services/Applications on human development;
7. to compile the above mentioned inputs and develop a pro-ICT advocacy tool with civil society
8. to develop terms of references for a virtual financing platform;

25. Finally the meeting highlighted the need to urgently develop the online tools in order to facilitate the moderation of the work of the virtual group and of its possible sub-groups.

Graphical Mapping of WSIS Action Lines



Annex 2: Linking international, regional and national levels of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes

