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• Roundtable N0 5: Capacity building

A Perspective from the UNDP: At the heart of Development is capacity building!!

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• **Capacity Development is** "the process by which individuals, groups, organizations, institutions and societies increase their abilities to: 1) perform core functions, solve problems, define and achieve objectives; and 2) understand and deal with their development needs in a broad context and in a sustainable manner." UNDP, 1997

• A history of a long standing involvement in capacity building as reaffirmed in international forums: earth Summit, UNGASS 1977, Millennium Summit, Commission on Sustainable development and recently the WSSD.

• 2 major initiatives: Capacity 21 in response to Agenda 21, and now the recently launched Capacity 2015
• **Overall consideration**: capacity resides not only in individuals and public institutions, but in societal systems as a whole.

• **The Rationale**: developing countries are facing major global trends; these present unique development opportunities...But are also factors of risks.

• To reap potential benefit, DC, specifically African countries need to make sure existing national capacities are strengthened and effectively harnessed. Note a few capacity gaps in Africa: impact of HIV/Aids on HR, the brain drain..also management of effects of globalization.
UNDP at work on Capacity building: the ICT front

- SDNP as a response to Capacity 21 (www.sdnp.undp.org)
- Internet Initiative for Africa: Boosting connectivity and expanding technical capacities.
- The Cisco academies
- E-strategies and ICT Thematic trust funds (www.dot-init.org), (www.undp.org/ttf)
- National/regional e-initiatives
- The Open Source Resource Centers (OSRCs)
The Open Source Software for Development

• Background: the OS and developing countries
  – OS functions on the basis of freely distributing computer programmes with open access to source code
  – Increasing costs of proprietary software and required frequent updates
  – Systematic global campaign by the business software alliance to track down illegal software use
  – OSS can now be a response to the so called ‘Digital divide’ through affordable costs and in compliance with WTO IP requirements
  – Many countries have now established Linux users ‘ groups and UNDP’s SDNP has developed close to 45 nodes and offer training opportunities to more than 500 technical experts worldwide.
Areas of strategic intervention of the OSS

• Increase awareness of decision makers on economic and social benefits of OSS
• National capacity development to increase technical skills
• Education support through introduction of OSS in curricula of secondary and tertiary education
• SME support
• E-government support....security issues
UNDP’s Global programme : a holistic approach to the OSS in 4 Dimensions

- 1- Policy : IPR, national security, nat. Ict strategies & policies, role of the state..
- 2- Capacity building : certification and technical training
- 3- Content & applications : local language support, customized solutions for local needs
- 4- Enterprise : franchising with OSS distributors, SMEs developing for OSS services and applications.
Features of the Global programme

• Implementation at both global and regional levels
• Forging Global partnerships to create a consortium of companies to sponsor progr. Provide credibility, expert advice
• At the regional level, funding at least 3 regional open source centers in Africa, Asia and Latin America; OSRCs will be developed along the 4 above pillars while creating and nurturing sub-regional networks and supporting national OSS initiatives. Partnership with local private sector.
Next Steps

• Identification of key corporate partners (3Com, IBM, SUN and Intel)
• Identification of additional partners to enhance the OSS PPP consortium
• Identification of DC country partners
• Virtual network of partner focal points to be established (www.ossfordev.net or org)
• Initial discussions launched: SA, ASIA (APDIP)…
• Meetings/discussions with related programmes bearers to build synergies and opportunities
• Expected to start in April/May 2003
HOW DOES THIS CONTRIBUTE TO THE WSIS?

Come and help build a strategic partnership for capacity development on OSS

Thanks!

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