WSIS PrepCom2 , Geneva, 19 Feb.2003

- 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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