WSIS: Role of Business

“Encourages...the private sector to contribute to, and actively participate in, the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit and the Summit itself....”

- United Nations Resolution 56/183
1. Private sector investment is paramount
What *is* the ‘Information Society?’

- Is it real?
- Is it identifiable?
- Is it describable?
- Is it definable?
- Is it a mere metaphor?
Low WSIS Awareness

Stories about WSIS in Major Business Publications: 0
**WSIS: Business Points of View**

1. *Private sector investment is paramount*
2. *Definition of ‘information society’ is essential*
WSIS: Business Points of View

1. Private sector investment is paramount
2. Definition of ‘information society’ is essential
3. ‘Information society’ is an evolutionary concept
WSIS: Business Points of View

1. Private sector investment is paramount
2. Definition of ‘information society’ is essential
3. ‘Information society’ is an evolutionary concept
4. Where the world is in the ‘information society’ evolution can be measured
Telecoms Access

Landline and Mobile Penetration Rates

Source: “Half the World,” by Clay Shirky (shirky.com), version 1.01, July 3, 2002
Telecoms Access

Telephone Mainlines per 1,000 People

- South Asia
- Arab States
- East Asia and Pacific
- Latin America and Caribbean
- High-income OECD

Access to PC’s

Personal Computer Sales

Source: Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association (U.S.)
Access to PC’s

PCs per 1,000 People

- High Income Nations: 346.1
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 8.8
- South Asia: 3.2
- Middle East & North Africa: 25.2
- Latin America & Caribbean: 37.8
- Europe & Central Asia: 39
- East Asia & Pacific: 17

Source: 2001 World Bank Atlas
Population Shares with Access to Personal Computers

- <50 p.c.'s per 1000: 85%
- 0 p.c.'s per 1000: 2%
- >200 p.c.'s per 1000: 13%

Source: OECD
Internet Access

Source: [http://www.ibiblio.org/lunarbin/worldpop](http://www.ibiblio.org/lunarbin/worldpop) (population data); NUA (Internet access data)
Internet Access

Per Capita Internet Access

Developed Economies: 40%
Rest of World: 2%

Source: ITU (A. Levin), 011603
In 1997 there were 267 times as many Internet hosts in North America as in Africa. In 2000 this ratio stood at 540-to-1.

Source: OECD
ICT Costs & Capabilities

Moore's law
Number of transistors on RAM chip, in log scale

Cheap memories
Average cost of 1 megabit of DRAM, $ log scale

Sources: Intel, The Economist
Source: Rockefeller University
1. **Private sector investment is paramount**
2. **Definition of ‘information society’ is essential**
3. ‘Information society’ is an evolutionary concept
4. **Where the world is in the ‘information society’ evolution can be measured**
5. **Prioritization and focus are needed**
6. **ICT investment leads to economic and social growth**
WSIS: Productivity Counts!

ICTs + Innovation ➔ Productivity Growth ➔ Income Growth

Annual Growth Rates (%)

Years to Double Income

WSIS: What Business is Saying

ICTs + Innovation ➔ Productivity Growth ➔ Real Wage Growth

6. **ICT investment is an essential precursor to economic** and **social growth**

7. **Productivity growth is key to development**
6. **ICT investment is an essential precursor to economic and social growth**
7. **Productivity growth is key to development**
8. **Investment-inviting public policies are needed**
6. **ICT investment is an essential precursor to economic **and** social growth**
7. *Productivity growth is key to development*
8. **Investment-inviting public policies are needed**
9. **Investment-inviting policies favor competition**
6. ICT investment is an essential precursor to economic and social growth
7. Productivity growth is key to development
8. Investment-inviting public policies are needed
9. Investment-inviting policies favor competition
10. Pro-competition policy pillars are deregulation, privatization, liberalization
Role of Policy Frameworks

Share of Countries Having Undergone Sector Reform

Developing Countries**** (85)
Emerging Countries*** (28)
Lower High-Income Countries** (15)
Upper High-Income Countries* (21)

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

- Privatization Only
- Liberalization
- No Reform

*Real GDP Per Capita >US$000: 20; **>10; ***>3-10; ****<3
Source: 2001-2002 Global Information technology Report, Ch. 11
WSIS + Business: The Promise

- Heightened demand for ICTs
- Enhanced global commerce
- National economic growth
- Enhanced social well being
- Reduced poverty