

To the WSIS Bureau:

WSIS 2 preparatory meeting, Hammamet, 23-25 June 2004 (PrepCom 1 of the Tunis phase)

Statement by New Zealand

New Zealand reaffirms its support for the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted in Geneva in December 2003.

New Zealand has developed its national Digital Strategy, which explicitly refers to the WSIS Principles as the international frame of reference.

New Zealand believes that, in the interests of effective management of the phase 2 preparatory process and reaching a successful conclusion at the Tunis Summit, the following considerations are important:

- a) in principle, issues on which consensus was reached in Geneva (in the Declaration of Principles) should not be reopened in phase 2;
- b) the only exceptions to that should be the issues which were referred to the UN for further work: reports on these should be received and recommendations made on follow-up;
- c) the agenda of the Tunis phase should focus on the implementation of actions in the Plan of Action: countries should be encouraged to provide reports on their follow-up action;
- d) the WSIS Bureau should call for proposals for realistic ways to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action, including by referring specific actions to competent organisations, clustering issues together, and recommending regional collaborative action plans;
- e) the goals set for the Tunis Summit should be realistic and achievable, and should be described as steps along a path toward an objective (recognising that the UN's MDG targets – which the WSIS is working to support - are set beyond 2005, and it is the UNGA not the WSIS which is responsible for seeing they are reached);
- f) the need for civil society and the private sector to be involved in implementing actions should be more strongly recognised during the Tunis phase.

28 May 2004