

## **Swiss Non-Paper on the structure and focus of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society**

This non-paper presents the Swiss view and priorities regarding the structure and outcome of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society.

It is meant as a contribution to the discussion that should lead to the decisions on these issues to be taken at the first preparatory conference in Hammamet 24 to 26 June 2004.

Switzerland also welcomes the contribution of Canada as a step in the right direction and is pleased to note that the basic elements of the proposed summit architecture are well in line with our ideas.

### **What the second phase should do:**

- The second phase should build on the success of the first phase of WSIS and reinforce the momentum created during the first phase: now that the vision has been set up, people should gather to work on making this vision a reality.
- What has been agreed upon during the first phase shall be further refined and completed but it should not be opened up to negotiation again
- "A Summit of Solutions" – the focus should be on issues of implementation and on solutions to use ICTs as tools to advance the achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration. The second phase needs to continue exploring the development dimension of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and look at means and ways to create a global, inclusive and equitable Information Society.
- The summit should attract as many Heads of States and Governments as possible, but also leaders of private sector, civil society and international organizations.
- The expected outcome of the second phase should be easily and understandably communicated and should attract as much media attention as possible to enhance the awareness of the challenges of the information society
- The second phase should reinforce the spirit of partnership and collaboration between the different stakeholders established during the first phase and it should present some first examples of the utility and efficiency of a multistakeholder approach. Multi-stakeholder partnerships should be associated as a separate category, given their demonstrated importance in the first phase. Within Governments, efforts to broaden the ownership and participation from different ministries ranging from telecom and trade ministries to development and other agencies must continue. While encouraging the continued support from the ICT focused ministries and units, a special effort is to be made to increase the involvement of other ministries and agencies with a key role regarding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- As the second phase should be more action and implementation oriented, it should showcase and discuss what has already been implemented, what is being implemented, and what is yet to be implemented – and this on all levels, ranging from global efforts to national strategies and action plans as well as local solutions. The discussion of existing implementation problems and

solutions as well as obstacles and ways in scaling-up efforts is particularly important. So is the discussion about harmonizing and coordinating activities in view of maximum synergy and impact with existing resources.

- Tunis should also discuss progress and perspectives of the contribution of ICT in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of measures for advancing the Millennium Development Goals.
- It should show progress in every of the 11 themes of the information society (in accordance with the structure of the Geneva declaration of principles and plan of action and with slight adaptations to allow optimal coherence with the framework of the Millennium Development Goals).
- It should enhance the networks created and used during the first phase in order to produce, discuss and spread best practices and other experience in implementing the Geneva agreements. It should create appropriate platforms for the creation of new implementation partnerships and joint initiatives. Ideally, such platforms should already be offered during the preparatory process so that Tunis would witness the launching of additional implementation efforts.
- A special effort is warranted to include relevant existing institutions in the second phase of WSIS. In particular, the International Financing Institutions need to be associated, given the prominence of "Financing" as the topic of one of the WSIS Working Groups. Switzerland favours a strong and coherent international and multilateral financing system and views the WSIS discussions on financing as integral part of such a system.
- The issues of the summit could be prioritized according to the different situations of the regions.

#### **What the Summit should look like:**

- The summit should be an event of high visibility and importance with participation of representatives of all stakeholders at the highest level. It should be placed prominently in the media and promote a global awareness and discussion on the challenges of the information society.
- The structure of the summit should build on the spirit and the format of the first phase that proved to be very successful, i.e. the format of a new summit architecture with a *political core and a series of "Summit Events"* (roundtables, seminars, workshops, presentations, exhibitions, discussion fora, etc.) grouped around and reinforcing the political core.

#### The political core of the summit:

- The political core message could consist of a short paper reinforcing the commitment of Heads of State and Government to tackle all the issues of the information society, in close collaboration with all stakeholders. Ideally, it would also reinforce their respective commitment to implement the Action Plan.
- The political paper could also include the description of a mechanism for the period after Tunis.

- Other aspects of this political paper could be developed from the reports on the results of the work of the thematic groups that have been created after the first phase of the summit: i.e. on the issues of Internet Governance, Financing, but also on other issues that have been further refined and developed since Geneva 2003.
- Heads of State and Government, but also leaders of private sector and civil society could come together in Tunis to announce projects and partnerships initiated after Geneva 2003 and to discuss and review first results in implementing the Action Plan.
- The regions could present regional action plans that refine the Geneva action plan according to the specific situation and priorities of each region.

#### The “Summit Events”:

- The series of Summit Events around the political core should – like in Geneva – form a kind of market place for the exchange of views, ideas, projects, best solutions and best practices and should foster the networking within and between the different stakeholders (governments, private sector, civil society, media, international organizations) on expert level as well as on high-level.
- This format could even be further developed in the sense that the Summit Events take a very important part in the summit, its preparation, organization and communication.
- The Summit Events could be structured in accordance with the concept of the 11 themes established in the Geneva Declaration and Action Plan. This would give the whole of the Summit Events a clear and intelligible structure which would also be useful for the communication of the events and the summit as a whole which would be useful to attract as much attention to the summit as possible.
- There are different ways of possible structures of coordination of these Summit Events. Our proposal is inspired by the discussion held at the HLSOC-meeting in Vienna in March 2004: an expert-level coordinating committee of representatives of all International Organizations that are competent for one or more of these 11 issues as well as other international experts from the different stakeholder groups could be created to coordinate the Summit Events. This committee should also work in close contact with the WSIS-Executive Secretariat.  
Of course, the coordination and preparation of Summit Events has to be done in close cooperation with the host country of the second phase.

#### **Suggestions on the structure of the preparation process:**

- The structure of the preparation process should be guided by the expected outcome of the Tunis phase.
- In our view, the “Summit Events” are a decisive component of the summit and its potential success. Therefore, appropriate attention should be paid to their preparation as an important part of the whole preparation process.
- The structure of the preparation process should be as least complicated as possible.

- All dates of meetings should be fixed and communicated as soon as possible in order to give VIPs the possibility to plan their schedules of participation.
- Due to the restraints of time and resources, cooperation of all partners, especially among the international organizations should be enhanced in order to create maximum synergies in the preparation process:
  - every international organization should take stock of its ongoing or planned activities within the frame of existing programmes and identify synergies with the WSIS-process
  - every international organization could organize events on a regional and/or international level on the issues of its competence.
  - the HLSOC should take an active and leading role in the coordination of the work of the international organizations
  - etc.
- The role of the WSIS-executive secretariat should be clearly defined: coordination, logistical support, etc. It is important to clarify early on the respective roles of various key players in managing and moving the preparatory process forward.
- After the preliminary conference and PrepCom I in Hammameth in June 2004 we propose to have a maximum of two more PrepComs, one in winter 2004/2005 and one around September 2005, just before the Summit.
- There could be several thematic conferences on the regional and international level on selected issues that could report to the PrepComs and/or to the summit itself.
- During the preparation of the second phase, the follow-up after Tunis 2005 must be planned. This does not necessarily mean that there will be Geneva/Tunis+5 or +10 conferences, but in Tunis, a mechanism for an integrated and coordinated follow-up after 2005 must be set up covering all 11 themes according to Geneva Action Plan.

### **Suggestions on the priority themes of the second phase:**

In all of the 11 themes, a clear focus on a small number of key topics will be essential. Apart from the two issues that are worked upon in the working groups under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Internet Governance and Financing, the contribution of ICT as a tool for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of measures advancing the achievement of the MDGs will be in the centre of all efforts. In this context, also the role of free and pluralistic media, national e- and poverty reduction strategies, the use of ICT for peace building and humanitarian affairs management, capacity building and cultural diversity will get due attention. The role of multistakeholder partnerships will be enhanced as key policy and implementation arrangement.

We believe that all of the 11 themes are important working areas and suggest to give an adequate minimum coverage to all of them in Tunis. This does not preclude additional coverage for specific topics on which a consensus should emerge and that allow a clear linkage to the key topics.

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