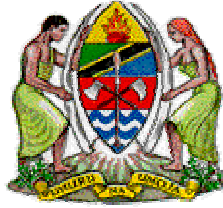


THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



STATEMENT BY THE TANZANIAN DELEGATION AT THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE TUNIS PHASE OF WSIS, HAMMAMET, TUNISIA; 24 - 26 JUNE, 2004:

Mr. President of the WSIS PREPCOM-1, Tunis Phase
Your Excellency Yoshio Usumi, Secretary General for ITU
Distinguished Delegates
Invited Guests and Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Tanzania Delegation to this Preparatory Meeting on WSIS Tunis Phase, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, congratulates you for being elected the President of the WSIS PrepCom. We have confidence that under your leadership the process leading to the WSIS II (to be held in the end of next year - Tunis Phase) will have seminal guidance to ensuring the success of the Summit II.

Tanzania is fully committed to the course of the WSIS and will continue her active participation in all WSIS II planned activities so as to make the Summit a reality. Indeed, the Tunis Summit is expected to come out with practical results derived out from comprehensive preparatory works in both Phases I and II. We are confident that the Tunis preparation process will continue to be participatory and inclusive in the same spirit of the WSIS Geneva Phase.

Mr. President, it is now about six months after WSIS I, Geneva Phase, 10-12 December 2003 which approved WSIS Declarations and Plan of Action for implementation by all stakeholders including the private sector and civil society at all levels globally. The Plan of Action recognises the need for enhancing the process of building up a well informed society in order to foster development through optimal use of Information and Communications Technologies.

During the Geneva Phase, almost all central requirements for achieving the objectives and goals were addressed and a consensus was reached. Among those identified requirements and issues include Internet Security and

Governance, Infrastructure Development and Financing for affordable access, etc. The implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action commenced after the Geneva Summit where each member state in collaboration with stakeholders at national and regional level was required to transform the Plan of Action into programme of activities and develop internal strategies for their implementation.

Mr. President, Tanzania has continued working on the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action in a step – by- step way while integrating it with the national programme. The integration is intended to speed up the process of development, leading into achievement of objectives outlined in the National Development Vision 2025 and those of the U.N Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The National Poverty Reduction Strategy defines means and techniques to be used including resource requirements. Building an Information Society through the use of ICT is one of the components in that Strategy which intends to narrow down the Digital Divide. Digital Divide is directly linked up with the level of the Information Society as well as that of socio-economic development. The more informed the society is the lesser the Digital Divide, the higher the level of ICT use and application, thus more socio-economic development. It is worth noting that ICT is not the only tool for development but it is considered the most effective way of attaining sustainable socio-economic development through promotion of the Information Society (IS).

Having realised the important role played by the info-communication technologies in socio-economic and political development, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has taken deliberate action to implement WSIS Plan of Action. These include those related to:

- (i) Policy Reforms on Institutional Arrangement – Formulation of harmonized, flexible and realistic policies that recognize the role of private sector and the importance of public-private partnership participation in the development process
- (ii) Development of ICT Infrastructure and Financing – while the government takes the lead in creating conducive environment and investing and in the management of infrastructure development in order to attain sustainable services.
- (iii) Access to information and knowledge – for the benefits of all stakeholders including individuals and institutions
- (iv) Capacity Building: human resource development, education, training and Research – the government is in the process of developing comprehensive and forward-looking education strategies integrated with ICT programs.
- (v) ICT Applications and Security – Tanzania in collaboration with other countries and local and international institutions has started working on

ensuring that strategies for promotion of ICT applications and content suited to local needs are put in place.

(vi) Culture and linguistic diversity, local content and media development – This is being dealt with along with building capacity for ICT development

(vii) Enabling Environment: Legal and Regulatory Framework – in order to create a truly worthy, transparent, and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment, capable of promoting technological innovation and competition, encouraging investment in infrastructure and services from the private sector in order to maximize the benefits of ICT. Issues of privacy protection, consumer trust, management of domain names, facilitation e-commerce, protection of intellectual property rights (ipr). open source solution articulated.

(viii) Internet Security – forms an integral part to the use of ICT services. It requires a well informed society to be able to appreciate, and be able to make full use of its applications

Mr. President, the Government is currently undertaking reforms at different levels which form part of implementation of WSIS Plan of Action. These measures include;

(i) Liberalization of Communications Sector and merger of the Tanzania Communications and the Tanzania Broadcasting Commissions which resulted into formation of a Regulatory Body (Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority - TCRA)

(ii) Further liberalization of the Telecommunications sector by privatizing the national PSTN (TTCL), resulting into having two private operators for the country's basic services (TTCL and ZANTEL) and four land mobile phone operators (MOBITEL, VODACOM, CELTEL and ZANTEL)

(iii) opening of markets and liberalisation of the info-communications sector in order to encourage private participation in investment and provision of info-communication services and attract foreign direct investment (FDI) into info-communications sector

(iv) Opening of all telecommunication services other than basic voice to competition

(v) Taxes on importation of computers and associated accessories waived to enable more people afford buying and using ICT facilities

(vi) Reduction of licence fees and royalty payable by telecommunication operators

Such reforms have had a positive impact on ICTs development . This is reflected by;

(i) increased teledensity from 0.032 in the late 1990s to about 3 per 100 inhabitants in December 2003;

(ii) four land mobile cellular operators;

(iii) nine data communication operators and over twenty Internet Services Providers as well as internet cafes increasingly emerging in all major towns

- (iv) Introduction of ICT related courses in secondary and higher learning institutions.
- (v) Number of Media training schools and colleges is constantly increasing aimed at meeting the growing demand for information
- (vi) Establishment of the Tanzania National Websites for access of and information sharing and exchange www.tanzania.go.tz; www.tzonline.org.tz; www.tanzaniagateway.org.tz; and the PARLIAMENTARY On-Line Information System www.parliament.go.tz
- (vii) Implementation of the Civil Service Reform Programme and the computerization of payroll systems
- (viii) Installation and use of an Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) an accounting system intended to link all sub treasuries under the Ministry of Finance;
- (ix) Established of a customs transit network connecting offices of the Tanzania Revenue Authority country-wide with the objective of enhancing customs clearance of imported and exported goods on transit; and monitoring of operations
- (x) Development of Motor Vehicles Online Register;
- (xi) Computerization of Patient Records and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) in our referral hospitals
- (xii) Education Information Management System (EIMS) and Tanzania Education Network (TENET)
- (xiii) Introduction of Automatic Teller Machine Cards (ATM) in the Banks and E-Procurement under Information Management Systems (AIMS) to enhance e-business
- (xiv) Establishment of Tanzania Women Owned and Operated Telecentres in rural areas

Mr. President, in conclusion, Tanzania being part of the African region reaffirms its support to the UN and ITU efforts towards implementation of WSIS Plan of Action and we appeal to the international community to increase its support to Africa's initiatives in development of sustainable infrastructure that will make Africa part of the Information Society. Similarly, Africa should be supported in the bid to promote Human resource and capacity building in order to achieve sustainable development.

Finally, we wish to express our optimism on the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society Tunis Phase. My government and the people of Tanzania will cooperate with other partners in making the WSIS Tunis Phase a success through active participation to all activities of the PrepCom and related fora.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION