



ORGANISATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LA RECHERCHE NUCLÉAIRE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH

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Statement by CERN

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Thank you Mr. Chairperson and many thanks to the Government in Tunis for their great hospitality! Distinguished Delegates!

The Scientific Community, of which CERN is a member, is grateful that Science in the Information Society has explicitly found its place in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and in the Action Plan.

Let me summarise action items of priority to the scientific community as follows:

Education and Knowledge are the keys to development.

ICTs are the essential means to store and access content in science and education; Further, ICTs make us all virtual neighbours and enable close collaboration of distant partners.

Therefore governments together with the scientific community should endeavour 3 priority actions:

1. Internet Governance: To make **contents of publicly funded education and research freely accessible on the Web** for the critical use by everybody.

The “**Open Access**” and “**Open Archiving**” initiatives of the Scientific Community provide already practical emerging standards on how to make validated, certified content generally available. We consult with WIPO on this issue.

Open Access is a point of eminent interest for Internet Governance since validated, freely accessible knowledge will make the Internet to the distributed, but **universal repository of human knowledge, the library of Alexandria of today!**

“Creative Commons”, e-mail and spam, security: there are further contributions to Internet Governance emerging in science.

2. Financial Mechanisms: To connect all universities, and therefore the corresponding major cities, to the global networks at sufficient bandwidth, to provide them with the necessary ICT infrastructure and affordable software to use the internet..

The research community in the developed world experiences exponential growth in ICT use, generated by a “demand pull” through rapidly expanding volumes of scientific data, information and knowledge and a “technology push” of exponentially changing performance of ICT equipment. Scientists are the first users, drivers if not creators of change.

Exponential change means that the **Digital Divide will increase** for some years. However, there are encouraging examples: The provision of national optical fibre infrastructures have permitted a number of the new EU countries to “leap-frog” from Mb/s to Gb/s, multipurpose, digital networks within two years. This demonstrates that rapid change is possible.

Implementation plans for such essential infrastructure can be worked out anywhere. **International tenders in a de-regulated environment and a maximum of local effort will provide for the best value for money.** Regions should present such concrete plans for all of their insufficiently connected countries to give a concrete focus to the solidarity fund but also to stimulate internet providers and ICT manufacturers to contribute, maybe in kind to real priority items. Scientists have already initiated and given focus to such activities in South East Europe.

3. Capacity Building, e-inclusion: To encourage and actively **support partnerships** between Universities everywhere, based on a maximum use of ICTs but including fellowships, training to educate the required specialists and to narrow the not only digital divide in science.

Concrete progress in these three points will be one of the quantitative measures of success of the WSIS process.

With its considerable expertise in global scientific and technological endeavours and within its available resources CERN is eager to contribute and to collaborate with interested stakeholders to concrete, priority WSIS actions and to the success of WSIS@Tunis.

Thank you for your attention.