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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC and CULTURAL
ORGANISATION**



Intersessional negotiation work

24-28 October 2005

Language suggestion concerning an Itemized Implementation and Follow-Up Process. completed by a note concerning the current WSIS implementation and follow-up at UNESCO

Friday 28 October 2005

Version 5 / Final

URL : <http://www.wsis-si.org/IS/follow-unesco-28oct05.pdf>

<http://www.wsis-si.org/si-tunis-is.html>

This following language is suggested, either as a new paragraph or as a replacement of paragraph 28.

28. To insure a better coordination between all stakeholders, and notably the UN agencies and programs, we invite all stakeholders and notably the heads of the UN agencies and programs to prepare draft budgets, to be presented to their respective governing bodies, according to an itemized implementation of the WSIS recommendations of the Geneva and Tunis plan of Actions, in their respective fields of expertise. In establishing drafts budgets, the outcomes of the various WSIS regional and thematic meetings, should also be quoted and taken into consideration.

This language suggestion is being proposed, after assessing the current implementation process of WSIS recommendations by UNESCO, which provides a good preview of what the implementation and follow-up process could be.

It has been brought mostly to the attention of all stakeholders : governments, civil society and business sector, the document entitled "UNESCO and the WSIS" (ref 33C/41) which includes the draft of the UNESCO resolution that was adopted

(room document 4) by the UNESCO 33rd General Conference on Wednesday 12 October 2005, by the Commission V.

However, we feel that further information and comments might prove helpful in order to provide some food for thought in the context of current negotiations concerning the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS.

The document 33C/41 has been discussed during the UNESCO 33rd General Conference on Wednesday 12 October 2005, by the Commission V. According to the draft oral report of the rapporteur of Commission V (17 October 2005), the paragraph 22.6 related to Internet Governance was deleted. Concerning the paragraph 22.8 *“endorsing the Director-General's approach to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes”*, some countries were not satisfied with this formulation feeling that it could imply agreement before the outcomes of the Summit were known. After extensive discussions, the Chair called for a vote, and the original wording in this section of the DR was adopted (57 in favor, 6 against and 5 abstentions). There was also extensive debate about the timing of reporting outcomes, with some feeling that the 34th Session of the General Conference is too far away. Mr Khan agreed that the Tunis Outcomes and the tasks assigned to UNESCO could be reported to the April 2006 session of the Executive Board and that a more comprehensive implementation progress report would be prepared for the next General Conference in 2007.

However for all practical purposes, what really matters concerning the implementation of the WSIS recommendations is what has been adopted in the Budget for the next biennium, and one might be concerned about the efficiency of the Director General approach if there is no dedicated financial resources towards this purpose. Therefore, we feel that what is of utmost importance is the Budget. We hereby refer to the Draft Budget (ref 33C/5, a heavy document, two volumes : 311 pages & 113 pages) to assess the current implementation of the WSIS recommendations by UNESCO.

The draft budget of UNESCO is organized according to Five Major Programmes that correspond to the various UNESCO administrative divisions.

I Education

II Natural Sciences

III Social and Human Sciences

IV Culture

V Communication and Information.

It is worth to notice first that the WSIS is only mentionned within the Major Programme V **Communication and information** (C33/5 Vol 1 p 191). It appears that the WSIS should have been also mentionned in the four other major programmes

We are concerned too that the WSIS recommendations whose precise language has been the matter of extensive diplomatic negotiations are never quoted as such (see Annex 1) and no itemized implementation of each recommendation has been contemplated.

We are quite concerned that some budget items are not reflecting precisely the recommendations of the plan of action. However we are extremely pleased that the UNESCO Director General has taken the initiative of presenting a draft resolution to the effect of endorsing *the Director-General's approach to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes, stressing in particular: (a) UNESCO's mandate and competence to act as a facilitator for the implementation of the Action Lines: "Access to information and knowledge"; "Capacity-building"; "E-learning and e-science (under 'ICT applications')"; "Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content"; "Media", and "Ethical dimensions of the information society"; .*

It appears that an itemized implementation of WSIS recommendations is required in order not only to achieve an efficient coordination, otherwise it is very difficult to distinguish and appreciate how current 33C/5 budget items are related to WSIS recommendations, but also to achieve evaluation and review.

We are going to continue our demonstration by taking the example of of *e-sciences*, which falls obviously in the field of competence of UNESCO. It is hoped that the reader would have a practical grasp of current difficulties with a practical example.

The WSIS Geneva Plan of Action recommendations concerning E-sciences are :

22. *E-science*

- 1. Promote affordable and reliable high-speed Internet connection for all universities and research institutions to support their critical role in information and knowledge production, education and training, and to support the establishment of partnerships, cooperation and networking between these institutions.*
- 2. Promote electronic publishing, differential pricing and open access initiatives to make scientific information affordable and accessible in all countries on an equitable basis.*
- 3. Promote the use of peer-to-peer technology to share scientific knowledge and pre-prints and reprints written by scientific authors who have waived their right to payment.*
- 4. Promote the long-term systematic and efficient collection, dissemination and preservation of essential scientific digital data, for example, population and*

meteorological data in all countries.

5. *Promote principles and metadata standards to facilitate cooperation and effective use of collected scientific information and data as appropriate to conduct scientific research.*

It is also highly appropriate that UNESCO takes into consideration the recommendations and final documents of the various WSIS thematic and regional thematic meetings that have been organized by Governments and other stakeholders. Notably, concerning e-sciences, attention is drawn to the relevant detailed recommendations that are included in final document that has been approved at the WSIS thematic meeting [UNESCO between two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society](#) (17-19 May 2005, St. Petersburg, Russia). It has been recommended to UNESCO and other UN specialised agencies, as well as other public and private funding institutions in the world:

- * to concentrate their financial resources on supporting or implementing self-sustainable Educational, Scientific and Cultural Information systems without costly recurrent licensing fees, with the help of Open Access repositories as well as Free Software, Open Source, and proprietary Freeware tools;*

- * to support creation of second disclosure Open Access information resources whereby authors are describing the results of their research that have already been published elsewhere;*

- * to provide financial support to first and second disclosure Open Access resources to eliminate the need to charge publication fees;*

- * to support the creation of an association of Open Access Publishers to reinforce their effectiveness in collaboratively raising financial resources and in gaining collective renown;*

- * to create or support seed funding programs to create new Open Access information resources everywhere in the world and to promote the conversion of existing resources to the Open Access model;*

- * to require as a grant or endorsement condition, publication in the Open Access model of any full report of research being even partially funded, or morally endorsed by them;*

- * to support and endorse the initiatives of Funding Institutions to implement their own mandatory Open Access Archives;*

- * to create or support the implementation of a free Digital Object Identifier system to retrieve and directly and freely identify digital documents; and*

- * to build Open Access repositories in a way that would allow easy site mirroring as well as complete copying on portable media, such as CDs or DVDs, to allow access to knowledge in regions with little or non-existent Internet connections;*

- * to provide funding and in-kind assistance to a Free Software project that implements the peer-to-peer functionality as recommended by the WSIS Plan of*

Action to allow efficient exchange of scientific information.

It is quite difficult to relate the five WSIS Geneva recommendations, as well as the St. Petersburg recommendations, with the C33/5 Budget items

Major Programme V Communication and Information

V.1 Empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special emphasis on freedom of expression

V1.1 Creating an enabling environment for the promotion of freedom of expression and universal access

V1.2 Fostering community access and diversity of content

V2 Promoting communication development and ICTs for education, science and culture

V.2.1 Fostering media development

V.2.2 Advancing the use of ICTs in education, science and culture

In fact some WSIS e-science recommendations are seemingly ignored. We acknowledge that the talented and dedicated UNESCO leaders and staff members are really making their efforts to implement the WSIS recommendations, however a coherent effort seems required that goes beyond individual goodwill and dedication. It is kindly suggested to UNESCO to issue a document that would try to relate the budget items that were just adopted at the UNESCO 33rd General Conference with the Geneva WSIS recommendations and to make its best efforts to implement the GC33 budget items in the spirit of the WSIS recommendations and the outcomes of WSIS regional and thematic meetings.

For the future, it is kindly suggested to the UNESCO Executive Board, during its April 2006 session, to take the decision that the preparation of the Draft Budget for the next 34th General Conference in 2007 should to be clearly itemized so that each budget item could be clearly related to one or several WSIS recommendations and conversely so that each WSIS recommendations can be clearly related to one or several GC Draft Budget item, while also taking into account the recommendations of WSIS thematic and regional meetings.

For more information, please find below (Annex 1) the paragraphs of the Draft Budget (C33/5) where the WSIS is mentioned.

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Chair

Civil Society Working Group

Scientific Information

Co-chair

Civil Society Working Group

Patents, Copyrights & Trademarks

Annex 1/ Mentions of WSIS in the Draft Budget

Annex 2 / Budget of Commission V.

ANNEX 1

05003. International goals and commitments : *Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS 2003 and 2005)*

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular MDG 1, MDG 2 and MDG 8, target 18 United Nations Millennium Declaration.

*05005. Information, communication and knowledge are at the core of human progress, endeavour, and well-being. Traditional and new information and communication technologies (ICTs) open new and challenging opportunities to attain higher levels of development for the benefit of people in all parts of the world. However, many people and nations, especially the poorest ones, do not have effective and equitable access to the means for producing, disseminating and using information and, therefore, to development opportunities. The concept of knowledge societies, which UNESCO has been advocating, offers a holistic and comprehensive vision (cutting across all UNESCO's domains) with a clear development-oriented perspective that captures the complexity and dynamism of current changes in the world. Knowledge societies are about capabilities to identify, produce, disseminate and use information to build and apply knowledge for human development. They require an empowering social vision which encompasses plurality, inclusion, solidarity and participation. Based on the principles of freedom of expression, universal access to information and knowledge, promotion of cultural diversity, and equal access to quality education, the concept of knowledge societies is progressively recognized as essential for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly **in the new framework for international dialogue and cooperation set by the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).***

Programme V.1

05101 *Empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special emphasis on freedom of expression*

(C33/5 p 194)

Programme objectives. UNESCO will seek to support actions designed to empower people so that they can access and contribute to information and knowledge flows. Actions will be initiated along four main thrusts: (i) promoting freedom of expression; (ii) creating an enabling environment which is conducive to and

facilitates universal access to information and knowledge; (iii) developing effective "infostructures"; and (iv) stimulating the development of and access to diverse content. The actions under the first thrust are geared towards attaining the objectives of promoting freedom of expression and freedom of the press, establishing internationally recognized standards for freedom of expression and freedom of information, developing accountability, ethics and professional standards in journalism as well as enhancing the role of the media in democratic governance. These actions will consolidate some of the expected outcomes of strategic objective 10 in document 31 C/4 Approved, especially (i) progress in the application of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the media; and (ii) extension of the geographical coverage of networks in order to fight more effectively against threats to the security of journalists. The Information for All Programme (IFAP) will provide the policy framework for many of the actions under the second thrust which will be designed around setting standards, raising awareness and monitoring progress to achieve universal access to information and knowledge. **The objectives include promoting the formulation of integrated information and communication strategies and policies in Member States that conform with the Principles and the Action Plan adopted at the WSIS.** Special consideration will be given to fostering international debate on the ethical implications of emerging knowledge societies and assisting in the development of information and management tools. Special consideration will be given to fostering international debate on the ethical implications of emerging knowledge societies and assisting in the development of information and management tools. Other objectives will be to enhance the development of "infostructures", such as libraries and archives, especially at the community level; stimulate the production of and access to diverse content; and preserve the documentary heritage, both in digital and traditional formats. It is envisaged that these actions will lead to an increase in the amount of publicly available information and encourage multilingualism, especially in cyberspace. They will also aim at reinforcing the contributions by the media to intercultural dialogue in the larger context of the Organization's efforts to promote a dialogue among cultures and civilizations as well as peoples. These actions will equally help attain the expected outcomes of strategic objectives in document 31 C/4 Approved, in particular (i) improved cultural and linguistic diversity through a more diverse offer in the Internet and other digital products (strategic objective 11); (ii) broader participation in world networks as a result of training and institutional support; and (iii) greater participation in regional networks and improvement in their technical capacity.

0511. *Strategic approaches.* UNESCO has a unique mandate to act as the lead agency in promoting freedom of expression and universal access to information and knowledge. The Organization is well suited to serve as a resource facility and a think-tank for pertinent questions related to the complex development of knowledge

societies. **One main objective will be to ensure that the concrete implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action is accompanied by a continued reflection on the conditions in which knowledge societies can develop.** The focus will be on creating an enabling environment to achieve freedom of expression and universal access. These goals are strongly interrelated. The freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media reflects the fundamental human right upon which the goal of universal access is predicated. Freedom of expression and the free flow of ideas by word and image are critical to achieve universal access and fully exploit its potential in developing prosperity and knowledge....

The approach also entails fostering standards for editorial independence of public service broadcasting institutions. **Another important element of the strategy will be the implementation of the outcomes of the two phases of the WSIS (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005).** Action will be targeted to the needs of developing countries, especially the least developed countries and countries in transition. Special attention will be paid to the gender dimensions and to the needs of young people. Consultations and consensus-building on important "infoethics" issues will be pursued, as will be monitoring and analysing developments in knowledge societies, in collaboration with national authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector

0512 Fostering community access and diversity of content

Strategic approaches. Dealing with two main thrusts of the principal priority area, namely developing effective "infostructures" such as libraries, archives, community learning centres, and other providers of information services and stimulating the development of, and access to, diverse content the actions are designed to operationalize the concept of knowledge societies and **to contribute to the implementation of the WSIS Action Plan.** They are equally intended to address the digital divide and develop strategies for universal access. In developing "infostructures", UNESCO will concentrate on building human and institutional capacities as well as strengthening community access and participation in knowledge societies. With regard to building human and institutional capacities, the strategy aims at providing training, integrating media literacy issues into curricula of communication training institutions and assisting them to offer on-line and off-line training opportunities. ...

Flagship project: Community media as a catalyst for development and social change
...**The CMC modality was highlighted as a UNESCO flagship activity at WSIS I, held in December 2003 in Geneva...**

05201 Promoting communication development and ICTs for education, science and

culture

*Programme objectives. The following two main objectives will be pursued: (i) supporting the development of communication media, including in conflict and post-conflict areas as well as in post-disaster situations; and (ii) advancing the use of ICTs for education, science and culture. Under the first objective, the Organization will continue its efforts to foster communication development in Member States, principally through its International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). Priority will be given to least developed countries, Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as countries in transition. In areas of emergency and conflict, building on its experience in South-East Europe, the Great Lakes region in Africa, the Middle East, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, UNESCO will contribute to peace-building and reconciliation processes by providing assistance to independent media so as to enable them to gather and disseminate non-partisan information. The objectives are threefold: support the establishment of media facilities; encourage media initiatives which contribute to peacebuilding; and assist in the rebuilding and development of independent and pluralistic media landscapes in post-conflict areas as well as in post-disaster situations. The actions are designed to reinforce the expected outcomes of an increase in the number of (i) development projects on communication capacities (strategic objective 12 in document 31 C/4 Approved); and (ii) independent newspapers and radio or television stations, both public and private, in countries in transition as well as in conflict or post-conflict zones (strategic objective 10). With regard to advancing the use of ICTs in education, science and culture, the Organization will seek to enhance learning opportunities through access to diversified contents and delivery systems as well as strengthening capacities for scientific research, information-sharing and cultural exchanges. As the "lead sector" for the cross-cutting theme on ICTs, the Communication and Information Sector will reinforce synergies between its own programmes and the cross-cutting projects related to this theme. **Actions will focus on using ICTs to contribute to achieving the EFA goals and the WSIS Action Plan by expanding access to education and learning, broadening access to scientific information and increasing capacities for information-sharing and exchanges.** In this way, the actions will also strengthen the achievement of the expected outcome of more diversified applications of ICTs for training purposes, especially in distance education and scientific and cultural cooperation (strategic objective 12 in document 31 C/4 Approved).*

05401 *Cooperation with extrabudgetary funding sources*

Under Major Programme V, UNESCO will continue its cooperation with multilateral and bilateral institutions and donors in the public and private sectors and other stakeholders. The Organization will intensify its efforts to collaborate with the

international donor community to generate funds for actions designed to enhance the role of communication and information in development as well as in building open and inclusive societies. The Organization will seek to achieve a greater integration of efforts among the donor community and multilateral development institutions through coordinated or joint programme approaches. In particular, efforts will be made to improve synergies with the UN ICT Task Force, the Global Knowledge Partnership, UNDP, ITU, the World Bank and other stakeholders **in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS, 2003 and 2005).** The Organization's own intergovernmental and international programmes, the International Programme for Development of Communication (IPDC) and Information for All Programme (IFAP), will be particularly important in the efforts to mobilize funds and strengthen international cooperation. In the principal priority area, "empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special emphasis of freedom of expression", partnerships will be sought with organizations and initiatives belonging to the United Nations system such as the UNDP, ITU, UN ICT Task Force and other IGOs. Civil society organizations, including professional NGOs, will continue to be essential partners for building alliances around knowledge society issues. Partnerships with the private sector, particularly the IT industry, will be consolidated and widened, especially in areas of shared social and economic development objectives and where the IT industry can provide innovative solutions for establishing knowledge networks. With regard to the promotion of freedom of expression and media independence and pluralism, including in conflict areas and post-disaster situations where UNESCO has gained considerable experience over the past years, extrabudgetary funding will be sought from a range of international, national, and private sources, including those bilateral national donors (such as Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, United States) that have already contributed substantially to the Organization's activities in this area. Cooperation will also be sought or reinforced with the joint United Nations and World Bank Trust Funds, OCHA, OHCHR, the European Union, the Council of Europe, OSCE, foundations and the private sector. Existing partnership arrangements with national, regional and international NGOs as well as with main professional organizations will continue and be further developed....

The WSIS is also mentioned in the paragraphs related to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Annex 2 :

Budget : Major Programme V Communication and information

I. Personnel

\$19 052 100

II. Activities:

V.1 Empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special

emphasis on freedom of expression

V.1.1 Creating an enabling environment for the promotion of freedom of expression and universal access \$3 989 600

V.1.2 Fostering community access and diversity of content \$6 480 500

V.2 Promoting communication development and ICTs for education, science and culture

V.2.1 Fostering media development \$2 382 500

V.2 Promoting communication development and ICTs for education, science and culture

V.2.1 Fostering media development \$2 382 500

V.2.2 Advancing the use of ICTs in education, science and culture \$1 045 700

Projects relating to cross-cutting themes \$1 500 000

Total, Major Programme V \$34 450 400