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The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

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National WSIS Preparatory Process

List of Abbreviations

AAU	**Addis Ababa University**
CRDA	**Christian Relief and Development Association**
DEVINET	**Development Information Network**
DNS	**Domain Name System**
EARO	**Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization**
ECoA	**Ethiopian Customs Authority**
EFOSSNet	**Ethiopian Free and Open Software Systems Network**
EICTDA	**Ethiopia ICT Development Authority**
EMMTI	**Ethiopian Mass Media Training Institute**
ETA	**Ethiopian Telecommunication Agency**
ETC	**Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation**
FIRA	**Federal Inland Revenue Authority**
FMoH	**Federal Ministry of Health**
FSCE	**Forum for Street Children Ethiopia**
FSC	**Federal Supreme Court**
ICANN	**Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**
ICT	**Information and Communication Technology**
ICTDO	**ICT Development Office**
IG	**Internet Governance**
LAN	**Local Area Network**
LDCs	**Least Developed Countries**
MDGs	**Millennium Development Goals**
MoTI	**Ministry of Trade and Industry**
NEPAD	**New Partnership for Africa Development**
NGO	**Non-government organization**
TFFM	**Task Force on Financial Mechanisms**
TIN	**Tax Identification Number**
UNECA	**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**
UNESCO	**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**
VAT	**Value Added Tax**
VSAT	**Very Small Aperture Terminal**
WAN	**Wide Area Network**
WSIS	**World Summit on Information Society**
WGIG	**Working Group on Internet Governance**

1. Introduction

It is our understanding that the second phase of the WSIS in Tunis will focus on concrete actions and solutions, especially targeting the following issues:

- Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, with particular attention to the challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);

- Consideration of the report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and appropriate actions;

- Consideration of the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and appropriate action.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has undertaken an assessment on the current status of ICT development initiatives in the country in the various sectors. The assessment also attempted to evaluate the alignment of these initiatives to the action items contained in the WSIS Plan of Action. Ethiopia has registered results in increasing the capacity of its Telecom and ICT infrastructure, expanding access to ICT services and products including social services in the area of education, health and administration. Consequently, this indicates that Ethiopia is in the right track in terms of responding to the objectives and visions of the WSIS and respecting its commitments towards taking concrete measures and actions to implement the action lines. Section 3 of this document gives more information on the list of on-going initiatives. The assessment also contributed to the preparation of this country position paper.

The structure of this paper is organized in such a way that section one gives brief introduction on the focus of the second and final phase of the Summit while section two covers background of the WSIS process. Section three attempts to provide summary of ICT development initiatives currently being deployed by the government and other stakeholders and section four reviews and responds to the issues addressed in Tunis Commitment and Tunis Plan of implementation. The final section concludes by forwarding few concluding remarks.

1. Background

Ethiopia has recognized the need to take pragmatic actions to exploit the potentials of ICTs for accelerating social and economic transformation. This vision and action will definitely contribute to the evolvement of an information and knowledge economy which eventually leads to the development of an information society.

Ethiopia has been actively participating in the WSIS process since 2002 and expressed its commitment, during the first Summit in Geneva 2003, to work towards the translation of the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action. It has also expressed its readiness to make the maximum use of ICTs to benefit and enable its society to be competitive and responsive to the global market as well as minimize its vulnerability to manmade and natural disasters. The WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action have been recognized as a framework and the government is heavily committing resources for building modern and competitive telecom infrastructure, developing contents and applications and improving access to and utilization of new information services and products.

Ethiopia considers that the WSIS process can also play a catalytic role in attaining the targets set by of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) to bridge the ICTs infrastructure gap in the continent[1]. It also expects that necessary mechanisms will be put in place in order to coordinate activities between these initiatives. As part of the WSIS process, Ethiopia has also fully endorsed the Declaration of the African Ministers in charge of Telecommunications and ICT on Infrastructure development during the symposium held in Abuja Nigeria between 3 – 5 July 2005.

Similarly, Ethiopia has also contributed to and supported the Accra commitments which were expressed in terms of key principles, development orientations, resource mobilization including human resources development, international cooperation and operational aspects.

The various preparatory activities towards the Tunis phase were spearheaded by the Ethiopian Information and Communication Technology Development Authority, with the support from the WSIS National Task Force composed of

[1] NEPAD's target for 2005 includes telephone density of 4 lines per 100 inhabitants for fixed lines and 7 lines per 100 inhabitants for mobile phones (ITU Resolution 124, 2002).

members drawn from various stakeholders, e.g., government, private sector, academia, regional organization.

Moreover, a national consultative workshop was organized, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on 15 September 2005. This workshop has brought together of key stakeholders in the national ICT development program and facilitated their active participation and contribution to the enrichment of the Country Position Paper. In addition, the following papers were reviewed during the preparation of the position paper:

- The Final Report of the Second Preparatory Meeting (Prepcom-2 of the Tunis Phase)
- Decisions of Prepcom-2
- Compilation of countries' comments on chapter two of the operational part (financial mechanism)
- Compilation of countries' comments on chapter one of the operational part (implementation mechanism)
- Compilation of countries' comments on chapter four (the Way Ahead)
- Compilation of comments on political Chapeau (Tunis Commitment) and Operational Part (Tunis Agenda for Action)
- Report of the Working Group on Internet Governance

It should be noted that the paper is mainly guided by the issues covered by the decisions of Prepcom – 2 which is central to the forthcoming Prepcom –3. The paper discusses, among other the following issues:

A. Declaration of Political commitments from Governments

Reassertion of the commitment expressed during the first Summit with more action oriented and workable sense of solidarity among all stakeholders at all levels.

B. Operational

- Financing Mechanisms
- Implementation Mechanisms
- The Way Ahead

C. Internet Governance (IG)

Unlike the above two major issues, internet governance has remained a contentious issue to be resolved yet. Though issues on internet governance require thorough discussion and elaboration, Ethiopia expects key issues be identified and resolved before the Tunis Summit. We recognize that the report of the WGIG can be a starting working document to arrive at concrete decisions.

Overall, Ethiopia's participation and contribution to the WSIS process, from Geneva to Tunis, has been action oriented in that the intervention of ICTs was strengthened to accelerate national development in particular and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in general.

3. The ICT Situation in Ethiopia

The ICT development initiatives currently taking place in different sector ministries and agencies are enshrined under the guiding framework of the national ICT Policy and the ICT capacity building program. The section below provides an account of the ongoing initiatives carried out by the various stakeholders in Ethiopia (mainly government, NGOs, civil society, private sector, bilateral institutions, etc.). This list must not be regarded as exhaustive.

Promotion of ICTs for development

Adding to the efforts made by the government in improving the telecommunication infrastructure and implementing ICT for development initiatives, the British Council in collaboration with the Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) established Development Information Network (DEVINET) whose main objective is to enhance information exchange among non-government organizations. Forum for Street Children Ethiopia (FSCE) is also providing ICT-based informal education to street children on eradicating illiteracy, on HIV/AIDS and livelihood skill training programs. The role of the emerging ICT private sector in Ethiopia in providing government institutions with ICT solutions is also worth mentioning.

Infrastructure

Recognising that building and maintaining effective and reliable infrastructure is a prerequisite for the development of an inclusive information society, the government heavily invested on broadband high speed technology. The installation of fiber optic network is also underway in seven main directions of the country covering 3,593 km distance. Out of this, 2,874 km cable has already been installed.[2] In addition, installation of high transmission microwave stations and access networks are being carried out to expand the telecom infrastructure. In order to expand universal access, ETC has started a rural connectivity project aiming at providing access to ICTs for each village in the country within the range of 5-10 km walking distance. This project began this year and will be completed in 2008. It is intended to set up more than 18,000 access points across the country.

The WoredaNet project is also targeting at the deployment of ICT networking infrastructure in more than 500 Woredas (similar to districts) located all over the country. So far 35 regional and major towns have been connected using terrestrial broadband network and are enjoying videoconferencing and Internet services (512 kbs) while 471 Woredas are getting Internet access services via VSAT terminals. When fully realised, the WoredaNet will give access to web services, Voice-over-IP, electronic messaging and government directory services.

Enabling Access to information and knowledge

The potential of the WoredaNet and SchoolNet projects in enhancing citizens access to information and knowledge is quite enormous. Participation of other stakeholders in expanding access to information and knowledge is also exemplary. For instance, the British Council set up and handed over to city councils multi-purpose tele-centers in four places, namely Woliso, Debre Berhan, Gondar and Axum. These tele-centers are providing access to the , secretarial services, document reproduction, CD-ROM search and printing. Besides, there are over 4000 telecenters and 100 cyber-cafes in the country, operating with license from ETA. The impact of these ICT access points quite discernible in that they helped to develop an ICT culture, especially among the youth.

[2] Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation. 1997 E.C Performance Report. July 2005.

Capacity building

The task of building ICT capacity has been accorded top priority by the government. Evidences for this include the huge investment committed for launching on WoredaNet and SchoolNet projects. For instance, up until end of June 2005, 605 high schools were connected and received broadcasted programs on such subjects as English, Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Civics. By this Ethiopian academic year, it is planned to scale up the subject coverage of the program to include three additional subjects, namely, Business, Economics and Technical Drawing[3].

The ICT Development Office of AAU has also implemented intra and inter-campus networks in order to enhance the effectiveness of its human resource development programs and the communication and interaction of the academic community. Thus far, 8 campuses were interconnected each other and work is in progress to connect the remaining campuses. The University has also developed and piloting e-learning platform by customizing free and open source software known as KEWL and implemented an integrated library system based on another free software called KOHA. The effort being made by the Ethiopian Free and Open Source Software Network (EFOSSNet) towards advocating the use of free and open software systems is worth noting here.

There are about 10 private colleges which obtained accreditation from the Ministry of Education to offer courses on ICTs at diploma and degree level. The range of course include: Information Technology, Information System, Computer Science, Computer Technology and Management Information System. The contributions of the private computer training houses and the Cisco Academy located in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of AAU, and the newly established Graduate School of Telecommunication and Information Technology and regional universities are encouraging.

The Public Sector Capacity Building program is also focusing on four components, namely, ICT human resources development, ICT for improving delivery of public services, ICT for enhancing sectoral applications and ICT for community based information systems and services.

[3] The content (program) for these additional subjects has already been completed by a Canadian Company known as Shailf Communication.

Enabling environment

The government created favorable environment to enhance the exploitation of ICTs for accelerated socio-economic development. This includes: the elaboration and institutionaliztion of the national ICT development framework and the creation of the Ethiopia ICT Development Authority (EICTDA) which is responsible to coordinate and supervise the planning and implementation of ICT development initiatives, including the strengthening the institutional capacity of Ethiopian Telecommunication Agency, the telecom regulator.

ICT applications

Various ICT applications development initiatives are being carried out in government Ministries and Agencies. For instance, the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO) is in the process of implementing a project called AgriNet which is jointly funded by the government and the World Bank. The project aims to establish a network of 50 agricultural research centers interconnected using VSAT technology and terrestrial connections. Up until now, VSAT terminals had been installed in 37 research stations. The rest 13 stations are candidates for terrestrial connectivity using high speed broadband link. Local Area Network (LAN) has already been installed in all the stations except in two stations located in relatively remote areas.

In the health front, a tele-medicine pilot project is being carried out in 10 hospitals. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) commissioned a Network Infrastructure Requirement Survey & Design (NIRSD) for the establishment of the Health Management Information System and the Logistics Management Information System. The objective of the study was to determine the LAN/WAN infrastructure requirements of the Ministry in terms of putting in place and Intranet systems using high speed bandwidth.

The Ethiopian Customs Authority implemented the ASICUDA^{++} system in ten clearance offices with connection to the main server at the Headquarters. The system enabled the Authority to improve its revenue collection and enhanced clients' access to information from the server. Transitors and importers can now enquire the server over a hotline number and know about the status of their declaration document and can get the duty to be paid calculated by the system by

giving it input on prices. In addition, a touch screen kiosk application and information data services were also implemented to assist clients accessing information on the procedures to be followed during customs clearance.

The Federal Inland Revenue Authority (FIRA) has also implemented a computerized system that would enable it process on-line Tax Applications – using Tax payers Identification Number (TIN) and Value Added Tax (VAT) registration numbers. Moreover, there is an operational network called RevenueNet which connects revenue collection centers all over the country.

As part of its court reform program, the Federal Supreme Court (FSC) has computerized about 126 court rooms by equipping them with at least three computers. The first one is used for a database of cases the second one for recording and transcribing court procession in three local languages (Amharic, Oromiffa and Tigrigna) and the third one for information desk. In addition, an interactive touch screen information kiosk application was put to use, at the Headquarters, for the clients to search and know information about the court's schedule in relation to their case.

Other instances of ICT initiatives include: computerization of Trade Registration and Licensing by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and the use of ICTs for Databanks by the Central Statistics Authority.

Promoting Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Currently, the Language Academy of AAU is working on a localization project related to the preparation of glossaries of ICT terminology for Amharic, Oromiffa and Tigrigna languages. Standardization activities completed by the Standard Team of EICTDA include: basic and critical Ethiopian Calendar, Date and Time Format, Language ID for Oromiffa, Amharic and Tigrigna languages including Sorting. Other local standard activities under-development include critical local standards for Afarigna and Somali languages and computer competence certificate standard. Activities planned but work is not yet started include ICT Security standards and information exchange standards. It should be noted here that there are other keyboard solutions already developed and in use e.g., Power Geez by Concept Data Systems and Visual Geez by Custer Computers.

Media

In view of implementing article 29 of the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government ensured freedom of the press through the proclamation in 1992. Following this proclamation, various newspapers, magazines, and other press products have been made available for the public. In order to speed up the liberalization of the media sector, the government enacted proclamation No.178/99 for the establishment of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Agency (EBA). The Agency, as a regulator of the sector, was building its capacity in terms of putting in place the necessary manpower, materials and working procedures. Thus far, EBA provided temporary licenses to Amhara region AM, Dire Dawa FM, Southern Region FM Radio Stations. Work is in progress to provide additional licenses to FM Addis, FM Oromiya and FM Tigray Regions. Currently, the Agency has made announcements for two commercial FM Radio Stations in Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian Mass Media Training Institution (EMMTI) of AAU offers two ICT related courses. This include: Basic Computer Literacy **and** or on-line journalism. For these courses, it is employing a fully networked computer laboratory with all the computers connected to the . With the view to improve delivery of information services to trainees, EMMTI is in the process of automating its library. The broadband connection line has already been installed and preparations are underway to install the computer lab for the library.

3.1 Challenges and opportunities in exploiting ICT for Development

Effective exploitation of the opportunities made available by ICTs requires a champion(s) and sufficiently defined targets to achieve and strategies to follow.

Ethiopia, during the first Summit held in Geneva, underlined that in order to implement the visions and actions contained in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, there is a need to be equipped with and promote, interalia, the :

- Necessary enabling environment,
- Relevant institutional and management capacity,
- Internationally competitive telecommunications infrastructure and services,
- Pervasive penetration of technology,

- Skilled human resource,
- Streamlining of ICT applications into development programs, and
- Providing effective financial support.

The building of an inclusive knowledge society presupposes proactively addressing potential challenges and maximizing benefits and supporting equitable access to the opportunities provided by ICT to all people. The most serious of these challenges, as expressed by organizations like UNESCO, are not technological but social. These challenges include the issue of freedom of expression, the goal of education for all, universal access to knowledge and information and preserving and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.

Others have identified a number of issues that they consider relevant for the development of a coherent and forward-looking information society, particularly beyond 2005. This includes: organizing contents and services, delivering public services, training of skilled personnel, developing ICT as a key industrial sector, building trust and dependability, promoting effective exploitation of ICTs for business. Moreover, most developing countries indicate that human resources development is the most critical area for the development of ICT Sector and in stimulating ICT usage in other sectors. Hence, Ethiopia recognizes the more profound challenge of educating, training and integrating large proportion of its population in the effort to the development of information society.

In fact, addressing these challenges would mean converting them into opportunities. This, of course, requires a strong and informed political commitments from governments side. In this case, the Prime Minister Meles Zenawi clearly underlined by saying that:

"Not long ago, many of us felt that we were too poor to afford to seriously invest in ICTs…We were convinced, and rightly so, that we should invest every penny we have on securing the next meal for our people.…We did not believe serious investment in ICT had anything to do with facing the challenges of poverty that kills. Now I think we know better.…Now we believe we are too poor not to save everything we can and invest as much of it as possible on ICT. We recognize that while ICT may be a luxury for the rich, for us the poor countries, it is a vital and essential tool for fighting poverty, for beating poverty that kills - and ensuring our survival[4]".

[4] Taken from the Opening Remarks by His Excellency Meles Zenawi, Prime Minster of the FDRE at the International Conference with the Theme of E-ennoblement of Ethiopia: Transformation in Africa, April 3, 2005

It is this informed commitment, at higher level, that created the impetus for heavily investing on modern and competitive telecom infrastructure and ICT development initiatives in Ethiopia.

4. Ethiopian Positions on Regional and global WSIS process

4.1 Support to African Positions

Ethiopia has participated in the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference, to the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which was held in Accra from February 2nd to 4th, 2005. Ethiopia fully endorsed the Accra commitment passed at the end of the conference and reaffirms its commitment to the realization of action item therein. Hence, Ethiopia urges the world community support the African position structured into key principles, development orientations, resource mobilization including human resources, international cooperation and operational aspects. It also supports the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy initiative and will create a mechanism to contribute proposals to benefit from its resources.

We would also like to support African Telecommunication Union's proposal on governance, funding of ICTs, partnerships, ICT performance indicators, coordination of the WSIS plan of action and creation of a coordination body.

The need for developing NEPAD's ICT infrastructure, environment, capacity building, cooperation and partnership programs outlined in the declaration of African Ministers in charge of telecommunications and ICT on Infrastructure development, Abuja Nigeria between 4th July 2005, should also be reviewed and supported.

4.2 Specific responses to Second Phase WSIS Process

The Second phase of WSIS is focus on the reassertion of political commitments, implementation of action plans and address issues related to governance. This section therefore reviews the relevant reports from WSIS process and national situation assessment findings. The responses are grouped into five categories, namely political, implementation, financial, governance and the way ahead.

4.2.1 Political

Ethiopia is a land where cultural and linguistic diversity is respected and constitutionally protected. The second WSIS Summit should continue to reflect and recognize the uniqueness of linguistics and cultural diversity in countries like Ethiopia. We also understand that the Summit should consider key initiatives and processes which can contribute to the world's effort to eradicate poverty. In addition, the opportunity to have access and build capacity to contribute to the vitality of knowledge are the necessary steps to be taken, particularly by developing countries and LDCs. As an LDC country, Ethiopia is yet to make concerted efforts and seek for global support for creating tangible opportunities for over 85% of the population who are living in the rural areas.

Hence, this Section of the paper indicates Ethiopia's response to the issues covered in the Political chapeau/Tunis Commitments.

4.2.1.1 From Geneva to Tunis

Para 1. Ethiopia supports the text as it stands.

Para 2. We support the text as it is amended by the Cultural Diversity Working Group.

Para 3. Supporting the suggested text from the Arab Group, we propose the following to be inserted into the first line of the text.

> The Summit is **one of the key initiatives and processes which can contribute to** ~~an important stepping-stone in~~ the world's efforts to attain the internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, including the poverty eradication**.** By the Geneva decisions, we established a solid long-term link between the WSIS process, and other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits. We call upon governments and other stakeholders to join together…

Para 4. Ethiopia supports the proposed text as it stands.

4.2.1.2 Key Principles

Para 5. Ethiopia supports the text as proposed by the Cultural Diversity Working Group and Luxembourg.

4.2.1.3 Development Orientation

Para 6. Ethiopia recognizes that **access and active contribution to** knowledge is vital to human existence....

Para 7. The implication of the text which reads **"ICTs have made it possible for a vastly larger population than at any time in the past..."** has a very diverse meaning. We therefore, suggest as follows:

Furthermore, ICTs have **increasingly creating potential opportunities** ~~made it possible~~ for a vastly larger population than at any time in the past to join in sharing and expanding the base of human knowledge....

Para 8. Ethiopia proposes that the text in the first square bracket be deleted and the second square bracket be removed.

Para 9. We propose the text of paragraph 9 as it is commented by Turkey and asks Alt 9. be deleted.

Para 10. We support the text as it stands and suggest Alternate 10 and 11 be deleted.

Para 11. We propose that this text plus 11B be deleted and support Alternate 11A as it stands.

4.2.1.4 Resource Mobilization including human resources

Resource Mobilization and, including human resources: We support the **New 11 C** and **11E** as it is proposed by the African Group.

4.2.1.5 Participation and international cooperation

Para 12. Ethiopia supports the text as it stands.

4.2.1.6 Concluding commitments

Para 13. Ethiopia support the text as it is proposed by Turkey.

Para 14. We propose the removal of the square bracket.

4.2.2 Implementation mechanism

Ethiopia is currently undertaking the preparation of national e-strategy as part of the implementation national ICT policy framework and committed significant resources for the implementation of projects corresponding to the declaration of principles and action plans of WSIS. Ethiopia reaffirms its commitment to attain the WSIS targets. The achievement of national ICT development programs and targets will have a immediate and direct positive impact towards the attainment of MDGs.

Ethiopia is one of the few African countries selected as a model country to assess and begin pilot projects for measuring ICT for development using standardized indicators.

In view of this level of commitment and impact bearing programs, Ethiopia would like to work with all development partners and other stakeholders on common and shared global objectives in building an inclusive information society. This definitely calls for an immediate and practical response to the national ICT capacity building programs and initiatives. Hence, Ethiopia forwards the following responses to the implementation mechanism with due consideration of the attention it has given to the WSIS process and expectations.

4.2.2.1 General Implementation Strategies

Para 1. … principles to action, by ~~encouraging~~ **all stakeholders** to take the Plan of Action …

4.2.2.2 National E-Strategies

Para 2. ... national level. ~~We encourage, as appropriate~~. Those governments that have not yet done so to elaborate …

4.2.2.3 Regional and International Implementation

Para 3. ...The regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity building and to the development, as appropriate, of national e-strategies and, …. ~~South-South~~ **Both bilateral and multilateral cooperation including regional and sub regional cooperation** shall be enhanced …

Para 4. … regional and international levels. To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share useful knowledge, ~~and~~ know-how, **and infrastructure as appropriate**, related to the elaboration**, implementation,** monitoring …

4.2.2.4 International cooperation

Para 5. ... potential of ICTs as a tool and an **economic sector** to achieve …

4.2.2.5 WSIS Targets

Para 6. … achieved by 2015, and to using ICTs as a tool **and economic sector** to achieve …

4.2.2.6 Indicators

Para 7. … "Measuring ICT for Development". … **involve** in these efforts by **designing relevant strategies, developing standards for data collection and analysis of indicators** and providing data and technical support.

4.2.2.7 Partnerships

Para 8. … all Information Society stakeholders. We encourage **strengthened and** continuing co-operation between and among stakeholders ….

4.2.2.8 Stocktaking

Para 9. We commit ourselves to **critically review**, evaluate and follow-up progress …

4.2.2.9 Implementation of the Geneva and Tunis Plan of Action

Para 10. … Action Line in the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action (as identified in the Annex), a team of **national, regional and other** stakeholders will work …. Agencies, those that will [~~moderate~~/coordinate] ….. (last sentence) **the Secretary General of the United Nations is further requested to submit annual report on the status of implementation of WSIS action plans with particular emphases to the issues of LDCs. In recognition of the leading role of the government in implementing the action plan, the UN Secretary General shall facilitate the greater participation of governments.**

Para 11. The [~~moderator~~/coordinator] of each team …. Information provided by **national focal body or point**, and ….. the Millennium Declaration, and submit it to **coordinated body which should be identified and after a thorough study** [a defined coordination body], [The [head of a defined coordination body] …..

4.2.3 Financial mechanism

Ethiopia appreciates the global community for considering that ICT should be given higher priority and the need for improvement and innovations of financial mechanisms, including the creation of a voluntary digital solidarity fund in recognition of the existence of digital divide. The country also recognizes and acknowledges the special and specific funding needs of the Least Developed Countries like Ethiopia. Ethiopia also expects and looks forward for active financial support of bilateral and multilateral donors for ICT infrastructure projects and capacity building efforts.

In light of the understanding of the situations in the Least Developed Countries, we support Para. 33. Alt 2 remain as it is and Para 33. Alt 1 be deleted.

With all due recognition of the wider applicability of the proprietary software, we support promoting the opportunities of the use of free and open source software. Hence, we support Option 1 of the Annex as indicated below:

> **Option 1:** Promoting awareness of the positive externalities generated by the development and use of free and open source software.

4.2.4 Internet Governance

Internet infrastructure has increasingly being recognized instrumental to the development of information society and creation of knowledge economy. Access and connectivity to resources must be affordable and sustainability should be secured. Internet Governance is therefore central to the implementation of WSIS declarations of principles and plan of actions. We value that the following clusters of policy and technical issues are comprehensive in addressing governance.

(i) Issues relating to infrastructure and the management of critical resources, including administration of the domain name system and IP addresses, administration of the Root server system, technical standards, peering and inter-connection, telecommunications infrastructure including innovative and con-verged technologies, as well as multi-legalization. These issues are matters of direct relevance to Governance falling within the ambit of existing organizations with responsibility for these matters;

(ii) Issues relating to the use of the , including Spam, network security, and cyber crime. While these issues are directly related to Governance, the nature of global cooperation required is not well defined;

(iii) Issues which are relevant to the , but with impact much wider than the , where there are existing organizations responsible for these issues, such as IPR or international trade. The WGIG started examining the extent to which these matters are being handled consistently with the Declaration of Principles; and

(iv) Issues relating to developmental aspects of governance, in particular capacity building in developing countries.

Ethiopia has reviewed the report from the Working Group on governance (WGIG) and appreciate the work done by the Group. However, Ethiopia would like to comment on the working definition, addressing problems of IG, roles of stakeholders, models for implementation mechanisms.

Working definition:- It is our opinion that the working definition should be further discussed and enriched in order to address both policy and technical issues related to IG. We felt that the current working definition proposed by the WGIG does not clearly indicate the aspects of management of resources. In light of this understanding, we propose the insertion of the following text to the proposed change on the working definition of WGIG.

> …procedures**,** ~~and~~ programs **and know how, and management of resources** that….

The working definition proposed by the WGIG is:

> *Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the .*

Identification of problems: Ethiopia appreciates the efforts made by the WGIG in identifying related problems and policy issues on the following IG elements:

- Administration of the root zone files and root server system of the domain name system (DNS),
- IP addressing,
- Interconnection costs,
- Internet stability, security and cyber crime,
- Spam,
- Freedom of expression,
- Meaningful participation in global policy development,
- Data protection and privacy rights,
- Consumer rights, and
- Multilingualism.

Although the identified problems have indicated most of the major concerns of developing countries, the level of impact of each problem has not been adequately analyzed. For instance, the problems associated with interconnection cost and multilingualism as related to access, affordability and localization would have

greater implications on resources (human, institutional, financial, etc), especially in the context of developing countries and LDCs.

Role of stakeholders: We felt that the roles defined or listed down for the stakeholders do not respond to the corresponding identified problems and should be reviewed further.

Options for IG Model: It is observed that the models lack clarity in identifying key governance issues and functional structures in addressing the problems identified. We recognize that Model 4 shows some direction towards the reformed governance and can serve as a working model.

Change Management: The need and approaches for coordination and management of the reformed internationalization of ICANN is not addressed in the report.

4.2.5 Way forward

The realization of the evolvement of information society requires regional and international coordinated efforts. This coordinated process is particularly beneficial to LDCs like Ethiopia, for exchange and sharing of knowledge and know-how. Cognizant of this, it is vital to maintain collaboration and secure cooperation through the patronage of the UN. We therefore support the proposed text by the African Group on paragraph 26, 28 and 29.

5. Concluding remarks

It must be recognized that the government of Ethiopia has committed huge resources on the exploitation of ICTs for development and growth. Thus, effective coordination and optimization of available resources is key success factor for realizing the benefits from ICTs and bring the desired impact on the performance of all sectors of the national economy and improve delivery of public services. It is also vital to create a conducive research environment whereby the process of un packaging and using global knowledge and innovative application of technology for designing solutions are facilitated and supported to meet the unique requirements of the Ethiopian socio-economic environment, e.g. promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversities.

In addition, Ethiopia considers the WSIS process as an important opportunity for mobilizing and galvanizing the support of national stakeholders towards harnessing

ICTs for national development. To this end, Ethiopia calls for a pragmatic and speedy support from the international community. It also believes that strengthening Africa's capacity in generating skilled human resources for effectively operation and maintenance of the broadband data traffic and building the required capacity for governance is of strategic importance to speed up the continent's participation in the globalization process. Finally, the establishment of information society funds and mobilization of additional resources locally and abroad is crucial for information society development in African countries.

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