

Annex 1: Group of Friends of the Chair

Prepcom 1 decided that: A group of friends of the Chair, with assistance of the WSIS Executive Secretariat and in consultations with regional groups, will prepare a document to serve as a basis for negotiations in Prepcom 2, taking into account, as appropriate, the outcomes of relevant thematic, regional and other WSIS related meetings.

This proposal is made in the spirit of transparency, to insure that all WSIS stakeholders are kept informed on the progress of reflections and the drafting of the Chair's initial proposal, which would serve as a basis for negotiations during Prepcom 2.

Composition:

- The Chair, in close consultations with regional groups, would nominate up to 6 delegations per region to form the Group of Friends of Chair (group). Rotation of the members of the group would be allowed in reasonable proportions.
- Other Government delegations would be invited to observe deliberations of the group in all its meetings.
- Each Government delegation, that is a member of the group, would be granted two seats. Government observer delegations would be granted one seat.
- Coordinators of the regional groups and host countries would be ex-officio members of the group.
- The Secretary General of ITU (or his personal representative) would be an ex-officio member of the group.
- Intergovernmental organizations, civil society and business representatives accredited to the WSIS, would be invited by the Chair to participate as observers in some meetings of the group and to make statements following WSIS established practice.

The final composition of the group would be announced in the Bureau.

Tentative schedule of activities

- The group would be convened on October 22 to discuss the structure and outline of the Final Document(s).
- By mid-November (by November 15 and 16), the members would be asked to submit drafting suggestions for the political part of the document, as well as proposals on implementation mechanisms and follow-up.
- In function of the appearance of other relevant documents (final documents of WSIS regional, thematic and other related meetings), as well as the Report of the TFFM, appropriate elements would be examined and possibly incorporated in the draft text (December 16 and 17).
- The group would break for the end of the year holidays from December 22 until January 5.
- The group would finish drafting on January 10 and 11, 2005, and translations of the draft document would be made into other UN languages. The draft document would then be posted on the WSIS ES website on January 20 (4 weeks prior to the second prepcom).

Other provisions

- The WSIS Executive Secretariat would assist the group in its work.
- The group, in principle, would meet in the ITU building or in Palais des Nations (Chair would make necessary reservations).