CONTRIBUTION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR GROUP, TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 16-17, 2004

OPERATIONAL PART OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT / TUNIS AGENDA FOR ACTION

CHAPTER ONE

WSIS Targets (Objetivos de la CMSI) – We are committed to achieving the indicative targets, set out in the Plan of Action, that serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015, by doing the following:

- We will encourage nations to include specific policies in their national e-strategies for the development and implementation of nationwide access points and community centres infrastructures, establishing working groups – convened by regions - that could meet in a recurring fashion to discuss the evolution and issues of e-strategies; in subsequent stages, these working groups could meet to discuss specific implementations of the particular projects under the scope of e-strategies;
- We will define basic guidelines that could be easily followed by all nations, including developing countries, describing cost-effective and technologically viable models to be adopted and adapted by the academic sector to achieve inter-networking; guidelines and models will also be outlined for connectivity and information-sharing in the scientific community, as well as public libraries, cultural centres, museums, post offices and archives; we could shape dedicated on-line forums to discuss and monitor national projects;
- Best Practices models could be made available to all nations on health centres and hospitals applications using ICTs; a particular stocktaking data base could be set-up for these models to be available continuously on-line;
- We will encourage nations to also include in their national e-strategies specific guidelines for the development and implementation of a common architecture/platform for all e-government applications; this platform should be an infrastructure for information exchange primarily between authorities in the public sector, but also between authorities and enterprises; regional task forces could be also assembled to meet in a regular basis to follow-up on these projects;
- Proposals to transform radio and television into teaching and learning tools will be outlined and made available to all nations through on-line interactive forums, as well as continuous updates on broadcast advances leaning to lower the costs of the associated technologies;
- To promote the adjustment of primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the Information Society, the development of content relevant to national interest and to put in place technical conditions to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the Internet, we could develop incentive programs to recognize, stimulate and support local successful developments.

Modalities for Implementation (Modalidades de Implementación) – There is a need to define modalities for the follow-up of the Tunis Summit and an eventual review of the WSIS-process. There is a need to align the development aspects of WSIS with follow-up

and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration.

As suggested in the previous statement, some of the mechanisms that could be incorporated to follow-up the implementation of the targets related to the WSIS goals are:

- Working groups / task forces convened to focus on each particular indicative target or clusters of targets, with meetings set on a regular basis;
- Interactive on-line forums with appointed members to contribute and to seek information on current local implementations;
- The set up of best practices and guidelines/models data bases with on-line access;
- Status reports to be submitted to the working groups periodically.

Stocktaking – We encourage all WSIS stakeholders to continue to contribute new and updated information on their activities to the WSIS stocktaking database, which was launched in October 2004 by the WSIS-ES and will be maintained by ITU, so that it becomes a valuable developmental tool, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis Phase of the Summit.

The inventory of contributions downloaded to this data base should be segregated and organized by input categories, in such a way that the stocktaking could become a more effective instrument for follow-up and reference to the countries members in their efforts to accomplish the targets set in the Plan of Action.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Way Ahead - There is a need to define clear steps for follow up after Tunis by defining areas in need of follow up, the mechanism for follow up and the entities that will be tasked with the follow up.

The most apparent areas in need of follow-up are:

- The evolution/achievement of the indicative targets identified by the WSIS 2003;
- The issues and challenges (financial, technological) related to infrastructure development and expansion in developing countries, a major building block that has to be structured in order to be able to make use of ICTs to become part of the global Information Society;
- On the same level, the definition of national e-strategies;
- The evolution and escalation of international alliances and partnerships, as well as the substantiation of co-operation among stakeholders (national) and countries (international).