

CONFERENCE OF NGOS IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (CoNGO)

WSIS+10 HIGH LEVEL EVENT

Geneva, June 10, 2014

STATEMENT BY CYRIL RITCHIE, PRESIDENT OF CoNGO

Excellencies, Directors General, Ladies and Gentlemen, Sisters and brothers of Civil Society :

1. From the time of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Summit in 2003 and 2005, the WSIS process has been a remarkable and welcome illustration of the benefits to all parties - governments, intergovernmental organizations, business, non-governmental organizations and the broader civil society - of openness, inclusiveness, and willingness to take on board a diversity of perspectives and competencies. That is surely what the Information and Knowledge Society must mean, and all stakeholders have drawn sustenance from the richness of experience and knowledge brought to the debating table by the different partners. The WSIS Open Consultation Process and the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform have been successful in incorporating a multiplicity of inputs, thereby enhancing the ultimate output and making it more lasting.
2. I emphasize these « procedural » aspects of WSIS because they are significant contributions to the policy-making of WSIS+10, and because they reflect standards and models that could - and should - be common throughout the United Nations System. Just like the United Nations, the Information and Knowledge Society must be open and participatory if it is truly to contribute to Peace, to Sustainable Development, to the world's sustainable future, to the needs of future generations.
3. In this context I attach the highest importance to the contribution that WSIS+10 will and must make to the UN Post-2015 Agenda. The intensive planning process that is in place to construct that Post-2015 Agenda involves all the same stakeholders and more. Not only the WSIS+10 Outcome Document that we shall collectively acclaim later this week, but also the WSIS+10 collaborative spirit and inclusive mechanisms must inform and enhance intergovernmental and non-governmental cooperation on the Post-2015 Agenda and therefore achieve a more lasting ultimate output. Let us build on the example and the inspiration of the WSIS+10 processes as we move forward TOGETHER towards not only « The Future We Want », but « The Future We Need ».