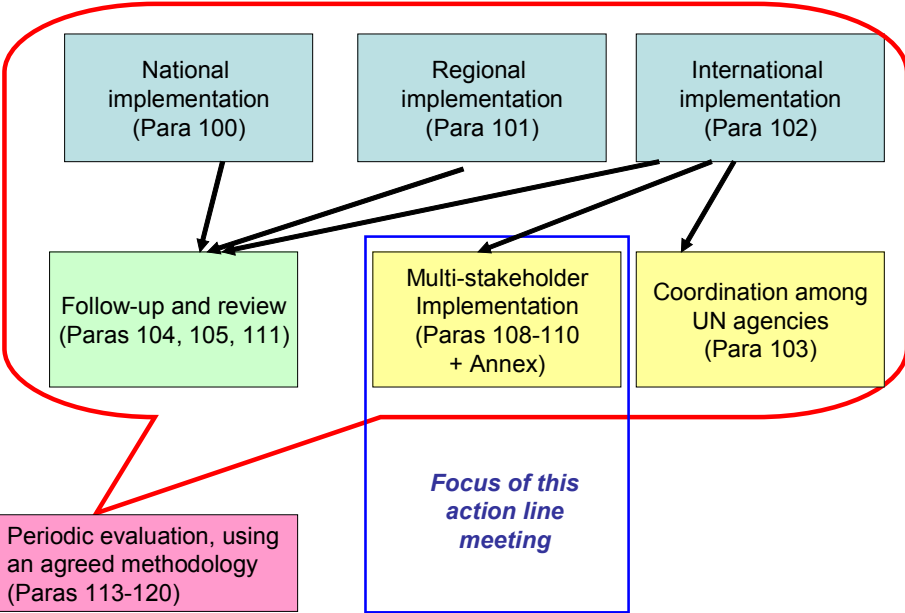


Summary Report

Consultation Meeting of WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Moderators, Geneva, 24 February 2006

1. A Consultation Meeting concerning possible WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Moderators, as designated by the Summit, was held in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations, on 24 February. The meeting was convened and co-chaired by ITU, UNESCO and UNDP in their role as leading facilitating agencies for the multi-stakeholder implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action, as outlined in paragraphs 108-110 of the *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society* (see Annex). The consultation meeting was open to all WSIS stakeholders. There were some 132 participants from governments, intergovernmental organisations, business entities and civil society (see the participation list on the website).
2. The meeting that was open to all stakeholders, was preceded, on the afternoon of 23 February, by a consultation among representatives of the members of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for coordination (CEB).
3. The Friday meeting was opened by Mr Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of ITU and Secretary-General of WSIS. He emphasized that implementation is a multi-stakeholder process which involves the organisation of activities conducted in the field, through projects and partnerships. Although there are many different references to implementation and follow-up activities in the WSIS outcome documents, this meeting was concerned with the international multi-stakeholder implementation process set forth in paras 108-110 of the Tunis Agenda (see Figure). In his view, the process must be inclusive, bottom-up, collective, results-oriented, and agile, with an appropriate mechanism for reporting the results achieved.
4. Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, welcomed participants and highlighted three of the achievements of the WSIS process: in generating a high-level policy dialogue on matters relating to the Information Society; in showing that ICTs are not merely a technological tool but are deeply embedded in social processes, knowledge, culture, science and education; and their role as a catalyst for multi-stakeholder partnerships. He emphasized that the different functions of implementation, facilitation and coordination in the post-Summit implementation processes will require serious commitments sustained over many years, and he underlined UNESCO's own commitment to this process.
5. Ms. Odile Sorgho-Moulinier, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva, representing the UNDP Administrator, Mr Kemal Dervis, spoke about the importance of the multi-stakeholder action line teams that are foreseen to be created as a key part of the implementation process. She emphasized the need for cooperation and coordination both within and among action lines and called for greater efforts to bridge the paradigm gap between the Information Society and broader development processes.
6. During the course of the meeting, information briefings were provided by:

Figure 1. References to implementation and follow-up in the Tunis Agenda



- Mr. Mongi Hamdi (secretary to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)) on the outcome of the consultation meeting on the role of CSTD in the system-wide follow-up to WSIS, held in Geneva on 13 February;
- Mr. Markus Kummer (Switzerland) on the consultations on the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Geneva on 16-17 February;
- Mr. Tim Kelly (ITU) on the launch of the “WSIS Golden Book” and the continuing work on maintaining the WSIS stocktaking database and compiling ICT success stories.

7. A number of different UN agencies and other organisations and entities offered their services to facilitate, or co-facilitate, specific action lines and themes, or stated their intention to do so. In addition, it was agreed that each action line would nominate its own chair. In order to launch activities under each Action Line and facilitate the initial contacts among facilitators and participants, it was agreed that one agency should be provisionally appointed as the interim focal point for each action line and theme. The revised list, including additional proposed action line facilitators and provisional focal points, is available as an annex to this document and will be posted on the implementation website (www.itu.int/ws/implementation) with contact details for focal points. The facilitators for each action line should decide among themselves on whether to endorse the new proposed candidates.

8. A number of organisations commented on the draft terms of reference for the facilitators of each action line and for the leading facilitating agencies (ITU, UNESCO and UNDP). The main changes made are to ensure that the multi-stakeholder implementation process remains as a bottom-up process and makes full use of online tools to ensure maximum inclusiveness. The revised documents will be posted on the implementation website.

9. ITU announced the following action line facilitation meetings for those action lines for which it previously had a sole facilitation role:

- For C2 (information and communication infrastructure), a consultation meeting would be held on 9 March 2006, from 14.00-17.00, in Doha, Qatar, in conjunction with World Telecommunication Development Conference 2006 (WTDC-06).

- For C5 (building confidence and security in the use of ICTs), a consultation meeting would be held on 15-16 May 2006, in Geneva, just ahead of proposed World Information Society Day on 17 May.
- For C7 e-health, an action line meeting could be held during the event organised by WHO at Palexpo, Geneva, 10-13 October 2006.
- For C8 (Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content), UNESCO plans to organize a consultation on 12 May 2006 in Geneva, after the ITU/UNESCO Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet (Geneva, 9-11 May 2006).

10. The following key issues and conclusions emerged from the meeting.

- a) The **list of action line facilitators** should continue to be regarded as indicative and non-exhaustive. This means that entities can propose themselves as candidates for a facilitation or co-facilitation role at any time. The revised list is contained in the annex to the Report.
- b) The value of the WSIS **stocktaking** was recognised and it was proposed that the different multi-stakeholder teams for each action line could take on the role of helping to consolidate and analyse inputs to the stocktaking database and to ensure they are updated. In this regard, it should not only contain quantitative but also qualitative information and analysis too
- c) The **facilitation process should be bottom-up and inclusive**, with the main role of the lead facilitation agencies and facilitators being to assist stakeholders in the implementation process, at the national, regional and international levels.
- d) The **coordination process** among the different stakeholder teams should be relatively light-handed, and non-bureaucratic, making full use of online tools rather than physical meetings, where possible.
- e) One of the important roles of the facilitators for each action line is to actively seek **partners and participants** among the different stakeholder groups.
- f) The entities named under each action line are encouraged to **start work on those action lines**, so as not to lose momentum, and to identify other stakeholders that could be involved, to ensure a multi-stakeholder approach, and to develop appropriate working methods, on the basis of the revised terms of reference.
- g) A **reporting template** for use across action lines. This could help to facilitate ease in reporting, synergies across action lines and to ensure that the format for inputs would be relatively harmonized, for instance by being closely aligned with the stocktaking exercise. The reporting process should make full use of online tools and should not impose any bureaucratic burdens on facilitators, but should be intended to make information more widely available and useable.
- h) **Online tools** to assist the different multi-stakeholder teams should continue to be developed, building on the existing WSIS website, e-flash and stocktaking tools.
- i) Where possible, **WSIS-related meetings should be clustered together**, to make the best use of available resources and to make it easier for those who need to travel. The idea of holding an “Information Society week”, possibly around May 17, with different parallel events, could be envisaged. This is the same week as the CSTD annual meeting.

11. Comments on this summary record, together with the annex and the revised guidelines for facilitators and for leading facilitating agencies, are welcome and should be sent to wsis-info@itu.int, if possible by 17 March 2006.

12. The next action line meeting of facilitators/moderators could be held towards the last quarter of 2006.

Annex: Revised list of facilitators/moderators and provisional focal points.

Multi-stakeholder Implementation in the *Tunis Agenda*

... **108.** We attach great importance to multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level, which should be organised taking into account the themes and action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, and moderated or facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate. An Annex to this document offers an indicative and non-exhaustive list of facilitators/moderators for the action lines of the Geneva Plan of Action.

109. The experience of, and the activities undertaken by, UN agencies in the WSIS process—notably ITU, UNESCO and UNDP—should continue to be used to their fullest extent. These three agencies should play leading facilitating roles in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and organise a meeting of moderators/facilitators of action lines, as mentioned in the Annex.

110. The coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities would help to avoid duplication of activities. This should include, *inter alia*, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public/private partnerships. ...

Annex to *Tunis Agenda* (Revised)

Action Line	Possible moderators/facilitators
C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development	ECOSOC/UN Regional Commissions/ITU/ [UN DESA]
C2. Information and communication infrastructure	ITU/ <i>[APC]</i>
C3. Access to information and knowledge	ITU/UNESCO/ [FAO/UNIDO]
C4. Capacity building	UNDP/UNESCO/ITU/ UNCTAD/ [UN DESA/FAO/UNIDO]
C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	ITU/
C6. Enabling environment	ITU/UNDP/UN Regional Commissions/ UNCTAD/ [UN DESA/UNIDO/APC]
C7. ICT Applications	
• E-government	[UN DESA] /UNDP/ITU
• E-business	WTO/UNCTAD/ITU/UPU
• E-learning	UNESCO/ITU/UNIDO
• E-health	WHO/ITU
• E-employment	ILO/ITU
• E-environment	WHO/WMO/UNEP/UN-Habitat/ITU/ICAO
• E-agriculture	FAO/ITU
• E-science	UNESCO/ITU/UNCTAD/ [WHO]
C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	UNESCO
C9. Media	UNESCO
C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	UNESCO/ECOSOC/ [WHO/ <i>ECPAT Int'l]</i>
C11. International and regional cooperation	UN Regional Commissions/UNDP/ ITU/UNESCO/ECOSOC/ [UN DESA]

Note: Additions proposed at meeting of action line moderators/facilitators on 24 February are **[underlined and in square brackets]**. Civil society entities are indicated in *italics*.

Those agencies shown in bold would be the provisional focal point for each action line.