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Submission by: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Civil Society

Draft WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

### B. Overview of the implementation of Action Lines

Enormous progress has been made since the two Summits towards building the people-centered, inclusive, development-oriented information society called for in the WSIS Declaration of Principles. The number of people around the world empowered by ICT has increased dramatically, accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development promoting freedom of expression, increasing accountability and transparency in society, creating new business opportunities, facilitating trade and serving as a platform for cultural exchange amongst others. Further media has become increasingly accessible and interactive.

The main achievement of the current implementation process of the WSIS is the interest itself of so many actors and institutions, national, regional and international, on the initiative of jointly shaping the information society and making them aware of the challenges that this process entails.

1. *We note* that the WSIS Action lines have helped in **constituting a sound framework** for realizing the goal of a globally interconnected Information Society.
2. *We recognize* that this implementation framework based on the WSIS Action Lines has helped to draw attention to the **crucial** role that **ICTs can play in realizing development goals** and reducing **poverty.**
3. *We commend* the WSIS Process for reinforcing the strategic role of **multi-stakeholderism that has led to** strengthened **engagement of governments, private sector**, **civil society and international organizations** to work together in order to accomplish some of the objectives reflected in the Geneva Plan of Action.
4. *We recognize* that the WSIS Action Lines have helped **raise awareness within the international community** about the challenges many communities continue to face to realize the benefits of the Information Society.
5. *We acknowledge* the significant efforts made towards the development of a global **digital economy**, in particular through considerable **upgrading and strengthening of legislative frameworks.**
6. *We note* with satisfaction that in the area of **digital inclusion there is greater** awareness of the importance of promoting digital inclusion for youth, women, the vulnerable and marginalized, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

*We further recognize that:*

1. countries have made **considerable progress in implementing the Action lines** in the form of tangible policies, projects and services in all of the society’s vital sectors, as well as integration of the **WSIS Objectives within the national ICT policies.**
2. WSIS Action Lines have led to deepening the **understanding and significance of ICT for development** by policy and decision makers.
3. majority of developing countries now **feature ICTs as key enablers of their national visions and plans for social and economic development.**
4. increase in **access to information and knowledge has widened and deepened in the last 10 years** with more opportunities available to exercise freedom of expression and engage in social networking than ever before.
5. the emergence of new services, including **social networks and cloud computing**, in the last few years have increased the means to access and distribute information.
6. the increasing awareness by policymakers of the importance of **public access to ICTs and tools** to combat the digital divide, and reiterate the value of libraries in this regard.
7. the increased level of **mobile penetration and rise of broadband penetration.**
8. increased **knowledge, acceptance and capacity building** in ICT Applications like E-Government, E-business, E-learning, E-health, E-employment, E-environment, E-agriculture and E-science by the user and the provider
9. there is significant awareness of the need for greater collaboration among stakeholders to address different aspects of cybersecurity including legal measures, technical and procedural measures, organizational structures, capacity building and international cooperation.
10. there is increased awareness in the strengthening for respect of privacy and protection of personal data.
11. **ICT infrastructure development has been boasted** by several enablers such as new technologies including mobile, innovative policies including Universal Service Funds, planning and background data, and international standards.
12. new-generation of ICT policies and regulations were adopted in the majority of countries designed to advance the deployment of broadband, encourage innovation and enable digital inclusion of all.
13. in the area of e-Science the **WSIS process was instrumental in supporting research on emerging trends in e-Science** which provided a better understanding of these trends, its impact and future direction.
14. there is a growing awareness of the **importance of cultural diversity** in all spheres of life, including the technology-related dimensions, and of the need for a more holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development.
15. there is an increasingly shared understanding that **ethical principles** for inclusive knowledge societies derive from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and comprise the right to freedom of expression, universal access to information, particularly that which is in the public domain, the right to education, the right to privacy and the right to participate in cultural life.
16. improved access to **ICT in education** over the past 10 years enhanced users’ capacities for individual development andactive participation in society as well as supporting the development of a skilled workforce for a global economy and giving new opportunities for social mobility.
17. there is greater recognition among policy makers that achieving digital inclusion goes beyond questions of network deployment and affordability. This includes ensuring accessible **ICTs are** **available and affordable for persons with disabilities and that youth, women and vulnerable, marginalized and indigenous peoples r**eceive training on how to use ICTs for their social and economic empowerment.
18. the crucial role of ICTs in **promoting youth and women’s employment and entrepreneurship**.
19. visibility has been raised on a global scale on the need to ensure that **women take up ICT careers**, so that women become creators of essential ICT tools.