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Draft WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

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

Some  ~~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. But today the benefits of the information technology revolution are unevenly distributed between the developed and developing countries and within societies. We are fully committed to turning this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all. Despite the number and diversity of people around the world empowered by ICTs increasing ~~dramatically accelerating~~ , still they need to increase more in order to contribute, inter alia to social and economic growth, sustainable development, ~~promoting~~ promotion of human rights, including the Right to Development, right to education and 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, posing new access barriers while allowing for some solutions.

We emphasizes that the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of 2003 and the Agenda and Tunis Commitment of 2005 remain fully in force. The commitments and actions adopted on them continue to be an essential guide for all. Still remain full in force several challenges that have been identified in WSIS, as follows:

* Promoting measures to ensure the benefits of ICTs for the countries with the highest needs.
* Continuing to set realistic goals and decisive action to reduce the gap between developed and developing countries in terms of technology, in particular the establishment of important financing and technology transfer actions.
* Continuing to reduce the digital divide and that this all this translates into a reduction of the development gap. Overcoming the negative socio-economic situation of developing countries that affects, as regards to ICT, the ability of creating infrastructures and the training of the necessary human resources.
* Ensuring that international organizations play a role in developing technical standards and relevant policies on Internet.
* Achieving multilateral, intergovernmental, democratic and participatory governance of the Internet, facing the strong pressure from some to prevent this from happening. The goal set on Internet governance has not been fulfilled, despite discussions on the topic, including the Internet Governance Forum.
* Ensuring that human rights, including the right to development, are fully promoted and protected in the information society.
* Achieving that the treatment of human rights in the field of WSIS, in particular as regards to the right to freedom of expression and opinion, is balanced and reflects the limits imposed in the main international instruments in this field, in particular restrictions provided in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (restrictions established by law, necessary for the respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security, public order or health or morals) as well as the respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.
* Ensuring that ICTs, particularly the Internet, have a responsible use, so that they cannot be used on the basis of warmongering and terrorist interests or for the dissemination of racist and xenophobic messages or other messages encouraging hatred among individuals and peoples.

The most important achievement of the current implementation process of the WSIS is the interest of ~~so many~~ some actors, institutions, national, regional and international, in the initiative of jointly shaping the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies)and making all stakeholders aware of the challenges that this process entails.

In the other hand, some ~~Enormous~~ progress has been made since the ~~two~~ Summit~~s~~:

* *We note* that the WSIS Action lines have helped in building a common understanding of the desirability and **constituting a sound framework** for realizing the goal of globally interconnected inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies).
* *We recognize* that this implementation framework based approach on the WSIS Action Lines has helped to draw attention to the ~~crucial~~ role that **ICTs can play in realizing development goals**, notably reducing **poverty and promoting literacy.**
* *We commend* the WSIS Process for reinforcing the strategic role of governments **~~multi-stakeholderism~~ which has led to** strengthened **engagement of multi-stakeholders~~ism~~ ~~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.
* *We recognize* that the WSIS Action Lines have helped **raise awareness within the international community** about the challenges many communities face in realizing the benefits of the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies).

**4bis)** *We note ~~with~~ ~~satisfaction~~* the need to continue to work with theWSIS outcomes ~~have~~ to led to the development of regional and national strategies and plans for the development of inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) that are regularly updated, and the based on internationally agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration, which are premised on international cooperation, and that the indicative targets given in WSIS Plan of Action item 6 have become the basis in the establishment of the national targets, considering national and regional circumstances.

* *We acknowledge* the significant efforts made towards the development of a global **digital economy**, in particular through considerable **upgrading and strengthening of national ICT policies.**
* *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, including age related disabilities, while promoting the wealth of the world’s languages. We also recognize the need to make further international efforts, particularly by industrialized countries, to help developing countries to assist these groups in vulnerable situation to enjoy these technologies.

6b) We *highly appreciate* the WSIS Forum, regularly arranged by ITU jointly with UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, attracting ~~all~~ States and stakeholders as the site for open exchange of opinions on the issues of development of information society, implementation of Action Lines and presentation of best practices. We acknowledge the significant contribution of all UN Agencies in charge of facilitating Action Lines actively contributing to WSIS implementation including ITU, UNESCO,UNCTAD,UNDP, UNDESA, ITC, UPU, WHO, ILO, UNEP, WMO, FAO, UNWOMEN and the UN Regional Commissions.

6c) We *particularly emphasize* the importance of the work carried out by the “*Partnership on Measuring ICT for development”* on the development of the framework for a set of core ICT indicators, as well as, acknowledge the ICT Development Index (IDI).

*We further recognize that:*

* 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 national ICT policies.**
* WSIS Action Lines have contributed to ~~a deepened~~ **understanding and significance of ICT for development** among policy and decision makers.
* The majority of developing countries now **feature ICTs as key enablers of their national visions and plans for social and economic sustainable development.**
* The increase in **access to information and knowledge has widened and deepened in the past 10 years** with more opportunities available to exercise the right to education and cultural rights, freedom of expression and engage in social networking than ever before, as well as to enjoy the right to development.
* The emergence of new services, including **social networks and cloud computing**, in the last few years has increased the means to communicate and to access and distribute information.
* There has been 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.
* There has been an increased level of **mobile penetration and rise of broadband penetration.**
* There has been 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, but we need to continue reducing the digital divide and the development gap. International cooperation is essential for reducing this differences.
* There is significant awareness of the need for **greater collaboration** ~~among~~ between governments and other stakeholders to address different aspects of enhancing confidence and security in the use of ICTs including legal measures, technical and procedural measures, organizational structures, capacity building and international cooperation, as well as literate use of the Internet and ICTs.
* There is increased **awareness of the need to strengthen the respect for freedom of expression and the right to privacy and to protect personal data,** while recognizing **that** restrictions provided for in Article 19 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are fully applicable as well as the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.
* **ICT infrastructure development has been boosted** by several enablers such as new technologies including mobile, innovative policies ~~including Universal Service Funds~~, planning and background data, and international standards.
* **A 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.**
* In the area of E-science the **WSIS process has contributed to supporting research on emerging trends in e-Science** which has provided a better understanding of emerging trends, its impact and future direction.
* 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.
* There is an increasingly shared understanding that **ethical principles** for inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) derive from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and comprise the right to freedom of expression, as reflected in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 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.

21 bis. It is recognized that realization of right to development is an essential factor for developing countries.

* Improved access to **ICT in education** over the past 10 years enhanced users capacities for individual development and active participation in society as well as supporting the development of a skilled workforce for a global economy and giving also new opportunities for social mobility.
* There is greater recognition among policy makers that achieving digital inclusion goes beyond questions of network deployment and affordability. This includes ensuring that **ICTs are available, accessible and affordable for persons with disabilities and that youth, women and vulnerable, marginalized and indigenous peoples** receive training on how to use ICTs for their social and economic empowerment.
* ICTs play an ~~crucial~~ important role in promoting the employment and entrepreneurship of youth, women, indigenous people and persons with disabilities.
* 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 as well as provide input into ICT policy directions.
* Participants have recognized the need to address the promotion and reinforcement of ethical codes and legal regulations of professions involved in the production, distribution and archiving of information, communication and knowledge.
* Improved and innovative financial mechanisms as well as adequate and sustainable investments ~~remain a priority~~ can contribute in order to continue to meet the challenges of ICT for development .
* Although all of the exerted efforts to increase the accessibility in the developing countries and LDCs, yet more efforts from industrialized countries, and international cooperation are still needed to guarantee access for all citizens.
* The need to recognize the growing population of aged citizens and the role of ICT in a well ageing and independent and autonomous living conditions.
* The opportunities offered by new technology may present new accessibility barriers. Affordable solutions exist but are language dependent, sharing this knowledge and observing accessibility will ensure that inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) for all.