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**Submission by: ISOC, Civil Society**

Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

Preamble

Ten years ago, the representatives of the peoples of the world assembled in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005 for the first and the second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society adopted a common vision of the information Society, identified its key principles and outlined the main challenges towards and Information Society for All based on shared knowledge.

The decade since WSIS has seen very considerable progress towards the people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. The multistakeholder approach and implementation at the international level proved to be a considerable asset in taking forward the WSIS themes and action lines. Still, major challenges lay ahead for counteracting the wide disparities in development and enabling entire groups and countries to benefit from universal access to information and knowledge.

Along the years, the open Internet model has demonstrated a remarkable flexibility to change and ability to develop economic growth and social progress. In the next decade, ICTs will play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking into account ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (MDG Review Process) and WSIS+10 review process it is important to note the possible interaction between both processes to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent, connected and coordinated to achieve maximum, sustainable impact.

The main task of bridging the digital divide and creating a people–centric, digitally inclusive, open and development oriented information society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge still remains.

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Note: This section was shifted from the WSIS+10Statement to the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015. WSIS Stakeholders are invited to review this document, using track changes, and submit the document to wsis-info@itu.int by 17 November 2013 (non-extendable).

### *We envision:*

* An open Information Society, relying on open, collaborative and voluntary political and technical processes. A society where all stakeholders will enjoy the social and economic benefits of ICTs, where the free flow of information and the right to freedom of expression can be enjoyed.
* The **full participation of all citizens of the world** must be a priority for the information society. The full involvement of women, older people young people, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples, in the development of ideas and policies concerning the information society is essential if their concerns, needs and interests are to be fully incorporated in policies and outcomes of the information society.
* The ongoing development of multistakeholder processes which have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing issues affecting the knowledge and information societies. T,thatsall stakeholder communities, , should be emphasized
* An information society that has the interests of the most poor and marginalised people of our societies at its heart is necessarily an information society that strives to achieve piece and sustainable development.
* An information society where youth, women, the poor, indigenous people and persons with disabilities benefit from the opportunities provided by ICTs. **Digital inclusion** should remain a cross-cutting priority and goes beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications. It recognizes there are additional training needs for different marginalized groups and that the use of ICTs for social and economic empowerment, youth employment and entrepreneurship is critical.
* that in order to remove **gender inequalities in the knowledge society** and that the knowledge society actively empowers women in all aspects of their lives, it is necessary to apply a gender lens in all aspects of the knowledge society, across sectors and from strategies and planning through implementation and investments. This includes on the demand and supply side, from awareness, literacy and meaningful engagement to affordable access, appropriate policy frameworks and relevant content. An important way of ensuring this is realized is though women’s leadership and participation in decision-making.
* Provision of an **equal opportunity and universal design for all to make use of the benefits and opportunities** of new technologies.
* Better cooperation with **more funding and assistance for inclusive ICT initiatives** in developing countries.
* Improving and optimizing the **ICT infrastructure** so it is accessible to all communities and promote the development of simplified devices, including text-free interfaces and applications aimed at digital inclusion
* **Trusted technologies** should be promoted to build confidence in the use of ICTs, especially for vulnerable users.
* Reach of **broadband infrastructure and affordable services** to everyone, including through universal service and universal access, as well as the development of Internet Exchange Points.
* Bridging the digital divide to cross and reap the benefits of **ICT and broadband** in transforming the lives of communities particularly the youth, women, poor, and persons with disabilities.
* M**ultilingual and local digital content** should be available to ensure that all members of the community are able to understand and contribute to online content.
* In order to harness the opportunities provided by the ICT’s to the women, poor and persons with disabilities there is an urgent need to **encourage the development of interoperable technical standards and promote enabling policy environments.**
* **Further development of multistakeholder public-private partnerships** to pay specific attention to youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous people when addressing the range of issues that impact their ability to benefit from the opportunities of ICTs and the information society.
* **Incorporation of accessibility issues in the public procurement policies** and in international regulatory fora.

Increased **involvement of all stakeholders** in leveraging the transformative potential of ICT and a better and more sustainable socio-economic development in order to reach an inclusive and people-centered Information Society.

* Increased **participation of youth in decision-making processes** as vital ingredient for improving democracy
* **Training and capacity building** in ICTs, including media and information literacy be available to help users develop their abilities to evaluate and interact with online information resources.
* An enhanced learning experience for those with a range of disabilities through **assistive technologies**.
* Fostering policies and projects that ensure **para and per-Indigenous approaches** to ICTs, that is policies and projects designed with and by Indigenous Peoples themselves.
* following **inclusive approaches to e- science**, including a citizen science approach, where local communities, indigenous peoples, youth, women, the poor, people with disabilities etc. can participate fully in the scientific process.
* An enabling **environment** where adequate market and regulatory reforms would spur competition and improve access to ICTs by making them more affordable.
* **Affordable access to ICTs**, that not only has the potential to transform lives of citizens and communities, but also to help the marginalized persons with disabilities and indigenous people by empowering them and their communities.
* Availability of **affordable user devices**, including through subsidization programs.
* That regulators and policy makers may consider **transforming existing universal service programmes into programmes for digital inclusion** that support broadband services for all citizens while further facilitating the access to ICTs of women, girls, the disabled and indigenous people.
* **inclusion of people in rural and remote areas** where not only market forces, but investment from the government might be necessary.