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**Submission by: IFIP, Civil Society**



Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

С10. Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society

**1. Vision**

For the post-2015 era, we envision inclusive Knowledge Societies, in which policy-makers are well informed of ethical challenges and have adequate tools to support them in their decision making process, they regularly seek opportunities to engage and share their experiences with other stakeholders.

**2. Pillars**

1. Give consideration to the ethical principles that bear on technological and social issues in the information society and underlie specific regulatory frameworks, whether or not such principles are enshrined in existing normative instruments or codes of conduct.
2. Strengthen regional and national capacity in to analyse, discuss and respond to the ethical challenges of the information society.
3. Promote international and interdisciplinary reflection and debate on the ethical challenges of emerging technologies and the information society. Such reflection and debate should have a multi-tiered dimension that connects to policy and advisory bodies, with particular attention to participation of developing countries and sensitivity to their needs.
4. Raise awareness of the ethical implications of the information society, particularly among young people, along with life-long education initiatives to equip all citizens with the skills and competence to participate actively and knowledgeably in the information society.
5. Affirm freedom of expression as a fundamental right and as the basis for reflection on its responsible use in the context of broader consideration of freedom of access to information particularly public and governmental and of the right to communication in a framework of cultural sensitivity, tolerance, and dialogue.

**3. Targets**

1. Strengthen capacity of policy-makers in at least 1 region to analyse, discuss, respond and also communicate with stakeholder about the ethical challenges of the Internet
   1. Benchmark - Conduct capacity building based on gap analysis.

**Annex: Zero Draft Stakeholder Contributions**

1. **Protect privacy, personal data and human rights** in the digital environment.
2. **Promote user education and user awareness** to advance protection of human rights on-line and **engage private sector** in this **effort through corporate social responsibility programmes**.
3. The debate on the ethical challenges of emerging technologies and the information society is **increasingly international, inter-disciplinary and displays a multi-tiered character that implicates policy and advisory bodies.**
4. Support for **enhancing the participation of developing countries** in the debate on the ethical dimensions of the information society, **responding to their specific needs** and providing **support for research** as well as **capacity building** is needed.
5. **Emerging areas of inquiry include:** examining the interface between information technologies, social transformation and governance are the relation between human rights and ethical principles for the information society; the challenges of inter-culturality in information ethics; the possible tensions between freedom of expression and moral harm; issues of privacy and security; issues of free access to public and governmental information; and the fundamental question of personal and collective identities in a digital world.
6. Additional concerted efforts to **enhance the safety of children online** are required.
7. The important role of **ethics** and related initiatives **as a component of Internet-based business activities** must be emphasized and pursued
8. Ensure equitable participation by all stakeholders and **build national and regional capacity to identify analyze and address the ethical challenges** of the information society.
9. **Information literacy is essential for empowering users** to make informed choices as well as for enabling them to exercise and protect their human rights. Information literacy should be promoted at all levels.
10. Launch **information literacy programme** at all levels to empower users to make informed choices, exercise and protect their human rights
11. **Build consensus** around **and promote principles based on universal values and human right**s that **advocate tolerance, respect, freedom of expression and inclusion** as the basis for guiding actions and behavior across all platforms of the information society
12. **Information literacy must** go beyond technical competence and skills and seek to **inculcate moral and ethical behavior and attitudes amongst users**.
13. There is expanded recognition that the **Internet and ICTs can be key enablers for Human Rights**.
14. **The Internet should remain open.** An open Internet **empowers** **users** to seek, received and impart information regardless of frontiers and **users should benefit from the same human rights safeguards both online and offline**.
15. Technical measures that restrict Internet access should be only be enacted after **due consideration** has been given **to** **their** **impact on the rights of individuals’**.
16. Respect privacy and handle **personal data ethically**. Ethical handling of data implies the **provision of adequate safeguards** **to ensure objectively justified data uses**; independent, transparent, judicial and community oversight, accountability and the assurance of access to rights of objection and remedy.**Arbitrary blocking of content** **may impede** the legitimate data and information flows necessary for **economic development** and limit the **enjoyment of basic human rights**. Stakeholders should oppose such measures.
17. Efforts aimed at **strengthening the role of ICT and social media** as an enabler of **citizen-participation** in policy and decision-making at the local; regional and global level, should be strengthened.
18. **Develop ethical guidelines** through inclusive processes based on human rights and universal values.
19. Proactive measures to **combat intolerance** should be pursued **without banning speech or restricting freedom of expression**. Laws must be put in place to deter and punish those who go beyond speaking and engage in acts of discrimination and violence.
20. UNESCO and its Information for All Program (IFAP) efforts are **establishing criteria** for assessing ways of enhancing discussion, building capacity for decision-making at national and regional levels, and **conducting research to measuring developments in the field of information ethics.**
21. **Promote** the **exercise of freedoms** **of expression, association**, and **assembly on-line** as well as active measures to enhance dialogue**, support conflict resolution, tolerance and inclusion**.-

**B) What are areas that have not been adequately captured by the framework of the existing 11 WSIS Action Lines and would need to be addressed beyond 2015? Please specify the Action Line you are providing an input for.**

1. Build and/or strengthen regional and national capacity to analyse, discuss and respond - including through the formulation of policy - to the ethical challenges of the information society. Advantage could be taken of intergovernmental initiatives in this area such as those led by UNESCO.
2. Support **equitable participation** of all stakeholders.
3. **Reaffirm freedom of expression** as a fundamental right and as the basis for reflection on its responsible use in the context of broader consideration of freedom of access to information, particularly public and governmental and of the right to communication in a framework of cultural sensitivity, tolerance and dialogue;
4. Formal and non-formal education initiatives including life-long learning must address the ethical implications of the information society.
5. **Equip all citizens** – especially youth - with the skills and competence **to participate** actively and knowledgeably in the information society.
6. Pedagogical material and **training programmes that address new modes of global citizenship and info-ethic and info-civic paradigms must be developed**. This material should address the roles of digital media and virtual political spaces. This training should not be limited to e-learning.
7. **Examine the ethical principles** **that** impact technological and social issues in the information society and **underlie specific regulatory frameworks**, whether or not such principles are enshrined in existing normative instruments or codes of conduct.
8. Analyze gaps and lags that hamper policy in the face of the ethical challenges of the information society.
9. Support policy-makers and stakeholders to **move in synchrony with technological advances** rather than reacting after the fact.
10. **Devote specific resources** to address user education and awareness.
11. **Establish and promote standards** for on-line corporate social responsibility
12. **Promote** the development of regional and international **frameworks for ethics** of information society. These should address cooperation, responding to abusive uses of the Internet, ownership and ethical use of data, the development of related training. Guidance is also needed in developing approaches to address such challenges as the balance between freedom of expression and moral harm, and privacy and security;
13. **Conduct research to understand the drivers** of social change and ethical behavior amongst individual and groups on-line.
14. **Recognize the right to disconnect** and its implications.
15. **Promote on-line participation and inclusion** of women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other potentially marginalized stakeholders.
16. Promote access to government, development-oriented information content supporting the use of local languages, fostering the development of forums where citizens can access public information and other local content.
17. Recognizing the right to disconnect and its implications.
18. Promote the rights to communication and relevant information literacy training as a main pillar for realizing human rights in the emerging Information Society through relevant national strategies and legislation.
19. To date the question of the professionalism of the ICT workforce has not been considered. ICT professionalism means operating at a higher standard of ICT practice than that which may be in place today. The interdependence of nations in the use and provision of the internet and ICTs and the pervasiveness of the Information Society makes it essential that ethical and professional practice is the norm around the world for economic, social and practical reasons not to mention that there is a significant capacity to damage citizens' quality of life when things do go wrong with ICT. The creation of a professional workforce that has a demonstrated commitment to ongoing continuing professional development, a code of ethics and professional conduct and which recognise their responsibility to the society which they serve and which holds them accountable,is a necessary part of addressing global ethics in this Action Line.