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**Submission by: GESCI, Civil Society**

Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

C4 Capacity Building

**1. Vision**

Everyone should have the necessary skills to benefit fully from the information society in order to bridge the digital divide among those who know how to use telecommunication technology and those who do not know. Therefore, capacity building, digital literacy and competences are essential. Appropriate specialized training programmes in telecommunications/ICT, development of professional standards, lifelong learning initiatives and more affordable ICTs will empower all layers of society towards improving the quality of their lives. It will also assist people who are outside the formal education processes and will help them to acquire new skills as well as improve on existing ones. Policy makers should be capacitated as current and future architects of KS policy (education, STI and Information and Communications) in the skills of coherent, future proofed, and realistic policy development and strategic planning that best prepares an enabling environment for knowledge society development.

**2. Pillars**

1. **Content development and specialized training**

While innovations in ICTs offer new tools, many people have yet to acquire the knowledge and skills to fully leverage the benefits these tools provide; therefore it is important to develop a wide and growing range of general and specialized training programmes in all aspects of telecommunications/ICT.As technology keeps changing rapidly. Existing knowledge quickly becomes obsolete, hence the need to upgrade this knowledge and package it into content and training materials that are relevant for the time.

1. **Development and maintenance of e-Education, e-Learning and m-Learning for skills development**

There is a crucial need to continue promoting e-Education, e-Learning and m-Learning for skills development and lifelong learning for all beyond the classroom, as well as the introduction of appropriate recommendations/policies in this sphere. o Research in, investment in, and development of, good practice models for m-learning to widen access to learning opportunities to rural populations (in particular) in developing countries. The developed country focus on laptops and tablets as the principal modus operandi of the education system has also limited opportunities to invest in, and explore, use of smaller and other hand-held devices to extend educational opportunities to rural populations in many African countries where limited electricity makes widespread roll-out of computer labs and one-to-one laptop models of education impractical and unaffordable on a wide-scale for the near future.

1. **E-skilling, digital competence and professional standards**

Ensure that development of ICT infrastructure takes place in parallel with e-skilling and human capacity building; everyone has the necessary digital competence that corresponds to professional standards in the ICT sector, in order to build a digital culture in all layers of society.

1. **Facilitation and fostering of capacity building activities**

Capacity building is an important component in all aspects of human life; therefore it is important to ensure that human and institutional capacity building activities remain a priority objective in order to build the Information Society. - Develop distance learning, training and other forms of education and training as part of capacity building programmes. Give special attention to developing countries and especially LDCs in different levels of human resources development.

1. - Work on removing the gender barriers to ICT education and training and promoting equal training opportunities in ICT-related fields for women and girls. Early intervention programmes in science and technology should target young girls with the aim of increasing the number of women in ICT careers. Promote the exchange of best practices on the integration of gender perspectives in ICT education.
2. **Partnership and collaboration**

ICTs are cross cutting in all sectors, and their impact is also cross cutting in all walks of life; consequently human and institutional capacity building requires partnership and collaboration for achieving a desirable result. - Design and implement regional and international cooperation activities to enhance the capacity, notably, of leaders and operational staff in developing countries and LDCs, to apply ICTs effectively in the whole range of educational activities. This should include delivery of education outside the educational structure, such as the workplace and at home.

**3. Targets**

1. Developing professional standards in telecommunications/ICT.
2. Variety of specialized training programmes in ITU membership priority areas.
3. Promotion of efforts towards development of necessary recommendations and policies for skills development and lifelong learning through m-Learning.
4. Provision of specialized ongoing training in telecommunications/ICT.
5. E-skilling, up-skilling and reskilling activities in order for individuals to be up to date in the changing environment.
6. Organization of events and initiatives for facilitation of public-private partnership in capacity building activities.

**Annex: Zero Draft Stakeholder Contributions**

1. **Content development**
2. Reinforce the ongoing activities on content **development for training programmes** in Member States priority areas in order to build up to date knowledge base for ITU membership.
3. Ensure the design of appropriate **curricula for ICT applications.**
4. Support development of **local content and software industry** in accordance with the national culture respecting the linguistic aspects of each state.
5. **Development and maintenance of e-Education, e-Learning and m-Learning**
6. Promote the **importance of e-Education and e-Learning** and increase its use in order to make education accessible and affordable beyond the classroom.
7. Encourage the integration **of ICTs** in various education programmes.
8. Promote efforts towards development of necessary **policies for e-Learning, e-Education and m-Learning**.
9. Encourage **research activities in the area of m-Learning**.
10. Expand **training on broadband mobile technologies**.
11. Direct efforts toward provision of more affordable and accessible devices, connectivity and content for increasing ICT penetration and promoting **m-Learning and e-Education**.
12. **E-skilling, digital literacy and specialized training**
13. Focus on the importance of **e-skilling** for capacity building.
14. Develop **professional standards for the ICT sector**.
15. Integrate **digital culture** in all levels of society.
16. Ensure the cross match of market needs with specializations in ICT professional training programmes in order to **equip graduates** **with the necessary skills** and expertise to fulfill the job market needs.
17. Develop specific **policies to maintain skills** in order to keep up with changing information environment.
18. **Foster digital literacy and provide specialized training** for girls and women, people with disabilities, children and young people to overcome illiteracy and/or to improve existing skills.
19. Ensure the development of **ICT infrastructure takes place in parallel with e-skilling and human capacity building**.
20. Take into account the growing importance of **e-skilling and** **up-skilling and reskilling** of e-skilled individuals in the current fast-changing environment.
21. Develop an **e-skilling impact assessment framework** with clear indicators that are relevant and acceptable.
22. Encourage Member States to implement **digital literacy policies**.
23. Promote **training for** **tutors and teachers** in the use of ICTs and mobile technologies for the benefit of all stakeholders of the educational system.
24. Guarantee specialized **ongoing training in ICTs**.
25. Ensure **not only a provision of knowledge but also a teaching of using this knowledge**.
26. **Facilitation and fostering of capacity building activities**
27. Ensure that **capacity building remains a priority objective** in order to continue to build up the Information Society and to narrow the digital divide.
28. **Develop and promote capacity building programmes and ensure use of innovative technology** at the regional, national, and local levels for the social, economic and cultural benefit of all society
29. Ensure that **capacity building initiatives** are focused on access to and efficient use of ICTs, in areas such as: dispute resolution; coordination of spectrum; avoidance of interference; fostering communication and consultation; and ensuring sharing of data and information.
30. Recognize the importance of both **institutional and human capacity building activities for the attainment of the goals of an information society.**
31. **Explore new dimensions of capacity building** in the changing information and communication environment, such as **human rights education.**
32. Focus on technical and governance infrastructure enhancement for the development of capacity building in order to **promote e-Governance and e-Commerce and to guaranty e-Democracy**.
33. Enhance institutions’ connectivity to Internet by **integrating the use of ICT tools and social media platforms**.
34. Promote the importance of human capacity building for the **automation of services and processes**.
35. **Importance of partnership and collaboration**
36. Facilitate the **increase in the participation of developing countries and civil society representatives** in Internet governance debates thanks to human capacity building activities in those countries.
37. Enhance capacity building for a **better institutional national and international collaboration** in order to address developmental issues and share information online that can improve the quality of life for all people.
38. **Promote private-public partnerships** taken by national, regional and international agencies to build human capacity and to encourage m-Learning initiatives.
39. Promote value of **specialized research and education networks** **to facilitate knowledge sharing** among research centres in the world.
40. Create **an ecosystem for the safe use** of mobile, Internet and other ICT technologies for education.