

**Document Number : WSIS+10/3/3**

**Submission by: Czech Republic, Government**

***Please note that this is a submission for the Third Physical meeting of the WSIS +10 MPP to be held on the 17th and 18th of February.***

**Document Number: S2/A0**

Note: This para is the **result of consultations and discussions during** second physical meeting of the WSIS+10 MPP with regards to Information and Knowledge Society. The meeting agreed to reflect this para in the Preambles of the Statement and Vision

This document is available at:

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/review/mpp/pages/consolidated-texts.html>

The evolution of the information society over the past 10 years has contributed to the development of true  knowledge societies around the world that are based on principles of freedom of expression, quality education for all, universal access to information and knowledge, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. When mentioning the information society, we also refer to the above mentioned evolution and to the vision of inclusive knowledge societies.

CZ also supports the original Preamble text:

The decade since WSIS has seen very considerable progress towards the people-centred, inclusive and development oriented Information Society. The multi-stakeholder 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.

Technology has become a part of everyday-life. The uses of technologies have evolved and continue to develop since the last Summit was held in 2005. Mainstreaming of technology in everyday processes and making use of the multi-stakeholder model has provided the principal enabling environment for innovations. The pace of technological change over the past decade presents new opportunities to leverage technology, including in developing countries. However, these opportunities can only be capitalized on by including all relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of these projects. All relevant Action Lines should emphasize the importance of building on existing expertise and best-practice to create an enabling environment for citizens to enjoy all potential benefits offered by information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the Internet. As we reflect on the outcomes of WSIS and establish a vision beyond 2015, we should also find ways in which implementation of the WSIS Action Lines can be measured, in spite of existing budget concerns, alongside ways in which WSIS processes can be mainstreamed into broader UN developmental activities.

The number of people around the World empowered by ICTs has increased dramatically, accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development, promoting freedom of expression, and increasing accountability and transparency. This has been achieved in accordance with the Implementation of WSIS outcomes and thanks to the strategic role of the multi-stakeholder model, which has led to strengthened engagement of governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations, enabling all relevant parties to work together in pursuit of the objectives reflected in the Geneva Plan of Action. In this regard, it important to observe ethical and ICT professional standards.

The fundamental aim of the WSIS process was not to establish new governance models, but to further the use of technology to improve peoples’ lives and to bridge the digital divide. The Tunis Agenda recognised the growing role of ICTs “not only as a medium of communication, but also as a development enabler, and as a tool for the next ten years”.

The WSIS+10 Review should request countries to identify priorities for the post 2015 era in conjunction with the post Millennium Development Goals Agenda based on multi-stakeholder consultations; and to make greater use of multi-stakeholder frameworks when taking decisions on issues relating to the implementation of the eleven Action Lines and on the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies)[[1]](#footnote-1) and Internet public policy issues in general. In this context we propose that:

* The potential of ICTs as key enablers of development, and as critical components of innovative development solutions, is fully recognized in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Taking into account the growing importance of relevant content, skills and an enabling environment, ICTs, including broadband Internet, mobile technologies and relevant ICT applications, should be fully recognized as tools empowering people, enabling wider exercise of human rights including freedom of expression, fostering access to information, opening up employment opportunities, expanding access to learning, education, and basic services. In collaboration with other stakeholders, the UN system organizations should seek to take full advantage of ICTs in addressing the development challenge of the 21st century and to recognize them as cross-cutting enablers for the achievement of all three pillars of sustainable development.
* The Post-2015 Development Agenda reflects lessons learned during the past decade in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. The United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) urges building on what has been learned on the uses of ICTs since the MDGs were established in 2000, specially acknowledging that WSIS 2003/2005 has galvanized significant international cooperation and collaboration on ICTs as enablers for development.
* Post-2015 Development Agenda takes fully into account the conclusions of the WSIS+10 Review processes. Such interaction is important to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent, connected and coordinated to achieve maximum, sustainable impact.

Our common challenge is to empower people to make good use of technologies, to make them accessible and relevant for their specific contexts. User-centered solutions should be at the center of technical development, and special care to user diversity should be considered. Accessibility is a transversal issue to priority areas and the eleven Action Lines, and this proposal wishes to consider inclusion and accessibility from a holistic perspective.

1. To be discussed during the 2nd Physical meeting of the WSIS+10 High-level Event Open Consultation Process in December 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)