

**Document Number : WSIS+10/3/33**

**Submission by: ESCWA, International Organization**

***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.***

**Third Physical Meeting of the Open Consultation on WSIS+10 High-Level Event**

**17-18 February 2014**

**ITU Headquarters, Geneva**

**ESCWA Comments on the draft proposals of the third physical meeting: WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes**

**A. Preamble (Doc#: S1.1/A)**

* The inclusion of “knowledge societies” in the Preambles, of the Statement as well as the Vision, is welcomed as it emphasis the progress made in the development of Information Society, and therefore shows the successes of the WSIS process. It also indicates the current thought on the need to move beyond information society and stress on the importance of knowledge for societies and for economies.

**C.1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC1)**

* *Pillar b:* We suggest to add “sector-specific action plans” in the pillar.
  + *For example:* Encourage development of national ICT policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, and sector-specific action plans, linked to sustainable development goals through an inclusive process

**C.3. Access to information and knowledge (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC3)**

* We agree that it is no longer enough to ensure accessibility to information and knowledge, but it is also important to stress on the use of information and the generation of knowledge taking into account the national regulatory framework, intellectual property and copyright, as well as other instruments such as human rights.
* We suggest the addition of another pillar that focus on the policies, action plans and initiatives aimed at ensuring access to information and knowledge for specific communities such as women and girls, youth, aged groups and people with disabilities.
  + *For example:* Promote the development and implementation of policies, actions plans and initiatives aimed at providing access to information and knowledge for specific communities (or vulnerable and marginalized groups), including women and girls, youth, elderly people and people with disabilities.
* *Pillar a:* We suggest the addition of “open information and knowledge” to this pillar.
  + *For example*: Promotion of government-led open data, information, knowledge, software (FOSS), and other open solution strategies, resources and standards in all countries and languages.

**C.7. ICT Applications**

* **E-Employment (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC7/E-Employment)**
  + Pillar c requires revision as some words are missing. Please see underlined text: Encourage new ICT occupations (ICT jobs), especially the and create cyber workers’ protection rules.
  + To add a pillar on the importance of fostering partnerships and linkages between public and private sectors in order to develop skills. This could be achieved by building training programmes in line with the market needs and are demand driven.
* **E-Government (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC7/E-Government)**
  + We suggest the addition of a pillar on the concept of the integration of e-government services, interoperability and the use of standards.
* **E-Business (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC7/E-Business)**
  + *Vision:* We suggest the inclusion of mobile devices in the first sentence of the vision.
    - *For example:* All businesses should be connected with relevant ICTs to benefit fully from the information economy and to be able to sell and purchase goods or services via computer, mobile devices and ~~or~~ other ICT networks.
  + We suggest the addition of a pillar on the need for the continued development and implementation of appropriate infrastructures, including regulations and frameworks that would enable the e-payment, e-banking, and facilitate to implementation of these services.
* **E-Health (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC7/E-Health)**
  + *Pillar g: We* Suggest to expand this pillar to include mobile technologies
    - *For example:* Enable access to the world’s medical knowledge through the use of ICTs, including mobile technologies and networks.
  + We suggest the addition of a pillar on promoting the measurement of e-Health and its impact on the social and economic development at national and regional levels.

**C.8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC8)**

* We suggest adding a pillar on developing capacity building programmes for digital content development, and this pillar should be among the first ones. The capacity building programmes should be addressed at tertiary level (under and post-graduate) as part of IT curricula, and as additional skills that could be implemented by specialised centres.
  + *For example*: Encourage the integration of digital content development concepts and skills into IT curricula at the higher education level, including the development of inter-disciplinary post-graduate courses, and the establishment of training centres that provide technical training in digital content development.
* We suggest adding a pillar on the measurement of digital content especially in local language. Such pillar will include the formulation of indicators/indices for digital content in local language, data collection and analysis of local digital content development.
  + *For example:* Promote the development of a measurement framework for digital local content development.

**C.11 International and regional cooperation (Doc#: V1.1/C/ALC11)**

* Pillar d: We suggest the expansion of this pillar.
  + *For example:* Facilitate knowledge sharing among experts and stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels in order to find coordinated approaches on issues of common concern.