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**Submission by: ISOC, Civil Society**

***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.***

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Note: This document consolidates the comments received by WSIS Stakeholders from the 9th October to 17th November. All the detailed submissions available at:

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

This serves as an input to the 2nd Physical meeting and could be considered as the proposal for the 1st draft to be considered by the meeting.

This document has been developed keeping in mind the [Principles](http://www.itu.int/wsis/review/mpp/pages/consolidated-texts.html).

This document builds on the outcome of the first Review of the WSIS, including the Final Statement: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/wsis/WSIS_10_Event/wsis10_outcomes_en.pdf> .

Please note that the Geneva Declaration and the Geneva Plan of Action still remain valid until further decisions by the General Assembly.

Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

ISOC: Our review of several Outcome Documents has shown a high number of redundancies and duplications of issues, within and between documents.

In particular,, we notice a heavy duplication between the Preamble (A) and the Priority Areas (B) of the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015. We would encourage the Chair and Secretariat to merge the substance into one single document, possibly the Priority Areas (B). The below Preamble should be very short and high-level.

Preamble

In 2003 and 2005, at the two phases of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS), the international community agreed on a set of commitments that recognize information and communication technologies (ICTs) as enablers for development. World leaders representing Governments, private sector, civil society and the international organizations translated the common vision and guiding principles into concrete Action Lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, to advance the achievement of internationally agreed development goals..

The Action Lines identify and seek to capture the potential of ICTs in: enhancing access, especially of vulnerable populations, to infrastructure, education, health care and other public services; provision of ICT Infrastructure; creating enabling environments; ensuring freedom of expression online; building confidence and security in the use of ICTs for information and knowledge creation, sharing, acquisition and preservation purposes, and for financial rationales. The role of ICTs for protecting the environment, for mitigating natural disaster risks, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable food production and for women’s empowerment are also key to the implementation of WSIS outcomes. In addition, along the years, the open Internet model has demonstrated a remarkable flexibility to change, and an ability to facilitate economic growth and social progress.

While considerable achievements have been made since the first phase of WSIS in 2003, (these achievements were further highlighted and showcased by Stakeholders during the first WSIS+10 Review Event, WSIS Forums and the WSIS+10 High –level event multistakeholder preparatory process) the ICT landscape and their uses have changed dramatically. Several new trends have emerged in the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies)[[1]](#footnote-1) such as broadband, social networks, cybersecurity, mobility, digital inclusion, massive open online courses (MOOCs) and e-participation, amongst others [[2]](#footnote-2) . These trends bring rapid innovation, diffusion and uptake of mobile technologies, as well as, improved access to the Internet, which has led to the great expansion of the gamut of opportunities that ICTs offer to promote inclusive and sustainable development. As demonstrated by the ongoing overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes, international cooperation and multi-stakeholder collaboration on the strategic use of ICTs to address a wide range of issues during the past decade has produced a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise – resources which constitute a valuable foundation for our future vision and action.

ICTs will play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking into account the ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (MDG review process) and the WSIS+10 review process,all stakeholders have repeatedly stressed on the necessity for increased interaction between both processes in order to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent and coordinated to to achieve maximum and sustainable impact.

The aim of bridging the digital and knowledge divides and of creating people–centred, inclusive, open and development oriented inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge remains vastly relevant.

Note: This section was shifted from the WSIS+10 Statement to the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015.

### *We envision a world of* inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies)[[3]](#footnote-3) *in which:*

1. The **full participation of all citizens in the digital world** is a priority for the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) and a healthy multistakeholder governance model The key to empowering people to fully participate in the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) is education offering lifelong learning opportunities for all, including through ICTs, capacity building and provision of appropriate infrastructure. Promoting and protecting **freedom of expression** enables all, and particularly women , indigenous peoples older and young people and people with disabilities to fully contribute to democratic governance, the development of policies and practices concerning inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies), that are essential for addressing their concerns, needs and aspirations.
2. **Human Rights and fundamental freedoms** enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are realized online and offline for all citizens of the world and ICTs are used to contribute to peace and sustainable development.
3. The same rights that people have offline must also be protected online as stated in in June 2012 Resolution 20/8 of the Human Rights Council on The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet, and as reaffirmed in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the Geneva Declaration.
4. **The universal human rights to communicate** are **respected** taking into consideration the culture and traditions of each state.
5. Universal access to information and knowledge, with due respect for the free flow of information must ensured with the active contribution of the poorest and most marginalised people
6. There are open, collaborative and voluntary political and technical processes. A society where all stakeholders will enjoy the social and economic benefits of ICTs,
7. The ongoing development of multistakeholder processes that have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing issues affecting the inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) are harnessed. Further deepening of the current **multistakeholder model is important** with particular emphasis on the benefits of the inclusive decision-making structure.
8. The interests of the poorest and most marginalized people are addressed as a cross-cutting priority encouraging the participation of all stakeholder communities, youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in this process.
9. **Digital inclusion** remains a cross-cutting priority, going beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications. It recognizes the additional needs for different marginalized groups that include accessible ICTs for persons with disabilities, information and media literacy training for women, youth and indigenous peoples, and the use of ICTs for social and economic empowerment, including, e.g. ICTs to promote youth employment and entrepreneurship is critical.
10. Girls and women are actively empowered in all aspects of their lives, in order to remove **gender inequalities,** with a need to apply a gender lens in all aspects across all sectors and from strategies and planning through to the implementation of WSIS outcomes. This includes awareness raising, literacy and meaningful engagement to affordable access, appropriate policy frameworks and relevant content. An important way of ensuring this is realized though women’s leadership and participation in decision-making processes.
11. There is full respect for **cultural and linguistic diversity**, and that everyone’s right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work and local content in the language of their choice.
12. There is effective cooperation backed with adequate **funding and assistance for inclusive ICT initiatives** for the benefit of the developing and least developing
13. **Scientific knowledge** is a key factor in the **innovation process** and in finding pathways to sustainable, inclusive and equitable development, which are respectful of the environment. Science is acknowledged as a common or public good that is to be shared universally.
14. An open Internet based on open standards development processes, as key enablers for an inclusive knowledge and information societies.
15. An established, improved and optimized **ICT infrastructure** that is easily accessed by all communities including in rural remote areas and development of simplified devices, including text-free interfaces and applications aimed at digital inclusion is promoted.
16. **A trusted environment**, both online and offline, is critical to build confidence and security in ICTs and their uses , in particular ensuring that **children and vulnerable communities, feel secure and are given the tools to be empowered online.** Collaboration to collectively strive not only to make ICTs safer for everyone, especially the vulnerable, but also endeavor to build an inclusive information society should be promoted.
17. **Broadband infrastructure and affordable services** reaches everyone, including through universal service and universal access, as well as the development of Internet Exchange Points.
18. The digital and knowledge divides are bridged 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.
19. M**ultilingual and local digital content** is encouraged to ensure that all members of the community are able to understand and e contribute to online content.
20. An information society where preservation of its digital heritage is ensured.. Cohesive, conceptual and practical digital strategies, alongside an international legal framework, are necessary to ensure the preservation of and access to recorded information in all its forms in the digital environment;
21. The learning experiences for those with a range of **disabilities** are enhanced through **assistive technologies**, the effective implementation of appropriate international interoperable technical standards, of disability-inclusive development frameworks and enabling policy environments.
22. Ethical and professional standards should be explored in search of a common vision and understanding .
23. **The importance of further development of appropriate national and regional frameworks and approaches** including **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 inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) is recognised..
24. **Indigenous and traditional knowledge** are pathways to develop innovative processes and strategies for locally-appropriate sustainable development is supported. This knowledge is integral to a cultural complex that also encompasses language, systems of classification, resource use practices, social interactions, ritual and spirituality. These unique ways of knowing are important facets of the world’s cultural diversity, and provide a foundation for comprehensive knowledge society.
25. Accessibility issues are incorporated in the public procurement policies and in international regulatory fora.
26. There is 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 inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies) .  **All persons are empowered to participate** in the open and distributed Internet governance model in order to contribute to policies that are important to them, as different marginalized and disadvantaged groups have different needs
27. There is increased **participation of youth in decision-making processes** as vital ingredient for improving democracy
28. **Training and capacity building** in ICTs supported by all stakeholders, including media and information literacy are available to help users develop their abilities to evaluate and interact with online information resources.
29. An enabling **environment** spurring competition and improving access to ICTs by making them more affordable. This does not only have the potential to transform the lives of citizens and societies but also to help marginalized persons with disabilities and indigenous people, expanding the rights and possibilities for them and their societies.
30. **Ensures affordable and public access to ICTs**, aiming at not only transform lives of citizens and communities, but also to help the marginalized and vulnerable, persons with disabilities and indigenous people by empowering them and their communities, including in rural and remote areas.
31. 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, people with disabilities and indigenous people.
32. **Inclusion of people in rural and remote areas** where not only market forces, but investment might be necessary.

1. “inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies)” to be discussed during the 2nd Physical meeting of the WSIS+10 High-level Event Open Consultation Process in December 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Emerging trends in 11 WSIS Action Lines both in terms of Policy and Technology are produced as an Outcome of WSIS Forum in a multistakeholder environment on an annual basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “inclusive Information and Knowledge Society (ies)” to be discussed during the 2nd Physical meeting of the WSIS+10 High-level Event Open Consultation Process in December 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)