

**Document Number: WSIS+10/4/61**

**Submission by: UNESCO, International organization**

**Note: Submission to the WSIS+10 MPP Vice Chair’s (Egypt’s) proposal for Chapter A Preamble**

**Document Number: WSIS+10/4/4**

**Note: This document is the WSIS+10 MPP Vice Chair’s (Egypt’s) proposal for Chapter A, Preamble. This is the clean and summarized version of the proposed draft by the Vice- Chair.**

Draft WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

1. **Preamble**

Ten years ago, at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in its two phases (Geneva 2003, & Tunis 2005), the representatives of the peoples of the world adopted a common vision on the Information Society, identifying its main principles and challenges towards a people-centered inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. The fundamental aim of the WSIS process was not to establish new governance models, but to foster the use of technology to improve peoples’ lives and to bridge the digital divide.

The uses of ICTs have developed tremendously and become a part of everyday life since the second phase of the WSIS in 2005, accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development, promoting freedom of expression, increasing accountability and transparency, and offering new opportunities to leverage technology, in developed and developing countries. ICTs ~~The Internet technology~~ have also demonstrated their value in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, major challenges still lay ahead for counteracting the wide disparities in development and enabling entire groups and countries to benefit from universal access to information and knowledge.

Since the WSIS process started, emphasis has been given to the multi-stakeholder approach and its vital importance in the WSIS implementation at the national, regional and international levels and in taking forward the WSIS themes and Action Lines. Such approach has led to strengthening the engagement of governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations, enabling all relevant parties to work together.

The first milestone in the WSIS+10 Review process was the “Towards Knowledge Societies, for peace and sustainable development” WSIS+10 Event, which was co-organized with ITU, UNDP, UNCTAD and hosted by UNESCO in Paris from 25-27 February 2013. Participants developed and adopted by consensus the Final Statement: *Information and Knowledge for All: An Expanded Vision and a Renewed Commitment*, which was later endorsed by UNESCO’s 195 Member States at its 37th session of the General Conference. This Final Statement is therefore the first, multistakeholder adopted and Member States endorsed pillar for the WSIS+10 Review process.

As we reflect further 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 existing budget concerns, alongside ways in which WSIS processes can be mainstreamed into broader UN developmental activities

The WSIS+10 Review aims at identifying the challenges and priorities for the post 2015 era in conjunction with the post Millennium Development Goals Agenda based on multi-stakeholder consultations when taking decisions on issues relating to the implementation of the eleven Action Lines and on the inclusive Information Society.

The potential of ICTs as key enablers of development and innovation, is fully recognized by the WSIS stakeholders but not duly reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Taking into account the growing importance of relevant content, skills and an enabling environment, ICTs should be fully recognized as tools empowering people. The Post-2015 Development Agenda reflects lessons learned during the past decade in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. There is an urgency to build on what has been learned on the uses of ICTs since the MDGs were established in 2000, and acknowledge how the two phases of the WSIS have stimulated significant international cooperation and collaboration on ICTs as enablers for development.

***In this context;***

*We invite* all stakeholders to take full advantage of ICTs in addressing the development challenge of the 21st century and to recognize them as cross-cutting enablers for achieving the three pillars of sustainable development.

1. and A/RES/68/163 of the UN General Assembly on The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity
2. *We reaffirm* the vital role of youth and youth organizations as recognized in paragraph 11 in the WSIS Declaration of Principles, stating that "youth should be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and wellbeing". The role of youth was also underlined in the World Programme of Action for Youth, where ICT is identified as one of the 15 priority areas, in the sense that it can provide youth with the opportunity to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage. In addition, the ITU Global Youth Summit in 2013 declared youth as a force for progress, and assured the importance of their full participation in decision making processes to improve democracy, marking that the spread of information among young people can directly foster empowerment and innovation on a global scale (BYND 2015 Global Youth Declaration). While progress has been made, it is important to exert greater efforts to ensure the implementation of mentioned program, declarations and others alike.
3. While there is recognition of the potential of ICT as a tool for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women accessing and using ICTs, a “gender divide” has also been identified in the access to and use of ICTs worldwide. Accordingly, we reaffirm the importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women’s empowerment to guarantee the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society. Recalling the mandate of the newly established agency UN-WOMEN, the recommendations of the High Level Panel in the post-2015, The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, and RESOLUTION 70 (Rev. Guadalajara 2010) Gender mainstreaming in ITU; we wish to emphasize the importance of taking into account throughout the WSIS+10 Statement and Vision para 12 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles stating that the development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women. Women should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society. We are committed to ensuring that the Information Society enables women’s empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. To this end, we should ensure the use ICTs as a tool to gender mainstreaming.
4. Recalling the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities, the Geneva principles paragraph 11, 13, 14 and 15, Tunis Commitment paras 20, 22 and 24, and reaffirming the commitment to providing equitable access to information and knowledge for all, building ICT capacity for all and confidence in the use of ICTs by all, including youth, older persons, women, indigenous and nomadic peoples, people with disabilities, the unemployed, the poor, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people and remote and rural communities, it is crucial to increase the participation of vulnerable people in the building process of information Society and to make their voice heard by stakeholders and policy-makers at different levels. It can allow the most fragile groups of citizens worldwide to become an integrated part of their economies and also raise awareness of the target actors on the existing ICTs solution (such as tolls as e-participation, e-government, e-learning applications, etc.) designed to make their everyday life better.

As appropriate, this chapeau language does not preclude the possibility that specific reference is made in the Action lines to youth, human rights, individual groups of vulnerable people or gender. We recommend that this chapeau language should be explicitly referenced at the beginning of each action line.

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.