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**Submission by: IFIP IP3, Civil Society**

**Please note that this is a submission for the Fourth Physical meeting of the WSIS +10 MPP to be held on 14-17 April 2014.**

**Document Number: WSIS+10/4/25**

This document has been proposed by the Chair of WSIS+10 MPP, Prof Minkin, prepared in close collaboration with Dr. Anja Kovacs, The Internet Democracy Project, Civil Society as was announced during the 3rd meeting to facilitate the discussions in the next physical meeting.

This document takes into account the Ad-hoc group paras on Youth, Human Rights, Gender, Knowledge Society and Vulnerable Groups that have already been included in the Preamble.

The chairman has opened a reflector in the form of wsis-info@itu.int and invites all WSIS Stakeholders to comment in advance to facilitate the 1st reading of this document during the 4th meeting on 14-17 April 2014

Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

A. 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 information and knowledge, education, health care and other public services; provision of ICT Infrastructure; creating enabling environments; ensuring freedom of expression as well as the right to privacy 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, during which the Geneva Plan of Action was adopted (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 Society such as broadband, social networks, a growing concern regarding cybersecurity, mobility, digital inclusion, massive open online courses (MOOCs) and e-participation, amongst others[[1]](#footnote-1). Many of 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.

Within the last 10 years, in the international and regional level, several efforts have been made towards international and regional cooperation in the implementation of WSIS Outcomes. The WSIS Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators (ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD UNDESA, FAO, UNEP, WHO, ILO, WMO, UN, ITC, UPU and Regional Commission), has proven to be an excellent mechanism for coordination of multistakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and continues to provide assistance in developing multistakeholder and public/private partnerships. Regional commissions play a vital role in facilitating regional inputs, feeding outcomes of regional meetings, strategies and evaluation towards the WSIS Forum.

***Paragraph on Knowledge Societies as proposed by UNESCO:***

The evolution of the information society over the past 10 years has contributed to the development of true  knowledge societies around the world, 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.

Exchange and sharing of information on the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, reporting on good practices, success stories and examples of the ICT projects on regular basis through the WSIS Stocktaking Database, maintained by the ITU, became an important process for building capacities necessary to accelerate implementation of WSIS activities as well as crucial platform to assist facilitation work of the WSIS Action Lines. As an integral part of this process the annual contest of the WSIS Project Prize encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for sharing best practices at the global level, and, recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the WSIS.

Yet the WSIS aims of bridging the digital and knowledge divides and of creating a people-centric, inclusive, open and development-oriented information society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge still remains vastly relevant.

The number of substantive and policy issues facing the United Nations’ implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, continues to grow, as ICTs are affecting all the different aspects of life; making it pertinent for all UN Agencies to use ICTs to facilitate their respective agencies’ goals. UN Group on the Information Society continues to provide an effective interagency mechanism to address these challenges.

Since 2003, periodic review and monitoring of the Information Society have strengthened the accountability of the WSIS Outcomes. The Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development has helps improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, enhances the statistical capacity of Governments and coordinates the work of relevant UN Agencies in the collection of ICT data.

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 the necessity of increased interaction between both processes in order to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent and coordinated to achieve maximum and sustainable impact.

***Proposed paragraph by Ad-hoc group on Human Rights:***

We reaffirm the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the Geneva Declaration; and recall [Human Rights Council Resolutions A/HRC/20/8 on The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet[, A/HRC/24/4 on The right to development,

* A/HRC/24/14 on Human rights and unilateral coercive measures, and
* A/HRC/23/16 on Promotion of the rights to peace]; and] Resolution
* A/RES/68/167 of the UN General Assembly on The right to privacy in the digital age.

### *We envision a world of* inclusive Information Society *in which:*

1. The **full participation of all citizens in the digital world** is a priority for the inclusive Information Society. The key to empowering people to fully participate in the inclusive Information Society is education offering lifelong learning opportunities for all, including through ICTs, capacity building and provision of appropriate infrastructure. Promoting and protecting **freedom of expression and right of privacy** 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 Society that are essential for addressing their concerns, needs and aspirations.
2. The interests of the poorest and most marginalized people are addressed in a **rights-based approach** to development as a cross-cutting priority encouraging the participation of all stakeholder communities in this process. Universal access to information and knowledge, with due respect for the free flow of information is ensured with the active contribution of the poorest and most marginalised people*.*

**Proposed paragraph by IFIP IP3 on the need for professional practitioners:**

1. The interests of all citizens in the digital world will be best be protected through measures that promote and encourage the professionalism in those who provide, create and manage the ICTs that they will use. These professionals must be provided with the opportunity to demonstrate not only their technical capability but also their trustworthiness through being recognised as professional practitioners by means of certification within their local contexts and by trusted organisations.
2. The ongoing development of multistakeholder processes, which have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing issues affecting the inclusive Information Society , is harnessed. Further deepening of the current **multistakeholder model is important** with particular emphasis on the benefits of the inclusive decision-making structure.
3. **Digital inclusion** remains a cross-cutting priority, going beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications, including in rural and remote areas. The digital and knowledge divides are bridged to reap the benefits of **ICT and broadband** in transforming the lives of communities.

**Proposed paragraph by Ad-hoc group on Youth:**

1. 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 of this programme, 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 and declarations and others alike.

**Proposed paragraph by Ad-hoc group on Gender :**

1. While there is recognition of the potential of ICT as a tool for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women (and girls) accessing and using ICTs, a “gender divide” has also been identified. We reaffirm the importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women empowerment guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society. Taking into account 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 therefore wish to recall and emphasis the importance to take into account throughout the WSIS +10 Statement and Vision para 12 of the WSIS Declaration of principle stating that the development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who 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 mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end.”

**Proposed paragraph by Ad-hoc Group on Vulnerable Groups**

1. Recalling the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities, the Geneva principles paragraph 11, 13, 14 and 15. Tunis commitment para 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.
2. 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.
3. **Indigenous and traditional knowledge** are recognised as pathways to develop innovative processes and strategies for locally-appropriate sustainable development. 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.
4. There is full respect for **cultural and linguistic diversity**, and for everyone’s right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work and local content in the language of their choice. The preservation of **digital heritage** in the information society is ensured.
5. There is effective cooperation backed by adequate **funding and assistance for inclusive ICT initiatives** for the benefit of the developing and least developing countries.
6. **Scientific knowledge** is a key factor in the **innovation process** and in finding pathways to sustainable, inclusive and equitable development, respectful of the environment. Science is acknowledged as a common or public good that is to be shared universally.
7. The importance of an **open Internet as a key enabler** for an inclusive knowledge and information society is recognised.
8. **Trusted technologies** **and trusted environments**, both online and offline, are available to build confidence and security in use of ICTs, in particular ensuring that **children and vulnerable communities feel secure and have the tools to be empowered online.**
9. The importance of further development of **appropriate national and regional policy, legal and regulatory initiatives, frameworks and approaches,** including **multistakeholder partnerships,** to pay specific attention to vulnerable and marginalised people when addressing the range of issues that impact their ability to benefit from the opportunities of ICTs and the inclusive Information Society is recognised.
10. 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 Society. **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.
11. An enabling **environment** with adequate market, legislative and regulatory reforms will spur competition and improve access to ICTs by making them more affordable, including by providing public access. This does not only have the potential to transform the lives of citizens and societies, but also to help marginalized and vulnerable persons by empowering them and their communities, including in rural and remote areas, and expanding their rights and possibilities.
1. 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-1)