WSIS+10 High-Level Event

Open Consultation Process

Official Submission Form #1 on the
Outcome Documents of the WSIS +10 High-Level Event
13-17 April 2014, Sharm el-Sheikh

Background: The WSIS+10 High-Level Event will be an extended version of the WSIS Forum to address the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes related to the WSIS Action Lines under mandates of the participating agencies, while providing a platform for multistakeholder coordination of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, with involvement and participation of all WSIS action line facilitators, other UN agencies and all WSIS stakeholders.

The WSIS+10 High-Level Event will review the WSIS Outcomes (2003 and 2005) , in particular, related to the Action Lines with a view to developing proposals on a new vision beyond 2015, potentially also exploring new targets. The meeting will be organized taking into account decisions of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly.

This open and inclusive open consultation process will result in:

- Draft Outcome Documents for consideration by the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, by 1st March 2014:

    - Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

    - Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of the participating Agencies

    (Please see the Official Submission Form #1)

- Multistakeholder guidance on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format of the WSIS +10 High-Level Event.

    (Please see the Official Submission Form #2)

Please note that formal submission should be sent to the wsis-info@itu.int not later than **20 September 2013**.

A. Your Information

Title: *Ms*

First name: *Barbara*   *Last name:*   *Wanner*

Organization: *US Council for International Business*

Organization type: *Private Sector*   *Country:*   *United States*

B. Formal Input on the WSIS+10 High-Level Event Outcome Documents

Referring to the background documents i.e. the WSIS +10 Visioning Challenge, the Final Statement and Final Recommendations from the WSIS+10 Review Event Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development, the Booklet WSIS Forum 2012 & 2013: Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015 and the WSIS Forum 2013 Outcome Document, all WSIS Stakeholders are kindly invited to provide formal submissions and inputs towards the Outcome Documents of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

1. Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes
   (Please note that the anticipated length of this Statement is two pages)

Since the two Summits, in 2003 and 2005, WSIS Stakeholders have made every effort in implementing a common vision of the Information Society.

Overall;

   a) What are the main achievements in the area of the information society, in particular, in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines, in the past ten years?

   1.   Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

   a)   What are the main achievements in the area of the information society, in particular, in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines, in the past ten years?

   The WSIS Action Lines have served the WSIS process well. They continue to stimulate development and constitute a sound framework for realizing the goal of a globally inter-connected Information Society.

   According to the ITU, in 2006, 408 million in developing countries were Internet users. In the last seven years, that number has increased to 1.8 billion. Relatedly, mobile broadband subscriptions have skyrocketed in the developing world, increasing from 43 million subscribers to 1.2 billion subscribers in the past four years.

   Bridging Digital Divide -- These data points serve as a testament to the enormous progress which has been made since the Tunis Agenda was adopted towards bridging the global digital divide and contributing to poverty eradication and economic development. Such a dramatic increase likely would not have been possible without the global commitment to the principles in the Tunis Agenda which have preserved and promoted the flexible Internet that allows for the freedom to innovate and connect.

   This framework, established through the WSIS summit, has led to significant accomplishments across all

WSIS Actions Lines. In particular, both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders have made significant progress in promoting ICTs (C1), improving infrastructure (C2), and building capacity, confidence, and security (C4-C6). The inter-related nature of the Action Lines has ensured that achievements in one area stimulate progress in other areas.

Multistakeholder Model -- These data points also demonstrate the power of the multistakeholder model for global Internet governance. As affirmed in the WSIS Tunis Agenda, this model is multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. In 2005, the global community found that this model has "worked effectively," and the robust growth in the ICT sector since then only reaffirms the strength of the model.

Post-2015 -- As a result, the US Council for International Business (USCIB) does not support holding a WSIS Summit in 2015 or re-defining the Action Lines or goals of the WSIS process. A Summit, in particular, would detract attention from pressing forward with WSIS Action Lines implementation as well as divert precious financial resources.

Continued thorough and thoughtful evaluation of progress on what has been accomplished since 2005 through the WSIS process will provide an even better understanding of what practical measures need to be developed to further implement improvements.

b) What key identified challenges would need to be addressed in the next 10 years?

Promoting Investment in Broadband Development -- The single most important issue for developing economies is the question of how to create a sustainable broadband ecosystem that attracts investment and promotes the use, development and deployment of broadband and related products and services. Strategies that have promoted broadband deployment and, in turn, helped to fuel to growth of the Internet include: (1) open and competitive markets with minimal and fair regulatory intervention; (2) a strong reliance on voluntary commercial arrangements; and (3) policies that promote efficiency through engineering-driven design, such as the creation of IXPs and hosting capabilities. Policies that reduce network efficiency and increase costs, such as requirements that certain functions to be performed locally, should be avoided.

Locally relevant Content – Content is clearly a driver of broadband adoption. Increased availability of content local communities find relevant to them will drive adoption and a sustainable broadband ecosystem. Policies that promote the continued creation of locally relevant content should be encouraged, including protections for expression, the press, privacy and intellectual property and the development of e-commerce infrastructure including consumer protections and trusted online payment systems. Such policies should not establish mandatory must-carry regimes that unduly burden distributors of content.

Promoting Freedom of Expression – An issue of growing concern is the number of countries in the world that are blocking content or requesting removal of content for political reasons thereby violating fundamental free expression principles. This not only limits basic human rights, but also impedes legitimate data and information flows necessary for the economic development that WSIS participants pledged to pursue nearly a decade ago.

Institutional Capacity – Capacity-building remains critical to ensuring that institutions throughout the world are better able to collaborate on-line to address developmental issues and share information that can improve the quality of life for all people. Such information may be of a practical nature referenced in our answer to Question 1 a).

Protecting Intellectual Property (IP) -- IP protection and enforcement is the foundation of important sectors that drive demand for broadband and drives creativity, innovations and the creation of content

users want. Governments should ensure adequate and effective protection of IP to advance demand for broadband and other ICT services, the creation of locally relevant content and the growth of legitimate online marketplaces. Protection of IP also facilitates access to information and technology developed elsewhere that can be used to train and nurture local talent.

Privacy –It is important to promote respect for privacy in the digital age. Business and government should work together in developing practices aimed at ensuring protection for personal data in a manner that not only provides effective protection of sensitive personal data and privacy, but also enables the data flows that are needed by new technologies and business models to foster both economic growth and societal benefits.

Security -- Public trust and confidence in the availability, reliability, and resiliency of information systems and networks, including the Internet, must continue to be strengthened in order to realize ICT-enabled economic growth and ensure the seamless operation of global business. This should entail pursuing greater global cooperation toward achieving cohesive, compatible, cybersecurity policies and agreement among governments aimed at preventing unreasonable government intrusion without appropriate oversight protections.

c) What do the WSIS Stakeholders envision for an information/ knowledge society ensuring that the youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples benefit from the enormous opportunities provided by the ICTs?

Our best chance for ensuring that youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples benefit from the opportunities provided by ICTs lies in the current WSIS Action Lines framework. This approach will continue to encourage multiple stakeholders to give concerted and thoughtful consideration of practical means of implementing policies to address challenges involved in bridging the global digital divide.

2. Draft WSIS +10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of the participating agencies (Definition of new priorities and objectives for WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015)

Please note: Participating agency refers to the Agencies tasked by the WSIS Outcomes to lead facilitation of WSIS Action Lines; See Annex to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

a) In your opinion, what are the **key emerging trends** in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) landscape that should be considered in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015? **Please specify the Action Line you are providing an input for**.

Please note: You may wish to refer to the WSIS Forum 2012 & 2013 Booklet on Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015, available at www.wsis.org/review/mpp.

- C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
    Continued efforts should be made to facilitate the participation of governments from around the world in the existing processes and forums promoting ICTs for development as well as Internet governance at national, regional, and international levels.

    Governments acting in a multistakeholder environment should contribute according to their mandates and competencies. They cannot act alone defining or implementing policy, but

necessarily must rely on the private sector, civil society, and others to define and implement policy. Transparency and dialogue are keys to the success of multistakeholder processes aimed at promoting ICT4D, implementing the WSIS Action Lines, and successfully operationalizing and implementing public policy pertaining to the Internet and ICT services.

- **C2. Information and communication infrastructure**
  The continued focus of the global community should be in deploying broadband infrastructure through measures aimed at encouraging investment. Studies have shown that deployment of broadband and ICT infrastructure contributes and enables innovation, and entrepreneurship in ICTs.

- **C3. Access to information and knowledge**
  - Click here to enter text.
- **C4. Capacity building**
  - Capacity-building remains critical to ensuring that institutions through the world are better able to collaborate online to address developmental issues and share information that can improve the quality of life for all people.

- **C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs**
  - Privacy –It is important to promote respect for privacy in the digital age. Business and government should work together in developing practices aimed at ensuring protection for personal data in a manner that not only provides effective protection of personal data and privacy, but also enables the data flows that are needed by new technologies and business models to foster both economic growth and societal benefits.

    Security -- Public trust and confidence in the availability, reliability, and resiliency of information systems and networks, including the Internet, must be strengthened in order to realize ICT-enabled economic growth and ensure seamless operation of global business. This should entail pursuing greater global cooperation toward achieving cohesive, compatible, cybersecurity policies and agreement among governments aimed at preventing unreasonable government intrusion without appropriate oversight protections.

    Child Online Safety – Providing parents and children with the information they need to navigate cyberspace is critical to the creation of a trusted environment that will encourage children to go online. Governments, educators and industry can help parents and children understand how to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of being online. Responsible practices, clear information, robust education and coordinated law enforcement efforts can greatly improve the level of safety children experience online.

- **C6. Enabling environment**
  - There is a need for legal, regulatory, and policy environments that are aimed at fostering ICT investments, recognizing the importance of these investments in helping to bridge the Digital Divide.
- **C7. ICT Applications:**
  - E-government
    - Click here to enter text.
  - E-business
    - Click here to enter text.
  - E-learning
    - Click here to enter text.
  - E-health
    - Click here to enter text.
  - E-employment

- ▪ Click here to enter text.
  - o E-environment
    - ▪ Click here to enter text.
  - o E-agriculture
    - ▪ Click here to enter text.
  - o E-science
    - ▪ Click here to enter text.
- C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
  - o We now have a more clear understanding of the role that content plays in driving adoption and creating a sustainable Internet ecosystem. We have made considerable progress in enabling greater non-English content on the Internet, and encouraging the broad creation of content of all kinds from professional to user generated. Stakeholders should continue this progress. Policies should be established that encourage the development of and access to locally relevant content including content the preserves local heritage such as museum and library collections, content in indigenous languages, and any other content in demand by local users. There are specific policies that will encourage increased creation of locally relevant content including protections for expression, the press, privacy and intellectual property as well as the development of e-commerce infrastructure such as consumer protection practices and trusted online payment systems. Such policies should not establish mandatory must-carry regimes that unduly burden distributors of content.

- C9. Media
  - o Protection of content-carrying signals should be enhanced.

- C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
  - o Stakeholders should unite in opposing policies aimed at blocking content or requesting removal of content for political reasons. Such policies not only limit basic human rights, but also impede legitimate data and information flows necessary for the economic development that WSIS participants pledged to pursue nearly a decade ago.

- C11. International and regional cooperation
  - o Click here to enter text.

b) What are areas that have **not been adequately captured by the framework of the existing 11 WSIS Action Lines** and would need to be addressed beyond 2015? **Please specify the Action Line you are providing an input for**.

   We have not identified any areas that are not adequately captured by the current Action Line Framework.

- C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
  - o Click here to enter text.
- C2. Information and communication infrastructure
  - o Click here to enter text.
- C3. Access to information and knowledge
  - o Click here to enter text.
- C4. Capacity building
  - o Click here to enter text.
- C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
  - o Click here to enter text.
- C6. Enabling environment
  - o Click here to enter text.

- C7. ICT Applications:
    - E-government
        - Click here to enter text.
    - E-business
        - Click here to enter text.
    - E-learning
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    - E-environment
        - Click here to enter text.
    - E-agriculture
        - Click here to enter text.
    - E-science
        - Click here to enter text.
- C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
    - Click here to enter text.
- C9. Media
    - Click here to enter text.
- C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
    - Click here to enter text.
- C11. International and regional cooperation
    - Click here to enter text.

c) In your opinion are there any priority areas that need to be addressed in the implementation of WSIS Beyond 2015.

Click here to enter text.

3. Ensuring accountability of the WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015 (Targets and Indicators for an open and inclusive information/knowledge society for all beyond 2015)
Please note that information provided under this point will be relevant to the second physical meeting of the open consultation process on WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

a) How can the **monitoring and evaluation** of future implementation of the WSIS process, in particular, the Action Lines be better enabled?

USCIB believes that the UN's Commission on Science and Technology (CSTD) is uniquely qualified and best suited, as a third-party entity without any Action Line responsibilities, to monitor and evaluate future implementation of the WSIS process going forward.

b) What are the **priority areas** that the post-2015 WSIS process should focus on and which goals and targets could monitor the new vision for WSIS beyond 2015?

See our answers to Question 2.

4. Any additional comments or suggestions

USCIB feels it is important to reiterate that the focus in the post-2015 period should be on enabling the UN's Commission on Science and Technology (CSTD) to continue its thoughtful and thorough evaluation of what has been accomplished since 2005 through the WSIS process. Based on this, stakeholders would have a better understanding of what practical measures need to be developed to further implement improvements based on the current Action Lines framework. Importantly, the flexible, bottom-up nature of the Internet and stakeholder freedom to innovate and connect within this environment must be preserved.