INFORMATION SHARING AND CONSULTATION

Tuesday 16 November, 10:00 -13:00 hrs ROOM XVII OF PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

An informal consultation on the work of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) will be held in Geneva on 16 November at Room XVII of Palais des Nations with full interpretation (6 languages). The Task Force had been requested last December by the World Summit on the Information Society to undertake a review of the adequacy of existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for development.

The informal consultation will provide an opportunity for member states and stakeholders to be updated on the work of the Task Force and for the facilitators of the Task Force to hear about issues of concern and effective approaches adopted by different countries to address the financing question.

The consultation will be given by Shoji Nishimoto, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP. UNDP has been requested by the Secretary General to lead the TFFM in collaboration with key partners. The TFFM was formally launched in New York on 4 October 2004 and its report is expected to be presented to the Secretary General in December 2004.

A virtual consultation process has also been launched on WSIS-online and will run until 25 November and participants are welcome to send in short contributions. Please see http://www.wsis-online.net/financing/finance-root/. The virtual and Geneva consultations are intended to be "open and inclusive", and to allow the TFFM to benefit from the participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries.

For further information, contact: UNDP/New York Tel: (1) 212 906 5046, UNDP/Geneva Tel: (41-22) 917 85 36. Website: http://www.itu.int/wsis/tffm/index.html