WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY PHASE II

Youth Caucus Proposed Parallel Events at Tunis, November 2005

Prepared By:

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INTRODUCTION

The Youth Caucus is made up of young people across the globe; youth led and youth oriented organizations and in particular the youth who worked and work hard in their local communities to raise awareness on the Information Society and the role of Information and Communication Technologies.

The World Summit on the Information Society Youth Caucus has worked to build on the successes and lessons learnt from the first phase of the Summit in Geneva – amongst other processes such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development – ensuring the agenda of the WSIS reflects the priorities of those who will live with its decisions, and that the process catalyses support for concrete youth action.

The second phase of the summit presents a unique opportunity to consolidate the efforts of young people during the first phase, while also presenting an opportunity for them to continue the projects that they started.

This plan of parallel events provides a framework for youth engagement at the summit spanning a Youth Hub, coverage of work done over the last four years on the National Youth Campaigns, to the World Summit Youth Awards and the world Summit Awards Radio.

PROPOSED PARALLEL EVENTS: *Youth at the Summit*

The WSIS summit in Phase II will focus primarily on the signing of the documents developed around the issues of Internet Governance and Financial Mechanisms. It might also witness the broader launch and acceptance of the Digital Solidarity Fund amongst other project launches. Youth should be prepared to continue some final lobbying and fund raising for projects, within the political process. The main effort though will be to showcase the work of the Youth Caucus since Phase I, particularly the results of the Rural and National Youth Campaigns and, the untapped potential of youth in truly building an inclusive Information Society.

1.   NATIONAL YOUTH CAMPAIGNS: GOING GLOCAL

The National Information Society Youth Campaigns differed in content, dependent on local needs and circumstances, yet retained the same basic framework and set of goals. Shared elements included the theme "Realizing the potential of young people to create digital opportunity", as well as components such as expected outcomes – including creation of a national youth platform on the information society, and increased public awareness of both the Summit and youth participation within the process. This will be a vibrant panel and workshop with discussions and innovative presentations by young people on their national

campaigns on the Information Society. Invited to this session would be specifically Government representative's from each of the presenting countries as well as others; private sector donors and Intergovernmental donor agencies. The aim is to showcase and thus seek support for these on-going activities that have proved quite successful in engaging Young people in all aspects of the Information Society. It would run for two hours. This will be convened with the support of www.cta.nl and the Canadian government. It is proposed for the morning of November 16th, 2005.

Date & Venue: November 16th, 2005
Time: 10:00am – 12:00am
Discussants/Panelists: National Youth campaign Coordinators from Each of 5 Global Regions and one each form Industry Canada and CTA
Facilitator/Moderator: Ms. Titi Akinsanmi, Global Facilitator, WSIS Youth Caucus/Nick Moraitis/Robert Sagun
Rapporteur: Communications Facilitator WSIS Youth Caucus
Purpose: Showcase of 8 Best National Youth Campaigns (NYC) on the Information Society and the Launch of a Publication comprising all NYC reports.
Participants: This is open to all WSIS stakeholders as a best practice showcase
Confirmed Sponsors/Supporters: The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cop-operation ACP-EU (CTA www.cta.nl); Industry Canada/Canadian Government (www.ic.gc.ca)

2.   Youth implementing WSIS Action Plan

A session is also proposed as a round table on follow-up to WSIS in the context of larger Global follow-up process – how we as Youth will continue to match words with action on the WSIS Declaration and Plan of Action; This we will feed into the main Summit process itself and is proposed for the morning of the 16th of November.

Date & Venue: November 16th,
Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm
Discussants/Panelists: Youth Leaders in the IS via WSIS YC and ITU Youth and Gender Unit; WSIS YC & ITU representative
Facilitator/Moderator: To be Confirmed
Rapporteur: To be Confirmed
Purpose: proposed session on follow-up to WSIS in the context of larger Global follow-up process – how we as Youth will continue to match words with action on the WSIS Declaration and Plan of Action
Participants: This is open to all WSIS stakeholders, particularly youth, youth oriented organizations
Confirmed Sponsors/Supporters: ITU Youth and Gender Unit, Industry Canada, CTA

3.   Academia Research on the Information society: Findings by Youth in Academia on The Information Society

Over the last five years we have overtime a series of young researchers in Academia doing extensive and varied research around and on the Information Society. This panel will serve as a global platform for them to present their findings till date. Youth in Academia will be drawn from the global North and South to present their work in this two hour panel. The afternoon of the 17th of November is proposed for this session. Partners will include amongst others Universities hosting these youths' research studies.

Date & Venue: November 17th, Parallel Events Hall
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Discussants/Panelists: Youth Researchers from three Universities (London, Austria and Kenya)
Facilitator/Moderator: Ms. Julia Fauth of the UN ICT Task Force Secretariat and Mr. Gbenga Sesan of Lagos Digital Village
Rapporteur: To be Confirmed
Participants: This is open to all WSIS stakeholders and geared towards the Academia participants
Confirmed Sponsors/Supporters: To be Confirmed