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**The overall review of WSIS  
and its implications to the implementation of  
and follow-up to the Summit outcomes**

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## CSTD 2015-2016 Inter-sessional Panel

### The overall review of WSIS and its implications to the implementation of and follow-up to the Summit outcomes

- **WSIS** has been associated with an information society as it called for peoples access to technologies and information. However, it is not clear that we had anticipated the changes that ICTs would bring to the people in the twelve years that preceded the December 2015 WSIS review that resulted in the WSIS +10 document. It indicates the growth made during the period under review and provides recommendations that will have an effect on the information society.
- **Narrate** the short story of Mathare informal settlement on phone use and its liquidity value (serves as collateral for loans, in lieu of rent, it is given to the landlord etc.)
  1. **How then do we move from theory to the practicality of furthering the WSIS VISION OF an inclusive information society?**
    - **An info society is one that allows** people the fundamental rights and the capabilities, not just to acquire information, but also to create it and transform it into knowledge and understanding.
    - Requires availability of affordable broadband to allow more ordinary people to be connected. Tied to this, is the need to have facilitating infrastructure such as electricity, and affordable access tools. It is also access to content that people can relate and identify with, and that which is of use in their everyday lives, and will contribute to various aspects of development and allow for appropriation of digital opportunities.
    - An info society respects human rights allows people to freely express their needs and aspirations without fear or favor.
    - It should recognize the ever dynamic nature of the Internet. This then calls for debate of priority issues in an open and transparent manner, and in ways that pays respect to ordinary ideas. Further, a reflection of these ordinary ideas reflected final outcomes relevant to policy and legislations.
    - Ways of combating hate speech without infringing on freedom of expression. Calls for a basic education on ethical considerations and mutual respect when people communicate online.
    - Provision of security online which aims at providing secure platforms for people to communicate and does not amount to surveillance aimed at profiling citizens. (legitimate, proportional and necessary). In an information society, people need to trust and feel secure in systems that allow them free expression AND the freedom to innovate.
    - Peoples data must be protected even if there is a threat of terrorism. Need for data protection law.

2. Continuously endeavor to have evidence based positions that emanate from research. **This requires the** gathering and classification of the evidence on how to further an inclusive information society.
3. Create platforms where this information can be shared in an interactive manner. For example, governments or organizations can hold useful information that would facilitate the furthering of the WSIS vision, but such info is not shared, or even if it is, the platforms only reach other government agencies. WSIS has various stakeholders who should be targeted with the evidence gathered, then have them interact with it in ways that makes it relevant for them (and probably informs policy decisions).
4. **Budgetary provision** for evidence gathering and research, as well as sharing and engagement, in every country's WSIS implementation strategy.
5. Again, many of the WSIS outcomes dovetail into SDGs. Ways of infusing them will need to be part of the strategy of implementation. And ofcourse the CSTD being a Multistakeholder platform (has demonstrated that MS is doable) is well placed in suggesting and pushing for the implementation.