Informal background note on possible options for consideration by ECOSOC in the reform of the CSTD

I. Introduction

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis in November 2005 requested ECOSOC to oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of WSIS. To this end, it requested ECOSOC, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including considering the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach. This mandate was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution (A/60/252) adopted by consensus on 27 March 2006.

The present note is prepared to propose possible options for consideration by ECOSOC in the reform of the CSTD. It is intended to address two main questions:

- How can the Commission best contribute to ECOSOC's follow-up to the WSIS, while at the same time continuing to implement its mandate on traditional science and technology issues, particularly within the context of the September 2005 World Summit?

- How can the multi-stakeholder approach requested at WSIS be applied to the Commission's functioning?

II. Background and current framework of the CSTD

The Commission was established as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC in 1992 to provide the General Assembly and the Council with high-level advice on science and technology issues. Its analysis and policy recommendations are meant to enable these organs to guide the future work of the United Nations in this field, develop common policies and agree on appropriate actions. Its 33 member States are elected by the Council for a four-year term. The representatives are chosen for their expertise on science/technology questions and are appointed by their governments. Since July 1993, UNCTAD has served as the CSTD's secretariat, providing it with substantive servicing. The Commission acts as a forum for:

- the consideration of science and technology questions and their implications for development;
- the advancement of understanding on science and technology policies, particularly in respect of developing countries; and
- the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology issues within the United Nations system.

The Commission meets annually for a one-week session (ECOSOC resolution 2002/37, reaffirmed in resolution 2003/31). At each session, it elects a new Bureau (a chairperson and four vice-chairpersons) for the next session. The Bureau oversees and is responsible for activities during the inter-sessional period, setting up an *ad hoc* panel to work on the substantive theme chosen for each inter-session. The panel, assisted by the secretariat, prepares reports to be presented to the Commission.

A list of the substantive themes addressed by the Commission in recent years appears in Annex 1 to this note.

III.   New developments

The 2005 World Summit in New York last September called for renewed commitment to making science and technology, including information and communications technologies (ICTs), work for development. During the second phase of WSIS (Tunis, November 2005), world leaders adopted the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, paragraph 105 of which requests ECOSOC to oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Tunis and Geneva outcomes of WSIS. To that end, ECOSOC, at its substantive session of 2006, is requested to review the Commission's mandate, agenda and composition, including considering its strengthening, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach.

A summary of the relevant mandates from the World Summit outcome document (A/60/L.1) appears in Annex 2.

IV.   Issues involved in strengthening the Commission to accommodate WSIS follow-up

a) Identify an appropriate model.   One such model is the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which is mandated to follow up on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and other ECOSOC commissions mandated to monitor follow-up to world conferences. These functional bodies have all undergone a similar strengthening exercise that has served to sharpen their focus, redefine their mandate so as to reflect current priorities and improve their overall effectiveness.

A table summarizing the mandate, composition and follow-up process of the functional commissions is to be found in Annex 3.

b) Develop a workable mechanism for reviewing progress at the international, regional and national levels in implementing the recommendations and commitments of WSIS. This might involve adopting a series of two-year, action-oriented follow-up cycles, with a review session in the first year and a policy session in the second year. To this end the CSTD would need to draw on the work of the WSIS implementation structures, such as the UN Group on the Information Society and the moderators/facilitators of WSIS Action Lines.

c) Identify a means for providing policy guidance.

d) Determine how CSTD will continue to work on its current mandate on science and technology and at the same time promote dialogue and build partnerships with the participation of all stakeholders. This could conceivably be carried out through a multi-stakeholder forum on ICT for development within the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, recently launched by the Secretary-General

e) Increase the number and diversity of the Commission's members, possibly drawing on the CSD model.

f) Consider extending the length of the annual sessions in view of the expanded mandate.

V. Framework

It is important to note that at its 40th plenary meeting, on 27 July 2005, ECOSOC, recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in which the Assembly requested each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and to report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of that examination and welcomed the innovative means used by the CSTD to improve the effectiveness, outreach and impact of its work, particularly by involving eminent experts, such as Nobel laureates, by relying on electronic means, such as the Science and Technology for Development Network(STDev)[1], and by establishing an international network of science and technology institutions, decided:

- *That the Commission, in order to fulfil its mandate, would adopt a biennial programme of work beginning at its ninth session, in the first year focusing on policy analyses and in the second year focusing on operational aspects and implementation, and that the Commission should strengthen the connection between its review of implementation and its policy recommendations;*
- *That the Commission should encourage the active participation of civil society and the private sector in its panels, electronic working groups and annual sessions;*
- *That the Commission should strengthen collaboration with other functional commissions of the Council, for example through cooperation and coordination between the various substantive secretariats and bureaux, particularly in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.*

V.1. Possible role of a renewed CSTD

In order to effectively assist ECOSOC in its system-wide follow-up of the outcomes of WSIS, while at the same time maintaining its traditional mandates on science and technology for development, the CSTD needs to be strengthened in terms of its membership, mandate, working methods and level of representation. A renewed CSTD should operate in a way similar to that of the ECOSOC functional commissions responsible for the follow-up of major UN conferences and summits, most notably:

- the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which ensures the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which ensures the follow-up to the United Nations World Conference on Women; and
- the Commission for Social Development (CSoD) which ensures the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

V.2. New focus

The new focus of the Commission would need to reflect two key elements:

a)   Contribution to the ECOSOC follow-up to the 2005 September Summit outcome document in the area of science and technology; and

b)   Assisting ECOSOC in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of WSIS.

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[1] http://www.unctad.org/stdev

On the follow-up to the outcomes of both Tunis and Geneva phases of WSIS, the CSTD should function as follows:

- review progress at the international, regional and national levels in the implementation of Action Lines, recommendations and commitments contained in the final documents of WSIS;
- make recommendations to ECOSOC on policy guidance and options for future activities to follow up the WSIS *Geneva Plan of Action* and *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*; and
- promote dialogue and build partnerships for further development of the information society with the participation of all stakeholders (including governments, international organizations, private sector and civil Society).

V.3.   Composition

The composition of the Commission could be strengthened by increasing the number of member countries and engaging in multi-stakeholder processes. The majority of the ECOSOC functional commissions have more than 45 members (CSD: 53, CSW: 45, CSoD: 46). Thus, options of increasing membership of the CSTD to 53 should be considered. Thirteen members could be elected from Africa; eleven from Asia; ten from Latin America and the Caribbean; six from Eastern Europe; and thirteen from Western Europe and other states.

WSIS witnessed an unprecedented engagement of the private sector and civil society in its preparatory process. The *Tunis Agenda* stressed the importance of a truly multi-stakeholder approach to the follow-up of the Summit. Therefore, it is very important to maintain the momentum of multi-stakeholder participation, which was unique to the WSIS process.

ECOSOC functional commissions, including CSTD, have a long-standing tradition of working with different stakeholders especially the civil society. With the majority of the commissions, session meetings are open to the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are accredited to ECOSOC with a consultative status. CSD and CSW are also open, in addition to ECOSOC accredited NGOs, to the participation of NGOs included in the commissions' roster.

Since CSD has the broadest scope of participation, the CSTD may wish to adopt the same participation list which includes:

- Members of the Commission
- Non-CSTD members, participating as observers
- United Nations specialized agencies or related organizations
- UN Funds and Programmes
- Regional Commissions
- Other accredited intergovernmental organizations
- ECOSOC accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- NGOs included in the commissions' roster (mainly those who were accredited by WSIS)

Considering the importance of the participation of the private sector, the list should also include representatives from the business community.

V.4.   Substantive support

UNCTAD has expressed its readiness to strengthen its substantive support to the CSTD in order to enable it to provide better substantive servicing to the Commission. UNCTAD will cooperate with and encourage other UN entities to contribute to the work of the Commission.

V.5.   Agenda

In order to allow for the review of the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of WSIS, the annual regular session of the CSTD could increase from five to eight working days. In the first five days of the annual regular session, the Commission would address its substantive theme and other related matters. The next two days would serve to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for inputs for either a review session or policy session in alternate years. The final day of the session would be used for formulating conclusions and recommendations for submission to ECOSOC. To this end, the CSTD should adopt a series of two-year action-oriented "Follow-up Cycles", which include, in the first year of the cycle, a "Review Session", and in the second, a "Policy Session". These sessions could be organized in the form of high-level Segments. The cycle provides for the development of a more effective system of reporting to the Commission.

V.5.1. Review Session

The objective of the Review Session would be to evaluate progress in implementing both the *Geneva Plan of Action* and the *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*. In undertaking the review session, the CSTD should draw on the work and reports of the Action Lines Moderators/Facilitators, as well as on the United Nations Group on the Information Society, expected to be established within the Chief Executives Board (CEB). The session should be organized in collaboration with all organizations involved in the evaluation and measurement of the Information Society, particularly the ITU through its stocktaking and with the participation of all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society. The approach adopted by the CSD of learning centres and partnership fairs could be used in these sessions to share experiences and best practices and to showcase partnership initiatives and projects. Online databases of experiences and best practices, as well as partnership projects and initiatives, would be made available on the CSTD website and continuously updated in collaboration with other partners. The STDev could also be used as a platform for these databases.

V.5.2. Policy Session

The aim of the Policy Session would be to debate and discuss obstacles, as well as solutions, to the implementation of both the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The session should be based on the results of Review Sessions. The Policy Session would last three days, in a format similar to that used for WSIS PrepComs. The outcome of these sessions would be reported regularly to ECOSOC for consideration at is annual coordinated segments.

V.6.   The Multi-Stakeholder Approach in the Commission's functioning

According to General Assembly resolution 60/252, adopted in March 2006, the follow-up to WSIS should be an integral part of the follow-up to major UN conferences, within the broader development agenda. To this end, the Commission should strengthen collaboration with other functional commissions of the Council, particularly in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

The coordination should also be assured at the inter-agency level. Among the many proposals for follow-up embodied in the Summit's outcome, the *Tunis Agenda* requested the Secretary-General to establish within CEB a "UN Group on the Information Society" (UNGIS) consisting of the relevant UN bodies and organizations with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of

WSIS outcomes. The purpose of the UNGIS would be to act across multiple stakeholders as an information and coordination nexus for the inter-agency activities associated with both the implementation of the action lines, and the follow-up processes in ECOSOC, CSTD and other bodies.

On the policy dialogue level, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development will present innovative, inclusive and interactive channels for multi-stakeholder input to policy debate to be conducted in CSTD.

To this end, the CSTD Secretariat, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Global Alliance, will help organize a multi-stakeholder platform as the multi-stakeholder component of the CSTD review of WSIS follow-up and implementation.
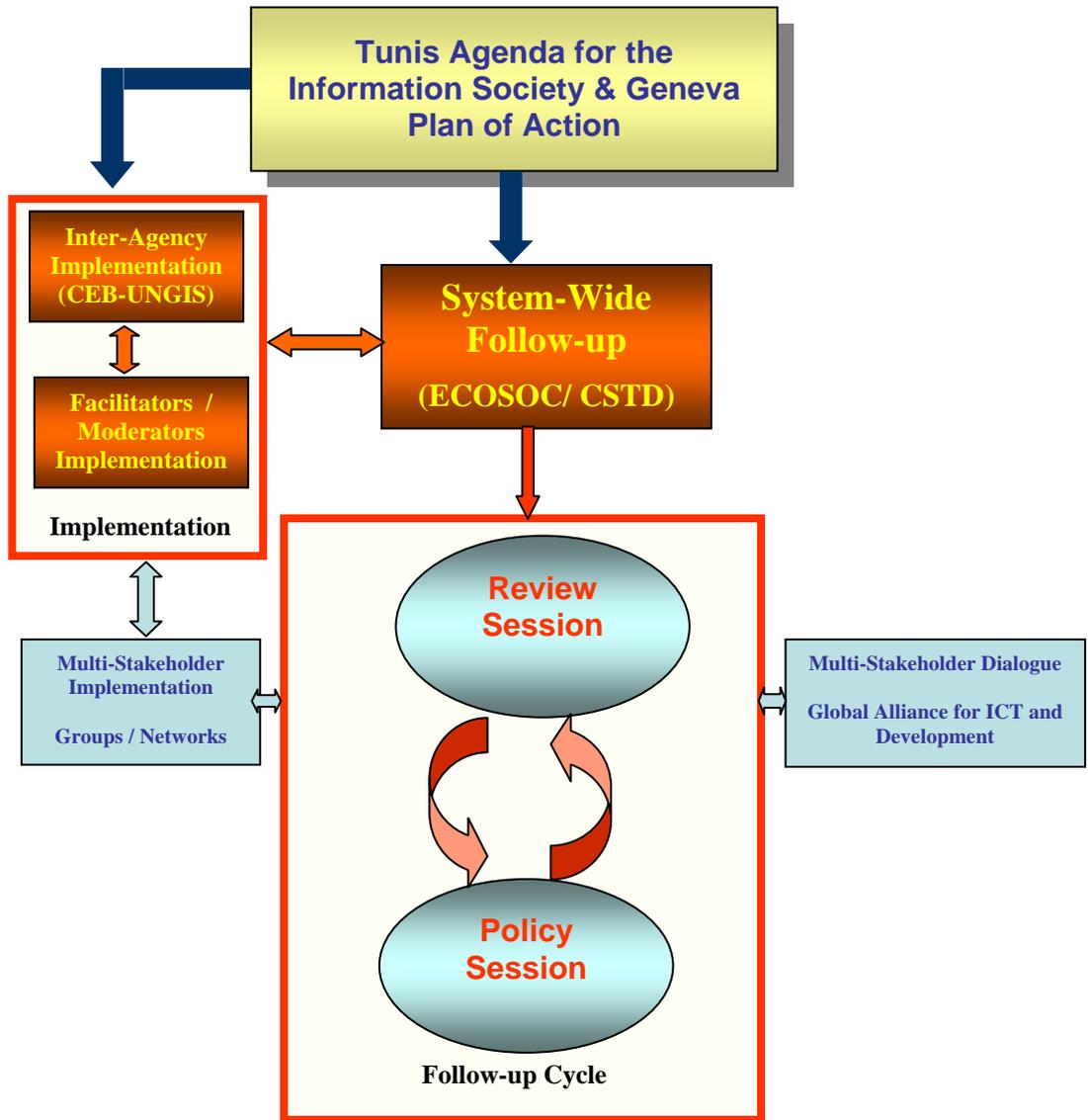In order to ensure the review, monitoring and evaluation of the progress made in the implementation and follow-up to WSIS outcomes, the commission should interact with all initiatives aimed at providing global indicators and share experiences and best practices in ICT for Development. In particular, it will coordinate with the ITU regarding the stocktaking database and the Golden Book of initiatives.

The WSIS Follow-up activities could be facilitated by the creation of an online multi-stakeholder collaborative and coordinated platform, which would allow all stakeholders to contribute to follow-up efforts, share information, learning from the experience of others and explore opportunities for partnerships.

Similar to the functioning of the CSD, NGOs that participated in WSIS should be included in a roster and participate as observers in the annual sessions of the CSTD.

V.7   Conceptual Model for WSIS Follow-up Process

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
CSTD
WSIS Follow-up Model

Tunis Agenda for the Information Society & Geneva Plan of Action

Inter-Agency Implementation (CEB-UNGIS)

Facilitators / Moderators Implementation

Implementation

System-Wide Follow-up (ECOSOC/ CSTD)

Multi-Stakeholder Implementation

Groups / Networks

Review Session

Policy Session

Follow-up Cycle

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

Global Alliance for ICT and Development

V.8   Themes of follow-up

The 11 Action Lines established by the *Geneva Plan of Action* and substantive elements added by the *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society* should constitute the main themes of post-Summit Follow-up.

The following table summarizes these Action Lines and their basis in the *Geneva Plan of Action,* as well as the *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*. It also indicates the measures that the CSTD could undertake regarding the follow-up to WSIS recommendations. These measures should be carried out in collaboration with the moderators and facilitators of the Action Lines.

Action Line	Basis (in 1. *Geneva Plan of Action* and in 2. *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*)	Possible Moderators/ Facilitators for Implementation[2]	Proposed Measures of Follow-up (CSTD, in collaboration with Moderators/ Facilitators for Implementation)
1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development	Action Line Nº1 paragraph 8 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 12, 13, 26b, 84, 85, 90a, 91, 100 of Tunis Agenda	ECOSOC / UN Regional Commissions / ITU / [**UN DESA**]	- Follow-up of national e-strategies. - Follow-up of Dialogue and Partnerships at national level. - Database of International Best Practices and Successful Experiences.
2. Information & communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive Information Society	Action Line Nº2 paragraph 9 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 14, 23c,g , 27b,f of Tunis Agenda	ITU / **UNESCO** / [FAO / UNIDO]	- Follow-up of Infrastructure and connectivity Indicators. - Follow-up of policies, mechanisms, best practices and partnerships for building Infrastructure.
3. Access to information and knowledge	Action Line Nº3 paragraph 10 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 21, 23b,d, 26, 27c , 46, 50, 90e,f, 107 of Tunis Agenda	ITU / **UNESCO** / [FAO / UNIDO]	- Follow-up of policies, legislations to facilitate accessibility for all - Follow-up of policies, programs for universal access - Follow-up of research on accessibility.
4. Capacity building	Action Line Nº4 paragraph 11 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 8, 9, 23a , 49, 51, 86, 87, 89, 90c,d, 95, 114b, 118 of Tunis Agenda	**UNDP** / UNESCO / ITU / UNCTAD / [UN DESA / FAO / UNIDO]	- Follow-up on policy, projects and programs for Capacity-Building Indicators. - Follow-up on mechanisms, best practices and partnerships for Capacity-Building.
5. Building confidence and	Action Line Nº5 paragraph 12 of Geneva Plan of Action	**ITU**	- Follow-up on policies for building confidence and

security in the use of ICTs	Paragraphs 39,40, 41, 44, 45, 68 of Tunis Agenda		Security. - Follow-up of International cooperation, best practices and information sharing.
6. Enabling environment	Action Line Nº6 paragraph 13 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 14, 16, 54 , 90b,q, 96 of Tunis Agenda	ITU / **UNDP** / UN Regional Commissions / UNCTAD / [UN DESA / UNIDO]	- Follow-up on policies and legal regulatory frameworks. - Follow-up on cooperation in enabling environments.
7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life	Action Line Nº7 paragraph 14 of Geneva Plan of Action		
•*E-government*	Paragraph 15 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 90j of Tunis Agenda	**[UN DESA]** / UNDP / ITU	- Follow-up of E-government strategies and implementation - Follow-u on best practices and partnerships for E-government.
•*E-Business*	Paragraph 16 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 47, 90t of Tunis Agenda	**UNCTAD** / UNDP /ITU	- Follow-up on promotion of e-business and assistance to SMEs in their entry to e-business.
•*E-learning*	Paragraph 17 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 90c of Tunis Agenda	**UNESCO** / ITU / UNIDO	- Follow-up of the development of e-learning
•*E-health*	Paragraph 18 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 23f,l, 90g of Tunis Agenda	**WHO** / ITU	- Follow-up of initiatives, standards for e-health, - Follow-up of international cooperation in e-health
•*E-Employment*	Paragraph 19 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 90s,t of Tunis Agenda	**ILO** / ITU	- Follow-up of the development of e-employment and tele-working - Follow-up of best practises.
•*E-Environment*	Paragraph 20 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 23f, 91 of Tunis Agenda	WHO / **WMO** / UNEP / UN-Habitat / ITU / ICAO	- Follow-up of the policies, initiatives, programs and evaluation of the use of ICT in environment protection and disaster management.
•*E-Agriculture*	Paragraphs 21 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 23f, 90i of Tunis Agenda	**FAO** / ITU	- Follow-up of policies, initiatives, programs and evaluation of the use of ICT in agriculture
•*E-Science*	Paragraphs 22 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 90r of Tunis Agenda	**UNESCO** / ITU / UNCTAD / [WHO]	- Follow-up on Scientific information dissemination and Databases on scientific information programmes.
8. Cultural diversity and	Action Line Nº8 paragraph 23 of Geneva Plan of Action	**UNESCO**	- Follow-up on Policies, indicators and Best Practices

identity, linguistic diversity and local content	Paragraphs 53, 90l,m of Tunis Agenda		for preserving cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content.
9. Media	Action Line Nº9 paragraph 24 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 90n,o of Tunis Agenda	**UNESCO**	- Follow-up on Policies, indicators and Best Practices regarding the role of media in the Information Society.
10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	Action Line Nº10 paragraph 25 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 43 of Tunis Agenda	**UNESCO / ECOSOC / [WHO]**	- Follow-up on Policies, indicators and Best Practices regarding the Ethical dimensions of the Information Society.
11. International and regional cooperation	Action Line Nº11 paragraph 26 of Geneva Plan of Action Paragraphs 18, 23e, 27f, 37, 88, 89, 91, 94, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, 115, 120 of Tunis Agenda	UN Regional Commissions / UNDP/ ITU / UNESCO / ECOSOC / [**UN DESA**]	- Follow-up of the progress in International cooperation among all stakeholders, the coordination of the inter-agency WSIS follow-up coordination mechanisms, as well as system-wide WSIS follow-up mechanisms - Follow-up on the evaluation and monitoring process.

V.9.   Multi-year programme for addressing thematic clusters

The Commission should collaborate closely with the moderators and facilitators of the 11 Action lines in order to ensure a coherent and strategic view by taking a thematic approach. To this end, the Action Lines of the *Geneva Plan of Action* could be consolidated into thematic clusters. A logical clustering could be considered along the following lines:

Themes	Main Partners
- The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development (E-Strategies, Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, …) **- Enabling Environment**	ECOSOC / UN Regional Commissions / ITU, UNDESA
- E-Readiness: Infrastructure, Access, Capacity Building and Security	UNDP/ UNESCO/ ITU / UNCTAD
- Media, **- Ethical dimensions of the Information Society** **- Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content**	UNESCO / ECOSOC
- E-Business and E-Employment	UNCTAD/ILO/UNESCO/WTO/UPU
- Other ICT Applications (*E-government, E-learning, E-health, E-Environment, E-Agriculture, E-Science*)	UNCTAD/UNDP / ITU/ WTO / UPU UNESCO / UNIDO / WHO / ILO / WMO / UNEP / UN-Habitat / ICA / FAO
International and regional cooperation	UN Regional Commissions / UNDP / ITU / UNESCO / ECOSOC

V.10.   Parallel and side events

The majority of commissions organize parallel and side events during their annual sessions. For example, the CSD organizes:
- Partnership Fair, which is a space for launching new partnerships and networking with existing and potential partners.
- Learning Centre, which constitutes a series of 3-hour courses focused on the specific themes of the session, as well as on some of the cross-sectoral issues.
- Side events directly related to the goals and objectives of the Commission and organized by non-governmental, governmental, and/or inter-governmental partners

Following the success of parallel and side events organized in the framework of WSIS summit as well as during its preparatory meetings, it is recommended that this dynamics is kept for the sessions of CSTD.

Tunis Agenda has called to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day. It is proposed that the CSTD sessions be organized around this date.

ANNEXES

1. Substantive themes addressed by the Commission

- Technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations; the gender implications of science and technology; and the contributions of science and technology to an integrated approach to land management (1995)

- Information and communication technologies for development (1997)

- Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity building (1999)

- National capacity-building in biotechnology (2001)

- Technology development and capacity building for competitiveness in a digital society (2003)

- Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2004)

- Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2005)

  - Bridging the technology gap between and within nations (2006)

2. Science and technology-related commitments emanating from the World Summit (para. 60)

60. We recognize that science and technology, including ICT, are vital for the achievement of the development goals and that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advancements and enhance their productive capacity. We therefore commit to:

a) Strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and consider support initiatives on research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sector, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

b) Promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

c) Assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity building for development;

d) Promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal;

e) Implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

f) Support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

g) Build a people-centred and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide, put the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of development and address new challenges of the information society by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and by ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in November 2005;

h) In this regard, welcome the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund and encourage voluntary contribution to its financing.

3. UN Functional Commissions in charge of conference follow-up

Commission	Major Conferences and Outcomes	Mandate	Composition	Follow-up Process
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)	- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 - World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa: Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation	- Reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at the local, national, regional and international levels - High-level forum for sustainable development within the United Nations system.	- 53 member States: 13 from Africa; 11 from Asia; 10 from Latin America and the Caribbean; 6 from Eastern Europe; and 13 from Western Europe and other states - One-third of the members are elected annually and outgoing members are eligible for re-election. - Other States, United Nations organizations, accredited inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations can attend sessions of the CSD as observers.	- Annual meeting in New York, in two-year cycles. Each "Implementation Cycle" includes a "Review Session" and a "Policy Session". - Review Sessions held in April / May for a period of 2 to 3 weeks in the first year of the cycle - Policy session held in February / March for one week in New York - Multi-year programme of work with a separate thematic focus each year and a of cross-sectoral issues
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	- The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, Beijing China: Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action - The 23rd Special Session of the United	- prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields - make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems	- began with 15 members, - now consists of 45 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years: 13 from African states; 11 from Asian states; 4 from Eastern	- Annual Meeting for a period of ten working days. - multi-year work programme of Work with predetermined themes for each session of the commission

	Nations General Assembly, NY USA: Political Declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, 2000 (5th year review)	requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. - follow-up to the World Conference on Women and review the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action and to develop its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities	European states; 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states; and 8 from Western European and Other states.	
Commission for Social Development	- World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1995 - The 24th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Geneva Switzerland: Further initiatives for Social Development 2000 (5th year review) - The 43rd Session of the Commission for Social Development 2000 (10th year review)	- key UN body in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action - strengthen international cooperation for social development, in the context of the comprehensive and detailed framework of commitments and policies for action by Governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations provided by the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development	- As a result of the Summit, the membership expanded from 32 to 46 members in 1996	- Annual Meeting in New York, usually in February - Multi-year programme of work built around the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, incorporating also the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

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