« Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, with a view to enhancing digital opportunities for all people »

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the participants’ and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Building inclusive Knowledge Societies

by

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Structure of Presentation

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  • Opportunities of Information Societies
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Opportunities

- ICT efficiency creates sustainable economic growth, higher standard of living
- ICT “level the playing field”
  - developing countries might compete on global software, culture, service markets (e.g., China, India)
  - Web 2.0 offers business models for this
- More democratic participation, freedom of expression, transparency (e-Governance)
- Improved government and public services
- Better participation in more diverse knowledge, education and culture
Threats

¬ Growing dependency on ICT infrastructure
  • danger of natural disasters, cyber-terrorism
¬ Loss of cultural diversity, indigenous knowledge
¬ Data protection, privacy, censorship
¬ Ecology: computer waste, energy consumption
¬ Digital/knowledge divide: broadening inequalities
  • might create global, civil conflicts
The Digital/Knowledge Divide

- Digital divide
  - lacking access to digital technologies deprives of their opportunities for development, deepens inequalities
  - Northern/southern hemisphere, urban/rural, rich/poor, men/women, young/old, disabled

- Knowledge divide
  - developing countries also lack education, scientific information, free media
  - Reduction of Information Revolution to technology and commerce, commoditization of knowledge, strong IPR protection by developed countries further disadvantage developing countries
The Digital/Knowledge Divide

Knowledge Divide or Digital Divide

Knowledge Prosperity Globalization Inclusion

Lack of knowledge Poverty Marginalization Exclusion

Lack of knowledge

Poverty

Marginalization

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UNESCO’s Concept of Knowledge Societies

- Holistic view of information/communication and knowledge
- “Ethics of cooperation and knowledge sharing”
- Values of plurality, inclusion, solidarity, participation
- Four building principles
  - universal access to information and knowledge
  - respect for cultural and linguistic diversity
  - freedom of expression
  - quality education for all
UNESCO’s Concept of Knowledge Societies

Knowledge Societies

Knowledge Creation
Knowledge Preservation
Knowledge Dissemination
Knowledge Utilization

Pluralism and Inclusion

Human Needs and Rights
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UNESCO’s role in WSIS follow-up

- **Coordinator**: Overall coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation with ITU, UNDP

- **Facilitator**:
  - C3: Access to information and knowledge
  - C7: E-Learning
  - C7: E-Science
  - C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
  - C9: Media
  - C10: Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

- **Implementer**: implements concrete activities with regular budget & programme
Other post-WSIS activities

- Continuing Participation in Partnership for **Measuring ICT for Development**
- Participating in **Internet Governance** debates, advocating openness, transparency and inclusiveness in Internet Governance
- Observing, Evaluating, Recommending best practices in **National Information Policies** in UNESCO’s areas of competence
  - Reports on National Information Policies in Asia, Latin America
  - National Information Policies Toolkit
- **Guidelines and recommendations** on
  - Freedom of Access to the Internet through Libraries
  - Public Domain Information
  - Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace
  - Establishment of digital theses and dissertations
  - Preservation of digital heritage
  - Freedom of information legislation
  - Legal deposit legislation
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**Outlook**
- Strategies
- Best practices and fields of opportunity
- Open questions for this forum
General Strategies

- **Raise awareness** in IGOs, national governments
- Identify and support **enabling policy frameworks** on global and national level
- **Digital Solidarity**: Raise funding for ICT development cooperation
- **Mainstream ICT** into development cooperation, MDG action
- Make use of and facilitate multi-stakeholder **co-operations and partnerships**
- **Mainstream ICT** into ones’ own activities
Best practices and fields of opportunity

- Community Multimedia Centres
- Mobile, wireless and satellite technology for internet access in rural areas
- Free/Open Source Software for education, science, government, building of software industry
- Open Educational Resources
- Open Access Journals and Repositories for sharing of scientific knowledge
- Web 2.0 applications and business models for content production
Open questions for this forum

- How may CSTD and its new agenda item profit from WSIS and UNESCO activities – and vice versa? Especially in the field of e-Science?
- How to raise awareness for WSIS inside the UN system?
- How to communicate info-society related actions among this forum and other UN agencies not involved in WSIS follow-up?
- How to set up WSIS reporting from UNGIS and Action Line facilitators to CSTD?