THE PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
6-8 November 2006
Paris, France

« 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
Public Interest and Public Policy in the Information Society

Presentation to the Inter-sessional Panel of
UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development,
6\textsuperscript{th} - 8\textsuperscript{th} November, 2006

By
Parminder Jeet Singh
IT for Change, Bangalore, India
Who Shall Shape the Future

A people-centered development-oriented IS.....

- An expected or a desired state?
- Or a policy prescription?

Do we have the political will to match the global vision?

Do we have a public policy orientation to match the scale of the transformation implied?
Private sector – and the shrinking of public policy involvement

- IS as a private sector led phenomenon
- The binary: more private sector – less public sector
- The defaults and the myths – mobile telephony and the IS
- Bringing the public-private balance back
Public, private and ‘commons’ in the IS

- Public sector for creating value - development of new techno-social systems for development

- Public sector supporting the IS ‘commons’

- Public telecom monopolies are bad, so is private rent seeking based on capture of technology standards
The nature of ICTs - and IS policies

- ICTs – ordinary services, an economic infrastructure or a social infrastructure?

- Compare with investments in public education by the now developed countries

- ICTs as a private sector responsibility and the withdrawal of the state from essential services

- Rights, social justice and equity in the IS

A range of IS policy options where the public sector plays its required role is needed
Global governance and the IS

- The context of globalization
- ‘Privatized’ and unaccountable governance in the IS
- IS needs more global governance rather than less – the paradox
- Multistakeholder, distributed governance – but also participative, democratic and accountable
- Governance innovations in the IS – without losing distinction between public interest and private interest
Thank You

IT for Change, India