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« 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
WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (1)

Geneva had two main outcome documents:

- Geneva Declaration of Principles
- Geneva Plan of Action

Chapter B of the Declaration and Chapter C of the Plan of Action are structured along 11 Action lines.
WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (2)

11 Action lines (C stands for “chapter”)

C1 The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

C2 Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive information society

C3 Access to information and knowledge

C4 Capacity building

C5 Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

C6 Enabling environment

C7 ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life (subdivided in 8 sub-chapters)

C8 Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

C9 Media

C10 Ethical dimension of the information society

C11 International and regional cooperation
WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (3)

Action Line C7 was subdivided into 8 sub-chapters

- e-government
- e-business
- e-learning
- e-health
- e-employment
- e-environment
- e-agriculture
- e-science
WSIS Geneva Summit Outcomes (4)

Geneva Plan of Action: Inspired by the MDGs, the Summit decided a set of connectivity targets to be reached by 2015:

a) to connect all villages with ICTs
b) to connect all educational institutions
c) to connect all scientific and research centres;
d) to connect all public libraries, museums and archives
e) to connect all health centres and hospitals;
f) to connect local and central government departments
g) to adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the Information Society;
h) to ensure that all have access to television and radio services;
i) to encourage the development of content on the Internet;
j) to ensure that more than half the world’s inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach.

Source: Adapted from draft WSIS plan of action.
WSIS Tunis Summit Outcomes (1)

Tunis had also two main outcome documents:

- Tunis Commitment
- Tunis Agenda for the Information Society

The structure of the Tunis documents followed the principles laid down at PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase. At Hammamet, it was decided that the Tunis phase should concentrate on financial mechanisms, on Internet Governance and on implementation and follow-up.
Consequently, the Tunis Agenda is structured along the 4 main chapters:

- Introduction
- Financial Mechanisms
- Internet Governance
- Follow-up and Implementation
WSIS Follow-up (1)

Let us first look at « follow-up »: The Tunis Agenda:

- **Requests** the UN-SG to report to the UN General Assembly through ECOSOC by June 2006 on the modalities of the inter-agency coordination.

- **Requests** ECOSOC to oversee the system-wide follow-up of WSIS and requests ECOSOC to review the mandate of the CSTD, including considering the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the multistakeholder approach.

- **Requests** the UN General Assembly to make an overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015.
In a resolution (E/2006/L.37) passed on 28 July 2006, entitled “Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development”, ECOSOC indicated how it will oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Summit outcomes, as requested in the Tunis outputs. This is in the context of the annual consideration by ECOSOC of the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences. To this end, ECOSOC decided that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) will assist the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up of WSIS. It was agreed that this would entail a strong development orientation and that the Commission would be strengthened in its substantive capacity through the effective and meaningful participation of Member States in its work. While preserving the inter-governmental nature of the Commission, ECOSOC decided that CSTD should make use of the successful multi-stakeholder approach that was pioneered by WSIS.
WSIS Follow-up (3)

From ECOSOC decision E/2006/L.37:
« the Commission shall review and assess progress made in implementing the outcomes of the Summit and advise the Council thereon, including through the elaboration of recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes, and that to that end, the Commission shall:

(a) Review and assess progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of action lines, recommendations and commitments contained in the outcome documents of the Summit;

(b) Share best and effective practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation of the Summit outcomes;

(c) Promote dialogue and foster partnerships, in coordination with other appropriate United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to contribute to the attainment of the Summit objectives and the implementation of its outcomes.... »
WSIS Implementation (1)

Let us now look at implementation. In his speech at the first Action Line Moderators/Facilitators meeting, Mr. Utsumi stated the following:

« Implementation is a multi-stakeholder process which involves the organization of activities conducted in the field, through projects and partnerships. These are the engines that will turn the WSIS principles and goals into concrete actions to bridge the digital divide. The players in multi-stakeholder implementation are governments, private sector, NGOs, civil society and international organizations, as well as regional organizations. »
WSIS Implementation (2)

Implementation is a task at national, regional and international level. Regarding implementation at the international level, para 108 of the Tunis Agenda contains what follows:

« We attach great importance to multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level, which should be organized taking into account the themes and action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, and moderated or facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate. An Annex to this document offers an indicative and non-exhaustive list of facilitators/moderators for the action lines of the Geneva Plan of Action. »
WSIS Implementation (3)

Regarding the content of these facilitation meetings, para 110 Tunis Agenda states the following:

« The coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities would help to avoid duplication of activities. This should include, inter alia, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public/private partnerships »
WSIS Implementation (4)

Thirdly, regarding the practical modalities of implementation, para 109 of the Tunis Agenda states:

« The experience of, and the activities undertaken by UN agencies in the WSIS process - notably ITU, UNESCO and UNDP, should continue to be used to their fullest extent. These three agencies should play leading facilitating roles in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and organize a meeting of moderators/facilitators of action lines, as mentioned in the Annex [to the Agenda]. »
Finally, the second part of para 103 of the Tunis Agenda:

- **Requests** the SG of the UN to establish, within the CEB, a group on the Information Society (UN-GIS), consisting of the relevant UN-bodies and organizations, with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes.
WSIS Implementation (6)

A meeting took place on 24.2. 2006 at Geneva to discuss possible lead facilitators. Based on the annex of the Tunis Agenda, the following entities were proposed as provisional lead facilitators:

- ITU for C2 and C5
- UNDP for C4 and C6
- UNESCO for C3, C8, C9, C10 and for e-learning, and e-science
- UN-DESA for C1, C11 and e-government
- UNCTAD for e-business
- WHO for e-health
- ILO for e-employment
- FAO for e-agriculture
- WMO for e-environment
WSIS Implementation (7)

A cluster of WSIS-related events took place at Geneva from 9 to 19 May 2006. During this cluster of events, the following organizations held a first round of Action Line Facilitation meetings:

- ITU for C2 (access) and C5 (security). For C2 it was the second meeting after a first meeting at Doha
- UNDP for C4 (capacity building) and C6 (enabling environment)
- UNESCO for C8 (cultural diversity etc.)
- UN-DESA for C1 (the role of all stakeholders), C11 (international and regional cooperation) and C7 e-government
- UNCTAD and ILO a joint meeting for C7 e-business and C7 e-employment
WSIS Implementation (8)

During the first round of Action Line Facilitation meetings in May 2006, most meetings focused on:

- A report on WSIS outcomes in the area of the respective Action Line
- Briefing by participants on their respective projects
- Presentations by stakeholders on possible priorities for action and modalities for cooperation
- Exchange of views between participants on the objectives of the group
Creation of UNGIS. From an ITU Press release, 14 July 2006:

Implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) gathered momentum with the launch of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS). High level representatives of twenty-two UN agencies met on Friday, 14 July 2006 at ITU Headquarters in Geneva under the chairmanship of ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi to facilitate the process. UNGIS serves as an interagency coordinating mechanism within the UN system to implement the outcomes of WSIS. The Group will enable synergies aimed at resolving substantive and policy issues, avoiding redundancies and enhancing effectiveness of the system while raising public awareness about the goals and objectives of the global Information Society. UNGIS will also work to highlight the importance of ICTs in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.
WSIS Implementation (10)

From an ITU Press release, 14 July 2006, continued:

To maximize its efficiency, the Group agreed on a work plan in which it would concentrate its collective efforts each year on one or two cross-cutting themes and on a few selected countries.

In the coming period, UNGIS will focus on bringing the efforts of the UN system to bear on expanding access to communications, for instance through multimedia community centres, teleshops, etc. Drawing on the respective competencies of the different members of the Group, UNGIS will also focus on applications related to e-health and e-tourism. At the same time, the Group will examine the e-readiness strategies and policies of one or two countries, to be proposed by UNDP, to develop a comprehensive toolkit for bringing the benefits of the Information society to developing countries.
Creation of GAID. From a UN press release, 17 April 2006:

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has approved the launch of a Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development. As stressed by the 2005 World Summit and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), information and communication technology must be effectively integrated into development activities if the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are to be achieved within the agreed time frame.

The mission of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development will be to facilitate and promote such integration by providing a platform for an open, inclusive, multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral policy dialogue on the role of information and communication technology in development. It will thus contribute to linking the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society with the broader United Nations development agenda.
Parallel processes (2)

Focus of UN-GAID

The participants in the GAID KL Inaugural Meeting agreed on a number of approaches and decided that the focus should be on the following key priority areas that are considered most impactful:

- **Education**;
- **Health**;
- **Entrepreneurship**; and
- **Participation in policy debate and decision making (governance)**.

The full text of the agreed consensus is on the GAID website at [http://www.un-gaid.org/kl06/kl_outcome.html](http://www.un-gaid.org/kl06/kl_outcome.html)
Parallel processes (3)

Forum “Our common humanity in the Information Age

From the GAID website: « the Millennium Declaration spoke of a common set of values and principles, including, among others, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility as fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. In this context, the Declaration called for "broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity". Against this backdrop, a global forum will be organized at New York, on 29 November 2006, in the framework of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID), in partnership with interested initiatives, on the promotion and inculcation of these values and principles and lending them practical expressions in the actions of governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals across the globe as a multi-stakeholder forum. It strives to promote ownership of the Summit by people all over the world. »