

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(CSTD)**

**Eighteenth Session  
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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on  
their efforts in 2014 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

**Submission by**

Verizon

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

**DISCLAIMER:** The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

## **Verizon input to the United Nations (UN) Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) December 2014**

### **I. Overview and Verizon Participation in WSIS and CSTD**

Verizon Communications Inc. (“Verizon”) is pleased to provide input to the UNCTAD, as secretariat for the CSTD on our best and effective practices, lessons learned, actions, initiatives and important measures needed to further implement the Summit outcomes. We submit these contributions in preparation of the Secretary-General’s annual report to inform the Commission on progress made at the regional and international levels.

Verizon supports the WSIS outcomes vision of a people-oriented, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. In 2014 we actively participated in the WSIS + 10 preparatory meetings (PrepComs) and the CSTD discussions, both in-person and remotely, and continue to seek ways in which we can further assist the implementation of the WSIS action lines. Through our daily business and engagement with the global ICT community, we work to support the overarching goals of the WSIS action lines through a variety of practices and initiatives. In addition to our overall efforts to promote ICTs for development, from 2013-2014 Verizon placed a heightened focus on three key WSIS action lines: capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, and international and regional cooperation.

### **II. C4: Capacity Building**

- A. Tech Girls— Verizon recognizes the importance of encouraging global youth to build technological and social skills and to pursue careers in science and technology. From 2013-2014 we participated in TechGirls, an international exchange program through the U.S. State Department that empowers young girls from the Middle East and North Africa to learn programming, robotics, mobile application building, web design, video graphics, and 3D game design. Prior to their job shadow day at Verizon, the TechGirls completed a one-week course on coding through iD TechCamp, an interactive technology and computer camp at American University in Washington, D.C., where they worked side-by-side with American teens who were also learning web design and programming skills. Once the girls return to their home countries they are able to share their ideas and experiences from the program within their own communities.
- B. USTTI—Verizon also participates in the US Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), which provides diverse, tuition-free training to qualified communications professionals, regulators, and entrepreneurs from the developing world. Verizon hosts training sessions at its offices each year on ways to increase broadband Internet availability and usage in this period of technology convergence. The USTTI has

graduated 8,973 women and men who are working today to make modern communications a reality for their communities in 171 developing countries. In 2014 we participated in a three-day seminar in Washington, DC for African leaders planning to attend the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) 2014 Plenipotentiary conference (PP-14) in Busan, South Korea. This seminar covered key PP-14 issues and provided an important opportunity for stakeholders from Africa and the United States to discuss their goals and concerns regarding the PP-14.

- C. *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Innovative Learning Program*— This program, sponsored by the Verizon Foundation and administered by India's Institute of International Education Training (IIE), will deliver STEM curriculum to 200 girls in 10 schools in Chennai and Hyderabad. The IIE training is designed to help increase the number of girls taking and passing entrance exams for the Indian Institute of Technology.

### III. **C5: Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs**

- A. *Transparency Report*—In January 2014, Verizon was proud to become the first telecom company to issue a transparency report, and we are encouraged that other companies are now making similar efforts. The report includes as much data and specificity as possible with regard to government demands for customer data, and privacy and public safety initiatives undertaken by our company both in the US and internationally.
- B. *Data Breach Report*—Since 2008, Verizon has published a Data Breach Investigations Report annually, to improve awareness in the practice of the field of information security. The 2014 report features 50 contributing global organizations and data covering 96 countries.

### IV. **C11: International and Regional Cooperation**

#### A. *The IGF-USA*

In 2014 we assisted in coordinating the national Internet Governance Forum (IGF) for the United States. Held in Washington, DC, this one-day event brought together top public officials, business representatives, academics, students, and civil society organizations to discuss key Internet governance issues impacting the North America region including human rights, net neutrality, increasing ICANN accountability, the evolution of the Internet governance ecosystem, and big data and privacy.

**B. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

We participated fully in the 2013 and 2014 IGFs. In Bali, we spoke on panels covering trade and Internet governance, broadband access, mobile and cloud technology, and gender and Internet governance. In Istanbul we coordinated a panel discussion on case studies on the use of M2M/ Internet of things in Colombia, Egypt, Spain and Sri Lanka and assisted with the coordination of the Main Session on Network Neutrality.

Throughout the week, Verizon representatives met with many different stakeholders to discuss key International Internet issues such as the IANA transition, privacy/security issues, and the evolution of the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. We also participated in several main sessions and workshops on these and other important topics.

**V. Best Practices and Lessons Learned**

In 2014, the Internet Society (ISOC) worked closely with the IGF to launch a series of 5 best practice forums. Verizon coordinated with several experts within our business to participate in the ongoing best practice forum discussions and also submitted comments on best practices/ lessons learned with respect to SPAM, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS), and online child protection. We are pleased that the final documents from the best practice forums have been produced and published on the IGF website. We look forward to continuing to work with the IGF and the global Internet governance community to share our experiences, practices, and relevant data to continue to support the WSIS themes.

**VI. Conclusion**

This brief summary does not cover the full extent of Verizon's efforts to support the WSIS themes, but we submit it in order to highlight our commitment to implementing these themes and provide insight into a few of the areas where we believe we have made progress. We look forward to working with the global ICT community in 2015 to continue these efforts.