

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

**Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS  
outcomes**

Submitted by

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<b>Q1: Salutation:</b>	Mr.
<b>Q2: First Name, Surname:</b>	Nick Thorne
<b>Q3: Organisation:</b>	Domzac Ltd
<b>Q4: Country:</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Q6: Which stakeholder category do you belong to?</b>	Other (please specify) Retired UK Ambassador to UN in Geneva
<p><b>Q7: To what extent, in your experience, has the "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society", envisaged in the opening paragraph of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles, developed in the ten years since WSIS?</b></p> <p>I do believe we have seen a more institutionalised inclusion of Civil Society in the process of Internet Governance. This despite the efforts to exclude them by some parts of the UN family. But much more needs to be done. UNCTAD could be much more active within the UN Family.</p>	
<p><b>Q8: How far do you consider the implementation of specific WSIS outcomes to have been achieved?</b></p> <p>As above, the inclusion of Civil Society in the governance process is important. And it will be important in the future to further embed this process.          WSIS + 10 Resolution just passed in the UNGA is NOT encouraging in this context.</p>	
<p><b>Q9: How has the implementation of WSIS outcomes contributed towards the development of a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society"?</b></p> <p>The creation of the IGF at WSIS Tunis in 2005 has I think proved a greater success than those of us involved at the time expected. The proliferation of national/regional IGF's has been particularly important. In all cases Civil Society needs to be encouraged to participate in this process.          ISOC has the potential to do more here.</p>	

**Q10: What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes? What are the challenges that have inhibited the emergence of a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society"?**

The recent UNGA resolution on WSIS+10 is a disappointment. We must be careful not to move backwards from WSIS 2005.

One of the problems is that the process in New York is intensely political, with decisions being driven by the regional /political groups (G77). Civil Society is effectively excluded.

This is an area where CSTD could make a contribution. Governments which support the existing multistakeholder approach should be encouraged to exert more influence. There is a role for Civil Society here, each with it's own government, not just collectively in the limited areas of the UN where they are allowed to operate.

**Q11: How are these challenges being addressed? What approaches have proved to be effective in your experience?**

I think we need to do much more to:

Ensure that those operating at the POLITICAL levels of government are aware of what is at stake when considering who controls the Internet.

Break out of the current situation where too often it is the same voices rehearsing the same old opinions on all sides of the governance argument;

Bring in more actors to demonstrate the advantages of a free, open and truly global internet (Health, Education, Labour etc).and;

De mystify the whole governance process.

**Q12: What do you consider the most important emerging trends in technology and other aspects of ICTs which have affected implementation of WSIS outcomes since the Summit? What has been their impact?**

We need to come to grips with the understandable concerns among governments on the influence of social media, the increase in fraudulent activity and damaging content. Plus of course the whole mega-data debate. All have effectively emerged since 2005. They need to be discussed with the help of expertise from outside the usual groups involved in internet governance.

All these issues have made it more difficult for governments to deal with internal critics who suggest they are not doing enough to control the negative aspects of the Net.

Again, the whole governance process should be de mystified.

**Q13: What should be the priorities for stakeholders seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends?**

De mystify the process. Be more inclusive and demonstrate, particularly to the global south, the huge advantages offered by a free and open internet which is truly global.

It is also time we involved the global trade community. Why does WTO not deal with the huge advantages of E Commerce?

**Q14: What role should information and communications play in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda?**

We need to get the message out to a wider audience. Use of the internet and it's broader implications for society remain too tightly constrained within a distinctly limited audience. This applies particularly among governments, where responsibility for the internet too often lies with the old telecoms/phone company sector. But it is also true among academics where all too often we hear the same old voices banging on about their particular themes. Add to this the increasing influence of large Tech companies defending their commercial interests and the arguments become stale and lacking in innovation. We need fresh minds/blood.

Questionnaire for the CSTD's ten year review of WSIS implementation

**Q15: Please add any other comments that you wish to make on the subject of the review that you believe would be helpful.**

*Respondent skipped this question*

**Q16: We would also welcome any documents, reports, etc. that you can forward which you think will provide useful evidence for the review. Please send these to [cstd-wsis10@unctad.org](mailto:cstd-wsis10@unctad.org). It would be helpful if you could list these in this box, together with any URL which enables access to them on the World Wide Web.**

*Respondent skipped this question*