

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

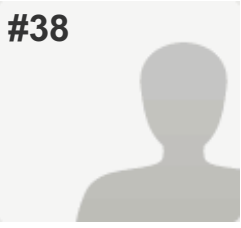
**Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS
outcomes**

Submitted by

GSMA

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Q1: Salutation:

Ms

Q2: First Name, Surname:

Dominique Lazanski

Q3: Organisation:

GSMA

Q4: Country:

United Kingdom

Q6: Which stakeholder category do you belong to?

Private Sector

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?

The Internet has grown at an unprecedented rate far exceeding expectations since the WSIS Geneva Declaration was made in December 2003. The world has experienced economic and social benefits from access to the Internet. From a mobile point of view, growth of the smartphones along with the growth of mobile broadband means that both developed and developing countries have seen an increase in internet connections primarily through mobile devices. Today, there are currently 4.5 billion mobile users worldwide and 1.5 billion smartphones and 2.2 billion mobile broadband connections. It is estimated that by 2020 two thirds of the world's mobile phones will be smartphones and this will enable greater access to the Internet. Clearly, the people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society exists to a certain extent already. But it is an ongoing and evolving process, and if allowed to develop, will continue to have positive effects for societies and economies all across the world. The goal of ICT is to connect all objects on the basis of networked individuals to form a ubiquitous network, which is called the Internet of Things. The Internet of Things is likely to have an impact on virtually all aspects of our daily lives. It will become an integrated part of electricity, transportation, industrial control, retail, utilities management, healthcare, water resources management and oil industry and many others. Together with the infrastructure of the Internet and mobile networks, the objects will be able to communicate with humans, and enable us to monitor and control them anytime anywhere and enjoy their smart service.

Q8: How far do you consider the implementation of specific WSIS outcomes to have been achieved?

The implementation of specific WSIS outcomes has been widespread and successful. The mobile industry is playing a key role in the successful implementation of specific WSIS outcomes by dramatically expanding access and services to mobiles and the Internet. Though much has been achieved, much is still left to do. Over 4 billion people have yet to be connected to the Internet worldwide and the mobile industry is essential to achieving this through continued investments and development of mobile infrastructure on a national and regional basis. The mobile industry will continue to invest and rollout mobile infrastructure worldwide, contributing to global internet infrastructure. The mobile industry expects to invest \$1.7 trillion per annum over the next seven years.

The pervasiveness and inclusiveness of all stakeholders on an equal footing continues to be achieved through multistakeholder participation in Internet governance discussions, including the most recent Internet Governance Forum (IGF) at which over 3,000 people attended. The recognition of multistakeholder dialogue and approaches to resolving issues facing the Internet today is a positive step towards inclusiveness on an equal footing.

Capacity building has been successful in achieving an enabling environment, local content development, access to information and knowledge, growth in communication infrastructure and confidence in security of ICTs. Capacity building through partnerships among governments, the private sector, the technical community and NGOs has also been successful. Additionally, the growth of ICT applications has been widespread, especially with the development of mobile apps – a service that did not exist at the time of the first and second phases of WSIS.

There is still much more to do including fostering greater connectivity, but if the last decade is anything to go by, much more will be achieved in all of these areas and beyond, through cooperation in a multistakeholder governance environment.

Q9: How has the implementation of WSIS outcomes contributed towards the development of a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society"?

As discussed above, implementation of WSIS outcomes has contributed to the unprecedented growth of the Internet and the growth of health and welfare worldwide. This has also contributed to the development of an Information Society in ways not envisioned in 2003-2005. Social media, apps and the mobile Internet have enabled and contributed to this growth significantly. Mobile broadband in particular has the potential to be a 'game-changer'. It is clear that mobile broadband infrastructure is very important to a country's economy– it is a key enabling infrastructure that drives and supports growth in the wider economy. Broadband coverage will open up a wealth of new possibilities, from mobile commerce to mobile health and remote diagnostics, for example. To deliver these possibilities, we must recognise that different industries have different drivers, different value chains, different regulatory needs and different investment goals. So it is essential that WSIS+10 recognises this and works to create and foster a common ecosystem that is stable, predictable and rewarding for all participants.

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"?

There are many challenges to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. These challenges are often those faced by many at a national and regional level in terms of regulation, investment in infrastructure and challenges to enable access. Many are unique to a specific region, economy or geographic terrain. However, though there are many practical challenges, an additional challenge is ensuring that all stakeholders who want to participate in the multistakeholder model are included to the best of their ability.

Despite the many challenges, there continue to be many successes and the process needs to be seen as an ongoing and evolving one. From a mobile industry perspective, we are committed to connect as many people as we possibly can in environments that are often challenging in terms of gaining access to the spectrum needed to deploy infrastructure in difficult terrain.

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

From a mobile industry perspective, these challenges are being met in different countries and regions by working with governments and users both to determine what is needed in markets and how best to meet the needs of that market and its users. Communication, cooperation and coordination in all aspects of network deployment, regulation and innovation are key to bridging the digital divide and meeting any specific challenge. The importance of market-driven solutions to the roll-out of mobile broadband should be recognised and promoted, such as:

- Encouraging passive infrastructure sharing by removing regulatory barriers to such arrangements;
- Stimulating demand for mobile services by taking the lead in rolling-out m-Government services and partnering with mobile operators to deliver services such as m-Health and m-Education.

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?

The growth of mobile Internet and access to the Internet through mobile devices, along with unique offerings from mobile providers who offer Internet access and other related services based on the markets that they are in, is the most significant trend emerging since the WSIS 10 years ago. The future of the Internet is mobile and the Internet will be accessed for the first time by many who are on a mobile device.

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

All stakeholders should participate in the progress towards the Information Society to the extent possible, inclusive and in a multistakeholder way. Focus should be on capacity building in the service of achieving the goals of the post-2015 development agenda. Mainstreaming the issues of the post-2015 development agenda and aligning them with WSIS outcomes and goals will ensure that they receive the attention that they need and that no duplication will take place across the next phases of both. Capacity building for all stakeholders including the private sector, governments and NGOs will be key.

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

Information and communications should be integral to the post-2015 development agenda and partnerships, especially around capacity building, in projects areas like mobile health, mobile payments and others will be integral to the achievement of these goals.

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. 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