

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

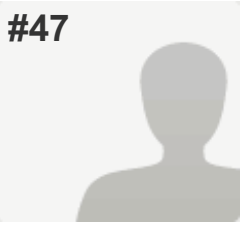
**Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS
outcomes**

Submitted by

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Q1: Salutation:

Mr.

Q2: First Name, Surname:

David Townsend

Q3: Organisation:

David N. Townsend & Associates, also USAID

Q4: Country:

United States

Q6: Which stakeholder category do you belong to?

Technical or Academic Community

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?

We have gone a very long way in this direction. But we have also learned how much further we have to go. The developing world is constantly trying to catch up to fast-moving changes in the wealthy economies, especially in ICTs.

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

I would say about 50%

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

For many millions, the increases in access to communications and information have been life-transforming. But the job is far from finished, as billions remain excluded. We have learned that the opportunities and benefits of the Information Society are even more extensive than we thought 10 years ago, so the goals of inclusion are even more imperative.

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 main challenges remain the capacity of public officials in developing societies to understand and act to promote widespread investment, adoption, and reforms. Competition, innovation, and inclusion depend upon enlightened policies, and informed and capable officials, and these remain in scarce supply in many countries, despite strong progress.

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

Awareness raising, capacity building, engagement by international organizations and donors, collaboration and information sharing all contribute.

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?

Growth of broadband networks, plans, strategies, and the role of broadband ICTs at the level of individual citizens, SMEs, schools, students, and rural communities. The massive growth in wireless broadband services, users, and applications is perhaps the most transformative, giving more people than anyone thought possible access to new and innovative information resources.

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

Capacity building, awareness raising, financial support for entrepreneurs, linking of communities to national and global networks. Also, continued strong focus on education at all levels.

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

We have learned that ICTs are not tangential to or separate from other development goals, but a vital pre-requisite to effective development strategies in all areas. Practitioners not directly involved with ICTs nevertheless depend upon such technologies to achieve their goals. We must acknowledge the primary requirement for connection, communication, and information in all areas of development.

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

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

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