

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

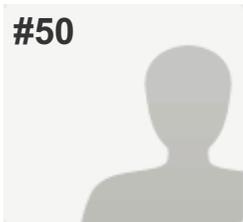
**Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS
outcomes**

Submitted by

ICT4PEACE FOUNDATION

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Q1: Salutation:

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Q2: First Name, Surname:

Daniel Stauffacher

Q3: Organisation:

ICT4Peace Foundation

Q4: Country:

Switzerland

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?

In general terms we can say that "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society", envisaged in the opening paragraph of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles, has developed beyond expectations. However a great deal of work need to be done in terms of access and connectivity (broadband e.g.) in the poorest areas of the World. Availability of content in local languages and cultures need to be improved considerably. Also the understanding of and use of ICTs for Peace, including crisis management (both natural and man-made crisis) as agreed by the Tunis Summit (para 36) need to be strengthened and mainstreamed. Para 36 of the Tunis Commitment reads as follows:

"36. We value the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict which, inter alia, negatively affects achieving development goals. ICTs can be used for identifying conflict situations through early-warning systems preventing conflicts, promoting their peaceful resolution, supporting humanitarian action, including protection of civilians in armed conflicts, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and assisting post conflict peace-building and reconstruction."

In this context the role of the recently emerging new and social media, including crowdsourcing and mapping need to be explored and integrated in development planning and implementation and conflict prevention, peace keeping and peace building as mentioned in the Millenium Declaration.

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

Through the rapid development of mobile telephony and convergence of internet, web and telephony, access to information as well the possibility to produce and disseminate data and information also by the poorer segments of society and in previously underserved areas has become possible. In this regards the WSIS call for opening up of the national telephone markets under competitive and transparent conditions might have helped to improve connectivity. Especially capacity building, training and education and the role of the private sector and Governments in promoting ICTs, called for by WSIS were extremely important factors for success.

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

The WSIS outcomes have provided Governments, civil society and business a vision of a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society" for the future. In addition the Geneva Plan of action has provided a concrete menu of action required to build such an Information Society, which Governments, civil society and business can act upon. Both instruments have helped in particular Governments to develop policies and activities that helped to implement the WSIS outcome document. This said, there are still considerable obstacles, which need to be addressed. The WSIS was probably one of the most successful UN Summits.

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"?

Still, connectivity as well as cost of access is an obstacle to WSIS implementation (problem of broadband access in certain regions). Then we see a tendency that increasingly access to data and information, that was openly available and free of charge, is being limited for commercial and political reasons. On the other side, we see some positive developments launched and supported by the Open Government Data movement, lead by Governments, including of many developing countries. These challenges and opportunities and contradictory tendencies need to be addressed.

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

Multi-stakeholder consultation processes based on research and evidence are needed. In addition, these challenges need to be addressed at the highest possible political levels, i.e. in the WSIS plus 10 preparatory and decision making process. In preparation for a political discussion, multi-stake process hearings could be organised.

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?

Big data, social and new media did not exist to such an extent as to-day, when the Geneva Declaration and Plan of Action were approved by the Heads of States. Their impact on economic, social and political development and in particular with regards to the implementation of the Millenium Declaration and Millenium Development Goals need to be reviewed and discussed. In particular, ICTs, big data and new and social media, including crowd sourcing and crisis mapping have changed the landscape of how disaster and crisis information management as well as peace-keeping and peace-building operations are being conducted by the UN, the Member States and their stake-holders. Para 36 of the Tunis Commitments on the role of ICTs in Crisis Management and Peace building (see above) as well as the Preamble of the ITU June 2014 WSIS plus 10 Outcome Document ("...In particular we reaffirm para 36 of the Tunis Commitment regarding the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict.") are important political statements in this regards.

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

Stakeholders should review and discuss the opportunities, benefits and challenges of the new trends of big data, including open data, new and social media (including crowdsourcing and mapping technologies) in achieving the Millenium Development Goals and the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda?. This is an important medium term process. However first results should be discussed and taken into account when discussing and agreeing on the WSIS plus 2015 political outcome documents and the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

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

A very important one. They should feature prominently. The recognition of ICTs in support of the old Millennium Development Goals was insufficient. Experience has shown that still much analytical work and political efforts are required by all stake holders to achieve an adequate recognition of ICTs etc. in the post-2015 development and international security agenda.

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

The Geneva Declaration: Para 5) Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and the Geneva Plan of Action: Action Line C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs did not get sufficient attentions need also be reviewed by all stakeholders in light of developments in the field of cyber security in general and achievements at UN level (UN GGE Report) and Regional Level (OSCE, ARF, AU, OAS etc. levels.)

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.

The ICT4Peace Foundation has published considerably since 2005 on Information and Communication Technology for Peace: The role of ICT in preventing, responding to and recovering from conflict (Stauffacher, Drake, Currion, Steinberger 2005 - See more at: <http://ict4peace.org/?p=484>) and documented its publications and work with the UN on the UN Crisis Information Management ((CiMS (A/65/491) (see also <http://ict4peace.org/?p=251>)).

Regarding International Cybersecurity Issues and Processes, ICT4Peace has published the following reports: <http://ict4peace.org/?p=1076>.