

UNEDITED

**Draft resolution recommended by the CSTD to ECOSOC for adoption**

**Assessment of WSIS-implementation 2008**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,

*Recalling that* access to information and sharing and creation of knowledge contributes significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development, thus helping all countries to reach the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. This process can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information. We underline the importance of removing barriers to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, in particular, in developing countries,

*Recognizing* the efforts by all stakeholders to implement the outcomes of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society,

*Recognizing also the* efforts of the UN agencies and programs and of all regional commissions in implementing the WSIS goals, commitments and recommendations,

*Recalling* its resolution 2006/46 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the mandate it gave the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/270B and Council resolution 2007/29,

*Taking note* of the Report of the 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 contained in reference E/2008/48,

**A. Evolving challenges and opportunities**

1. *Observes* that the digital divide is changing in some respects: While overall the digital divide may be shrinking, a new form of digital divide is emerging in terms of difference in quality and speed of access to ICTs,
2. *Observes* the continuing relevance of assisting developing countries in their efforts to overcome the digital divide, particularly with regard to both access and capacity,
3. *Observes* that the disparity in cost and quality of access between developed and developing countries continues: In developed, high-income economies, the average cost of a broadband connection is significantly less than in developing countries, both in nominal terms and as a percentage of the average monthly income,

4. *Observes* that the gender divide still persists in quality and variety of means of access to the internet and ICTs in the building of the Information Society in both developed and developing countries,
5. *Observes further* the strong growth of mobile telephony subscriptions, especially in developing countries,
6. *Notes with concern the* growing number of incidents affecting global network safety and security and provoking service outages in large regions of the world,
7. *Observes* that in many countries there is inadequate coherence and complementarity between national ICT policies and national development and poverty reduction strategies. Especially in poorer rural areas, the potential of the Internet and ICTs in general for development is not yet fully utilised.

### **Recommendations**

8. *Calls* on all stakeholders to increase efforts for funding of and investment in ICTs, in order to advance broadband access, including wireless access, in areas and countries where it is still limited or non-existent;
9. *Calls on* all States, in building the Information Society, to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, and that hinders the well-being of their population;
10. *Reaffirms* that Intellectual Property protection is important to encourage innovation and creativity in the Information Society; similarly, the wide dissemination, diffusion, and sharing of knowledge is important to encourage innovation and creativity. Facilitating meaningful participation by all in intellectual property issues and knowledge sharing through full awareness and capacity building is a fundamental part of an inclusive Information Society;
11. *Calls on* all stakeholders to increase efforts to reduce the disparity in cost of access, through, for example, the establishment of Internet Exchange Points and the creation of a competitive environment, both at the backbone and local levels;
12. *Recommends* all States strive for gender equality in access to the Internet and in the building of the Information Society in both developed and developing countries, including the gender approach in ICT policies in national strategies;
13. *Calls further* on all stakeholders to continue the development and spread of easy to use applications and services for mobile phones and related devices, especially those that are useful in rural areas and work with low bandwidth and high latency;
14. *Calls on* all stakeholders to cooperate more closely in making global networks more stable, resilient and secure and in overcoming outages, incidents and attacks on these networks;
15. *Calls on* International and regional organizations to assess and report regularly on universal accessibility of nations to ICTs, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of ICT sectors of developing countries;

16. *Recommends* the mainstreaming of ICT-policies into national development and/or poverty reduction strategies, in accordance with countries priorities;

17. *Recommends* increased international cooperation at all levels and amongst all stakeholders, to help rural areas access to and benefit from the Internet and ICTs in general;

**B. Successes and shortcomings in the implementation of WSIS outcomes so far**

18. *Takes note* with appreciation of the ongoing work in the Internet Governance Forum, its multi-stakeholder approach and its innovative platform and thanks host Governments for their contributions,

19. *Acknowledges* progress towards developing multilingual capabilities on the Internet,

20. *Acknowledges* the work of the Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development to develop indicators for further consideration and decision by the UN Statistical Commission,

21. *Observes* the lack of indicators to measure progress towards achieving the targets as set out in part B of the Geneva Plan of Action,

22. *Takes note of* the efforts of the Regional Commissions in the coordination of WSIS-implementation, including in developing e-strategies, capacity building and measuring of ICTs,

23. *Acknowledges* the efforts of all WSIS Action Line Facilitators, especially ITU and UNESCO in their role as lead Facilitators,

24. *Observes* that the architecture for WSIS implementation as defined in the Tunis Agenda for the Information society is rather complex and has also presented limitations in involving participation of all stakeholders, in particular those from developing countries,

25. *Takes note* of the letter from the United Nations Under Secretary General, on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG), to relevant organizations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet requesting them to report on the steps they have taken towards enhanced cooperation in accordance with Art. 71 of the Tunis Agenda for Information Society, and looks forward to the UNSG's report, which may contain recommendations on how the process should be pursued; also notes that all stakeholders, in their respective roles, will be included in this process,

26. *Reaffirms* the relevance of decisions on Internet Governance in their entirety as outlined in the Tunis Agenda,

**Recommendations**

27. *Recommends* that the Internet Governance Forum, as a multi-stakeholder discussion forum, shall retain its focus on public policy issues related to Internet Governance;

28. *Encourages* the collaboration among all stakeholders, including international organisations, consistent with their mandate and existing budgetary resources, with regard to multilingualization of the Internet;

29. *Recommends* that the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development* considers the creation of benchmarks and indicators, including impact indicators, for further consideration and decision by the UN Statistical Commission, in order to track progress towards the attainment of the specific goals and targets set out in WSIS outcome documents, particularly part B of the Geneva Plan of Action;

30. *Recommends* that Action Line Facilitators, in cooperation with all stakeholders, should establish milestones, deadlines and calendars for their Action Lines, taking into account the WSIS outcome documents;

31. *Recommends* that Lead Facilitators conduct open multistakeholder consultations on the way to improve the effectiveness and coherence of the annual clustering of WSIS related activities;

32. *Recommends* that UNGIS organize focused open multistakeholder consultations on the implementation of part B of the Tunis Agenda “Financial Mechanisms for Meeting the Challenges of ICTs for Development”;

33. *Recommends* the introduction in the facilitation process of electronic collaboration tools like mailing lists, web 2.0 applications, observatories and clearing house models in order to enhance multi-stakeholder participation, in particular from developing countries;

34. *Recommends further* that in the reporting process to the CSTD Secretariat as set out in Resolution 2007/8, Action Line Facilitators bring to the attention of the Commission obstacles and difficulties encountered, by all stakeholders on the commitments and recommendations contained in their respective Action Line at regional and international level and make proposals for possible action to the CSTD, whenever deemed necessary;

35. *Invites* all actors and institutions, involved in the implementation and follow-up of WSIS to further clarify their respective roles, improve coordination, information sharing and build synergies to make the most effective use of available resources;

36. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by UNCTAD to support the review and assessment work of CSTD regarding WSIS follow-up; and

37. *Recommends* that all stakeholders should redouble their efforts to implement the Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help to bridge the digital divide.