

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

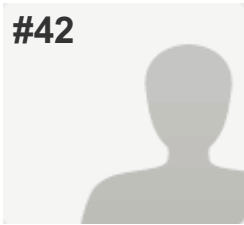
**Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS  
outcomes**

Submitted by

**AGENCIA LATINOAMERICANA DE INFORMACION**

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**COMPLETE****Collector:** Website Collector 1 (Website Survey)**Started:** Monday, September 15, 2014 1:12:27 PM**Last Modified:** Monday, September 15, 2014 1:16:34 PM**Time Spent:** 00:04:07**IP Address:** 181.112.224.162

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**Q1: Salutation:**

Ms

**Q2: First Name, Surname:**

SALLY BURCH

**Q3: Organisation:**AGENCIA LATINOAMERICANA DE  
INFORMACION - ALAI**Q4: Country:**

Ecuador

**Q6: Which stakeholder category do you belong to?**

Civil Society

**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 note a dual trend. Obviously the Information Society (IS) has become much more inclusive; gender imbalance has notably improved. Also, the Internet has provided opportunities to create a more diverse and plural online media environment and for people to have access to the means of public expression on a scale previously unimaginable.

However, a large part of the world population is still excluded and disparities persist (or are growing) in access between countries and within most countries (eg. urban-rural) in terms of quality and speed of access to technologies. At the same time, the Internet, in particular, has become far more market-centred, often at the cost of being people-centred and development oriented.

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

Particular areas of concern include:

- Lack of funding for the Digital Solidarity Fund.
- Developing countries continue to have a higher cost of access that has not been adequately addressed.
- Internet governance continues to be dominated by one country.
- There has been no progress in defining and implementing democratic multistakeholder mechanisms for global governance of the Internet.
- There has been insufficient progress in ensuring a secure Internet that adequately protects citizens against spam and cybercrime; while privacy severely deteriorated, leaving citizens exposed to mass surveillance and commercial exploitation of their personal data.

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

WSIS provided an important opportunity to air concerns about human rights, in particular communication rights, as being central to development of the IS. In many countries, this focus, adopted in the Geneva Declaration, has contributed to the vision for public policy.

**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"?**

See the above answers. Also, the excessive and accelerated corporate control of vast areas of the IS (in particular Internet) have meant a progressive privatization of public cyberspace. This is particularly a concern in areas of content and interactivity: for example, private control over social networks means that users lose control over their own content and also, to some extent, over how they can interact with other users. The lack of adequate global governance mechanisms also leads to a legal vacuum in terms of how (and under what legislation) users can have legal recourse in case of violations of their rights by transnational corporations.

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

Some countries (eg. the EU, Brazil) have adopted legislation that protects their citizens from certain abuses. However, this legislation is only partially applicable given the borderless nature of the Internet. Alternative systems, that ensure greater security and privacy, are being developed, but a far greater effort is needed to make citizens aware of the dangers and of the possible solutions and alternatives.

**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?**

Among the most important emerging trends are:

The increasing dependence on digital technologies of almost every realm of human activity, and therefore greater vulnerability; the way the "network effect" contributes to rapid monopolization in the digital economy; the emergence of "big data" and the power concentration it allows, which is likely to intensify with the upcoming trend towards the "Internet of things"; the increasing capacity for cyberattack and cyberwarfare being developed by certain countries; the almost total loss of privacy in digital communications. Given the insecure nature of the technology and the lack of global policy spaces able to address these threats, the outlook is potentially disastrous for peace, freedom, human rights and democracy.

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

The Just Net Coalition has put forward proposals on these issues that we support:

[http://justnetcoalition.org/sites/default/files/Principles\\_towards\\_a\\_just\\_and\\_equitable\\_Internet\\_for\\_all.pdf](http://justnetcoalition.org/sites/default/files/Principles_towards_a_just_and_equitable_Internet_for_all.pdf)

[http://justnetcoalition.org/sites/default/files/Roadmap\\_for\\_Democratising\\_Global\\_Governance\\_of\\_the\\_Internet.pdf](http://justnetcoalition.org/sites/default/files/Roadmap_for_Democratising_Global_Governance_of_the_Internet.pdf)

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

They should be a fundamental component of the agenda. Although (unfortunately) the SDGs do not include a specific goal relating to democratizing communication, democratic communication strategies should be a central element for implementation of all the 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](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*