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

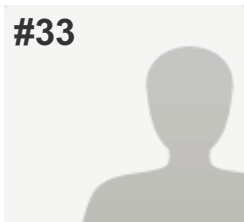## Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes

Submitted by

AUSTRIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY

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Q3:	**Organisation:**	Austrian Computer Society (OCG)
Q4:	**Country:**	Austria
Q6:	**Which stakeholder category do you belong to?**	Other (please specify) NGO

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 WSIS Declaration raised awareness for the importance of ICT issues. Some of its goals have already been incorporated into the Austrian legislation. A good example is the Open Data Initiative, were public data are provided for all. But in Austria there are still problems concerning the Digital Gap. The broadband infrastructure in rural areas is advancing disproportionately slow. And effective social inclusion and adequate education for the next generation need continuous attention.

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

We see the greatest progress at point C4 Capacity Building: the ability to educate yourself in the field of ICT have multiplied. Although the possibilities are increased the problem of the Digital Gap is still immanent.

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

To answer this question consistent indicators would be necessary that we do not have access to. It is also difficult to determine to what extent the WSIS outcomes have helped or if other appropriate initiatives for positive changes.

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 rapid development of ICT in the last 10 years (Social Media, Mobile Computing, Big Data, surveillance capabilities versus Privacy), complicate the establishing of guidelines, because progress is often driven by companies that do not have the goals of WSIS in mind. The development is often not managed by government institutions and other public institutions, but by large corporations. The development in the field of ICT also needs a rethinking of education at all levels.

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

The population's awareness for the privacy issue must be continuously sharpened. In education and training the point must be stressed that the many opportunities to express oneself via social media also has certain risks.
It is important that NGOs keep the privacy laws of their respective countries in mind.
It already shows that the increased use of new devices (smartphones, tablets, …) in education has reduced manual skills as well as social skills like cooperation and collaboration. Measures must be taken that the next generation does not become a pure consumer society.
In German-speaking countries and Austria in particular great value is placed on media literacy, but the much needed "Computational Thinking" often comes up short.

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?

Trends: Ubiqitous computing, miniaturization, PCs are increasingly being replaced by tablets and smartphones. Additionally there is a very strong trend towards wearables (smart watches, fitness with gadgets, etc.), that allow the recording of a number of body data.
Impact: Individuals have numerous opportunities to express themselves through social networks. Grassroots initiatives have become more feasible.
At the same time the possibility of data abuse has increased (both by governments and criminals).

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

Easy access to the necessary infrastructure and appropriate training and special attention to the necessary 21st century skills (Computational and logical thinking, social skills, collaborative and cooperative skills).

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

ICT has become an important part of our culture and permeates all areas. A future society without ICT does no longer seem to be possible. The efficient use of ICT as a necessity - hence the role of ICT is immensely important. We have to make sure that the next generation does not transform to a mere consumer society lacking basic creative and technical skills, but that we also encourage the future "Makers" for the further advancement of society. The basic principles of computer science and computational thinking should be regarded as new basic skills that everyone needs and has access to. Knowledge about ICT and its principles is an additional and important part of a persistent democratization of the population.

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

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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.**

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