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

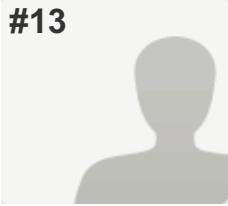# Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes

Submitted by

DOMINICA

#13

COMPLETE

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Q1: Salutation:

Mr.

Q2: First Name, Surname:

Bennette, Thomas

Q3: Organisation:

Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica

Q4: Country:

Dominica

Q6: Which stakeholder category do you belong to?

Government

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 Government of Dominica has always seek to develop national initiatives which are people-centered and wholly inclusive of all stakeholders nationally. This has been seen in its efforts to bring e-education projects into all educational institutions in Dominica by working in partnership with the private sector through the Universal Service Fund mechanism. Additionally, there are a number of ongoing e-government services with the objective of having citizens access to and connect with online government services such as e-filing of tax returns, e-registration of births, marriage and death certificates. There is ongoing work on establishing a tele-medicine health project to connect people to health records and for effective diagnosis on sicknesses.

Much more work needs to be done but the process has begun.

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

While there is no data to provide a definite percentage, it would be fair to conclude that a significant number of people are connected to the Internet and have online experience or have access to some smart technological device. Mobile Phone penetration is about 140% on average while broadband access is improving.

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

More citizens have an awareness of the role of the Internet in their daily lives and the need to be even more connected. Citizens have begun seeing the effective and efficient manner in which ICT technologies affect and impact their lives.

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 major challenge is building awareness of the role of ICT in economic development among the citizenry and the limited resources available to exploit the process. Importantly, there is also the need to expand and accelerate broadband access and making it affordable and available to every citizen. Interestingly, the role of cyber-security in economic development in small island states is now a major challenge which impact the WSIS outcomes.

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

Capacity building and public awareness through campaign is being introduced. Various ICT-related events to highlight the critical role of ICT has begun but more assistance would be welcomed.

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?

Cybercrime and its related negative impacts are major emerging trends in technology which has created a sense of insecurity and fear for the conducting of legitimate online business transactions and e-commerce activities. Some cybercrime legislation have been enacted and a cybercrime strategy developed for the Country while there is ongoing multi-lateral cooperation with international organizations like the OAS, ITU and COE on establishing Dominica's Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT).

Initial work on cyber security has raised public awareness on the critical role that cyber security plays in national development.

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

Establishment and Development of a broadband infrastructure to facilitate not only direct and indirect investment but to provide connectivity to all sectors of the economic for economic development.

However, cyber-security legislation and capacity building must be done in parallel to this effort in order to secure a relative safe platform for doing online business.

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

a broadband ICT network and infrastructure should be the foundation for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure that all citizens have affordable, accessible and available resources at their disposal in this new era of technological advancement and innovation.

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

Dominica has seen the usefulness of a wired, broadband network as a stepping stone to enable economic activity and diversity while ensuring that citizens and other stakeholders are capable of doing secure online business. This calls for cooperation and collaboration between Government and the Private sector to ensure citizen access to e-government services and industry liberalisation.

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