

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

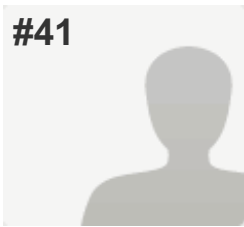
**Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS
outcomes**

Submitted by

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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Q1: Salutation:

Ms

Q2: First Name, Surname:

Mirna González

Q3: Organisation:Instituto Dominicano de la Telecomunicaciones,
INDOTEL**Q4: Country:**

Dominican Republic

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?

In our experience we've done great strides to achieve this goal. However, due to obstacles found in the process, we need to keep raising awareness within all levels of Dominican Society in order to formulate and reorient public policies to further integrate ICTs within our national economic system in order to better compete with other nations and to further improve the lives of our citizens.

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

In aspects regarding the role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development, capacity building, access to information and knowledge, and ICT infrastructure, we could say we more than advanced in those fields and even though there's a lot to be done, we're on the right track. On the other hand, regarding ICT Applications and Enabling environment while we're working to improve in those areas, we should do a lot more to achieve the goals set.

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

In these ten years we have increased the availability of mobile phone lines passing from 20% in 2003 to more than 90% to 88.2% in 2013. We also increased the quantity of active internet users and accounts. In 2003 only 8% of the total population used internet and less than 3% had an internet subscription. By 2012, more than 46% of the total population has some form of access to internet and Internet subscriptions have increased from less than 3% to 20% of the total population. It is important to note that broadband access has increased from 34% to 99.6% of all internet accounts.

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 lack of coordination between government agencies and private sector organizations in the implementation of policies. Another issue of importance is the lack of funding for the programs oriented to the development of a people centric, inclusive and development oriented Information Society. Even though these two issues we're on track in the proper implementation of INFOSOC in DR.

Lack of political will to implement overdue reforms to truly advance in this regard.

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

We've been fostering collaboration among institutions, raising awareness of the importance of the Information Society to the development of our country and how this will deeply impact in our economy and competitiveness in the long run. Also we're devising a strategy to raise funds through International Cooperation to deploy the projects linked to the implementation of the Information Society.

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?

When the WSIS took place, internet was starting to become widespread, most of devices were desktop focused, mobile was in its infancy and the foundations to what would become cloud computing were being deployed. Since then Mobile and Cloud took off and have completely changed the way we interact with data and with ourselves. Trends such as the Internet of Things and connected devices represent a new opportunity to deliver new ways to communicate to next billion of people who are not yet in the Information Society in an extremely affordable way.

We definitely should rethink our approach to the Information Society given this new scenario where Cloud and Big Data are now leading the Information Revolution.

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

I think we should put more emphasis in three main aspects: Fostering a Robust ICT Industry, Capacity Building and creating an enabling environment that will help to sustain all efforts towards achieving that goal. I believe that Cloud Computing, Big Data and IoT should play an even bigger role for the establishment of an Information Society and we definitely must review all goals to integrate these emerging trends as ways to make further advances towards an Information Society.

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

Technology represents an unprecedented opportunity to create, transmit and disseminate information. It also helps to widen access to knowledge towards inclusive growth and employment creation. It helps us to progress towards a sustainable future and enables health improvements changes to achieve food, nutrition and energy security, and it empowers people with information to monitor performance and hold institutions accountable.

Given this, ICT will enable mankind to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in ways unimaginable giving us the future we want and that millions of people around the world deserve.

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

For the real and effective review, it is necessary specific indicators that reflect the social, gender and geographical divide in each country, especially those in the developing world. As it is in the case of Dominican Republic, 46% of Dominicans have access to internet; however, there is a great social, geographical and generational gap which is an indicator that we must formulate public policies and projects that will contribute towards the advance to an Information Society.

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