

**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

INTEL

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INTEL'S COMMENTS ON PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTCOMES OF WSIS

Intel welcomes this opportunity to offer its views to the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) on the progress made in implementation of WSIS outcomes. Intel is the world's largest semiconductor chip maker. Since 1968 we have developed the chips and technology that power the worldwide digital economy. We note that General Assembly Resolution 68/302 established the prominent role that CSTD's final report will play in the General Assembly's overall review, in particular the development of an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document, for adoption at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2015. Intel provides these comments with a view to progressing the work of the overall review towards continuing the commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.

As acknowledged in UNGA Resolution 68/198: Information and communications technologies for development:

“the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world’s population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony and mobile Internet, the increased availability of multilingual content and the advent of many information and communications technologies services and applications, which offer great potential for the development of the information society.”

However, there remains a:

“need to close the digital divide, including with regard to such issues as Internet affordability, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all.”

Intel believes these two statements provide a guide to the way forward for the work of General Assembly in its overall WSIS review- to acknowledge and foster the enabling factors that have led to a vibrant, innovative, and competitive market for products, services, and ideas, that has brought the benefits of technology to billions; while striving to expand those benefits to all. Accordingly Intel would like to comment on the progress made, and more importantly the enabling environment for the progress made over the last decade; and the work that remains.

INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

The ICT industry has seen enormous growth and change over the past decade. Revolutionary devices such as iPad^{®*} and iPhone^{®*}, and applications such as Facebook did not exist when Member States assembled in Geneva in 2003 for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society. As technology advanced, developers and innovators utilized new capabilities to create ever improving

* iPad and iPhone are registered trademarks of Apple Inc.

and new applications and products. Simultaneously, dramatic cost reductions and new access technologies allowed the benefits of the Internet and ICTs to flow to an ever increasing percentage of the world's population. From our unique vantage point as the chief enforcer of Moores law, we know that these innovations, and the dramatic societal changes they have enabled, have only been possible because of the enormous investment by the private sector which created and dispersed benefits of ICTs to much of the world. Intel alone has invested over \$100B during the WSIS period and this is only a small part of the trillions of dollars invested by operators and others to develop the technologies needed to create "an inclusive Information Society as one where everyone can **create, access, utilize** and **share** information and knowledge." We therefore strongly support the WSIS +10 Statement recognizing "*The need to continue to promote investment and foster entrepreneurship and innovation in ICTs at the national, regional, and international levels as appropriate.*"

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION

In addition the WSIS period has witnessed the transformation, as well as the creation of entire industries as individuals and companies now have access to markets that could not have been touched just a generation ago. The proliferation of broadband is therefore critical to expanding and disseminating the benefits of ICT's to the planet, and so Intel supports the Broadband Commission's belief "*that the vital role of broadband needs to be acknowledged at the core of any post-2015 sustainable development framework, to ensure that all countries – developed and developing countries alike – are empowered to participate in the global digital economy.*" And the deployment of the physical means of access needs to be complimented with policies that sustain international flows of information, products and services and removing barriers such as "localization" mandates that require the domestic location of a server as a pre-condition for allowing information to flow among jurisdictions. Forums for the free expression and exchange of ideas could be devastated by dramatically increased operating costs which may result from such laws. We believe data security is not a question of server location but of standardized and harmonized security technologies, policies, and practices which enable interoperability and involve all stakeholders developing flexible approaches and mechanisms to improve cyber-security.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

From our vantage point as one of the innovators and key suppliers of technology to the ICT industry for over forty years, Intel is keenly aware of the efficiency, flexibility, and resiliency of a multistakeholder approach, especially in the area of day-to-day operations and technical standards. Intel was, and remains a central player in one of the greatest market challenges ever encountered since the industrial age- the coordination of hundreds of thousands of hardware manufacturers with millions of software and application developers to produce interoperable products, while delivering constant innovation. Yet a

distributed, industry driven approach, where technologies and products are tried on their technical and market merits has been able to deliver capabilities to consumers that were considered science fiction just decades ago. Moreover, this development and standardization process, which is close to the end-user, is also crucial for rapidly responding to cyber security attacks and threats.

AFFORDABILITY

Much action has been taken over the last decade by organizations and individual entities with the overarching goal of including all of the world's citizens in the global information society. Intel's own Corporate Vision is "This decade we will create and extend computing technology to connect and enrich the lives of every person on earth." And we are joined by many private sector companies that share our desire and have committed enormous resources to this task; working individually and together in organizations such as the Broadband Commission, GSMA, USAID, Alliance for Affordable Internet, and in public / private cooperation with governments. These entities have mobilized to accelerate participation of all citizens in the global information society. This is important because no one organization can do it alone, and the interaction amongst these broad groups is healthy, cross cutting, and beneficial to society as a whole. To be effective, we must continue along this same path.

Competition, especially at the facilities level, is the best way to reduce costs to consumers. In the situation where people are marginalized due for example to location, economic strength, or disability, subsidies such as Universal Service Funds, can be used to connect the underserved. To help countries take advantage of broadband and optimize the use of USFs, Intel has launched a series of USF workshops, bringing together government leaders, NGOs and strategic partners to share best practices and help unlock the benefits of broadband and ICT to all global citizens. With participants from ITU, USAID, World Bank, AHCIE, Regulatel, telecenters.org and delegates from Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, these workshops have maximized discussion and interaction among leaders to close the digital divide. This dialogue is a prime example of enhanced coordination and shows how the public and private sector can come together to unlock the benefits of broadband and ICT through effective use of USFs.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS

A key question recurring during the WSIS period has been the role of governments. The Information Society, like all human activity, requires a sphere of security and certainty established by the rule of law in order to flourish. However, inside that sphere, freedom and flexibility are critical to foster the innovation needed to realize the potential of technology. This concept is enshrined in Article 69 of the Tunis Agenda which recognizes:

“the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues.”

Intel has a long history of fruitful engagement with Administrations to expand the benefits of ICTs to all segments of society. Our Intel World Ahead program has worked extensively with governments to adopt policies designed to accelerate broadband adoption, for instance, via the development of national broadband plans, and improvements in the use of Universal Service Funds. And we work with governments, stakeholders, and ecosystem partners to promote capacity-building, as in the area of education where Intel's Teach professional development program has enabled 10 million teachers to effectively integrate technology into their lessons to promote problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills among their students.

However intergovernmental organizations are poorly structured to address most technical and operational aspects of the dynamic and fluid Internet and ICT environment. The current system, while not perfect, largely allows decisions to be made based on their technical or market merit. It also provides timely feedback to inform investment on those products and services most valued by consumers. Perhaps most importantly, the existing multi-stakeholder model provides the speed and flexibility needed to address and combat cyber-security attacks and threats. Therefore we should resist replacing the current system with a cumbersome, bureaucratic process requiring decisions based on the agreement of Administrations, would not only stifle innovation and progress, and lead to sub-optimal technologies, products and services, but could also lessen overall confidence and security in the use of ICTs.