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

JAPAN

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

Questionnaire for the CSTD's ten year review of WSIS implementation

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6. Which stakeholder category do you belong to?

■ Government

7. 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?

By mobile progress and other factors, individuals using the Internet as of 2013 had increased sharply by approximately 1,700 million people to approximately 2,700 million people over 2005, the year in which the Tunis meeting of WSIS was held. By increasing access to the Internet, many people including from developing countries have become able to obtain required information and exchange information immediately across borders. By development of social media, it has become possible

for people to disseminate information actively.

Considering the above, our understanding is that the "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society" is being implemented steadily.

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

Our understanding is that among WSIS outcomes there has been remarkable progress in achievement of the following action lines of the Tunis agenda.

・C2 (Information and communication infrastructure)
Maintenance of information and telecommunications infrastructure has been progressing by various methods, such as FTTH, ADSL, satellite networks, and radio communications. The progress of mobile especially has contributed to developing information and communication infrastructure greatly in both developed and developing countries.

・C3 (Access to information and knowledge)
By expanding access to the Internet, it has become possible to obtain and exchange required information immediately across borders, and furthermore sharing and accumulation of knowledge between people has been progressing.
Moreover, by development of social media, it has become possible for people to disseminate information themselves easily and exchange information across borders immediately between people who have the same concern.

・C7 (ICT Applications)
In recent years, by increase of the information and telecommunications infrastructure by mobile development and other factors and progress of the Internet, utilization of ICT in various fields such as E-government, E-business, E-learning, E-health, E-environment, E-agriculture etc., has been progressing. The efficiency and convenience of each field have been improving by utilization of ICT, and that improvement contributes to the development of social and economic activity. In particular, for developing countries, solution of issues in social and economic development by utilization of ICT is expected.
Developed or developing countries, the rapid increase of application services which utilize mobile has seriously influenced social and economic activity.

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

On WSIS outcomes, especially by the enforcement of the matter answered in question 8, people have become able to disseminate and exchange information in various fields through the Internet and by utilization of ICT. If people go onto the Internet and can use ICT, then an Information Society in which people take

the lead, take part in planning positively, and contribute to development of social economy is being realized.

10. 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"?

Although access to the Internet has been increasing not only in developed countries and emerging countries but also in developing countries, many people who cannot access the Internet still exist in rural areas, especially in developing countries, and the gap between people who can access the Internet and those who cannot is further increasing.

We consider that it is important to further promote utilization of ICT for the solution of the issue of socioeconomic development in developing countries.

Moreover, in recent years, it has become possible for many people to utilize ICT by accessing the Internet, and social and economic activity has become to be dependent on ICT, but on the other hand, cyber-attack, cybercrime, etc. are increasing and becoming shrewd. The progress of mobile and social media especially provides more people with access to the Internet, but on the other hand, the security of mobile and social media have a concern easily exposed to danger. Therefore, we would like to point out that it is important to ensure safety and reliability of the Internet and in ICT utilization, such as preservation of security, youth protection on the Internet, and privacy protection.

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

For the solution of the issue of socioeconomic development by utilization of ICT in developing countries and increase of access to the Internet in rural areas, especially in rural areas in developing countries, we consider that it is indispensable to carry out international cooperation of various forms which involves the stakeholder of not only government but many stakeholders and which is not confined to ODA.

And for realization of ensuring safety and reliability of the Internet and in ICT utilization, such as preservation of security, youth protection on the Internet, and privacy protection, we consider that it is indispensable to carry out cooperation with not only the government but all stakeholders, especially private sector, industry and academic.

We also consider that severe regulations and a setup of rules are not necessarily effective, and that suitable measures according to each issue are required.

Furthermore, we emphasize that the capacity building of the people concerned engaged in these fields and users' improvement in literacy are also important policies.

12. 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

We have observed that the progress of mobile is the most important momentum which has newly occurred from 2005 onwards regardless of developed or developing countries. By the progress of mobile, an information and telecommunications infrastructure has been progressing and more people have been able to access the Internet and utilize ICT.
Moreover, the spread of social media has greatly contributed to people disseminating and exchanging information between them, and has seriously influenced the social economy.

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

We consider that it is important for the implementation of the Information Society and the achievement of WSIS outcomes and making full use of the benefits from the development of mobile and social media that we should deal with severe issues such as Internet security, youth protection on the Internet and privacy protection etc. with the participation of multi-stakeholders and cooperation between multi-stakeholders.

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

Although the post-2015 development agenda is under discussion and the contents cannot be prejudged, we assume that the progress of information and telecommunications will become be appropriately reflected in the context of and Communications Sector and also as cross-cutting issues in order to attain a development agenda in other fields, such as education and health.

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

From 2005 onwards, efforts to implement the WSIS outcomes centering on the Tunis Agenda for realization of the Information Society have been made all over the world.
From 2005 onwards, we have observed that the points indicated by the WSIS outcomes are continuously effective in future although the environment which surrounds the Internet and ICT has changed a lot.
Therefore, we should evaluate and analyze what has been attained among the WSIS outcomes, and what has not been made objective from various aspects. And then, we should clarify the points which have to be carried out for future issues and

solutions in order to realize the Information Society in 2015 and afterwards.

In conclusion, we consider that it is important to fulfill the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes which will be carried out in the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, by obtaining all stakeholders' cooperation.

Furthermore, we are of the view that good dealing with international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet to implement the WSIS outcomes should be based on the following points.

(1) An open, inclusive and holistic approach should be applied in considering enhanced cooperation.

(2) Enhanced cooperation should ensure the free flow of information on the Internet.

(3) The multi-stakeholder model for the Internet governance should be maintained.

16. 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.

[List]
  http://www.itu.int/wsis/review/reports/

(Under the leadership of ITU)
10-Year Country, WSIS Action Line Facilitator's and Other WSIS Stakeholders' Reports on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes