

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

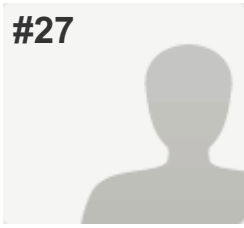
**Contribution to the CSTD ten-year review of the implementation of WSIS  
outcomes**

Submitted by

**NOMINET**

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**Q1: Salutation:**

Mr.

**Q2: First Name, Surname:**

Martin Boyle

**Q3: Organisation:**

Nominet

**Q4: Country:**

United Kingdom

**Q6: Which stakeholder category do you belong to?**

Private Sector,

Other (please specify)

We can be classified as private sector and technical community

**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 many countries, openness to cooperation with stakeholders has enabled great progress to be made, on the policy level, on community engagement and in promoting investment and use.

A number of national and international organisations – civil society, the technical community and business – are active with governments in multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve successful embedding of the information society in those countries.

In the field of Internet infrastructure, and in particular for the Internet domain name system where Nominet is active, the international environment is cooperative and supportive across borders. This has helped developing countries build national infrastructure and technical skills.

It should be noted that the pace of innovation in ICT and Internet technologies is unlikely to slow. Maintaining a cooperative environment and working together to ensure the right regulatory and fiscal environment for investment, growth and user engagement is going to become increasingly important.

The culture of multi-stakeholder engagement that WSIS endorsed has been embedded by many countries successful in meeting the WSIS vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. This environment is clear demonstrated by the successful NETmundial conference held in São Paulo in April 2014 which demonstrated the value of multi-stakeholder engagement in global policy thinking. By stakeholders working together and sharing understanding and views, we saw significant development of common ground and a clear identification of areas where further cooperation is needed.

Nominet is pleased that the UK government has embraced the concept of multi-stakeholder engagement which have allowed the UK to facilitate the deployment of the basic building blocks for an inclusive information society. This brings benefits to all stakeholders with better policy decisions and an enabling environment for social and economic engagement.

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

While many countries have made great strides in delivering the information society envisioned in WSIS, in particular in encouraging infrastructure investment and support for community action, this has not been uniform.

All countries need to embrace a cooperative approach to ensure an enabling environment to support the electronic communication services needed to benefit their own businesses and citizens.

With the pace of innovation and the development of new services and applications, getting this environment right is vital if countries are not to fall further behind.

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

The creation of the IGF has been, perhaps, the greatest driver for the development of people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. The IGF (and the many regional and national IGFs) have helped participants share good practice and develop their understanding of Internet issues – whether policy, technology, operations or development related. That the IGF has been a success in promoting cooperation and shared understanding has been demonstrated by the countries and regions that have sought to embed the model in their local environment.

Similarly, the international Internet organisations and structures have made renewed efforts to reach out globally to help all nations benefit from the opportunities the Internet offers. The structures are in place and many governments and organisations from developing countries are benefitting from positive engagement with these organisations.

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**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 main challenge has been for those countries which still do not engage positively in developing a multi-stakeholder environment in their country or do not engage fully with the various platforms in place to coordinate and develop the Internet infrastructure.

All of the organisations, including the inter-governmental organisations, in the Internet ecosystem need ensure transparency and openness to enable stakeholders and all interested parties to contribute and collaborate effectively and on an equal basis in decision-making process. ITU's WTPF and the Brazil-hosted NETmundial show what can be achieved through this openness.

The successes since WSIS have not been driven by governments alone, but by all stakeholders working together. The multi-stakeholder approach remains crucial to the on-going success of the WSIS outcomes and needs to be adopted by all countries and strengthened to ensure that all stakeholders are able to engage in key decision making. There also needs to be greater transparency and openness to enable all stakeholders and relevant interested parties to contribute and collaborate effectively.

The WSIS process has been most successful when it has focused on practical development issues. This could usefully be strengthened, while maintaining and strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement to deliver best use of all opportunities.

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

We would point to the valuable work to develop local technical capacity and engagement fostered by organisations like ISOC and (through its regional engagement strategies and information sharing platforms) ICANN. There remains much to do and we would encourage all countries to embrace these opportunities to the full.

Increasing cooperation and collaboration in open policy-making and discussion has allowed stakeholders to come together and develop new opportunities and new ways forward. The IGF is an excellent example of how open, inclusive forums can effectively bring people together to understand and address issues through shared understanding.

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**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?**

There have been many technology and application developments since Tunis, including the cloud, big data and expansion of global bandwidth. These developments will not slow down and it is impossible to identify what will come next.

Where countries have embraced the technologies and platforms, the general impact has been positive, reducing costs and improving connectivity. It remains important to maintain competition and an enabling environment for new ideas and new technologies.

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

The key priority for all is to develop cooperative and supportive working between stakeholders to provide continued development and growth. As noted above, we would support the strong practical orientation that has characterised much of the discussion in the WSIS Forum.

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

Given the vision of WSIS, of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, we believe that ICT should be seen as an integral part of the development agenda. Fundamental in this should be to help all countries to embed a multi-stakeholder approach to draw on all the skills and knowledge of the full stakeholder community.

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

We would note the many reviews that have already been carried out into the results of WSIS. These should all be taken into account in preparing the final assessment.

We would also note that the WSIS process is ongoing. The outcomes from Geneva and Tunis remain valid: our challenge is to continue the work of implementation. The technology is not standing still: we need an on-going and inclusive effort.

In particular, as a major vector for capacity building, sharing good practice and understanding issues, the IGF mandate should be renewed and the creation of national and regional IGFs encouraged. Similarly, all countries should be encouraged to engage positively and actively in the work of the international organisations that coordinate the Internet's infrastructure.

**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](mailto: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.**

We have noted the work of ISOC and ICANN:

- <http://ccnso.icann.org/resources> and
- <http://www.internetsociety.org/development>

In the UK we would note the national IGF (as well as engagement in the European regional IGF, EuroDIG). Nominet and other stakeholders work closely with the UK government in policy discussions and in the development of national infrastructure.

The industry-led, multi-stakeholder initiative to combat child abuse on line with the Internet Watch Foundation has had significant success in removing content hosted in the UK and making access to this illegal content much more difficult.