

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

IMPLEMENTING WSIS OUTCOMES: A TEN-YEAR REVIEW



Implementing WSIS Outcomes A Ten-year Review

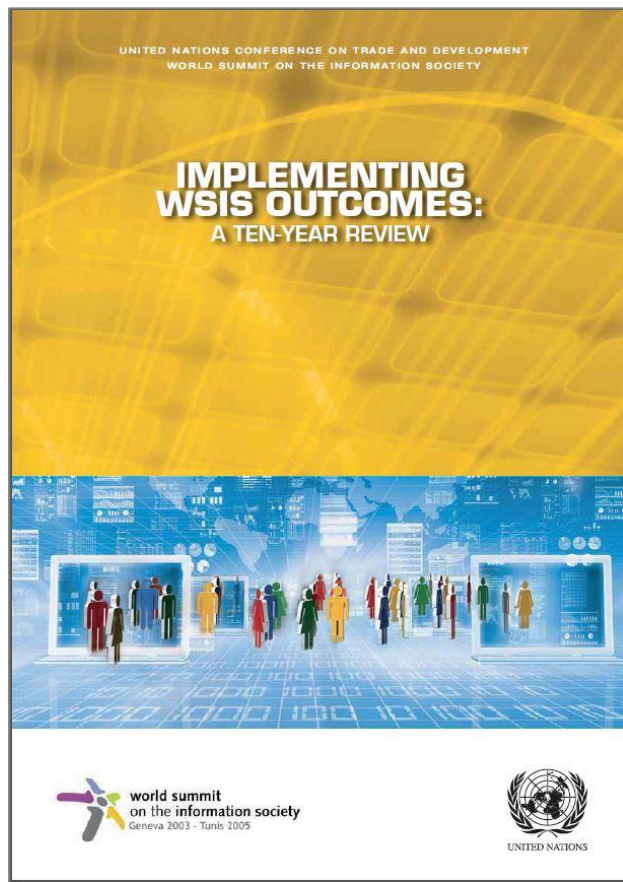
18th session of the CSTD

Geneva, 5 May 2015

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Implementing WSIS outcomes: A ten-year review



The report:

- presents a comprehensive assessment of developments since WSIS, taking into account the fast moving environment for ICTs and ICT4D
- and draws on
 - ✓ an online consultation process and seven face-to-face consultations in different parts of the world
 - ✓ the previous WSIS+10 event outcomes and contributions to them (ITU, UNESCO,..)
 - ✓ the Final WSIS Targets Review report
 - ✓ other relevant publications and literature

The key areas of WSIS

1. The WSIS Vision
2. Targets
3. Action Lines
4. Financial Mechanisms
5. Internet Governance
6. Multi-stakeholder cooperation to achieve WSIS outcomes



Rapid and profound changes in ICTs since WSIS

Driven by continued growth in capacity of networks and services:

- Broadband
- Mobile networks, devices and services
- User generated content and social media
- Cloud computing
- Datafication, big data analysis
- The Internet of Things; deployment of smart system

« When the WSIS took place internet was starting to become widespread, most of the devices were desk top focused, mobile was in its infancy, and the foundations to what would become cloud computing were being deployed. Since then the mobile and cloud computing(...) have changed the way we interact with data and ourselves... » (input to the consultations)



The context for WSIS implementation has changed enormously

- The dynamism of the Information Society has changed the parameters for WSIS implementation.
- Understanding the implications of this rapid evolution and the high levels of unpredictability is key to achieving the WSIS objectives.
- Goals and strategies need to be adaptable in order to meet changing circumstances



Implementing the WSIS Vision

- WSIS set out the Vision of a people centered, inclusive and development oriented Information Society that would enhance the opportunities and quality of life for people worldwide and facilitate sustainable development.
- Significant progress achieved, but great divides remain among and within countries (risk that LDCs, in particular, fall behind).
- The nature of divides has changed (not only a matter of access, but also content and ability to use ICTs).
- New challenges concerned with rights, including access to information and communications, freedom of expression and privacy.



The vision set out in the Geneva Declaration remains valid

- It should be taken forward beyond 2015, both in the WSIS context and the post 2015 development agenda.
- Much more needs to be done to reach inclusiveness and to enable people to fully benefit from the ICTs.
- ICTs alone do not bring about developmental change: the relationship between technology and human development matters.
- Mainstreaming ICTS in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.



WSIS Targets (1)

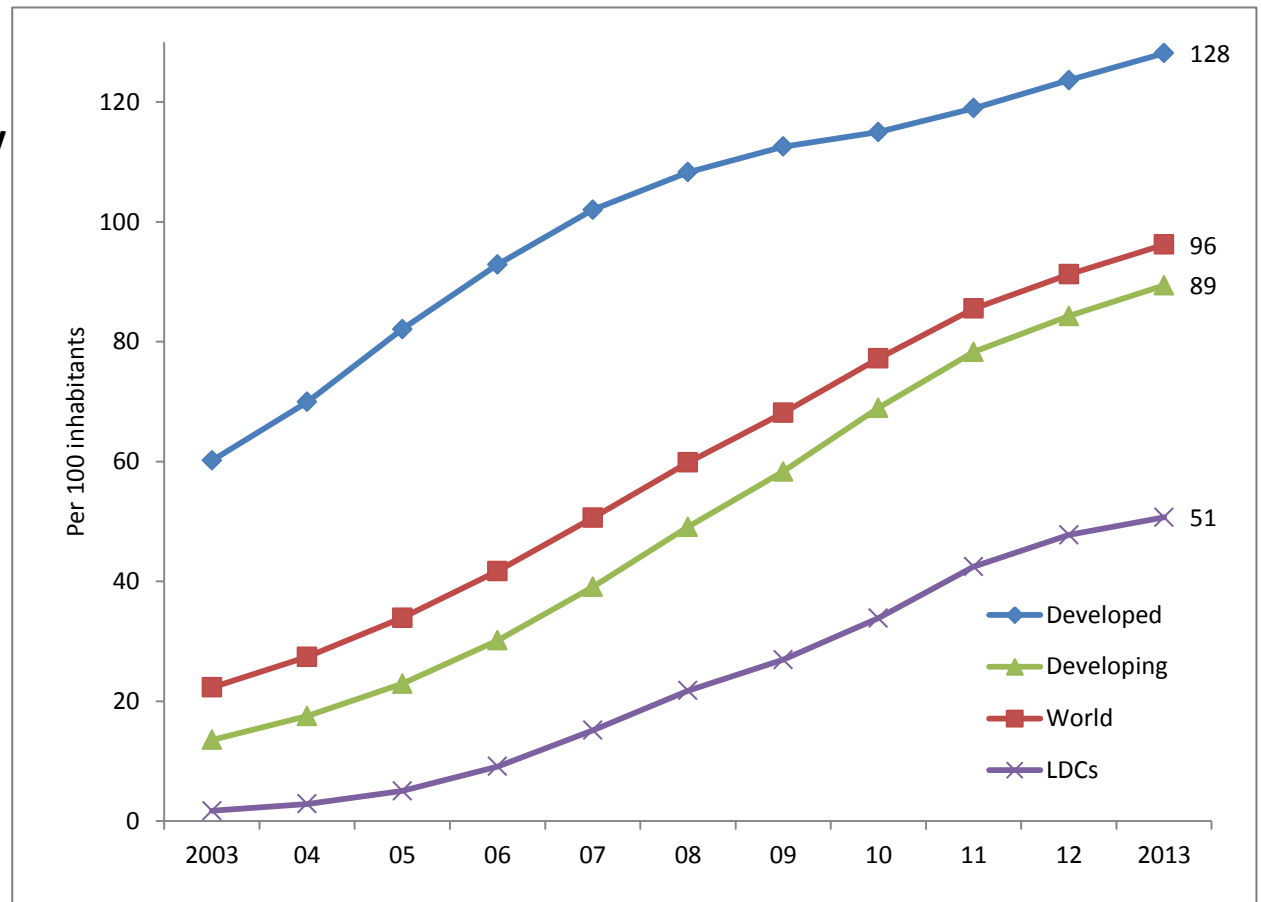
- 10 targets, mostly concerned with access and connectivity.
- Significant progress made in meeting the targets.
- But a growing gap in quality of connectivity and ability to use ICTs.
- « Barriers to accessing and making use of information follow existing lines of exclusion » (contribution to the consultations).



WSIS Targets (2)

Mobile subscription density by development grouping 2003-2013

Source: Final WSIS Targets Review, 2014.



WSIS Targets (3)

- WSIS targets were intended to enable assessment from the technological and market context of 2003. Hence limited in several ways:
 - not comprehensive enough.
 - do not include some important aspects; do not enable measurement of innovations.
 - in addition, there were no benchmarks or indicators.
- Difficult to obtain reliable and relevant data.
- Significant improvements have been recommended by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to make targets more effective and comprehensive.
- Unpredictability of technological changes call for flexibility and combining short term targets with long term goals and strategies.



Review of Action Lines implementation

- Based on the work undertaken in the framework of the WSIS+10 High Level Event; the Statement adopted at the Event (June 2014) provides an overview of the AL implementation and a review of challenges.
- Significant achievements have been reported in most Action Line areas along with continued challenges (detailed examination in Chapter 5).
- Action Lines have been useful but have not attracted extensive participation from the wider communities; issue of coverage.
- Challenges remain in achieving a more substantive role for the Action Lines, and covering current developments.



Action Lines implementation

Need to:

- Develop the Action Line mandates so that they reflect the changes which have taken place since WSIS
- Build synergies between the Action Lines and with other ICT4D processes
- Increase attention in some areas such as education and capacity building as well as gender issues
- Improve measuring and monitoring of impact
- Enhance participation in the Action Lines implementation.

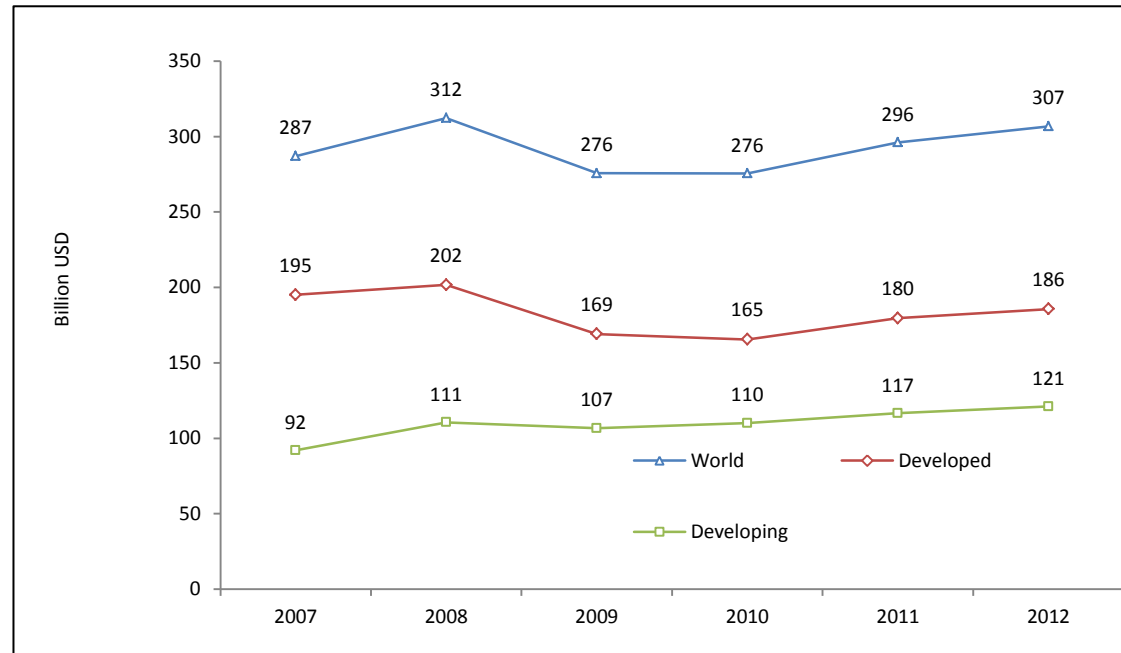


Financial mechanisms (1)

Investment and innovation has been led by the private sector. The level of investment has recovered following the economic downturn.

Investment by Telecommunications Operators, 2007-2012.

Source: ITU, Measuring the Information Society, 2014.



Financial mechanisms (2)

- Governments and International financial institutions have focused more on supporting access in commercially less attractive areas and policy reforms.
- It has become difficult to effectively assess ODA flows related to the Information Society.
- Renewed attention should be paid to financial mechanisms for the Information Society (including financing new aspects of infrastructure and responding to the requirements arising from growing volumes of data traffic).



Internet governance : A core issue of the Information Society Agenda

- No universally agreed definition but a working definition on Internet governance, agreed by WSIS.
- Includes both technical and policy issues.
- The Tunis Agenda laid the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders.
- The process towards enhanced cooperation and the IGF.
- The importance of IG continues to grow as the Internet becomes more and more pervasive.



Internet governance - Enhanced cooperation

- 2006-2011: a series of consultations which did not result in a common understanding on how to operationalize the concept.
- May 2013- May 2014 : CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation: “though consensus emerged on some issues, there was significant divergence of views concerning others.”
- The mapping of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet



Internet governance – the IGF

- The Internet Governance Forum has become an important part of the international discourse on the Internet
- Generally welcomed as having fostered greater understanding of different views on internet governance and cooperation
- But further improvements can be made (in particular regarding inclusiveness, more substantive outcomes, and effectiveness)
- Recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on the Improvements to the IGF

- A number of other important developments and initiatives have taken place concerning Internet governance.



Internet governance : Resolving the differences

- Differences of views should not inhibit discussion of how to take best advantage of innovation in technology and services and the positive impact that the Internet can have on economic and social development.
- Renewed efforts should be made to resolve differences, enabling all stakeholders to play their roles in accordance with the WSIS outcomes.
- Whatever the measures taken, what is essential is to ensure that the Internet remains a universal resource and that it is available to all.



Multistakeholder implementation and cooperation (1)

- Cooperation and dialogue across stakeholder groups have been a hallmark of WSIS implementation.
- WSIS+Statement (June 2014):
 - « *Since the WSIS processes, emphasis has been given to the multi stakeholder approach and its vital importance in the WSIS implementation ...and in taking forward the WSIS themes and Action Lines* »
- Concerns were expressed by some (regarding inclusiveness, representativeness, responsibilities of governments, efficiency, etc.)



Multistakeholder implementation and cooperation (2)

Need to:

- Consider further the multistakeholder modalities
- Overcome the resource constraints
- Increase inclusiveness

More analysis and multistakeholder discussion of the benefits and challenges arising from the multistakeholder experience could help improve inclusiveness and effectiveness.



To conclude

- The WSIS vision continues to inspire the development of the Information Society.
- Much has been achieved but much more needs to be done.
- It is essential to adapt our policies, goals and programmes to today's and tomorrow's needs.
- WSIS implementation should reach beyond the objectives set at the time of the Summit.



Thank you!

Link to webcast:

<http://webtv.un.org/search/3rd-meeting-commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development-18th-session/4217222668001?term=Commission%20on%20Science%20and%20Technology%20for%20Development>

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