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Contribution by

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WISIS Outcomes, Lessons and Futures

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WSIS GENEVA DECLARATION

A people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society

Enhance opportunities and the quality of life for people worldwide and facilitate sustainable development.
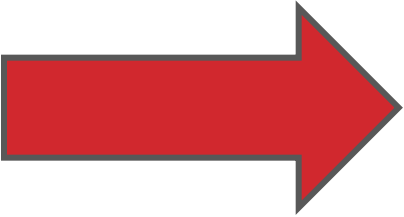
LOOKING BACKWARDS

'Assembling the 'tools' is only part of the task. Measures must be taken to assemble the **human capabilities** to make the best use of new opportunities offered by ICTs'.

CSTD Report, Third Session, Geneva, 12 May 1997

LOOKING AT THE PRESENT

To what extent have WSIS outcomes been achieved 10 years after the WSIS?

'The information society … in which information and the use of information – **its transformation into knowledge and the application of that knowledge** – become crucial resources in economic production and social interaction'.

CSTD Eighteenth Session, Geneva, 4 May 2015

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Priorities:
Broadband access, inclusiveness, internet governance, education, cybersecurity, cloud economy, social and economic value/regulation; sustainability (e-waste), forward looking and more easily measureable targets.

Digital threats:
Cybercrime, online pornography, violence against women and girls, ICT monopolies, corporate invasions of privacy and tax avoidance.

WSIS+10 LESSONS

1. 'It is important to have information serving society and not the other way round'. (DESA)

2. Information societies or knowledge societies cannot be constructed on ICTs or on information alone. They are achievements of **human development** built upon human values, technology and innovation.
(UNESCO)

RESEARCH EVIDENCE

1. Digital technologies are general purpose technologies – this comes with uncertainty, good and bad outcomes.

2. Crises of adjustment mean social and legislative measures to achieve fairness, equity and inclusiveness – of women, the disabled, the marginalized, the least developed countries.

PRACTICE EVIDENCE

1. "When groups are already marginalized it seems to be increasingly that tools like technology become proprietary to certain people. So unless you set things up so the more likely to be marginalized group has access with intent, without that intent you are more likely to increase the fact that they become marginalized" (Knowledge and Information Officer).

PRACTICE EVIDENCE

2. "[A dominant software company] has come in pretty hard and said, you know we'll do a free training for all teachers on [company name] products. Well they didn't say that but that is what they'll do, they'll train teachers on how to use [company name] products which is another huge expense if they decide to go that way rather than something **open source**." (Civil Society Spokesperson).

PRIORITIES FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

- Capacity building – enabling people to choose their own pathways.

- Education and building digital literacies including through vocational training.

- Transforming access to information into useful knowledge.

- Mainstreaming ICT policies and interventions.

TOWARDS A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE

- ICTs play a catalytic role in empowering women.

- Children's rights online are protected.

- Information societies become participatory, not only in name, but in practice.

- Digital technologies are used in entrepreneurial, innovative and welfare enhancing ways.

LOOKING TO 2015 + 20

People will come first -
ICTs will be critical enablers, not solutions.

ICTs will be mediating development explicitly – in all areas - food, water, energy, climate change and sustainability.

The information society will be valued as a bigger part of the answer to the challenges of the post 2015 development agenda and the SDGs.