

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), eighteenth session
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**Item 2: Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS
outcomes at the regional and international levels - Substantive session on the
ten-year review**

Statement submitted by

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In the Name of Allah

Comments on CSTD Report on ten-year review of WSIS Implementation by I.R of Iran

Thank you Madam Chair

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the report on the "Ten-year Review of Progress Made in the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society". The report can play an important role in the forthcoming discussion of the intergovernmental process on the consideration of the future of WSIS, if the shortcomings are overcome.

The report summarizes discussions, events that have been held in various fora pertaining to different aspects of the WSIS targets and action lines, but it does not make any concrete recommendation to be considered in the context of the UN General Assembly discussions to take place in December 2015 on the WSIS framework post 2015 in the light of the overall review of WSIS implementation.

The analysis in the report on the chapter on implementation of WSIS Action Lines is very superficial. The report makes a very general reference to the outcome of the high-level event without further analysis. It merely reiterates what is already known – that the WSIS targets and action lines do not take into account new technological developments and their implications.

The analysis of the report on financing the information society is very general and does not offer any recommendations on how to bolster financial mechanisms to support implementation of the WSIS outcomes. It merely states that there has been an increase in private sector funding in some areas and that international financial institutions provide funding for areas that are not attractive for private investment. However, it does not provide any analysis of the extent of financial support needed for implementation of WSIS outcomes in developing countries and specific mechanisms identified to provide financial resources. It will be critical to ensure that robust financial and technical assistance mechanisms are established to enable developing countries to fully implement ICTs to suitably address their development needs.

85 percent of the world population is living in developing countries, which make the biggest ICT market of the world. Investment in ICTs and their enabling infrastructures constitute an expensive affair for developing countries. Developing countries in fact require long-term support at the local, national and international levels for their capabilities and other institutional capacity building, research and development and innovation of leapfrog technologies. Therefore, it is imperative to give an important role to this notable part of the world in the future of WSIS. Despite this clear fact, a thorough review of the structure of the report reveals that this expectation has not been accommodated.

Internet governance is a very critical aspect of WSIS implementation and the Tunis Agenda had mandated specifically for establishment of a process of enhanced cooperation to enable governments to carry out their primary responsibility in relation to public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, on which the report failed to address properly, as one of the main challenges.

The report needs to recommend tangible steps to overcome the challenges of the information society.