

Commission on Science and Technology

18th Session

5 May 2015

Morning Session

(Transcripts from interpretation in English)

>>CHAIR: Good morning, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to call to order the third meeting of the 18th session of the Commission on Science and Technology.

Before we start the meeting, I just want to remind you of the last announcement that was made yesterday before we closed, and that was to remind you about the call for proposals for the two draft resolutions.

Can I please ask that you settle down? This is quite an important announcement before we start the substantive meeting. Thank you.

As I informed you yesterday, the bureau has selected Ms. Victoria Romero, the vice chair from Mexico, to lead the discussions on the draft resolution concerning Science and Technology for Development, and Mr. Peter Major, the vice chair from Hungary, to lead the discussions on the resolutions on WSIS.

I invited yesterday the commission members to think about the direct language proposals to the zero drafts of the two resolutions which have been shared through the bureau members. Please send your suggestions related to the resolution on Science and Technology for Development to secretary's email account, STDevRes1@UNCTAD.org. It's on the screen in front of you. And for the resolution on WSIS to STDevRes2@UNCTAD.org.

Please indicate clearly where you would like your proposals to be included in the zero drafts.

In the case of the resolution on Science and Technology for Development, the comments should be sent by 8:00 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday evening. In the case of the resolution on WSIS, the comments should be sent by 7:00 p.m. tonight.

The secretary will collect all the comments that have been sent to the two email addresses and prepare a consolidated version for both resolutions.

The first informal meeting will take place in parallel on Wednesday morning, tomorrow morning, starting at 9:15 for Science and Technology for Development in Room 25 and for the WSIS in Room 26 in the Palais des Nations.

Thank you.

I now invite the Commission to resume its consideration of agenda item 2 that is entitled "Progress Made in the Implementation of and Follow-Up to the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the Regional and International Levels."

The documentation under the items is listed in today's journal. In accordance with our organizational work and pursuant to the request by ECOSOC in its resolution 2014/27, the commission will hold a substantive discussion on the ten-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and report there on to the council to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015.

Before we begin our substantive discussion this morning, I will invite Ms. Anne Miroux, Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD and the Head of the CSTD to make a presentation on the ten-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society as contained in the document.

Can I just ask that, as Anne is making her presentation, if you want to make an intervention, please just turn your card so that we can start the recording before she finishes and we can organize ourselves so we can as efficient as possible when we get to the contributions, interventions and the interactive discussions. As usual, we'll take the member States first followed by civil society, NGOs, and observers.

Anne, you have the floor.

>>ANNE MIROUX: Thank you, Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates.

I'd like to open this session in which the CSTD will be considering implementation of WSIS outcomes. And before I present one of the documents prepared by the secretariat in order to begin our discussions, I'd just like to recall the two resolutions of last year which establish the context or the background for today's meeting.

The first is the ECOSOC resolution, the Res. 2014/27 adopted in July 2014, and that's a resolution concerning assessment of the progress made in implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, para 57 of the resolution in particular, which calls upon the Commission to ask for new input from States and stakeholders to organize a substantive discussion on the matter, which is the discussion we're having today, and to report through the Council to the General Assembly, which will go ahead with the overall review of implementation of WSIS outcomes.

And then the other resolutions that set the background for this discussion are the General Assembly resolution 68/302 entitled modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and that's a resolution that refers to the fact that the commission following its 18th session will be required to, through the Council, to submit a report on the review, the ten-year review.

So I just wanted to remind you of those resolutions that establish the context in which today's meeting is taking place.

The CSTD secretariat has prepared today's discussion by preparing a report, the title of which is "Implementing WSIS Outcomes, a Ten-Year Review." And I hope that that will be translated in other languages, too.

Before we get into the substantive matters, the heart of the discussion, I'd just like to point out that this is a report that was a real team effort with the colleagues from UNCTAD in collaboration with other international organizations. I'd just like to point out ITU's work, UNESCO's contributions, for instance, and then taking into account the views expressed by a number of stakeholders. So as far as possible, it's a report that reflects the various inputs that the CSTD was requested to draw together. And I'll come back to that issue in a bit more detail in a moment.

We have a full day for our discussion, so I'm going to be fairly brief in my presentation of the report. It's a very large -- it's a lengthy document with a lot of very detailed information, so I encourage you to read that as carefully as possible, because you'll see on particularly delicate issues, it tries to reflect the various opinions that are out there.

So it's a report that tries to present a comprehensive assessment of developments since WSIS, taking into account the very fast-moving environment for ICTs and the consequences on societies and economies.

Now, I mentioned this yesterday, but it's a report that draws on an online consultation process through a survey that was sent out between July 2014 and mid-September 2014.

It also draws on the outcome of a number of consultation processes in which WSIS has been reviewed. For instance, the two meetings, one that took place in 2013 in UNESCO, and the other that took place at ITU to review WSIS progress. And two documents were adopted as a result of those meetings, the final WSIS document of the High-Level Event in July 2014 and, in a second document, an outcome document, if you like, that came out of that high-level meeting, and that is the WSIS vision. And I'll be referring to those two documents, among others from UNESCO and other organizations, in my presentation.

Now, I'll be focusing on the key areas addressed by the outcome documents of WSIS in 2005. Firstly, I'll be looking at the WSIS vision. And in order to open the discussion, I think over the course of the day we'll also be dealing with issues connected with the targets, I'll enter into the Action lines, lines d'action in French, if you like. That's a bit faster than official translation. And then another key here which is financial mechanisms, and then we'll be turning to Internet governance, which is a particularly important issue. And then another point which cuts across practically all of the outcome documents of 2005, the issue of multistakeholder cooperation in achieving WSIS outcomes.

But before I really address the WSIS vision, which is the first item, I think it's particularly important to refer to the rapid and profound changes that have taken place since the Summit took place. It's an issue that was raised yesterday already by Janis Karklins and Adama Samassekou and other senior officials and

ministers who spoke yesterday afternoon. But in particular, these changes have been driven by continued growth in capacity of networks and services which are now about 30 times more extensive than they were when WSIS took place. This has changed the situation regarding ICTs profoundly. We've seen the development of broadband, the mobile revolution, and I'm not just talking about networks but I'm talking about devices and services connected with the mobile networks today. We've also seen a revolution in user-generated content. We now have a very interactive Internet. We've seen the social media revolution. Cloud computing. And there, we're only just starting to realize the tremendous consequences that will have on the economy. And then this issue of datafication, big data analysis, the Internet of things, the extension of smart systems. I know I've just mentioned a few of the most important categories of changes, but all of these products and services didn't even exist when the Summit took place. So some of the issues addressed at the Summit couldn't take into account these profound changes that have taken place since.

Here I have a quotation, something that was said during the consultations. It was one of the inputs received. Somebody said when the WSIS took place, Internet was starting to become widespread, most of the devices were desktop focused. Mobile was in its infancy. And the foundations to what would become cloud computing were only just being deployed.

Since then, the mobile and cloud computing have developed considerably and have changed the way we interact with data and among ourselves. So that was one of the inputs received, one of the many inputs received during these consultations.

The consequence of these changes mean that the context for WSIS implementation has also changed enormously. The dynamism of the Information Society has changed the parameters for WSIS implementation. So it's vital to understand the implications of this rapid evolution. And these are very swift changes, which is why it's more and more difficult to understand them.

There is a high degree of unpredictability in the way in which we will be able to achieve the WSIS objectives.

One of the consequences of this rapidly changing environment, constantly changing environment, I would say, is that it's very difficult to predict what's going to happen in five or ten years' time and that makes it very difficult to achieve the particularly difficult outcomes. Goals and strategies need to be adaptable in order to follow these changing circumstances. And this is going to have an impact as well as while we look at the way in which the targets are being assessed. So I thought it was important to point out that context. I remind everybody that we are changing -- in a very rapidly changing environment and look with modern-day eyes at declarations and objectives that were adopted in 2005, and that's a very difficult task. So today we are taking stock, and this will have implications in terms of the way in which we're going to look at the next 10 or 15 years and the objectives that we'll have to set.

Moving on to the vision now. It was very clearly set out in WSIS what the vision for ICT would be. This is paragraph 1 of the Tunis declaration. The vision -- and I'm going to find the French translation here. It will make it easier for me.

We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, are determined to build an Information Society with a human dimension, one which is inclusive and promotes development. And then there is a paragraph 1, an important paragraph, which sets the vision of the Information Society as it was conceived of in 2005.

The progress made in implementing and going about achieving some of these goals is very important. This should be recognized. And it was mentioned yesterday. We have significant programs because of the massive changes that have taken place in the use of ICTs and the environment.

Chapters 2 and 3 of the report show in detail what has been done. Unfortunately, it must be recognized that a lot remains to be done, and many speakers highlighted yesterday that the digital divide remains and it is significant, but it has changed. This divide exists between countries, and I'm thinking in particular of some of the least developed countries, and some reports by UNCTAD and ITU underscore the divide separating these countries from developed countries. But the digital divide also exists and has grown within countries, and so of course we have a number of different fissures dividing people. For example, dividing rural and urban populations, dividing women and men in some countries. There again, we see a digital divide between marginalized groups, the most socially vulnerable groups, and then the risk of developing ICTs is that we accentuate this marginalization. This is something noted in the report as well as in a number of other publications by international organizations and NGOs. Another thing that we heard a lot yesterday and which should be once again underscored, and this, because it has an impact on the decisions you will take for the following ten years, is that the nature of the digital divide has changed. We don't now just have one digital divide. We have many digital divides, and so it's an issue of access, but also an issue of the quality of connectivity, one of content and one of the ability to use ICTs and benefit from them. This brings us to the issue of capacity building, which was mentioned several times yesterday by speakers.

I'm coming to this already, I will come back to it, but I wanted to come to it now because when we look at the targets that were set in 2005, 80% of those targets focused on access and relatively few of them on content. So perhaps today we will need to revise and adapt those targets.

The divide has not only changed in nature and expanded in some areas, but there are also new challenges that have appeared related in particular to issue of rights, access to information, and communication, freedom of expression, and everything to do with the private life and privacy. This is an issue which is looked at in particular by UNESCO, and it's something that we reflected upon in the report on the basis of what UNESCO and other organizations have done.

To the extent that the 2005 vision for the Information Society was done with an inclusive human element that promotes development, it is vital that societies work to meet these new challenges and to perhaps develop a better joint understanding of the coming challenges, inter alia, in respect to the various rights that I mentioned.

This being said, one of the things noted in the report, and which also reflects the responses we had to our consultations and texts adopted in various bodies, is that the vision, the ultimate goal that was set for this human-oriented Information Society remains valid.

Perhaps, however, one should look at how to take it beyond 2015 on the one hand in the context of WSIS but also in the context of the post-2015 agenda. And we have a number of pages looking at this subject in the report.

A lot has been done to ensure greater inclusiveness for groups, societies and countries to allow everybody to fully benefit from ICTs; however, a lot remains to be done.

Another thing to underline is this human dimension which was underscored in particular yesterday by Adama Samassekou; namely, ICTs alone are not going to bring about developmental change. There is a fundamental relationship between technology and human and social development matters. And this is something that each of us faces today. And I would perhaps say that becoming aware of this problem, it has become all the more acute in recent years. And one last point that is underscored in the report is how important it is in this context to mainstream ICTs in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In this respect, we received a lot of feedback during our consultations underlining the importance of further integrating ICTs into the SDG declaration. For example, it's noted that the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs, do not have a specific goal that makes an explicit reference to ICTs, even if they may be mentioned one or two times in the current document. This is something important because work is currently being done on this subject in ITU. There is far-reaching integration between the SDGs and the potential uses of ICTs, and ITU is working on a matrix combining these in cooperation with a large number of other international organizations.

A second key area on the WSIS outcomes is the targets. The Geneva Action Plan established ten targets, and, as I have already said, most of them -- seven out of ten, let's say -- were concerned with access and connectivity. Significant progress has been made on meeting these targets on access and connectivity. For example, the target that today 50% of people on the planet should have access to information communication technologies has been practically achieved. Data provided by the Partnership on the Measurement of ICTs in its latest report entitled "Final WSIS Target Review," this is just an example, but they report that 90% of the population is now covered by mobile networks. So we have data demonstrating that significant progress has been made in improving access to high-tech ICTs. We have a little slide here that I'm just going to show demonstrating mobile subscription density, and we can see a remarkable rise between 2003 and 2013. There are a lot of graphs in this report which demonstrate this progress made in terms of access, and ITU also publishes data on this each year.

We can, however, see the big difference between the bottom line, that of the LDCs, and the top line, that of developed countries.

One thing that should be noted is that in spite of the progress made, there is a major gap, a major difference in terms of quality of connectivity and ability to use ICTs, both between countries and within countries as well as between groups and communities within those countries.

One of the comments made in the report that I wanted to draw out was that barriers to accessing and making use of information follow existing lines of exclusion. This is particularly interesting because it will probably have an impact on any program that may be adopted to implement the WSIS vision;

namely, one of achieving an inclusive Information Society. These various barriers and the way they are encountered by various groups is, once again, reflected in the report.

To the extent that the targets set in 2005 focused in particular on issues of access, they are no longer entirely adapted and suitable for today's world. And so one of the things noted in the report is that when they were established, this was done in a particular environment and psychological context in 2003 and 2005. So they're limited in terms of scope, and they do not include certain important aspects of today's society. What's more, at the time, there were no precise indicators. So that had to be worked on.

The second important point in this report on this subject is that to assess progress, you need data. And here, once again, we still have a major problem in terms of the availability of both reliable and relevant data.

Having said this, several organizations, including UN organizations, have come together within the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and over several years significant improvements have been recommended to ensure that the targets are more effective and, also, better correspond to the contemporary situation. And this once again is included in the chapter on targets in the report.

Particularly important here, and this is a result of what I mentioned earlier, is that the difficulty of predicting technological change, even if we do have provisional analyses and predictions, in November at the CSTD session, this will be considered, nevertheless, technological change remains extremely unpredictable. There is a need for flexibility in terms of the short-term objectives, and, therefore, we underscore an approach which could be to combine short-term targets with long-term goals and strategies. So these short-term targets would then be more adaptable to change, and this is somewhat what the Economic Commission for Latin America calls for in its eLAC Plan.

Another area, I think the fourth key area of the WSIS outcomes, is the implementation of Action lines. The report, therefore, considers this issue, and in doing so looks at the assessment work that has been done and which is based on work done within the context of organizing the WSIS+10 High-Level Event. This was organized under the auspices of ITU and in cooperation with international organizations, as I mentioned yesterday, UNCTAD, UNESCO, and UNDP.

The statement adopted or the final outcome documents of this event is what we call the Statement. In French it's the WSIS+10 Declaration adopted in June 2014. Now, these two documents have been particularly useful in that they have already conducted a review of the implementation of Action lines as well as a review of the challenges that have been encountered during the implementation of these Action lines.

Significant achievements have been reported in the implementation of most Action line areas, but ongoing challenges were also noted. Unfortunately, these problems, issues have not yet been resolved. We conduct a detailed examination of the implementation of Action lines in chapter 5 of the report. And so I strongly encourage you to read this chapter. It is fairly long, but where proper, it refers to the

analyses conducted in the June 2014 Statement, but also what the Action lines could do in the future, which is also something included in the June 2014 Statement.

On the whole, the Action lines, and this is what many people thought, have been useful. They have been useful because they provided a particularly effective platform for sharing experiences and discussing the subject. They also provided particularly useful resources for all stakeholders.

Nevertheless, as noted in the response to our consultations, it must be noted that a lot of what has happened in the context of ICTs, what has been done on the ground in countries, has taken place outside of this framework that is established by the Action lines. There are a number of reasons for this. The first is that work done on the ground has often been the result of individuals or organizations which have adopted ICTs but taken them into their own context somewhat independently of the framework established by the Action lines.

It's also possible that the work done on the ground has been done by organizations that do not directly participate in the Action line framework.

One of the contributors to our study, for example -- I'm going to read it in English.

"Lines have not well been integrated into the substantial interactions that take place in other fora concerned with the issue covered by Action lines."

In other words, there simply wasn't enough of an interaction between what was at the heart of the Action lines and the organizations and individuals which felt as though they weren't part of it.

Another comment made was that the Action lines do not currently cover all of the issues and challenges implicit in the Information Society. And as I've already said, the challenges that were paramount in 2003 and 2005 are different now, or perhaps there are new ones. For example, cybersecurity issues of privacy and surveillance.

These are the issues that we need to work on today to ensure that these Action lines perhaps have a more substantive role and are perhaps more effective in helping to achieve an Information Society as outlined in the Tunis Agenda or, as Adama said yesterday, perhaps what those who signed the Agenda were dreaming about.

Among the suggestions, and this is very broad, we say that -- each Action line is studied in the report, but we say that generally, there is a need to develop the Action line mandates or to clarify them so that they better reflect the changes that have taken place since WSIS. There is a need to build synergies between the Action lines themselves and other Action lines as well as other processes taking place on the ground. Often, as I've said, this integration does not take place.

There is a need, potentially, to pay greater attention to areas such as education and capacity building. Gender issues is also mentioned several times. Action lines need to be more effective, and so there's an issue of measuring and monitoring, and the need to enhance participation in the Action lines to ensure greater inclusivity and that more groups participate in the implementation of the Action lines.

Another chapter, financial mechanisms. The report underscores that investment and innovation have been driven, really, investment and innovation in ICTs has been chiefly driven by the private sector. Of course, with the economic crisis, this has dropped, but we are seeing the situation pick up again now. Governments and international institutions have focused perhaps more on areas that are not -- less commercially attractive and areas of policy reform, and so this does have an impact on the way that we can consider the issue of financing; namely, how to share out the work.

One thing that has been hard to assess is Official Development Assistance. There is an issue again here of data, which is referred to in the report and which I'm not going to go into detail now. I do encourage you to read that in general; however, the issue of financing has sometimes been somewhat neglected and received less attention than it did at the start. And so the conclusion here is that we need to pay renewed attention to this issue of financial mechanisms for the Information Society. And there's one reason for this. That is to say that there are new needs linked to new aspects of infrastructure and new requirements stemming from the growing volumes of data traffic. In other words, as things currently stand, where infrastructure and requirements have changed, we do potentially need to come back and have another look and a closer look at the issue of financing ICTs in developing countries.

I think the last or the penultimate key issue of WSIS was Internet governance. As the Geneva Declaration notes, Internet governance should be a key issue of the Information Society agenda. This is an issue that is at the heart of our discussions on everything to do with the Internet and ICTs.

Firstly, to establish a framework and context here, it's interesting to note that the Tunis Agenda does not include definitions, universally accepted definitions of what Internet governance is. It adopted a definition, a working definition, which I will recall here, both the development and implementation by governments, the private sector, and society in their respective roles of principles, norms, rules, and of programs which shape the development and usage of the Internet. So that's a working definition.

Internet governance, as the report notes, includes both technical issues and policy issues. In practice, and above all, nowadays, it is almost impossible to separate the two.

The Tunis Agenda in the relevant chapter on Internet governance clearly indicated the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in Internet governance.

The chapter on Internet governance has perhaps two particularly important subsections which have been at the heart of discussions in recent years, and so I've got two slides on those. The first is the process towards enhanced cooperation, and the second is the issue of the Internet Governance Forum. I'll underscore from the outset, though, that Internet governance is becoming all the more crucial in that we now have this beast, the Internet, which pervades economic life and our daily lives. And I would say that for some of us, I think we're at a crossroads, and a number of articles, university publications have been written saying that what is going to be decided now on Internet governance will determine the future of the Internet. So we are now at a particularly important stage, and I am convinced that the December 2015 meeting and what is going to be decided in autumn 2015 as part of the various processes of which you are well aware, what is going to be decided at these meetings will establish Internet governance and will set, as we say in English, a breaking point for the future of the Internet. So

we are living, I think, in a particularly interesting time. And this is why you have a key role to play on this subject.

Enhanced cooperation and enhanced cooperation processes. Following the adoption of paragraphs on this process, the UN Secretary-General and, in particular, his Special Advisor organized in 2005-2006 informal consultations on how to operationalize this process. However, these consultations did not result in an agreement or common understanding on this enhanced cooperation process. And this was 2006 to 2011. So important, significant work was done. UNDESA, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York organized these consultations. There were a number of studies published at the time, and the conclusion was that we have not reached an agreement on what this process towards enhanced cooperation means.

Following a decision of the General Assembly, the CSTD was entrusted with a working group to try and make progress and move forward in these discussions. This resolution was adopted at the end of 2012, and this working group met between May 2013 and May 2014. I can see a number of people in the room, a number of delegates that participated in this working group.

This brings us to May 2014, to eight years after the work began, and the conclusion of the president of - the chair of this working group was that although there was consensus on some issues, there were significant differences on other issues. In other words, there was no agreement. And so following this situation, the CSTD and ECOSOC asked the CSTD secretariat to continue this work on the process towards enhanced cooperation, what it means and, above all, how to operationalize it. And in this context, the CSTD secretariat produced what we could perhaps call a first draft, a mapping exercise of mechanisms which exist today. And also, as far as possible, we attempted to assess the gaps that existed; namely, what needs to be done in each of the areas in question.

So I do encourage you to consider this document, which is available online. The conclusion in that document is that we are still in the process of working on achieving a consensus as to how to operationalize enhanced cooperation on issues of Internet policy.

In the relevant part of the report, it's clearly indicated that there is no consensus. So for some, the process hasn't even begun, whereas for others it's under way. It really depends on your understanding of the concept.

Another important section concerns Internet governance, the IGF. The IGF, the Internet Governance Forum.

In the course of the consultations, the participants indicated that the IGF has become an important part of international discourse on the Internet. The IGF is generally welcomed as having fostered greater understanding, a greater understanding of different views on Internet governance and cooperation. So it's enabled different stakeholders to achieve a better understanding of other's perspectives.

Having said that, in the consultations that we've held and in the survey and in the face-to-face consultations I mentioned yesterday, we've heard that further improvements to the IGF could be made;

in particular, regarding inclusiveness and in relation to the fact that maybe it could achieve more substantive outcomes and make improvements in terms of its working methods and effectiveness.

So in that context, I just remind you that the UN

Secretary-General set up a working group to consider improvements to the IGF, and CSTD is once again responsible for that working group. And a number of recommendations were drawn up in 2012. The final report of that working group was submitted in May 2012. And since then, the IGF has begun to implement those recommendations, and Janis Karklins yesterday gave us a few details of that.

I think one of the representatives of the IGF secretariat is here today. Perhaps if you have any questions, that might be the person to address, and we'll probably hear from them during the course of the discussion.

Now, I've spent a long time on these two subchapters on Internet governance, but a number of other important developments and initiatives have taken place concerning Internet governance. International conferences have taken place. Last year, for instance. And I haven't really had time to talk about all of them. You can find details of them on pages 148 to 153 of the report. So I'd encourage you to read those if you want to get more specific information about what's been happening in that regard.

One of the remarks made in the report that was pointed out by a number of participants yesterday is that there are differences of views on Internet governance, but they shouldn't prevent discussion, and they shouldn't stop very relevant discussions taking place as to how to take best advantage of innovation in technology, and how to achieve a more positive impact through the Internet on issues such as economic and social development. So there are divergent views, but we shouldn't be sidetracked by focusing too much it on Internet governance. There are other issues that need to be addressed.

Of course the report can only encourage fresh efforts to be made to try to overcome those differences so that all stakeholders can play the roles assigned to them when the agreement was made in WSIS.

There have been developments in that regard. Yesterday I mentioned very quickly what was going on in relation to governance through ICANN reform, and other efforts are being made to resolve differences. And those efforts need to be pursued because whatever measures are taken, whatever direction we go in, it's essential to ensure that Internet remains a universal resource and that it's available to all. And the report stresses that. It recognizes the major differences that exist, but what's important is they continue to try to bridge those differences because the universality of the Internet is at stake, and access for all to ICTs is a matter of primary importance.

And then turning to multistakeholder implementation and cooperation. We find this in pretty much every chapter of the document, in the outcome document of WSIS. And the feeling that we get from the replies to the survey is that cooperation and dialogue across stakeholder groups have been the hallmark of WSIS implementation.

We need to recognize and acknowledge that a lot has been done by very varied stakeholders to implement the WSIS outcomes. A lot was done by Regional Commissions, and chapter 8 of the report addresses that, gives illustrative examples of what's been done. And that just gives you a little idea of what's been happening by the UN Regional Commissions and by a whole range of multilateral organizations, by governments, by NGOs, by the private sector, civil society actors. So if you want to get a good idea of what has been going on, I would encourage you to read chapter 8 of the report to get further details.

The WSIS Declaration or Statement of June 2014 recognized the importance of the multistakeholder approach, and the Statement read, "Since the WSIS processes, emphasis has been given to the multistakeholder approach and its vital importance in WSIS implementation and in taking forward the WSIS themes and Action lines."

Now, having said that, in the consultations and elsewhere, a number of concerns have been expressed relating to inclusiveness in the process, who is represented, who takes part, representativeness, who and why do they take part, and the responsibilities of governments, issues of effectiveness and efficiency in a multistakeholder process. A number of concerns that have been raised and really should be addressed.

One of the suggestions made by some participants was the need to consider further the multistakeholder modalities, to try to overcome resource constraints, to ensure enhanced inclusiveness in the process. And one suggestion was to have more in-depth analysis and multistakeholder discussion of the benefits and challenges arising from the multistakeholder experience to improve inclusiveness and effectiveness in the approach adopted.

To conclude -- and I apologize for speaking at length, but it is a very lengthy document, and I'd just like to conclude by saying that the WSIS vision continues to inspire the development of the Information Society. What was drawn up and agreed in 2005 remains valid today. So much has been achieved, but so much still needs to be done. There are new challenges, and even the existing challenges have changed in terms of their size and scope. So we need to review a number of targets and Action lines and decide what we need to do in terms of action to adapt our policies and goals and programs. And by that, I mean adapting them to today's and tomorrow's needs.

One of the major challenges of WSIS is that we're looking at a situation today on a basis of criteria that were set in 2005, and that's one of the issues that we face. And implementation of the WSIS vision must go beyond the goals and objectives that were set in 2005.

So in my presentation, I wanted to help you by reading through the report. It's a report that is designed to serve as a basis for the discussion, to provide input as far as possible, to ensure that you have a fruitful discussion. And I'd just like to remind you that these discussions are just one stage in the overall review process. In December 2015, there will be the overall review of the General Assembly. We've heard the ITU, we've heard UNESCO are taking part in this process, we've heard the regional consultations, and the CSTD discussions today.

So I hope that the discussion today will be very fruitful and interesting so that through ECOSOC, we can submit the CSTD report to the General Assembly on the ten-year review.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, Madam Chair. And I apologize for speaking at such length.

>>CHAIR: Thank you very much, Anne. It was long, but I think it was important for us to just get the overall sense of the report. I now want to open the floor for the substantive general discussion. As I said earlier, we will recognize when you put your card up. We will try and take the Member States first followed by the NGOs, observers, and civil society. And I would -- as I said yesterday, I would request that interventions be limited to no more than five minutes. There's quite a lot of interventions. There's quite a lot of us to get through today, and I really would like everybody to have the chance to make their input into this very important discussion.

So with that, I already have a number of countries that have indicated their interest. And I will start with Brazil.

>>BRAZIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to start by thanking the secretariat for this very good report that is presented to us. We think it provides a good basis for further work for our deliberations both here and later on by the General Assembly.

Madam Chair, I think one of the basic conclusions, and maybe the first area of consensus we might have, is that the WSIS outcome documents, they have resisted the test of time and they still today provide a very good solid -- very solid framework for future work for shaping the Information Society. It is clear that a lot has been done since 2005. Much progress has been made towards the goals that were set. But there are persistent challenges and new issues that have emerged and some challenges that were before but have changed in nature as has been indicated.

And those challenges should prompt us to try to adjust course to reflect on priorities for the years ahead without touching on the basic pillars provided by the WSIS outcome documents.

Although I think it would be maybe -- most participants would agree that some specific areas of those documents should be adjusted, but I don't think this would be the case for the December meeting since this would not be a Summit. I don't think there would be an authority to change those documents. We look forward to working with colleagues in order to try to address those challenges.

However, I'd like today to focus on the Internet governance-related aspects that are dealt with in the documents. First of all, I'd like to thank the secretariat for having important initiatives we have been taking in Brazil: The Brazilian steering committee through the adoption of principles, the adoption of civil rights-based legislation, Marco Civil, and the convening of NETmundial last year in Sao Paulo.

And actually on the basis of the discussions and the issues that are explained in the document, we'd like to more directly refer to the issues regarding two areas of particular concern that we think should be addressed by the UN High-Level Meeting with regards to the future of IGF and also the process towards enhanced cooperation.

I think as has been highlighted by the secretariat, and we could not agree more, that those areas that are not an end in itself but they provide -- and they should not inhibit us to try to seek cooperation -- concrete cooperation towards moving ahead. But those -- both the IGF and the process towards enhanced cooperation provide the framework in which cooperation should take place.

In that regard, I'd like to reaffirm that Brazil supports the extension of IGF beyond 2015. We would even be prepared to endorse the idea that IGF should be made a permanent body because it performs a unique role, irreplaceable role, and it has proved its value along the years.

We will host the tenth edition of IGF this year in Brazil, and we intend to work towards those areas in which we have consensus that need to be strengthened towards inclusiveness; more substantive, tangible outcomes; and effectiveness. We hope to be able to work with all partners, all stakeholders towards making this a reality.

However, we would like also, on the other hand, to see the UN High-Level Meeting providing us with some guidance and reaffirming the need to -- further to progress towards -- in the process towards enhanced cooperation.

Taking into account, there are different interpretations of this concept and the richness of discussions that have taken place over the years. The assessment of my delegation is that we need to move beyond the rhetorical discussions that have permeated the debates in many instances. And these, of course, relate to the tension between the notions of multistakeholderism, multilateralism. Our view is that it is not incompatible to work in the context of multistakeholderism; but recognizing that governments due to their specific roles and responsibilities in regard to some issues, there might be a case for a differentiated approach with regard to decision-making.

That vision was conveyed by my president, President Dilma, at the opening of NETmundial in which she affirmed that Brazil is firmly adherent to multistakeholderism.

We have been -- our national experience predates the WSIS conference. Actually, our Brazilian steering committee this year will -- is commemorating its 20th anniversary. So it's an experience we have.

But, on the other hand, we also think there is a role -- a particular role for governments. And depending on the issue, we should look into how to have the best configuration to deal with issues.

We think the appropriate way to deal with this tension is to have a balanced consideration of two basic notions that emanate from the WSIS documents. One, of course, is multistakeholderism itself. The other is the notion that different stakeholders have different roles and responsibilities.

I think if we can have a balanced approach, we can see according to the issues how to deal in a more effective way.

I concede -- and I have been discussing this with colleagues, and I know it's easier said than done. And that's why we firmly support that on the basis of the mapping exercise, further work should progress. We think the mapping exercise by identifying the issues, the existing mechanisms, provided us with a

good basis for further work in regard to trying to improve on what is there, to fill in any gaps that are identified and, therefore, provides, again, us with a basis that would allow us to move beyond the rhetorical discussion in this regard. So we are very much in favor of that.

So just to reaffirm, we think the report is very good. It provides a good basis for us. But it would be clearly sufficient for us just to endorse the report. We need to work on the basis of the report and take up the challenge that the report addresses to us in regard to -- in regard particularly to Internet governance and how to deal with those two processes.

And I will finish just by recalling that the General Assembly has consistently recognized that the IGF and the process towards enhanced cooperation are two distinct processes. And that should be pursued on their own merits. And they might be complementary.

So I think it is a challenge and a task for us to build on the report on the experience we have acquired in those ten years and provide for the process that will lead to the high-level meeting in December with -- to the extent we can have some recommendations in regard on how to pursue those very important tracks. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: United Kingdom.

>>UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you, Chair. Good morning to colleagues, and thank you to the secretariat for that excellent and thorough presentation.

The United Kingdom welcomes this thorough and important ten-year report. The report clearly draws on the contributions of a very wide range of stakeholders as well as reflecting the discussions that we have had in CSTD. Importantly, it provides a balanced view and fully reflects the different perspectives that stakeholders have brought to bear. Its conclusions are firmly grounded in evidence, a really impressive foundation of factual analysis and information.

It provides a thorough assessment across all the WSIS Action lines, and its recommendations are based on the clear analysis of the changes in the ICT landscape, the challenges we face now and in the future, and the experience of what works.

We think it's an absolutely landmark achievement in the WSIS process. It will be an invaluable assistance to the UN General Assembly as it reviews WSIS later this year and beyond.

The ten-year report sets out just how much has been achieved over the last ten years. The capacity of ICTs has increased 30 times. The number of mobile phone subscriptions is equal to the number of people on the planet. Four out of ten people use the Internet, and that number is growing. And it's clear that the digital divide in access to basic ICTs is being reduced.

And this is thanks, we believe, to the dynamism of private sector investment responding to consumer demand and also because governments have helped to create stable and proportionate regulatory environments which encourage private sector investments in ICTs.

But as Mr. Banerjee from UNESCO reminded us yesterday, ICTs are powerful enablers but they are not ends in themselves. The aim of WSIS is to build a people-centered, inclusive, and development-oriented information society that will enhance opportunities and quality of life for people worldwide and facilitate sustainable development.

That is an inspiring and ambitious aim and one that the U.K. remains fully committed to.

So we also strongly welcome the emphasis in the ten-year report on addressing environmental concerns on education and access to knowledge and diverse media and freedom of expression, gender equality issues, and the importance of local language content and local services particularly in marginalized communities.

The report sets out five key challenges facing us as we look to the future, perhaps most notably the digital divide in broadband provision. As opportunities accelerate, there is a danger that some will be left behind, and there is much more to do here.

It sets out the challenge of the unpredictability of new technological developments, the importance of mainstreaming ICTs into broader socioeconomic agendas, education and capacity-building, and effective monitoring and measurement.

We have learned much over the last ten years about attracting private sector investments and the importance of strong public/private partnerships, about lowering prices by breaking up monopoly provision and encouraging competition, and about promoting education and capacity-building to transform the ability of communities to harness the benefits of ICTs. And all stakeholders need to continue to apply those lessons, working together if you are to make sure that no community and no country is left behind.

We believe that the report gives a comprehensive overview of recent discussions on Internet governance. We may not agree with all the reviews set out in the report, but we absolutely accept that it gives a balanced picture. The report rightly highlights the concern that discussion about Internet governance should not inhibit discussion of how the positive impacts that the Internet can have on development.

In our view, the focus of the WSIS review should be on practical support, on development issues that will allow people particularly in developing countries to get online and make the most of the opportunities that ICTs offer.

On enhanced cooperation, we accept that, again, although, we may not agree with all the views reflected in the report, it does give a balanced view of the discussions on enhanced cooperation that have taken place in CSTD and elsewhere. And it fully incorporates the discussion that took place at the intersessional meeting last year.

In our view, the CSTD working group on this issue identified many examples of enhanced cooperation that are currently underway. Enhanced cooperation is happening now, and it will continue to develop.

The Internet is constantly innovating and developing. New challenges will emerge as older issues are tackled.

Enhanced cooperation needs to continue to be a flexible process involving all stakeholders if it is to be able to respond effectively to this pace of innovation and change. The report reflects the value attached to multistakeholder participation and notes that the IGF has become an important part of international discourse on the Internet. The U.K. strongly supports the work currently underway to improve and strengthen the IGF. And in our view, the IGF should continue to be strengthened and its mandate should be extended for a further ten years.

Finally, Madam Chair, we'd like to emphasize our strong support for the comments that have been yesterday and this morning about ensuring alignment between WSIS and the post-2015 sustainable development goals. The President of ECOSOC talked powerfully yesterday about the need for policy integration and the single universal framework for development. We strongly agree. And the ten-year review of WSIS is a critical opportunity to achieve that.

We are very pleased that work is underway to map the WSIS action lines and the post-2015 sustainable development goals, helping to ensure that all stakeholders are working together in a concerted way to achieve a people-centered, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society. And we look forward to working with colleagues in that endeavor. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you. I will now call on India.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset, allow me to thank the CSTD secretariat for its two reports on "Implementing WSIS Outcomes, a Ten-Year Review," and mapping of international Internet public policy issues. We also thank the secretariat, particularly the Director, for making a very detailed briefing earlier in the day.

We believe these reports provide very useful information and analysis on the achievements or otherwise of the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS and provide possible way forward to address these issues.

Madam Chairperson, India fully recognizes the role of ICTs as an important tool and an enabling factor for inclusive, social and economic development, particularly with regard to universalizing access to a wide range of services and applications in various social sectors such as education, health, women and child development, agriculture, employment generation, financial inclusion, gender equity, and empowerment of those who are left behind in the process. This is borne out of our national experience.

We believe that the ICTs have the capabilities to provide a way forward to nations to leapfrog several challenges and to provide solutions to issues which are otherwise difficult to address through conventional approach.

It is clear that reasonable progress has been made in implementing WSIS outcomes over the past decade. However, much remains to be done in extending the potential benefits of Information Society

to all, in addressing new challenges that have arisen from its development and in adopting to the continued innovation that has taken place in the ICTs and the services that they enable.

The development of ICTs has also increased wide-ranging disparity in the adoption of them between developed and developing countries. In order to welcome these challenges, the ten-year review has highlighted the need for prioritizing ICTs and the international cooperation through enhanced flow of ODA commitments by OECD countries.

We fully support this observation. We call upon developed countries to come forward to help assist other developing countries, in particular LDCs and LLDCs.

Madam Chairperson, I wish to touch upon the report on mapping of international Internet public policy issues which have identified 41 international public policy issues, pertaining to Internet which have been organized into seven broad clusters. The study has rightly pointed out challenges related to a holistic approach aimed at protecting public interest in regulatory and technical aspects of Internet governance. The mapping exercise has brought out on one hand existence of mechanisms to deal with international public policy issues pertaining to Internet. On the other hand, it did acknowledge the absence of mechanisms for a wide range of issues as well as international legal frameworks to implement the existing regulations.

The development of international legal framework for online privacy and data protection, including issues like human rights, trade debate on international Internet governance should continue to focus on providing an equal footing to the national governments to address the whole range of issues associated with it, including the implementation dimensions.

We, therefore, look forward to Member States coming up with an international effective mechanism with an enhanced role for governments in international Internet governance at the deliberations to take place in the UN General Assembly later this year.

Before I move on to other subjects, one or two aspects of the WSIS -- the WSIS outcomes that requires certain attention in the CSTD, as it has been seized with these matters during the last eight or nine years that it has been tasked to deal with the matters. One, it is relating to the enhanced cooperation, and the other is relating to the Internet Governance Forum.

It is very clear from the deliberations as well as the outcomes that have been presented, one aspect that is enhanced cooperation as reflected in the Tunis Agenda remains still an unfulfilled aspect.

This provides food for thought, and also we have to look for ways to advance it in the post-2015 WSIS frameworks. On the other hand, we have seen IGF has made significant progress with regular meetings and able to deliberate at great length on a number of emerging issues relating to the development of Internet. The UN General Assembly in our view should consider the question relating to its extension beyond 2015.

Madam Chairperson, given the benefits of ICT, there is a need -- an urgent need, rather, to carry forward the success of ICT in developing countries, mainly to LDCs and LLDCs, by furthering enhancing

its scope and fine-tuning the delivery mechanisms through the process of reengineering, focusing on integrated services and interoperable systems by making best use of emerging technologies, be it the cloud, mobile, in-memory database, et cetera.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, I think the task for the UN General Assembly is rather well-cut out. And I'm sure the deliberations in the CSTD -- this CSTD will help advance the deliberations that will eventually take place in the UN General Assembly later this year. I thank you for giving an opportunity to make this statement.

>>CHAIR: Thank you very much, India.

I would now like to call on Canada.

>>CANADA: Thank you, Madam Chair. As this is my first intervention, I'd like to take this opportunity to say that Canada is honored to have become a member of the CSTD having just begun a four-year term at the beginning of this year. We believe the Commission's work on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and on science and technology for development generally is extremely important. In fact, more important than ever.

The Commission serves as a vital platform for expertise, discussion, and guidance for the international community, moving us closer to the goal of ensuring that ICTs and other new technologies benefit the whole human community, especially developing countries whose populations have such great needs and so much to gain through the use of these technologies.

Madam Chair, we welcome the report prepared by the CSTD secretariat on the implementation of WSIS outcomes on this -- the ten-year anniversary. And we appreciate the immense work that went into developing this report with income -- with input from so many diverse stakeholders.

The report outlines the vast changes that have taken place in the ICT landscape over the last ten years, especially in terms of the immense advancement in the use of ICTs and developing countries over that time.

We share the sense of the report and of, I think, other delegations as well that technological advances in ICTs and especially the increasing availability of devices and applications to a wider and wider share of the global population are encouraging signs of progress towards realizing the goal of WSIS to build a people-centered, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society.

At the same time and as the report itself notes, we recognize that much needs to be done. The digital divide and all of its aspects still remains, even though we are making strides in reducing it. Access to information infrastructure in the developing world, especially to broadband, is still uneven. There is also much work to be done to ensure that we exploit the full potential of ICTs to accelerate economic growth in developing countries and improve public services like health and education. Moreover, we cannot forget that a stable and reliable ICT infrastructure requires access to a stable and reliable traditional infrastructure such as electricity supply.

It is critical that we maintain our focus in terms of the WSIS review on bridging this digital divide both within and between countries and to extend the benefits of ICTs to all, keeping in mind the need that developing and least-developed countries continue to have for universal, equitable, and affordable access to Internet and broadband infrastructure and services.

We believe the report from the CSTD presents a balanced view overall of progress achieved, grounded as it is in the contributions of many diverse stakeholders. We think the report will provide a very useful contribution to the overall review by the General Assembly. And we strongly urge the Commission to adopt the report as an official input to that review process.

We especially appreciate that the review report emphasizes the role of ICTs in the context of post-2015 development agenda and the efforts to achieve the post-2015 development goals.

On the issue of Internet governance, we believe that political discussions on Internet governance will only detract from the task of bridging the digital divide. The CSTD review report adopts the practical and even-handed approach of describing the issues related to governance without being prescriptive or attempting to resolve differences which exist among some stakeholders.

Neither the CSTD through its report nor the General Assembly through its preparations for the overall review have a mandate to reopen the WSIS outcomes from ten years ago on these or other subjects.

We can all agree, I believe, that progress in mobilizing ICTs for development over the past decade is the result of all stakeholders working together. Canada strongly believes that all stakeholders must continue to play a role in jointly building and shaping the Information Society.

The ten-year review report notes that many contributions to the report emphasize the valuable role of the Internet Governance Forum in improving understanding among stakeholders of the different perspectives concerned with the Internet's development.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, Canada underscores the value of the IGF as a forum for discussion of Internet public policy-related issues and calls for the extension of the IGF mandate beyond 2015. In addition, we think it is important that the IGF secretariat be strengthened.

In conclusion, I'd like to reiterate that Canada looks forward to working actively as a member of the Commission over the next four years. And we also look forward to actively engaging with all stakeholders in the overall review of the WSIS outcomes. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you, Canada.

Saudi Arabia.

>>SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to thank the secretariat for having prepared this report. We also thank the Chair for explaining the content of the report. Saudi Arabia would like to recall that according to the ECOSOC Resolution 9/2013, in particular

paragraph 48, the CSTD was requested to present a report on progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. That is to say progress made, I'll repeat, in implementing the results of the World Summit on Information Society.

Saudi Arabia has followed the progress of drafting the report, and we made contributions in this respect beginning with the consultations that proceeded the draft report followed by the submission of comments, following the publication of the first iteration of the text between these sessions of the Commission held in November 2014. Subsequently, we also sent written comments to the secretariat following that meeting.

Saudi Arabia's comments focused on two key areas. The first concerning the implementation of the request by the Economic and Social Council and, secondly, the content of the report.

As regards the first point concerning Saudi Arabia's comments on the implementation of ECOSOC's request, the report should reflect reality in the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the Summit and this without going into details that do not have any relation to the request by ECOSOC and without aiming to interpret clear paragraphs describing the outcomes of WSIS. This is because doing so could lead to the adoption of certain points of view while neglecting others.

As regards my second point on Saudi Arabia's comments, my country submitted comments concerning some parts of the report, the key points of which were not taken into consideration in the report submitted to us.

We thought that the report would highlight genuine progress made so as to highlight the positive and negative elements of implementing the WSIS outcomes. This would be done to rally efforts to further implement them as, for example, enhanced cooperation. Indeed, the Tunis program of work indicated that this enhanced cooperation would allow governments to play their full role and implement their responsibilities on an equal footing as regards international Internet policy.

This has not yet been done and is not yet the case. The report has not clarified this point and rather simply refers to the Tunis document on this subject. And this has not allowed us to make progress. It rather brings us back to the situation as it was ten years ago.

Madam Chair, this Commission has since 2006 been drafting an annual draft resolution clarifying progress made in implementing the WSIS outcomes. This draft resolution has been adopted by ECOSOC and then submitted to the General Assembly.

We feel that the best way to take stock of progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes would be to present all of these resolutions to the United Nations General Assembly. Indeed the Commission is making significant efforts to adopt these resolutions and reach a consensus on the subject of those resolutions and to give a clear idea of the progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes without having to use interpretations which should not really be made.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, we would like to stress the fact that this Commission is not responsible when it presents its report to the Council -- it is not responsible for adopting conclusions on progress made in implementing the WSIS outcomes.

This report which has been drafted by the secretariat is only one contribution to the revision and review which should be undertaken by the General Assembly on the basis of what was affirmed by the general secretariat in its report 670/63/2015/10 concerning progress made in implementation and follow-up on the WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels.

We hope the work of the CSTD will be crowned with success for the benefit of all the humanity. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you very much. Now I would like to call on Iran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

>>IRAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the secretariat for preparing 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.

Madam Chair, 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 recommendations to be considered in the context of the UN General Assembly discussions to take place in December 2015.

The analysis in the report and the chapter on the 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 and information society is very general. It does not offer any recommendations 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 essential to be established to enable developing countries to fully implement ICTs to suitably address their development needs.

Madam Chairperson, 85% of the world's 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, 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 these notable parts of the world in the future of WSIS, despite this clear fact that 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 the 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.

Madam Chairperson, the report needs to recommend tangible steps to overcome the challenges of Information Society. Thank you very much.

>>CHAIR: Thank you. Now I'd like to call on the Russian Federation.

Just before you take the floor, Russia, let me just read the order of interventions. After Russia, we'll have Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, China, Austria, United States, and Japan.

Russia, you have the floor.

>>RUSSIA: Thank you. Firstly, I would like to thank the secretariat for having prepared this report. We would also like to appreciate what has been brought to our attention and the fact that our comments were taken into account, the comments we presented in November reflecting the WSIS+10 Event in 2010 coordinated by ITU along with UNESCO, UNCTAD, and others.

We would like to note that ICTs are a driver of growth and development of the digital economy. And without ICTs, we will not be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The contribution of WSIS in this process is significant, and we agree with the opinion of Iran, India, and Saudi Arabia, as well as many others, to the effect that the development of ICTs is also interlinked with other challenges and new issues. And so it is extremely important that the WSIS process be continued and for it to be able to take into account new arising challenges. We hope that this reflection will also be supported by other participants in the meeting.

We would like everybody to understand and have a clear conception of the issues reflected in the Tunis phase, particularly as relates to the equal participation of States in Internet governance. And regarding enhanced cooperation, this is something which must be taken into account in post-2015 development planning.

We believe it is important that the outcomes be drawn not every ten years but much more frequently. We would like outcomes to be made every five years, which really is closer to the pace of technological development.

We very much welcome the Connect 2020 initiative, ITU, which has made a qualitative contribution and provided qualitative indicators of sustainable development.

And we also call upon all UN system agencies to adopt similar qualitative indicators to effectively assess the development of the digital sector. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Portugal, you have the floor.

>>PORTUGAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. And good morning.

We would like to thank the secretariat for the preparation of this document and to welcome the ten-year review of the progress made in implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society.

We cannot say that we support all the review, but we acknowledge how difficult it is to make this assessment. And now it's up to us to make it useful and workable.

The report shows the importance of the role of the ICTs and of the WSIS dynamics for the economic and social development. And we are not talking about development in developing countries. We are talking about development at worldwide level.

WSIS has been important for both developed and developing countries. It has been important to enhance e-government, e-business, e-learning, e-employment, e-environment, e-agriculture, e-science, open access to scientific information, and to better understand our weaknesses and what to do to change the paradigm towards better living and better lives.

Access and capacity-building continue to be pillars of these exercises as they are not important only for each country or region but to better understand ourselves.

ICT and science policies serve peace and should be seen as serving peace purposes all over the world. To that effect, IGF turned to be a very interesting tool for dialogue. And, therefore, we fully support its strength and continuation for another at least ten years.

We are in 2015. We just acknowledge a little bit its potential. The regional and national initiatives of the IGF showed up as mushrooms and demonstrate the potential of this dialogue. It has to continue as we need to understand how far we can go with this free dialogue on equal footing. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Switzerland.

>>SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Well, naturally, Switzerland played a very important role in the first phase of WSIS held here in Geneva. It is delighted to read this report that has been submitted for our consideration. It's a very good report and contains a wealth of information. It's also a very balanced report.

Of course, when you read the report, you can see that the digital divide has not been bridged as we all hoped. But we think that if WSIS and the whole WSIS process hadn't taken place, that divide would be even greater. And I don't think we need to demonstrate that and demonstrate anymore how useful that WSIS process has been if you look at the last ten years.

Obviously the world has changed as has been pointed out on numerous occasions. In 2005, it just wasn't possible to imagine all of the issues that we're facing now. And that's perhaps a sign that our work isn't complete and that the WSIS process as has been set up needs to be pursued.

I'm thinking of the IGF, for example. That process has shown how useful it's been. It's fostered dialogue. And if I remember the first week -- the first meeting of the IGF, the various stakeholders were getting to know each other and a number of steps had been taken, even though everybody doesn't agree entirely on all of those aspects.

The issue of enhanced cooperation is understood differently by different stakeholders. I myself chaired for the first two years that group within the CSTD looking at enhanced cooperation. And I know -- and I noted at that point how divergent the views on that were. It is a very great shame that we couldn't go further with that process.

Because in my view, we have addressed some of the issues. And we've seen improvements within and outside the UN sector that have enhanced cooperation between the different stakeholders on Internet governance and the Information Society. Perhaps everyone isn't satisfied with the progress that has been made, but that dialogue has been set in motion now within the IGF and elsewhere.

The issue of mapping is an important one as well. And as others have said, we hope that that's a process that continues.

We'd also like to mention an issue of great importance to us, the issue of the respect for human rights. I think that's an issue that should be raised and should be kept on the agenda for future discussions including in December in New York.

Going to that meeting in New York in December, the High-Level Meeting, obviously like others, we regret the date of that because the MDGs are going to be discussed before that meeting takes place in December. And so we are afraid that everything that's been at the heart of the success of WSIS isn't necessarily taken into account as it should be in the review of the MDGs. And it's a shame.

And we hope that other States would also point out in New York the importance of the WSIS process, the ICTs and everything that we've achieved within the WSIS process because it's so important that we continue to work together on this as we have been working.

Just perhaps a final remark, we've seen the importance of the work of this Commission on coordinating all of the work within the UN sector and outside of the UN sector, and I think it's important for the future to ensure that we retain that role coordinating within the UN system so that there is one body with an overview.

We saw so many things being done in relation to the Information Society throughout the world and in different bodies, it is important to keep that coordinating role.

Thank you. That's all I wanted to say at this point, Madam Chair. Thanks.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Sweden.

>>SWEDEN: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, also, secretariat, for the report and for the thorough presentation.

Sweden has long supported the development of a global Information Society. Through our international development assistance, we have been building IXPs and fiber networks, data centers, and e-government solutions throughout the world for at least 15 years.

But over the years as the world has developed and access to basic infrastructure has improved, we and many others have focused more on people, their access to and ability to use communication technologies to generate sustainable growth and further democracy and human rights and institutions that facilitate this development.

ICTs and the Internet are transformative technologies. They generate sustainable growth, lift people out of poverty, and improve whole societies. The United Nations has a role in sharing that ICTs as well as the Internet contribute to achieving development goals. The WSIS process has and can continue to contribute positively to the international agenda on these issues and to guide global capacity-building efforts.

WSIS plays an important role in focusing the work of the UN in this field. The work done so far on the review process with open, inclusive processes within UNESCO and the ITU form a solid base for the upcoming discussions in New York.

Bridging the digital divide between developed and developing countries is one of the grand challenges of our time. For Sweden, three key issues stand out. First, the discussion on post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals is well underway. It is crucial that the WSIS process is better aligned with these ongoing discussions.

Second, we need to ensure that the WSIS process remains focused and that is able to deliver on issues of development despite divergences over other issues such as Internet governance.

Third, Sweden wants to underline the importance of addressing not only the digital gap but also the digital gender gap. This is not only about equality and rights. It is a question of smart allocation of

resources. We can hardly afford to make use of only half of human potential for growth and innovation. Sweden, therefore, stresses the importance of working to ensure improved access to ICTs and Internet for women and girls.

The WSIS process is the forum where we should focus on substantive results, lifting people out of poverty, generating economic growth, improving access to education, healthcare, and financial services. The substantive and evidence-based report presented to the CSTD forms a solid basis for this endeavor, and we fully support its adoption and submission to the General Assembly. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

China.

>>CHINA: Thank you. Thank you, Madam. I would like to say the following few issues.

First, China highly commends the report. And we would like to extend our appreciation to the Commission for its work that has been done. We are of the view that this report is comprehensive at least for the ICTs' development and Internet development in China, it is of reference value.

Number two, we agree the views expressed by Brazil in terms of SDG especially in establishing an Information Society that focus on people and sustainable development. We believe that the vision of WSIS even at a time of today is still valued and it's not obsolete. It has established some basic principles. And these basic principles are still the golden rules for the society of today. For instance, the establishing of a democratic and transparent Internet governance system.

We pay great attention to the report in terms of working towards the future, the Tunis Agenda, and especially the ongoing active evolution of the current arrangements for international governance through transparent, democratic, and multilateral process with the participation of governments, the private sectors, civil societies, and international organizations in their respective roles. We highly appreciate the expressions of the above-mentioned contents in the report.

Number three, we have entered a new phase and we are faced with emerging and new challenges. WSIS should have its new mission to accomplish. In terms of Internet governance issues, China welcomes the fact that the ICANN management, the ICCAR, we believe that we have entered a new and crucial stage.

Number four, with regard to IGF cooperation, we commend and support the role played by the IGF. And we also support the extension of the mandate of the IGF.

With regard to enhanced cooperation, we believe that cooperation should not only remain (indiscernible) cooperation but also should be put into practice. And we should put in place concrete mechanisms, in particular developed countries and developing countries' cooperation amongst each other. That's all. Thank you, Madam President.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Austria.

>> AUSTRIA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to thank the secretariat for preparing this extensive report on WSIS+10. Austria would like to highlight a few elements that we consider particularly important for the WSIS implementation and the WSIS review.

As previous speakers, we would like to highlight the important role of ICTs and the Internet for the achievement of inclusive, social, and economic development. In this context, we believe it is important to recognize the potential of ICTs as key enablers of development and as critical components of innovative development solutions in an integrated post-2015 agenda.

Despite progress, a digital divide remains. But WSIS is not only about the development of infrastructure to have access worldwide, WSIS is also about the broader aspects of access like the respect for -- respect and promotion of human rights, in particular freedom of expression and the right of privacy.

It is also about promoting gender equality, cultural and linguistic diversity, local content, media independence and pluralism, education and capacity-building, access to information and knowledge, e-commerce. There are so many others. Those are just to name a few.

In other words, a single, open, free, and global Internet is essential for harnessing the social and economic potential of the Internet for innovation, growth, and unfolding the human potential in an inclusive Information and Knowledge Society.

We reaffirm our commitments to the multistakeholder model of WSIS and Internet governance. The implementation of the WSIS outcomes are responsibility of all stakeholders. Therefore, we believe the review at the General Assembly in New York should not only include all stakeholders but also take into account their contribution.

The Internet Governance Forum was clearly identified by the international community as a venue for continued discussion of the implementation of WSIS outcomes. Austria supports the strengthening of the IGF and the extension of its mandate beyond 2015.

Madam Chair, Austria is ready to endorse the report and its submission to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you. United States.

>>UNITED STATES: Madam Chair, thank you very much. We spoke yesterday so I'll try to be brief. I would like to address some of the comments made today. In the first instance, I would like to align ourselves with the Brazilian statement that the review establishes a good basis for the work that we're going to do here and the deliberations going forward both here and at the General Assembly. And we would also like to agree with India that it provides useful information and analysis for that purpose.

The vast majority of the comments thus far have been supportive of the review and noted both its factual and thorough and comprehensive nature. There have been some concerns expressed, and I would like to address those.

In the first instance, it has been said that the situation on enhanced cooperation is the same as it was ten years ago and that the report does not reflect that. Respectfully we disagree. The report reflects the fact that enhanced cooperation is actually ongoing in any number of different places, including the Internet Governance Forum, at various meetings of the ITU, the High-Level Event, at NETmundial, all of which include multistakeholder participation. All of which include cooperation between governments among themselves and with other sectors.

And within countries as well as between countries we've seen a dramatic increase in cooperation. As China itself recently -- and just endorsed or stated that the ICANN changes are welcome and do also include a degree of greater enhanced cooperation.

And I would also like to associate ourselves with China's call for the extension of the IGF mandate and welcome that -- welcome that call.

There was a statement that the CSTD each year takes a stock of the WSIS implementation and that the proposal was made to present those resolutions to UNGA and not present the review as a basis for conversation and deliberation. That would, in effect, ignore all other inputs.

This review did not isolate itself as a -- as a CSTD review. Nor was it directed by UNGA to do so. It took into account all of the other inputs made by our sister agencies as well as other stakeholders and individuals participating in the review process. As our colleagues from Austria have said, it is important to take into account all of the contributions and all of the basis that are participating in the process.

Our colleagues have also in one statement of concern stated that the report was insufficiently thorough in the sense that it did not recommend tangible steps for forward process. That was not the purpose of the review. The purpose of the review is to take stock of the last ten years. It is our responsibility that -- not just of those in this room but of all stakeholders and people interested to recommend tangible steps going forward for the purposes of UNGA consideration. But even in the purposes of UNGA consideration, that consideration is predominantly of a review of the WSIS implementation of the last ten years.

And like others, we believe that the WSIS vision and the WSIS principles are sufficiently strong and have withstood the test of time that as changes to technology and the challenges we face as stakeholders continue to grow and arise, that the framework for addressing them is embedded within not just the WSIS vision but also within the processes that we've adopted since then including regular reviews, discussion and deliberation, not just in this body but at numerous other bodies including the WSIS Forum at the ITU and multiple other organizations.

Thank you very much.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Japan.

>>JAPAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everyone.

Let me first appreciate the report made by the CSTD secretariat for this draft. Since 2005, we have made a lot of efforts all over the world to implement the outcomes of WSIS including Tunis Agenda in order to (indiscernible) Information Society. The environments surrounding Internet and ICT has changed a lot since 2005. However, Japan strongly agrees the report indicating that the WSIS outcomes are still effective now and in the future.

Therefore, what is important is to reiterate and analyze what has been obtained among the WSIS outcomes and what has not been met objective from various aspects.

I also believe it is important to clarify the points which have to be carried out for the future issues and solution in order to realize the Information Society in 2015 and afterwards.

In order to do that, it is better for us to fulfill the WSIS ten-year review by obtaining by support of cooperation from all stakeholders.

Furthermore, Japan believes that there are some agenda items to be considered in order to resolve the international public policy issues regarding Internet towards realization of WSIS outcomes.

The first one is that an open, inclusive, and holistic approach should be applied. To second is, we should ensure free flow of information on the Internet. The third is the multistakeholder approach to the Internet governance should be maintained.

The government of Japan believes the CSTD is the best venue to provide an objective, evidence-based, and data-driven review for overview by the UNGA of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS taking into consideration the other information points.

We, Japan, support the draft report prepared by the CSTD secretariat for it quite extends the role in providing such a review.

Japan would like to associate our service with comments made by U.K., Canada, Switzerland, and the U.S. and other colleagues that this draft report is very balanced and CSTD should submit this draft report via ECOSOC to the UN General Assembly, although Japan does not necessarily agree with all of it. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Mexico.

>>MEXICO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My delegation welcomes the report on the review of outcomes of the WSIS process, and it draws attention to issues of Internet international public policy. We also welcome the work of the Commission reflected in the text on implementing the results of WSIS and the ten-year review.

It's clear that the use and development of ICTs continues to change tremendous pace as the figures show in the reports, although there were great disparities from one country to another and in particular between developing and developed nations.

ICTs and their contribution to the development of an Internet -- Information Society and their key role in development must be taken into account in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

And that's why as we have the overall review of the outcomes of the WSIS process in 2015, this is a wonderful opportunity. Nevertheless, we need to maintain the vision established in WSIS of an Information Society, a people-centered and inclusive and development-oriented society.

In the review and assessment of progress in implementing the WSIS outcomes in the Tunis Agenda, we recognize the role of the CSTD as coordinating follow-up of activities of the whole system. And here we are meeting the mandate given to us by the GA concluding the report of the CSTD on the examination -- on the assessment of this.

In December, we met in New York to consider results and weaknesses and challenges and progress made in implementing ICTs. And as part of that process, ECOSOC asked the Commission to begin a series of consultations which is completed today with the submission of the report.

We recognize that this document has included the inputs of a number of delegations represented here and a number of stakeholders who also participated throughout the consultation process plus the High-Level Event of WSIS+10 and the meeting in which Mexico played a very important -- an active role.

I think it's a report that reflects their all common values on broadband, on developing the capacity of users, on the ICT capacity-building, on security, on adopting regulatory frameworks, e-commerce, cloud computing, and the Internet of things and Internet governance. Ideas shared by many stakeholders.

And on each of those issues, we are identified a willingness on the part of stakeholders to meet the roles and responsibilities that were assigned to them within the context of WSIS process.

Mexico is of the view that there are substantive elements in the documents submitted to us that are now guiding a number of our national policies in this regard, in particular in respect of Internet governance.

And in Mexico, we have shown our interest recognizing the plurality of an ecosystem that we have set in place. And we believe that there should be a human rights perspective here overcoming the digital divide, guaranteeing respect for the neutrality of the Internet. Over the past decade, we have always believed that an Information Society is a society in which technology facilitates the creation and distribution and use of information and that that has a very important role to play for social, cultural, and economic activities in general.

So the notion of the Information Society has been inspired by development programs of industrialized countries, and it has taken on a political connotation rather than a theoretical one. And it is often presented as a strategic inspiration that can help us overcome a lack of social progress.

The need to implement the results of the Summit is the responsibility of all. And the General Assembly has encouraged us to intensify and continue enhanced cooperation since WSIS and the establishment of a multisectoral approach in the Tunis Agenda as the best mechanism for decision-making relating to Internet.

Mexico has given its commitment to integrate the voices of all stakeholders. We recognize the value of ICTs as enablers of development in overcoming the digital divide because about 50% of Mexicans are still unconnected. And we hope that it will be over the next few years.

We can't see these challenges separately. They are enormous challenges, and we need to have an ambitious agenda in which we all need to take on the responsibilities assigned to us.

Finally, Madam Chair, Mexico is fully prepared to approve the report in the Commission and send out a positive signal for the conclusion of the WSIS process. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Pakistan. Pakistan, please go ahead.

>>PAKISTAN: Sorry. Thank you, Chair, ladies and gentlemen. Pakistan has always contributed positively to development initiatives of the United Nations. My country appreciates the efforts made by the secretariat in producing an exhaustive report which although has covered a wide range of areas but has been found deficient in getting feedback on the implications of these efforts.

Pakistan feels that the potential of ICTs as cross-cutting enablers of sustainable development is not well-embedded in the post-2015 development agenda discussions. References to ICTs are limited and inadequate within the outcome documents of Rio+20 and Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

There is need to broaden the current ICT for the disclosure to give ICTs a more central draw in the development process.

ICTs should not be seen really as tools that achieve particular aspects of development but rather as a platform that mediates development. TV white space or momentarily unused spectrum applications have potential in bridging the digital divide by ensuring broadband fuller WiFi access in many countries. They also could contribute to generating jobs in areas such as disaster response, smart city applications, and environmental monitoring.

While regulatory measures are currently being developed in several countries to enable the development of TV white space applications, regulatory initiatives in many countries impedes wider application of this technology. Next-generation small satellites provide an easy access route to space for developing countries as they are easy to build and relatively inexpensive.

Madam Chair, these satellites have applications in areas such as agriculture, monitoring climate change, mitigation, and adaptation, disaster response, weather monitoring, and rescue operations.

While the ICT access divide has been narrowing with increased penetration of mobile technology, the divide in terms of capabilities has been widening. As a result, ICTs can create and also exacerbate the inequalities that exist in society.

(indiscernible) our ability of appropriate local content on the Internet can hinder inclusive digital development. A well-developed digital ecosystem is a primary requirement for effective digital development and the facilitation of cross-formative impacts on society through ICTs, recognizing and reinforcing the linkages between different components of the digital ecosystem, and strengthening its weaker components is crucial.

Pakistan feels that the post-2015 development agenda process on the need for a more central role of ICTs as enabler and means of achieving the sustainable development goals through sustainable inputs through relevant processes and bodies within the United Nations.

It should provide a forum for sharing best practices in terms of developing national and regional regulation and incentive mechanisms to facilitate the application of new emerging activities such as TV white space applications, and next-generation small satellites in bridging the digital divide. It should act as a repository of best practices and policy measures to enhance digital innovation capabilities particularly of millennials in developing countries in order to enable them to make best use of opportunities offered by ICTs.

The member countries must collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, develop regulations and initiate pilot projects that will facilitate the wider application of emerging technologies.

Bring ICTs to core of national and international development agendas by recognizing their cross-cutting, enabling role in attaining the sustainable development goals.

Conduct audit of national digital ecosystems to identify weaknesses and make effective policy interventions to strengthen the weaker components of the digital ecosystem while recognizing the interlinkages between its diverse components.

Mobilize and direct financial resources through multiple channels including crowdfunding and public/private partnerships to strengthen ICT infrastructure, including human resources capabilities in developing countries.

Encourage the creation of collaborative -- sorry, encourage the creation of collaborative structures for digital development policy that will help bring together different stakeholders to create coherent policies to deem effectively the different focus areas of digital policies such as promoting digital inclusion and digital sustainability, strengthening their digital ecosystem, and limiting digital threats.

Use of ICTs to create channels that engage millennials in the implementation process of national development agenda and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

State adequate policy interventions and spread awareness to limit threats related to ICT users such as cybercrime, gambling, pornography, the curtailment of human rights, and the creation of monopoly (indiscernible) in ICT services.

Encourage the development of local content on Internet and other ICT applications as a means to ensure digital inclusion and bridge the content divide.

Collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of ICTs in non-ICT sectors to improve environmental sustainability and ensure the creation of sustainable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste.

In this effort, Pakistan is already there to support its sister organizations, countries, and United Nations organizations. I thank you very much.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Zambia.

>> ZAMBIA: Thank you, Chairperson.

I would like to thank the Chairperson and the secretariat for a well-presented WSIS report.

We, indeed, note that a lot of progress has been made on the Action lines especially regarding access to ICTs in rural communities in most of the developing countries.

Madam Chair, this progress, however, brings with it some challenges. In particular, we make reference to Internet fraud and cybersecurity. This challenge is of concern to Zambia and we believe also to many other developing countries.

Madam Chair, interventions to deal with cybersecurity at a national level may not be adequate. And, therefore, Zambia calls for enhanced cooperation at regional and international levels to deal with this challenge.

In addition, we call for further support to developing countries by stakeholders in order to deal with the challenge of Internet fraud and cybersecurity.

Madam Chair, we thank you very much indeed.

>>CHAIR: Thank you. Cameroon.

>> CAMEROON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My Minister for Science and Technology of Cameroon, Belafonte (phonetic), once again, has asked me to thank you for your management of our work and also to thank the secretariat for the excellent report presented to us today. To this end, on her behalf and on our behalf, we note what has been said about the implementation and follow-up of the progress made in implementing the WSIS outcomes. Encouraging progress has also been made in Africa in particular. This is, therefore, noted in the report.

But there are also several comments that we would like to make about these general comments. We have the feeling that the challenges such as the gap between African countries have not been taken into account because after all, not all African countries have made the same level of progress. Countries in francophone Africa do not do so in the same way as English-speaking Africa, for example. And the southern Africa as well has not done things in the same way.

So there is this generalization that has been made. We would have preferred the cases of some African countries that are more developed than others to be presented.

We welcome also the fact that the report notes how Africa may be left out and left aside from the economic development due to the modest progress that has been made. So this is another opportunity for us to invite the international community to grant what we could perhaps call ethical development assistance or ITC [sic] development assistance to Africa because we know that trade is increasingly globalized in Africa.

It is the big companies that have a good level of ITC -- ICT development. We feel that the barriers faced in making progress with ICTs could really paralyze global trade. So it is vital that we adopt a resolution inviting other countries, including developed countries to grant aid to help develop ICTs in Africa. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Australia.

>>AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. Australia supports the forwarding of the CSTD's report on its review of WSIS to UNGA. The review report provides a good balance of views and perspectives as well as a clear assessment of progress against the WSIS Action lines.

We join the U.K., Switzerland, the U.S., Japan, and many others in supporting it being submitted to the UNGA overall review process in its entirety.

Australia continues to see the primary objective of the WSIS process to be bridging the digital divide and promoting development through the use of ICTs. The involvement of all stakeholders in this process is essential to achieve this objective. Accordingly, it is Australia's position that all interested stakeholders should be included in the UNGA overall review of WSIS this year.

While we agree that Internet governance is an important issue, we think policy discussions in this area should be undertaken separately from the WSIS review process. Internet governance discussions are best undertaken in a multistakeholder environment, including at the IGF.

Australia supports the extension of IGF's mandate but notes this has a decision for UNGA and not within the CSTD's mandate.

We look forward to constructive discussions throughout the week on these issues and thank the CSTD for its work on the review which we believe presents an excellent basis for this group's contribution to the UNGA overall review of the WSIS process. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you very much. I think with that intervention from Australia, we have covered all the member countries that would like to make an intervention. So I would like to now move to the observers, NGOs, and civil society.

I will call on The Internet Society to make their own intervention.

>> ISOC: Madam Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, The Internet Society welcomes the opportunity to deliver a statement to the 18th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. We would like to thank the secretariat for producing this comprehensive report.

The Internet Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 to ensure that the Internet works and reaches all people around the world. We do that through technology.

ISOC is the organizational home to the Internet Engineering Task Force which sets open interoperable standards for the Internet. We do that through development, building capacity for engineers in the local community in all regions.

ISOC has also participated into WSIS during its first phase and has participated actively in the entire preparatory process as well as in the Geneva and Tunis Summits.

It is not by chance that we have gone from 1 billion Internet users to more than 3 billion in 2015. As we assess ten years of WSIS implementation, we should not forget to celebrate success and emphasize what has worked well.

First, collaboration and inclusiveness have been key for the continued growth in adoption and use of ICTs as means for digital opportunities and for bridging the digital divide. We consider the ability of different stakeholders from different backgrounds to exchange views and ideas in a collaborative environment as one of the greatest achievements resulting from the WSIS process.

As The Internet Society, we consider that cooperation is key in achieving the existing and any future goals of the Information Society. To this end, we view multistakeholder governance not as an end mean by itself but as a means towards achieving this end.

We would like to stress the importance of investment in broadband networks and services as well as the role of capacity-building. Since its creation, The Internet Society has been undertaking a significant amount of work in ensuring that more people get faster and more affordable access to the Internet. Examples include our work on Internet exchange points, inviting policymakers to the IETF, training engineers to deploy IPv6 technology, or promoting the importance of local content for Internet development.

Recently, we released a case study on local content in Rwanda that we would welcome you to read.

As the Internet environment is constantly changing, The Internet Society has been working closely with other stakeholders to ensure the trust on the Internet, its design and governance persists. By now we know that no one can do it alone. Cooperation and partnerships are key.

We believe that now more than ever it is paramount for all stakeholders to collaborate in order to address issues of security, stability, and resiliency. Collaborative multistakeholder models are key in enforcing a secure and robust Internet.

The IGF has been a catalyst that has given context to the meaning of multistakeholder participation and has enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders. The IGF has proved to be an extremely useful platform. And the national and regional IGF-type meetings that have sprung up all over the world are evidence of how necessary it is to insist on an inclusive and cooperative Internet environment.

Indeed, the IGF has helped governments reaching better decisions and implement the WSIS Action lines together with all relevant stakeholders. Since last year, the IGF on the -- excuse me. Since last year, the IGF has actually created new best practices about key Internet issues in order to provide participants with more tangible take-aways while maintaining the informal setting that has proved so valuable.

As we progress towards the final stages of the WSIS ten-year review, The Internet Society recognizes that a lot of work has been done but more is required. We would like to reiterate our belief that Internet governance can only be successful if the Internet community continues to work closely in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner.

To this end and in the spirit of collaboration that has marked the past ten years, our final call would be for the WSIS+10 review process this year to be as inclusive of all stakeholders as possible. We stand ready to contribute positively to this process as much as we can.

We welcome the opportunity to be part of the WSIS implementation and review efforts and very much look forward to continuing to work with others. We would like to thank you again for the opportunity to be part of this discussion.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

The Association for Progressive Communications.

>> APC: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm reading the statement on behalf of the APC, which is a civil society network of more than 50 members around the world and the Internet Democracy Project.

We urge CSTD member States to put in this review of the WSIS the original goal at the center of its deliberations. This being the goal of a people-centered, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society where everyone can create, access, utilize, and share information and knowledge enabling individuals, communities, and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their

sustainable development and their quality of life. This is an enduring vision, and much still needs to be done to realize it.

We would like to also mention eight points or eight areas that we think would be valuable for you to consider this week. Firstly, on the report, we welcome this report. It's a comprehensive review. Probably the most comprehensive review.

And its value lies in that it draws on many sources but particularly on public submissions from stakeholders around the world.

It offers also a balanced view of different perceptions of the state of WSIS implementation. So we encourage CSTD members to take this report fully into account and to mention it in this year's resolution.

We think it would be very valuable and of assistance to member States when they conduct the review in New York.

Secondly, the centrality of development, many others have mentioned this as well. And harnessing the potential of ICTs for development needs to be prioritized, including in the post-2015 development agenda. And as Pakistan has noted, there isn't that much reference to it at present.

This also requires more than access to technology. It requires investment in human development, institutional capacity, human rights, and democratic, transparent, and accountable governance.

It needs more just societies, and building more just societies is a process which is far more demanding and significant than the narrower Internet governance issue which has dominated much post-WSIS intergovernmental debate.

Thirdly, affordable and public access. We agree with the CSTD report that much still needs to be done to achieve affordable access. We commend the work of many other UN agencies in working on access to infrastructure. But we want to reiterate the importance of public access which was mentioned in the WSIS documents: Access in libraries, access in community centers, access for people that are economically and socially marginalized.

We also would like to remind member States to consider the principle of network neutrality in efforts to increase access -- quick-fix solutions being offered by private sector actors such as zero-rated access to social networking -- can actually not necessarily provide the quality access that is necessary to really drive development in developing countries.

Human rights, we welcome the mention of human rights in this report. And we believe, I think with many others, that its reference in the centrality of human rights in the WSIS documents is one of its most enduring features.

And I think it's significant that ten years later the principle that human rights standards apply online as well as offline is now universally accepted, if not universally respected.

In particular, rights to freedom of expression and to privacy are being violated in many places through online censorship and through mass surveillance.

Going forward, we believe that there needs to be a renewed commitment by States to advance social and political rights but also to explore economic, cultural, and social rights on the Internet.

And we think that the NETmundial statement of April 2014 provides a very valuable set of rights-informed principles which can be discussed inside the UN system as a basis for international agreement, agreement on principles for Internet governance that respect human rights.

On gender, we commend the report for paying attention to gender and remind everyone in the room that the Geneva Declaration of Principles stated that women should be an integral part of and key actors in the information society and also that the information society should enable women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making process. Another goal which still needs to be achieved.

Good governance. Transparent and accountable institutions and citizen participation in governments are critical to achieving the WSIS vision and we believe has not received enough attention in WSIS follow-up and implementation discussions. Going forward, we, therefore, would like to see more emphasis on good governance at national level, in the WSIS review, and in the post-2015 development agenda.

IGF renewal, we strongly support Brazil's statement of this morning on making the IGF permanent. We would like to see all stakeholders contribute to a stronger IGF in line with the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on IGF Improvements and in the NETmundial statement and roadmap.

A stronger IGF can play a more effective role in informing other Internet governance and policy processes. It can also provide a platform for monitoring and evaluation inclusively of progress and achieving an Internet that operates as a public resource for all.

We would also like to see greater participation of governments in the IGF.

On participation, we urge the CSTD to recommend that the President of the General Assembly and the eventual co-facilitators of the WSIS review later this year ensure an open, inclusive, and transparent process with meaningful input from all stakeholders.

Multistakeholder participation in Internet governance has evolved since WSIS and needs to evolve further. We believe they need to be more fully democratic and inclusive. But recognizing the need to improve the multistakeholder process should not come at the expense of not affirming the principle of multistakeholder participation which, again, is one of the great contributions of the WSIS process.

This effective cooperation among stakeholders really still remains a challenge, particularly in places where civil society is not free to play one of its more significant roles, that of independent actors holding governments and businesses accountable for furthering the public interest and protecting human rights. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you. I have just seen South Africa's card up. So I would take South Africa as the last intervention for this morning.

And when we reconvene in the afternoon, we will take ICANN, ICT for Peace, and the ICC.

South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

South Africa thanks UNCTAD for its report on the ten-year review on implementing the WSIS outcomes. We believe that it provides a basis for further deliberation. Like all countries present, we, too, acknowledge the critical role of ICTs as a tool to leverage development not only in developing and least developed countries.

Madam Chair, the world we envisaged in 2005 has exceeded all expectations in 2015 due to the fast pace of innovation and technology. However, many challenges still abound such as the digital divide, broadband infrastructure, access to content in local languages as well as a host of new challenges that have emerged.

In this regard, the work of WSIS remains valid. And focused attention should be paid to exploring full potential of ICTs to enable growth and development.

Madam Chair, with regard to the IGF, we acknowledge its contribution to the robust debate on a wide range of issues not fully understood at the beginning of the WSIS process such as net neutrality, cybercrime, cloud computing, and big data and would support the furtherance of the work of the IGF.

We also look forward to clear guidance on operationalizing enhanced cooperation as envisaged in the Tunis Agenda to enable governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. Thank you.

>>CHAIR: Thank you.

Just before we close, I'd just like to tell delegates that for the very first time, this session is being streamed on the Web. There is a Webcast that is available for all of today's substantive session, and it is on the CSTD Web site. We've already sent information to the Commission members in advance. But just in case you would like to tell your colleagues, this is actually being broadcast live on our Web site.

Thank you very much. We will -- I hereby adjourn this morning's session. We will reconvene at 3:00. And as I said, we'll start with the intervention from ICANN. Start with the intervention from ICANN at 3:00. Thank you.

(Morning session adjourned.)