

**Development-
Oriented Policies
for a
Socio-Economic
Inclusive
Information
Society**

11th Session of CSTD, Geneva

WSIS Declaration of Principles

A socio-economic inclusive information society is a reality 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 improving their quality of life...” (emphasis added).

Back to Basics

- What is development
- What is an inclusive society
- what is people centric

‘Broadband is essential for building institutional capacity’

Broadband – the New Digital Divide

Or is it the Internet ???

- Internet versus mobile telephony
- Will a mere extrapolation of mobile telephony policies do

‘The 50 % WSIS target already reached’
‘USFs are underutilized’

What is the Problem?

What is 'access' and what is the 'divide'?

- Broadband – a technical view
- Internet – a socio-technical view
- What is done by and through the Internet – a social and development view, or the IS phenomenon view

'lets not see what goes into ICTs, but what comes out'

What do 'those people' do on the Internet

Simple – we just do not know, as we did not know what 'we' would do, 2-3 years back

- Participatory development and new public information systems
- Community radio and video
- Tele-health? Market prices?

Connectivity Policy First or Content Policy ? ?

- What Internet gets provided today
- Taking a 'development view' of 'content' - content sovereignty

Is there a different angle to the 'mobile telephony or Internet' debate

Development-Oriented Content/ Application Policies

Is it at all a feasible policy option for developing countries

- What, Who and How of 'developing content'
- Capability rights – basic needs – development policy
- *Enabling environment* for community appropriation of ICTs

How Content Leads Connectivity - The Indian Experience

Three stages of Internet connectivity policies

- Lay the pipe – and they will come
- Put out content and institutional delivery system – the ‘services model’ or ‘plug-in model’
- Build community capabilities to appropriate the Internet - ‘community ICTs’ model

Development-Oriented, People Centric IS Polices

- Content policy – who and how, community ICTs model
- Connectivity and ICT polices – public good, rights based approach
- Using Universal Service Funds

‘We cant wait for 20 years for everyone to get broadband’

‘Broadband in not a luxury’

‘Lack of access to broadband will exclude people’

‘Rate of social return is higher for servicing poor people’

‘Governments should stay out of telecom/ ICT arena’

IS Polices - Institutional Requirements

National Level

- Go developmental – part of development policy
- Restructuring IT departments
- Go local – make local authorities responsible

Global Level

- Greater South – South cooperation in the IS arena
- Create an institution for research, analysis and policy support for ‘development in the IS’

you

Thank