

**INPUTS ON CHAPTER 1 OF THE OPERATIONAL PART OF THE TUNIS DOCUMENTS**

**SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY  
THE INFORMAL COALITION ON FINANCING<sup>1</sup>  
AND  
THE GENDER CAUCUS**

<b>Existing text</b>	<b>Proposed text</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p>1. We recognise that it is now time to move from principles to action, by encouraging stakeholders to take the Plan of Action one step further, identifying those areas in which progress has been made in implementing the commitments undertaken in Geneva, and by defining those areas where further efforts and resources are required.</p>	<p><b>We recognise that it is now time to move from principles to action, while considering the work already being done for implementing the POA and identifying the areas of such progress, all stakeholders must define those areas where further effort and resources are required, and jointly develop appropriate strategies and implementation mechanisms at global, national and local levels. In particular, we need to identify peoples and groups that are still marginalized in their access to and utilization of ICTs.</b></p>	<p>There is a clear contradiction between “it is time to move”..... and “take the POA one step further”</p>
<p>2. We acknowledge the leading role of governments in implementing the WSIS Action Plan at the national level. We encourage, as appropriate, those governments that have not yet done so to elaborate comprehensive, forward looking and sustainable national e-strategies, as an integral part of national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, in partnership with other stakeholders[, by 2008].</p>	<p>..... and sustainable national e-strategies, <b>including sectoral e-strategies</b>, as an integral part.....</p>	<p>The national e-strategies often do not adequately mainstream ICTs in all areas of development activity, and therefore the need for sectoral e-strategies must be emphasized as a key principle in implementation</p>

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<sup>1</sup> This coalition of NGOs came together at precom 2 of the Tunis phase to lobby on the financing issue. It comprises CRIS Campaign, APC, IT for Change, ITeM, Bread for All, and Digital Divide Data of GKP.

<p>3. We value regional and international integration efforts as a contribution to the development of the global Information Society, and strong cooperation within and among regions is indispensable. The regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity-building and to the development, as appropriate, of national e-strategies and, regional implementation strategies. South-South cooperation shall be enhanced in order to foster knowledge sharing.</p>	<p>and international integration efforts as a contribution to the development of a <b>development-oriented</b> global Information Society</p> <p>We support Argentina's input for including the mention of <b>sectoral e-strategies</b></p> <p>We support India and Brazil's input to strengthen the last line.</p>	<p>Information Society is by itself a problematic expression, and understood in very different ways, and at all places the vision stated in the DOP of a development-oriented Information Society needs to be stressed explicitly.</p>
<p>4. Exchange of views and the sharing of effective practices are essential to implementing the Geneva decisions at the regional and international levels. To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share useful knowledge and know-how, related to the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of national e-strategies and policies, as appropriate, in order to bridge the digital divide.</p>	<p>and evaluation of national e-strategies and policies, as appropriate, <b>in cooperation with all stakeholders</b>, in order to bridge the digital divide.</p> <p>To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share useful knowledge and know-how, <b>including successful approaches to Gender Mainstreaming</b>, related to ...</p>	<p>These are the areas where multi-stakeholder involvement, especially of the civil society organisations, is most relevant</p>
<p>5. We reaffirm that, through the cooperation and partnership of all stakeholders, it will be possible to succeed in our challenge of harnessing the potential of ICTs as a tool to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration and thereby to continue improving the social welfare and development of all human beings.</p>	<p>as a tool to achieve <del>the</del> <b>internationally agreed development goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration, as well as national and local development priorities</b> .... And thereby to further the socio-economic development of all human beings.</p>	<p>Internationally agreed development goals, including those of the MDGs, is the language used in Geneva documents. Exclusive mention of MDGs narrows down the scope and potential of use of ICTs.</p> <p>The use of ICTs in a localised and contextualised manner for meeting local development priorities needs to be emphasised.</p>

<p>6. We are committed to achieving the indicative targets, set out in the Plan of Action, that serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015, and to using ICTs as a tool to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, by:</p>	<p>improving connectivity, <del>and</del> access, <b>adaptation and use</b> <del>in</del> the <b>use</b> of ICTs, for.....</p> <p>We support inputs from many countries to include these words - <b>universal</b> connectivity, <b>and non-discriminatory</b> access.....</p> <p>Modify New Zealand's first sentence: We reaffirm our commitment to providing equitable access to information and knowledge for all <b>women and men</b>.</p>	<p>The exclusive mention of connectivity and access undermines the importance of many qualitative indicators that may be more important.</p>
<p>a. mainstreaming and aligning national e-strategies across national action plans, as appropriate, [with in-built time-bound measures/if possible, by 2008], aimed at achieving the development goals of the Millennium Declaration;</p>	<p>aligning national e-strategies, <b>including sectoral e-strategies</b>, across national.....</p> <p>.....<b>achieving internationally agreed</b> development goals, <b>including those</b> of the Millennium Declaration, <b>as well as national and local development priorities.....</b>;</p>	<p>The Rationale for both these inputs has been provided earlier in the comments under point 5.</p>
<p>b. designing and implementing enabling policies and a regulatory environment that is supportive of ICT entrepreneurship and that promotes investment and the mobilisation of domestic resources;</p>	<p>designing and implementing enabling policies <b>that promote public effort and community-level collaboration</b>, and the mobilisation of domestic resources; <b>and ascertain that discrimination against women with regard to occupational segregation and labour segmentation, wage disparities and credit schemes is eliminated.</b></p>	<p>The market is not the only way to go. The role of public finance and of institutions at the community level need to be seen as presenting possibilities for an inclusive IS.</p>

<p>After 6 b, introduce a new point</p>	<p><b>Recognising digital Information &amp; Communications infrastructure, especially the Internet, as the very fabric of the Information Society, and promoting open connectivity access, free and open source software and open content paradigms, as three basic principles of this I &amp; C infrastructure, towards new production, ownership and access models that are compatible with a development-oriented IS.</b></p>	<p>While the WSIS proceeds from a grand statement of social changes so far reaching as to merit description as the Information Society, in the part on implementation, there is no will to go beyond existing socio-economic patterns to build on the new possibilities that are taking shape around us. One of the most important possibilities is the new forms of sharing and collaboration made possible by Internet based digital infrastructure that have clear implications for development, social change and human rights. The paradigms of open connectivity access, free and open source software and open content are widely recognised as having direct and deep implications for a development-oriented IS.</p>
<p>c. building the ICT capacities of people and improving educational programmes to allow greater access to ICTs;</p>	<p>..... <del>Building</del> <b>developing</b> ICT capacities of people, <b>with special emphasis on women, communities and institutions</b>, and <del>improving</del> providing continued educational programmes, <b>including through informal education and training</b>, to allow greater access to, <b>adaptation and use of ICTs.</b></p>	<p>Capacities of communities and institutions are as important as that of people.</p> <p>Women’s capacity-building calls for a clear commitment. Also, there is often evidence of greater impact of intervention at community level where women are the focus of programmes.</p> <p>Keeping focus only on formal education processes to increase ICT capacities will leave out the world’s majority.</p> <p>Capacity to <i>access</i> ICTs may be less important than the adaptation of ICTs for promoting localised use that serves community interests.</p>
<p>d. promoting community volunteerism in the ICT4D sector;</p>		

e. promoting public policies aimed at making/providing/ensuring affordable accessibility to hardware as well as software to populations living in developing regions, in particular in rural areas;	living in developing regions, in particular in rural areas, <b>taking into account the situation and requirements of disadvantaged and marginalised sections, including women;</b>	Public polices needs specific focus on different needs of differently disadvantaged groups.
f. improving access to the world's health knowledge, in areas as diverse as global cooperation in emergency response, to reaching health professionals and individual citizens to improve healthcare and quality of life;		

<p>g. establishing monitoring and early-warning systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters.</p>		
<p><i>Add to point 6.</i></p>	<p><b>establishing mechanisms to minimize negative impacts of the use and manufacture of ICTs on people and the environment, in particular the disposal and harvesting of parts and chemicals from computing devices.</b></p>	
<p><i>Add to Point 6</i></p>	<p><b>establishing programmes for academia, communities, industry, and governments for ongoing learning of good practices in the design and implementation of ICTs, in particular, the use of universal and participatory design and open technical standards.</b></p>	
<p>7. The Geneva Plan of Action identifies international performance evaluation and benchmarking, taking into account different national circumstances, as an important aspect of the follow-up and evaluation. We applaud the initiatives taken in this area, including by those key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of ICTs who have joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development". We encourage national statistical offices to assist these efforts by providing data and technical support.</p>	<p>We encourage national statistical offices to assist these efforts by providing data and technical support. <b>The evaluation and statistical system should be adequately geared to account for existing social realities, especially gender differences. We reaffirm the need to include gender-specific indicators and to conduct gender analyses on ICT use and needs.</b></p> <p><i>Delete</i> "who have joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development."</p>	<p>The task of measuring ICT for Development needs to be coordinated by the agency that is agreed to at the Summit as the implementing / coordinating body and cannot vest with current mechanisms and structures engaged with the activity.</p>

<p>8. We recognize that our goals can be accomplished through the involvement and cooperation of all Information Society stakeholders. We encourage continuing co-operation between and among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, for instance through the promotion of Multi-stakeholder partnerships including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), in a joint effort and dialogue with less developed countries, donors and actors in the ICT sector.</p>	<p>.....of <b>all stakeholders in the Information Society - governments, civil society, private sector and multi-lateral organisations</b>, .....</p> <p>We encourage <del>continuing</del> <b>greater</b> co-operation between and among stakeholders, <b>at global, national and local levels</b>, to ensure.....</p>	
<p>9. We commit ourselves to evaluate and follow-up progress in bridging the digital divide, taking into account different levels of development, so as to reach internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to assess the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the Information Society. We encourage all WSIS stakeholders to continue to contribute new and updated information on their activities to the WSIS stocktaking database, which was launched in October 2004 by the WSIS-ES and will be maintained by ITU, so that it becomes a valuable tool, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis Phase of the Summit.</p>	<p><b>We support Canada’s suggestion that In fact the ‘will be maintained by ITU’ be bracketed</b></p>	<p>The WSIS stocktaking database needs to be managed by the agency that is agreed to at the Summit as the implementing / coordinating body and cannot be maintained by current mechanisms and structures engaged with the activity.</p>

<p>10. In order to assure the sustainability of the WSIS process after the completion of its Tunis phase, we agree to establish an implementation mechanism for the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action, based upon co-operation among governments and all stakeholders, with the overarching goal of helping countries and societies to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. To that end, for each Action Line in the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action (as identified in the Annex), a team of stakeholders will work together to promote implementation. We request the UN Secretary-General to nominate, from among existing UN bodies or specialised agencies, those that will [moderate/coordinate] the work of each team, based on respect for their mandates and leveraging on their expertise, and within their existing resources.</p>	<p><i>Replace</i> .... “societies to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration” .... <i>with</i> <b>....internationally agreed development goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration, as well as national and local development priorities....</b></p> <p>To that end, for each Action Line in the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action (as identified in the Annex), <b>and for the two cross-cutting themes, women and ICTs and ICTs for local communities</b>, .. a team ...</p> <p><i>Delete</i>..... “within their existing resources”.... <i>Replace with</i> <b>Resources need to be mobilised so that agencies with expertise can be enabled to contribute towards implementation and coordination.</b></p>	<p>Rationale has been argued earlier</p> <p>The opportunities as well challenges brought for gender equality and women’s empowerment in the emergent IS are too significant to be ignored and need to be systematically pursued. Local community capacities is another important area.</p> <p>Existing resources are inadequate to facilitate meaningful participation of agencies with expertise. This mention is very limiting, especially in the context of the enormous and ambitious task of contributing to building a whole new society.</p>
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<p>11. The [moderator/coordinator] of each team identified in the Annex should periodically prepare a report on the implementation of the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action based upon the information provided by, and the outputs from collaboration among, stakeholders, focussing particular attention on the progress towards achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, and submit it to [a defined coordination body]. The [head of a defined coordination body] will submit regular reports to the UN General Assembly, following its existing rules of procedure.</p> <p>[Options for a defined coordination body (with participation of representatives of all stakeholders): ITU/WSIS-ES; “existing UN division” (within UN DESA) for following-up major UN conferences; Newly-created UN Inter-agency task force, HLSOC-type, (supported by a 2-3 person secretariat); Newly-created UN ICT Task Force-type forum (supported by 2-3 person secretariat);</p> <p>]</p>	<p><i>Replace</i> “internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration” <i>with</i> <b>internationally-agreed development goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration</b></p> <p>Include ... This defined co-ordination body, and the other structural mechanisms of the follow-up process, must be geographically located in the South.</p> <p><b>[We strongly support the establishment of an implementation agency reporting directly to the UN General Secretary, that is a supra-agency coordinating body, that coordinates the lead agencies for different areas, is built on the principles of WGIG and with a separate IG wing. The UNDESA could play this role. Further, the implementation structures need to be multi-stakeholder, composed through an open and inclusive process, with particular attention to achieving gender balance and equitable regional representation.]</b></p>	<p>For a greater and easier participation of the South, including Southern civil society, in the enabling processes for building an development-oriented Information Society, this spatial aspect is very critical.</p> <p>The ITU has a poor track record with regard to civil society participation, lack of open content approach to making publications freely available, too telecoms and not enough ICT in approach to policy. The ITU also has structural impediments to CS participation e.g. excessive membership fees, poor CS representation on ITU governance structures as well as Implementation secretariat.</p>
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<p>Our Suggestion for Action Line coordinators</p>	<p><b>Annex</b></p> <p><b>Action Lines</b></p> <p>C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for Development <b>[Moderator/Coordinator]</b> <b>UNDESA</b></p> <p>C2. Information and communication infrastructure <b>ITU</b></p> <p>C3. Access to information and knowledge <b>UNESCO</b></p> <p>C4. Capacity building <b>ITU with UNESCO/UNIFEM</b></p> <p>C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs <b>ITU</b></p> <p>C6. Enabling environment <b>UNDP</b></p> <p>C7. ICT applications <b>UNDP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● E-government <b>UNESCO</b></li> <li>● E-business <b>WHO</b></li> <li>● E-learning <b>ILO</b></li> <li>● E-health <b>UNEP</b></li> <li>● E-employment <b>FAO</b></li> <li>● E-environment <b>UNESCO</b></li> <li>● E-agriculture <b>UNESCO</b></li> <li>● E-science <b>UNESCO</b></li> </ul> <p>C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content <b>UNESCO</b></p> <p>C9. Media <b>--</b></p> <p>C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society <b>UNDP with UNIFEM/UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality</b></p> <hr/> <p>C11. International and regional cooperation <b>UNDESA</b></p> <p>B. Objectives, goals and targets <b>UNDESA</b></p> <p>D. Digital Solidarity <b>UNDP</b></p> <p>E. Follow-up and evaluation <b>UNDESA</b></p>
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