

WSIS  
Group of the Friends of the Chair



GFC4: Group of Friends of the Chair

open meeting 10 January 2005

ENSTA contributions

**First oral contribution.**

There were no instructions given to the TFFM members to limit themselves to economical and financial aspects, completely neglecting legal aspects. Furthermore, the Civil Society and CSB by a note and that has been approved by the last CSB meeting in Capetown last December and that has been communicated to H.E Karklins before GFC3 has strongly protested against the non-inclusive process of the constitution of the TFFM and its ensuing work. The TFFM report does not mention explicitly any input from the online forum organized by the TFFM, confirming therefore the non-inclusive aspect of the TFFM.

Therefore we recommend the following more neutral and non-committal language for the following paragraphs:

*12 We thank the UN Secretary-General for his efforts in creating the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and we acknowledge their report"*

*13. We notice that the TFFM has followed the mandate given by the Geneva phase of the Summit, for an economical and financial review of the adequacy of existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for development, that was limited by the constraints of the brief amount of time available.*

modify the end of paragraph

*20 .We note that this reflects the growing importance of private sector investment in infrastructure.*

and replace it with

*20 .. We note that this reflects the growing relative importance of private sector investment in infrastructure,while encouraging other stakeholders to maintain or*

*increase their efforts in absolute terms*

**Second oral contribution.**

Proposed language for the Operational Part Chapter II

After paragraph 15 within the topic "Scale of the problem"  
add the following paragraph

*15a We recognize that financial mechanisms that may contribute to bridge the digital divide must include at the same time mechanisms to lower the costs of access at their origin and principle of operation, as well as mechanisms to fund those reduced access costs.*

Replace 21 by a slightly modified version :

*21. Because there are many different funding mechanisms for ICTs for Development, we note that there is sometimes a mismatch between needs and available funding.*

In paragraph 24

improve the wording of the subparagraph

*-"Creating policy and regulatory incentives and more open access policies;"*

with

*-"Creating regulatory policies and incentives to support Open Access"*

( PS: unless the subparagraph was meant to say "create policy and regulatory incentives in general", not only for Open Access, but in that case, confusion should be avoided )

add the following subparagraphs :

*- Developing a suitable international public law framework for the creation and recognition of multi-stakeholder partnerships*

*- promoting equitable transit agreements and shared-cost peering agreements between Internet Service Providers in order to reduce internet access costs.*

*- supporting initiatives to raise awareness of the different software models : free software. open source, and proprietary software*

The GFC chair asked this language to be sent to him for further consideration,

### **Third oral contribution.**

Political Chapeau

Access to knowledge, science & education, multilingualism and their linkage to sustainable development are topics that must be briefly reaffirm, therefore either modify paragraph 8 or better add another paragraph stating :

*8a. We reaffirm our commitment to universal access to knowledge, to support Open Access initiatives for Science and Education. nd to strive towards an inclusive and multilinguistic society of shared knowlegde for sustainable development.*

**Written contribution.**(The GFC session continued beyond its scheduled duration and I had to leave to catch my train.)

Contribution sent on Tuesday 11 January morning by email, and received by the GFC secretariat on Tuesday 11 January morning during the closed session of the GFC.

Operational Part Chapter I

4. add at the end

*"before and beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the Summit"*

9. add at the end

*"both before and beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the Summit, in particular to help the process of the implementation mechanism, and to contribute to identify entities and initiatives that deserve recognition and support from all stakeholders, including UN specialized agencies, intergovernemental organizations, governments and philanthropic foundations."*

This would provide an opportunity to link the stocktaking exercise with the usefull task of the implementation of the Plan of Action, as well as introducing the next paragraph.

10 replace

*"We request the UN Secretary-General to define an appropriate UN body or specialised agency which will coordinate the work of each team, within its field of competence and existing resources."*

with

*"We request the UN secretary-general upon advice of the PrepCom president to designate a coordinator for each team that shall in turn constitutes a team according to the same inclusive procedures that have been applied for the constitution of the WGIG".*

Or alternatively, retaking almost verbatim the paragraph related to the WGIG constitution in the Geneva Plan of Action.

*"We request the UN secretary-general upon advice of the PrepCom president to designate a coordinator for each team that shall in turn constitutes a team, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums, to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate".*

We believe that the paragraph 10 of the Operational Part is an item of utmost importance. If the team process is not conducted with a team-like inclusive spirit between all stakeholders, the future WSIS could be put in jeopardy.