

Capetown, December 6, 2004

NOTE of the CIVIL SOCIETY BUREAU
to the PrepCom President of the Tunis Phase

The Civil Society Bureau (CSB) is deeply concerned by the slow progress of the Task Force on Financing Mechanisms (TFFM) and the fact the TFFM is far behind the schedule announced at PrepCom1 in Hammamet. The CSB is deeply concerned that the process of the establishment of the TFFM has not been inclusive and that the WSIS Civil Society has not been consulted and was not asked to propose candidates to be selected under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, to become members of the TFFM.

The CSB is very surprised by the reasons that were set forward, during the last Open Meeting of the TFFM in Geneva, by the TFFM chair to explain that an improved and enlarged Civil Society participation was not possible due to "cramped quarters".

The CSB is very surprised by the recent lack of answer by the TFFM chair when an IGO has proposed a financial contribution to help Civil Society participation. The CSB is taking notice that the online consultation undertaken by the WSIS has received little input which is not surprising in the context of a non-inclusive process. The CSB is concerned by the very restrictive and limited interpretation of its own mission by the TFFM which is risking to slow down the whole WSIS process.

The CSB is taking notice that the next GFC closed session in December is going to deal with Financing Mechanisms.

Therefore the CSB suggests the President of the PrepCom phase II to take into account the procedural concerns of the CSB at the next GFC meeting and to take procedural actions as appropriate.