

**Address by Delphine NANA MEKOUNTE,
President of ACSIS
(African Civil Society for the Information Society)
Network on ICT4D**

*On the occasion of the official Closing Ceremony of the 2nd
Edition of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Rio de
Janeiro, Brasil*

12 – 15 November 2007

ON BEHALF OF THE GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am pleased to speak in front of this distinguished audience on behalf of the Global Civil Society. First of all, I thank the organizers of this Forum for this opportunity that they offer us. By the same occasion let us congratulate them for the organization on this event.

Thanks to the people and the Government of Brazil for the cordial reception given us during our stay here in Rio.

My thanks also to all the partners who supported the participation of the civil society, in particular the Intergovernmental Organization of Francophonie (**OIF**).

How could I forget all the colleagues at the world level who showed much solidarity by taking actions and lobbying to support the participation of the Civil Society from Developing countries to this forum; , like those among the WSIS working group on Information Networks Governance and those of **CONGO**. A million thanks to you, dear colleagues

The same goes to all the Governments and in particular, those of developing countries, who integrated members of the Civil Society in their delegation. Our gratitude also go to you. This is evidence of a reinforcement of multistakeholderism as adopted in the Declaration of Principles in Geneva in 2003

As the curtains are drawn on the 2nd edition of the Internet Governance Forum (**IGF**) in Rio, here in Brazil, as Civil Society, we look back on our participation with satisfaction. Participating on the principle is very crucial. We are engaged to participate in the next editions which will be taking place in New Delhi in 2008 and in Egypt in 2009.

In the framework of Internet Governance, the Civil Society is very concerned by issues around cybercrime control, freedom of expression, the digital divide between the north and the south, transparent and international management of critical Internet resources and access; access, being a very fundamental issue for developing countries as well as the respect of language diversity.

The **Civil Society** does rejoice in the continued engagement of all the stakeholders in the progressive establishment of the Information Society, but we do require a new governance order for an Internet accessible to all.

A bit of word on Africa here, African countries cannot afford to be absent from this revolution, which we believe should be comprehensive, transparent and democratic.

In this framework, **ACSIS** has taken upon itself to lead discussions with all stakeholders towards proposing African Priorities in Internet Governance. This study will be the theme of our presentation during the next **IGF** of New Delhi in 2008.

In the light of the above, we are recommending to the United Nations in general and in particular the **IGF** Secretariat:

- to pay particular attention on the reinforcement of the framework of fellowship allocations to the Civil Society in the Developing Countries and issuance of visas to their nationals to facilitate their physical participation to the different meetings of the **IGF** process.
- Reinforcement of language diversity. Working documents, as well as audio recordings, should be translated in all the official United Nations Languages without exception, beginning with the website of the **IGF**.

- Reinforcement of multistakeholderism – Government, Private Sector and Civil Society
- To make more efficient, more transparent, more inclusive the working methods of the IGF Advisory Group.
- To implement, in its entirety, the mandate of the IGF and its organization as planned by the WSIS texts.

This, Mr President, Ladies and Gentlement, is the essence of this address by the Civil Society.

Thank you for your kind attention