
Room Document 4

26 October 2005

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WSIS Negotiation Session

Unesco Resolution

The General Conference of UNESCO, at its 33rd Session (Paris, 3-21 October 2005)

Recalling 166 EX/Decision 3.5.1 and 170 EX/Decision 94,

Reiterating its support of the concept of building knowledge societies along with four key principles, namely: freedom of expression; quality education for all; universal access to information and knowledge; and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, consistent with the outcome of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005),

1. Congratulates the Director-General on the prompt action undertaken to implement those parts of the WSIS Plan of Action that fall under UNESCO's competence and on having organized the four thematic meetings for WSIS;
2. Requests the Director-General to continue planning activities under document 33 C/5, in all Major Programmes, as appropriate, by taking into account the WSIS Plan of Action and the conclusions of the UNESCO thematic meetings for WSIS;
3. Encourages the Director-General to ensure high visibility of UNESCO and its principles at the Summit meeting in Tunis, Tunisia (16-18 November 2005), through the organization of parallel events and a UNESCO exhibit;

4. Requests the Director-General to ensure that the World Report on Building Knowledge Societies is widely promoted during the Summit meeting in Tunis;
5. Encourages the Director-General to continue to involve governments and other stakeholders (e.g. IGOs, NGOs, private sector, civil society) closely in the WSIS process and to promote multistakeholder partnerships;
6. Endorses the conclusion of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms referring to the central responsibility of governments for coordinating financing of ICT programmes and recommends further cross sectoral and cross institutional coordination both on the part of donors and recipients within the national framework.
7. Endorses the Director-General's approach to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes, stressing in particular:
 - (a) UNESCO's mandate and competence to act as a facilitator for the implementation of the Action Lines: "Access to information and knowledge"; "Capacity-building"; "E-learning and e-science (under 'ICT applications')"; "Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content"; "Media", and "Ethical dimensions of the information society";
 - (b) UNESCO's and ITU's prominent roles in the coordination of the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action, both at the Action Line level, and as needed in any overarching coordination mechanism or process and/or at the United Nations inter-agency level.
8. Requests the Director-General to report on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the Summit and UNESCO's action and activities in that area to the 34th session of the General Conference, through the Executive Board.
9. Encourages Member States to actively participate, at the highest possible level, at the Summit meeting in Tunis.