



Tunis Phase: PrepCom3
Friday 30 September 2005, morning session
A Civil Society Oral Contribution to Sub-Committee B

Final version

Dr. Francis MUGUET

ENSTA

on behalf of

Civil Society Working Group

Scientific Information

<http://www.wsis-si.org>

Civil Society Working Group

Patents, Copyrights & Trademarks

<http://www.wsis-pct.org>

and

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships Civil Society Family

<http://www.wsis-msp.org>

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen

These language propositions are in the continuation of informal propositions made during previous weeks and the informal proposal made at the end of GFC7, with modifications and further considerations.

It is proposed that the follow-up be conceived as a natural continuation of the WSIS process, focusing on procedural, assessment and stocktaking issues, without re-negotiation of substantive issues. Therefore the multi-stakeholder coordinating body should be conceived as the continuation of the WSIS multi-stakeholder process, while the ITU should retain an eminent role, vis-à-vis the coordinating body, in the spirit of UN General Assembly Resolution 56/183 - 90th plenary meeting, (21 December 2001) : *The General Assembly, recognizing the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration : .../... Invites the International Telecommunication Union to assume the leading managerial role in the executive secretariat of the Summit and its preparatory process;*

Since the follow-up is a process issue, it appears natural that the multi-stakeholder body should be constituted by a governmental bureau, assisted in an effective advisory capacity by the Civil Society Bureau and the Business Bureau (CCBI), therefore relying on known existing bodies with a reliable track record. We suggest that this body be completed, also in an advisory capacity, to facilitate the implementation process, by a representative of each United Nation specialized agencies and programs. The ITU might therefore be present in this capacity, not withstanding its different role as executive secretariat.

By a very recent [Note of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly \(19 August 2005 \)](#), the [updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 and 57/270](#), now must be taken into account by the WSIS preparatory process. This updated report deals only with the coordination of the various UN Summits follow-up, not with the specifics of the follow-up of a particular Summit.

While it has been stressed that each Summit is free to follow its own format, several possible avenues have been proposed for guidance :

- 1/ A new functional commission of ECOSOC
- 2/ An existing commission of ECOSOC
- 3/ The general assembly and/or ECOSOC assume direct responsibility of the follow-up.

It does not appears that the mandate of the existing ECOSOC Sciences & Technology commission could ever encompass the wide range of issues of the Information Society and the Summit. Our proposition is in line with the third avenue, since a Governmental Bureau is a representation of the General Assembly, and the coordinating body shall send frequent reports to ECOSOC concerning economical and social aspects. One should note that there are also important technical aspects since the ITU, a technical agency, received the mission to organize the Summit.

Following this approach, we suggest to re-order the paragraphs (in reference to DT6rev2, 12 August) and first to describe the overall coordinating body and then the coordination for each action line.,

Therefore, the following language is suggested :

Concerning the overall follow up process, an overall coordination body is formed that is composed from a governmental bureau in Geneva, assisted by a civil society bureau, a business bureau in their respective advisory capacity. The heads of all UN specialized agencies and programs are also members of the overall coordination body in their respective advisory capacity. We request the UN Secretary-General to

nominate a chair of the overall coordination body. The overall coordination body submits regular reports to the UN General Assembly, following its existing rules of procedure and in the spirit of the UNGA 57/270, reports to, and coordinates with ECOSOC concerning the economic, and social aspect of the Summit. The ITU assumes the leading managerial role in the executive secretariat of the coordinating body and the overall follow-up process of the WSIS. The number of members of the Governmental bureau is xxx, the number of members of the Civil Society Bureau and the Business Bureau shall not exceed this number, respectively. The ITU within its leading managerial role shall provide financial and secretarial assistance so that the participation of Civil Society Bureau to the coordination meetings could be made possible.

Our language proposal related to the action lines is:

To that end, for each Action Line in the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action (as identified in the Annex), a multi-stakeholder coordinating committee is formed as a subset of the overall coordination body and its composition and size as determined by the overall coordination body, taking into accounts the specifics of each action line, through in an open and inclusive process that ensures the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries. We request the UN Secretary-General to nominate a chair for each action line coordinating committee. Each selected UN specialized agencies for each action line assumes the leading managerial role in the executive secretariat of the relevant coordinating committee and relevant specific follow-up process. Selected UN specialized agencies, within their existing resources, bring financial and secretarial assistance to each relevant multi-stakeholder committee,, and specifically provide financial and secretarial assistance so that the participation of Civil Society to committee meetings could be made possible. Selected and concerned UN specialized agencies shall make their best efforts towards the implementation of each action line, leveraging on their specific expertise.

Concerning the selection of specialized agencies acting as executive secretariat of the committee concerning actions lines, it appears that ITU is fully suited and mandated to take care of infrastructure issues, while an opening to Civil Society seems highly desirable. It is rather clear that the action line *C3 Access to knowledge* is fully within the mandate and competence of UNESCO. Of course we underline the need for collaboration between all UN agencies.

We believe that our proposition is a practical conciliatory proposition, relying on know quantities, and in the spirit of the reform of the United Nations. It must be appreciated that the strong involvement of the governments would offer an guarantee

against the waste of existing resources within the UN system, and only a governmental body would have the authority and prestige to accomplish successfully such a task. The involvement of the Civil Society Bureau and the Business Bureau falls in line with the recommendations of the Cardoso report.

Since we are concerned with the practical success of the WSIS where multi-stakeholder partnerships are called to play a crucial role, we also suggest the following language to be added in the *Chapter Four : The Way Ahead*

xx. We encourage initiatives aimed at providing an international legal framework for multi-stakeholder partnerships for governance or sustainable development.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Dr. Francis Muguet muguet@wtis.org muguet@ensta.fr

Chair

Civil Society Working Group

Scientific Information

<http://www.wsis-si.org>

Co-chair

Civil Society Working Group

Patents, Copyrights & Trademarks

<http://www.wsis-pct.org>