

Draft Resolution for adoption by the Council¹

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Assessment of WSIS-implementation 2008

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recognizing the efforts by all stakeholders to implement the outcomes of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Welcoming specifically the efforts of the UN agencies and programs and of all regional commissions in implementing the WSIS goals, commitments and recommendations,

Recognizing the important role of Governments, as well as business and civil society entities including academia and local authorities in the shaping of the future of the information society,

Recalling its resolution 2006/46 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to assess the implementation of WSIS at the regional and international level,

Recalling the 2001 Human Development Report “Making new technologies work for human development” and its propositions, which remain valid,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270B and its resolution 2007/29,

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary-General on Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,

Noting also that ITU has adopted the theme “Connecting Persons with Disabilities: ICT Opportunities for All” to celebrate this year’s World Telecommunication and Information Society Day of 17 May 2008,

¹ This draft resolution is proposed to the CSTD by El Salvador, Finland, France, Latvia, Switzerland

A. Evolving challenges

1. *Observes* a change in nature of the digital divide: While overall the digital divide may be shrinking, a new form of digital divide is emerging in terms of difference in quality and speed of access to ICTs;
2. *Observes* that the disparity in access prices and quality between developed and developing countries continues: In developed, high-income economies, the average cost of a broadband connection is significantly less than in developing countries, both in nominal terms and as a percentage of the average monthly income;
3. *Observes further* the strong growth of mobile telephony subscriptions, especially in developing countries;
4. *Observes* a growing number of incidents affecting global network safety and security and provoking service blackouts in large regions of the world;
5. *Observes* that government work to reduce the digital divide by encouraging technology investment in underprivileged and less profitable areas has largely fallen short and that available Universal Access Funds are underused due to regulatory barriers, policy gaps and insufficient demand targeting;
6. *Observes* that although many governments have developed national ICT policies, information society as well as development strategies, in many countries there is not enough coherence and complementarity between national ICT policies and national development and poverty reduction strategies. Especially in poorer rural areas, the potential of the Internet and ICTs in general for development is not yet fully used or understood.

Recommendations

7. *Calls* on all stakeholders to increase efforts for funding and investment in ICTs, in order to advance broadband access, including wireless access, in areas and countries where it is still limited;
8. *Calls* on all stakeholders to increase efforts to reduce the disparity in access prices, including the establishment of local Internet Exchange Points, and to increase the number of operators in order to enable competition, also at the backbone level;
9. *Calls further* on all stakeholders to continue the development and spread of easy to use applications for mobile phones, especially applications that are useful in rural areas and work with low bandwidth and high latency;
10. *Calls* on all stakeholders to cooperate more closely in making global networks more stable, resilient and secure and in overcoming blackouts, incidents and attacks on these networks as fast and sustainable as possible;
11. *Recommends* the design of mechanisms and policies which ensure adequate infrastructure for universal access and a better use of Universal Access funds, including the financing of ICT infrastructure in underserved regions and areas;
12. *Recommends* the mainstreaming of national ICT-policies into national political processes, particularly into national Poverty Reduction Strategies;

B. Success of and shortcomings in the implementation of WSIS outcomes so far

13. *Welcomes* the success of the Internet Governance Forum, its multi-stakeholder approach and its innovative platform;
14. *Welcomes* progress towards developing multilingual capabilities on the Internet, particularly the discussions within ICANN regarding the introduction of Internationalized Domain Names;
15. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Partnership for measuring ICT for development to develop new indicators, especially in the field of ICTs and education but notes the lack of indicators to measure progress towards achieving the targets as set out in part B of the Geneva Plan of Action
16. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Regional Commissions in the coordination of WSIS-implementation, in capacity building and measuring of ICTs;
17. *Acknowledges* the efforts of all Action Line Facilitators to organize meetings of all Action Lines and commends specifically ITU and UNESCO for their efforts as lead Facilitators and conveners of the Action Line Facilitator's meetings;
18. *Observes* that the architecture for WSIS implementation as defined in the Tunis Agenda for the Information society is rather complex and that despite the efforts of the Action Line Facilitators, the principle of Action Line Facilitation set out in the Tunis Agenda has encountered difficulties in involving participation of all stakeholders;

Recommendations

19. *Recommends* that the international community preserves the Internet Governance Forum as a multi-stakeholder discussion forum focussed on public policy issues related to internet governance and avoid duplication with the WSIS action line implementation process
20. *Encourages* the collaboration among all stakeholders, including international organisations with regard to multilingualization of the internet
21. *Recommends* the creation of benchmarks and indicators in order to track progress towards the attainment of the specific goals and targets set out in part B of the Geneva Plan of Action;
22. *Recommends* that Action Line Facilitators, in cooperation with all stakeholders, should establish milestones, deadlines and calendars for their Action Line, taking into account the WSIS outcome documents;
23. *Stresses* the need to develop a set of ICT impact indicators at the household and community level in order to deepen the understanding of the relation between ICTs and the development agenda and to measure the effect of ICTs on empowerment, increased opportunities and increased security of poor people;

24. *Recommends* that Action Line Facilitation should be reviewed by all Action Line Facilitators in cooperation with all stakeholders, so as to make the facilitation process more effective, and invites all Action Line Facilitators, especially ITU, UNESCO and UNDP to consider the reallocation and the clustering of Action Lines;

25. *Recommends* the introduction of electronic working tools like mailing lists, web 2.0 applications, observatories and clearing house models in order to enhance multi-stakeholder participation;

26. *Recommends further* that in the reporting process to the CSTD Secretariat as set out in Resolution 2007/8, Action Line Facilitators could make themselves a first assessment of the progress achieved, but also of the difficulties encountered, by all stakeholders on the commitments and recommendations contained in their respective Action Line at regional and international level and make proposals for possible action to the CSTD, whenever necessary;

27. *Invites* all actors and institutions involved in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS to further clarify their respective roles and strengthen the mutual information about and complementarity of their work in order to make the most effective use of the resources available for the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS.

C. Other recommendations

28. *Calls* on all stakeholders, in the interest of future generations, to give due attention to digital preservation;

29. *Calls* further on all stakeholders to increase efforts to implement the ICT accessibility concept as spelled out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 9;

30. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by UNCTAD to support the review and assessment work of CSTD regarding WSIS follow-up;

31. *Recommends* that all stakeholders should redouble their efforts to implement the Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help to bridge the digital divide.
