INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

12th Meeting, Geneva   —   25-28 January 2008

Document: WG-WSIS-12/19
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English only

Chairman, Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS)

SUMMARY OF THE 12TH MEETING

Summary

This report summarizes the main results of the 12th Meeting of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS), held from 25-28 January 2008 in line with PP-06 Resolution 140 and Council Resolution 1282.

Action required

Council invited the WG-WSIS to facilitate membership input and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes, and to elaborate proposals to the Council that may be necessary for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society. In line with PP-06 Resolution 102, proposals concerning ITU's role in international public policy matters pertaining to the Internet are forwarded to Council via WG-WSIS.

References

Resolution 140 (Antalya 2006), Resolution 102 (Antalya, 2006). Council Resolution 1282

1.   Introduction

1.1   At the request of the ITU Council 2007, the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) held its 12th meeting from 25-28 January 2008 in Geneva, starting at 09.00 on the first day. The work of the WG-WSIS is conducted in line with Resolution 140 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), which calls upon the Working Group:

1.   *to facilitate membership input and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and;*

2.   *to elaborate proposals to the Council that may be necessary for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society. (Res. 140).*

The Group was also invited to consider and discuss the different activities of the ITU Secretary-General and Bureaux in relation to the implementation of Resolution 102 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006).

Furthermore, ITU Council 2007 (Resolution 1282) resolved that the Council Working Group on WSIS, open to all Member States and Sector Members, should continue its work with its revised terms of reference.

1.2   Around 80 delegates, representing ITU Member States and Sector Members, participated in the meeting, which was chaired by Prof. Vladimir Minkin, (Russian Federation).

2.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (WG-WSIS-12/2) was adopted as drafted, with the addition of the words "Advisory Group" immediately after "(IGF)".

3.   Welcoming Remarks

3.1 Dr. H.I. Touré, ITU Secretary-General, welcomed the participants and made some introductory comments, stressing the importance of the work of this group.

3.2 Mr. H. Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General, also welcomed the participants and reported on the activities carried out within the WSIS Task Force, which has the role of formulating strategies and coordinating ITU's policies and activities in relation to WSIS.

3.3 Mr. M. Johnson, ITU-T Director, highlighted the excellent feedback received at IGF towards ITU's participation, as well as the various activities carried out by ITU-T to meet the WSIS goals. He announced that Mr. R. Scholl, Deputy of TSB is serving in the ICANN board. He looked forward to a more active participation by ITU at the third IGF.

4.   WG-WSIS Report (Council Document C07/21) and Council Resolution 1282

The Chairman recalled that the WG-WSIS Report, containing the revised terms of reference of the WG-WSIS, was endorsed by ITU Council and, for information, also recalled ITU Council Resolution 1282.

5.   Internet Governance Forum (IGF) – Advisory Group

5.1 General Secretariat staff introduced Document (WG-WSIS-12-12), reporting on ITU's activities during the second meeting of the IGF, held from 12-15 November 2007, including the results obtained and possible proposals for future action.

5.2 Brazilian Delegation reported on the second IGF Forum, which was held in November 2007, highlighting the multi-stakeholder participation and emphasizing the ongoing process towards the achievement of the WSIS goals. A Chairman's Summary (see Annex 2) was prepared, which provides information about all events held in Rio. The Brazilian representative informed the participants that a session had been dedicated to the discussion of the critical Internet resources issue.

6. Proposals to ITU relating to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses (Res. 102)

6.1 The French Delegation presented its contribution on the "Creation of an ITU group on Internet matters" (WG-WSIS-12-9). It was proposed that a dedicated group on Internet issues be created within ITU or within WG-WSIS; this group would help to coordinate ITU activities relating to Internet issues, within its mandate, and could enhance ITU's efficiency in rationalizing its activities and interacting with other organizations. It could also attract, in a more efficient way, all stakeholders interested in these issues.

6.2 After the presentation of Document WG-WSIS-12-9, a debate on the opportunity to create an ad-hoc sub-group on Internet matters was held. Some delegations supported the idea of creating an ad-hoc sub-group of WG-WSIS, which could further address the ITU role in Internet-related issues, while other delegations asked for further explanation on its terms of reference. Some others expressed their desire to continue discussing the issue as an agenda item of the WG-WSIS.

6.3 After considering all the opinions expressed, the Chairman pointed out that WG-WSIS has clear terms of reference and that this group can create other sub-groups where required. In this regard, he proposed creating an ad-hoc sub-group to discuss ITU's position towards the next IGF meeting, as well as ITU's role in Internet-related issues for this meeting.

6.4 It was agreed that Mr. Benoit Blary, (France) would chair the ad-hoc sub-group. The ad-hoc sub-group met on 25 January 2008 from 14.00 to 16.00 hours and on 28 January 2008 from 9.00 to 11. 00 hours.

6.5 The outcomes of the discussions within the ad-hoc sub-group are contained in Annex 1 of this Summary of the 12th Meeting of WG-WSIS.

7. ITU's activities in WSIS implementation and follow-up

7.1 Information reports were provided on:

7.1.1   Document WG-WSIS-12/3: Director of TSB: Follow-up and implementation of the

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) within ITU-T was presented by TSB staff.. This report complements earlier ones provided to the WG-WSIS, notably the report to the 11th WG-WSIS meeting (WG-WSIS-11/7) in June 2007. The document highlights the main results relating to the Action Lines C2 and C5 and contains some additional information on C3, C8 and C9, especially on standardization, workshops and other activities concerning bridging the standardization gap, next generation networks, security, multimedia, Quality of Service, emergency, accessibility and the new emerging activity on ICT, and climate change, including two symposia in Kyoto, Japan (15-16 April 2008) and London, United Kingdom (17-18 June 2008).

7.1.2   At the request of the WG-WSIS, the secretariat of TSB provided information about the results of the Focus Group on Identity Management (WG-WSIS-12-17) and it informed those present that the re-structuring of ITU-T will be a topic of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, where further discussions on this issue will be held. Mr. M. Johnson provided further information about ITU Symposia on ICTs and Climate Change, which is contained in the TSB Circular 189.

7.1.3   An announcement on ITU Symposium on ICTs and Climate Change to be held in Kyoto, Japan, on 15-16 April 2008 was made by the delegation of Japan. Information about this event can be found at: http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/climatechange/index.html

7.1.4   Document WG-WSIS-12-4: Director of BDT: Report on the facilitation of WSIS Action Line C2 was presented by BDT staff; this reports on the activities undertaken since April 2007, i.e. since the last TDAG meeting. Within the framework of the cluster of WSIS related events, the ITU-D, in collaboration with UNDP, had organized a Joint Facilitation Meeting on WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C6, which took place in Geneva on 16 May 2007. One of the goals of the meeting was to encourage synergies across three action lines, focusing on the infrastructure, the enabling environment and capacity building. As a result of the discussions, the meeting reaffirmed the willingness to follow the agreed directions of the facilitation framework, in particular the facilitation of the implementation of large scale, impact making initiatives and the development of thematic activities.

7.1.5   In addition to the Sectors' reports, posted on the ITU Council Working Group for WSIS website, Mr. H. Zhao, as Chairman of the WSIS Task Force, was requested to merge the various sectoral reports into one concise, composite report. This would provide a better overview of ITU's activities in WSIS implementation and follow-up, and the results achieved so far. Any additional information would be contained in annexes to the main document.

7.1.6   Document WG-WSIS-12-8: Director of BDT: Report on the ITU-D Contributions to the WSIS follow-up and implementation was presented by BDT staff. In order to establish effective coordination, in October 2007 the BDT Management Committee decided to establish a WSIS Coordination Group, under the chairmanship of the BDT Deputy to the Director, with representatives of all BDT Divisions carrying out WSIS-related activities. Since the last TDAG meeting in April 2007, through programmes and projects, the ITU-D has undertaken numerous actions related to WSIS-related facilitation and implementation. This includes WSIS Action Line C2 and activities related to the Action Lines C1, C3, C4,

C5, C6, C7, C11, the Connect the World Initiative, Emergency Telecom Services and Telecoms for Disaster Relief, Measurement of the Information Society Development, and the WSIS Stocktaking and ICT Success Stories. During the presentation the attention of the delegates has been draw to the additional information documents, i.e. Document WG-WSIS-12-5 and Document WG-WSIS-12-6.

7.1.7   The Document WG-WSIS-12-5: Director of BDT: Connect the World Series of Events, addresses the a series of Connect the World events to be organized in various parts of the world over the coming years, with the aim of mobilizing resources and partners to help implement WSIS commitments and the WTDC Doha Action Plan, in particular the Regional Initiatives. The first of these events was the Connect Africa Summit, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 29 to 30 October 2007, and gathered some 1036 participants from 54 countries, including six Heads of State and Government. Forty-three countries in Africa were represented, including 23 at the Ministerial level. Some 20 leading ICT companies also participated, along with development banks, international organizations and other stakeholders.

7.1.8   Document WG-WSIS-12-6: Director of BDT: Emergency Telecommunications Activities presents the ITU-D activities relevant to the WSIS outcome documents, more precisely Para 91 of Tunis Agenda, and WSIS Action Line C7 (20 (c)). It includes disaster relief, direct assistance to countries, regional events, contributions to outside organized events, ITU-D Study Group Question 22/2, as well as Global Forum on Effective Use of Telecommunications/ICT for Disaster Management: Saving Lives. As of the beginning of 2007, the ITU Deputy Secretary-General chairs an Inter-Sectoral Emergency Telecommunications Team (IETT) with representatives from ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D. From an operational point of view, the ITU-D representative coordinates the work of the other two sectors but each sector remains responsible for activities falling within its mandate.

7.1.9   Document WG-WSIS-12-7: Follow-up of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) within ITU-R: Situation and Progress Report was presented by BR Counsellor. He provided an overview of the activities within ITU-R, with regard to C2, C5 and C6 action lines.

7.1.10   It was suggested to the BR secretariat that they complement the presented report with a reference to the work carried out within Study Group 6-Broadcasting Service and ensure that this reflects the results of Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-07).

7.1.11   Document WG-WSIS-12-15: UN Secretary-General's Report on the implementation of WSIS inputs from ITU was presented by Mr. H. Zhao, Chairman of WSIS Task Force, for information only.

7.1.12   Document WG-WSIS-12-10: Information on cluster of WSIS-related events was presented by General Secretariat, for information only, in accordance with the request of the 11th Meeting of WG-WSIS. (dates for the WSIS Cluster of Meetings to be added)

7.1.13 Document [WG-WSIS-12-11](): ITU Focal Points for WSIS Action Lines was presented by General Secretariat, for information only, in accordance with the request of the 11th Meeting of WG-WSIS.

7.1.14 Documents [WG-WSIS-12-10]() and [WG-WSIS-12-11]() were very much appreciated by the group.

8. Update on Stocktaking

BDT staff reported on the progress of the WSIS Stocktaking since its creation in October 2004 ([WG-WSIS-12-14]()). As of December 2007, more than 3500 projects had been registered in the database and the number of entries continues to grow. In order to increase awareness among WSIS Stakeholders, a series of presentations was given at each of the Action Line facilitation meetings held during the cluster of WSIS-related events surrounding World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2007. In addition, the Stocktaking Team has been coordinating with WSIS facilitators with regard to embedding the stocktaking tool into Action Line-dedicated portals. Recently, the ITU circulated a new request to update information and submit new project descriptions to the Stocktaking database. (Annexes to WG-12-14: WSIS Stocktaking: 2008 update and new entries ([Arabic](); [Chinese](); [English](); [French](); [Russian](); [Spanish]()).

9. Draft Roadmap for ITU's activities in the implementation of WSIS up to 2015

9.1   Document [WG-WSIS- 12-13](): Discussion Paper on a Roadmap for ITU's activities in the implementation of WSIS up to 2015 was presented by General Secreatariat. The document contains a framework for the development of a Roadmap for ITU's activities in the implementation of WSIS up to 2015. It was jointly prepared by the secretariat and the three Bureaus (BR, TSB and BDT), under the coordination of the Chairman of WSIS Task Force.

The Roadmap would be articulated in three main parts, detailing foreseen ITU activities in the WSIS implementation. Each part would correspond to a specific timeframe, in order to review the work done and the results obtained.

The period 2008-2015 would be divided into the following periods, corresponding to the activities that ITU will undertake:

- Short-term activities (2008 - 2009) – Timeframe: 2 years
- Medium-term activities (2010 – 2011) – Timeframe: 2 years
- Long-term activities (2012 – 2015) – Timeframe: 4 years

9.2   The Group highly appreciated the document presented by the General Secretariat.

9.3   Some comments were made by the WG-WSIS on:
- Timeframe:

o It was proposed that 2010, prior to the PP2010 will be used to perform a gap analysis between the activities undertaken and related achievements obtained with the expected results, according to the WSIS goals.

o It was proposed bringing forward the WSIS target date for action Line C2 to 2012, as it was previously endorsed by the Connect Africa Summit, in order to allow the implementation of other Action Lines. It was felt desirable to consider 2012 as the target date for the implementation of Action Line C2 for other regions.

o It was considered 2014 as a date by which a final review of the ITU outcomes relating the implementation of WSIS be implemented.

- Structure of the Roadmap:
  o It was proposed that the Roadmap should be structured, in order to meet the objectives, goals and targets of WSIS Plan of Action.
  o The Roadmap should be presented providing an overview of each action line and the results achieved so far as well as other ITU activities relevant to the implementation of WSIS.

- It was proposed to consider the Roadmap as a living document, which should be linked with the strategic plan and the related financial implications. The Roadmap could be used as an input for the new strategic plan.

- It was agreed to maintain, within the existing ITU partnership frameworks, a close collaboration with the private sector and other relevant stake-holders in the implementation of the Action Line C2.

- The General Secretariat was requested to prepare the second draft of the Roadmap by 10 June 2008 and invited the members of WG-WSIS to send in their contributions on the roadmap not later than 31 July 2007.

- The Group asked the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the WG-WSIS to work closely with WSIS Task Force on the development of the roadmap.

10. Proposals to the Council that may be necessary for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society (Res 140)

The Chairman invited WG-WSIS participants to send their contributions relating to the proposals to the Council that may be necessary for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society (Res 140) for consideration to the next meeting of WG-WSIS.

11. Dates of next meeting

It is proposed holding a two-day meeting of the WG-WSIS from 25 to 26 September 2008.
These dates are subject to confirmation by the secretariat.

12. Other Business

12.1 Mr. F. Muguet on behalf of WebForce International, ITU-D Sector Member presented document (WG-WSIS-12-16), where among others, it was suggested to repackage the cluster of

WSIS related events into an Information Society Forum or a Forum with any other appropriate name (e.g. WSIS Forum).

12.2 Such request could be discussed at the next Council Working Group on Stakeholders (Res. 141) and the next WG-WSIS Meetings.

12.3 The Delegation of Syrian Arabic Republic proposed to appoint another Vice-Chairman from Tunisia due to the recent promotion of the previous Tunisian representative.

12.4 Tunisia agreed to provide the name of the Vice-Chairman at its earliest convenience.

12.5 It was agreed that the ad-hoc sub-group on Internet-related issues continue its activity under the chairmanship of Mr. Blary. The contributions received by Member States and Sector Members will be posted on the WG-WSIS website.

Mr. Blary was requested to combine these contributions in a report to be presented to the next Working Group on WSIS to be finalized by the 5 September 2008.

13.   Summary of the 12th Meeting

13.1   A "Draft Summary of the 12th Meeting of the WG-WSIS" was distributed and submitted for discussion. In the course of the debate, the final version of the document was agreed by all participants. The summary of the 12th Meeting is available on the web page http://www.itu.int/council/wsis/wsis_WG.html

13.2   In closing the meeting, the chairman thanked the elected officials and the membership for their contributions to the meeting. Special thanks have been expressed to Mr. B. Blary, who chaired the ad-hoc sub-group and to the secretariat for the efficient assistance provided during meeting.

Prof. Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation)
Chairman, WG-WSIS

Meeting Report of the Ad-hoc Sub-Group

(Held during the 12th Council Working Group on WSIS – 25 and 28 January 2008)

1.   Introduction

WG-WSIS decided to create an ad-hoc sub-group, which was established on 25 January 2008 and met from 14.00 to 16.00 on 25 January and again from 9.00 to 11.00 on 28 January. The ad-hoc sub-group was chaired by Mr. Benoit Blary, Head of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Employment, France.

The ad-hoc sub-group carried out discussions on ITU's role in Internet-related issues, as well as its role during Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meetings.

The Chairman of the ad-hoc sub-group proposed the following agenda:

1. Discussion of the proposals contained in the para. 6 of document WG-WSIS-12-12 "Proposals for future actions".

2. Broad discussion of the role of ITU on Internet-related issues.

The agenda of the ad-hoc sub-group was adopted as proposed.

2.   Discussions on Internet Governance Forum meetings

The Chairman of the ad-hoc sub-group summarized Document 12 of the 12th meeting of the WG-WSIS (Report of the ITU Secretary-General on ITU's activities during the 2nd Internet Governance Forum meeting) focusing the attention on Para. 6 (Proposals for future actions).

After discussions conducted amongst the ad-hoc sub-group Members, and in line with the comments made, the following points on the role of ITU in the Internet Governance Forum have been agreed:

•   ITU should continue to play its role in Internet matters and in the overall coordination of activities in different areas, pursuant to the relevant Plenipotentiary Conference Resolutions (e.g. 71, 101, 102, 130, 133, 140).

- To ensure, pursuant to the decisions of the Council, a more active ITU presence in initiatives, conferences and projects related to Internet Policy and Governance:

  1. to promote relevant activities already implemented by ITU;

  2. to identify public policy issues that ITU should address, pursuant to Resolution 102 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of Antalya;

  3. to take a more active role in the preparatory activity for the IGF meetings, in order to raise ITU's profile in the event's programme.

- Specific proposals to achieve these objectives could include:

  1. Ensuring that ITU plays a more active role at the third IGF meeting to be held in New Delhi, India, in December 2008, by incorporating relevant activities carried out by ITU during 2008 into the programme of the IGF meeting. Ensuring the participation of ITU speakers and panellists during plenary sessions. The organization, by ITU, of Open Forums and Thematic Workshops, in collaboration and in partnership with other relevant entities could make a tangible contribution to strengthening ITU's role in the 3rd IGF Forum.

  2. Inviting the ITU membership to promote ITU and its role during IGF meetings.

  3. Coordinating with the IGF Secretariat and the UN Secretary-General to ensure that inputs from ITU are properly taken into account in the work of the IGF Advisory Group (AG).

  4. Leading a Dynamic Coalition on ICT accessibility and work with relevant stakeholders within the existing ITU partnership frameworks, and in accordance with PP06 Resolution 141.

  5. Follow-up with UNESCO, UNDP, WIPO and ICANN on joint activities and proposals on Internationalized Domain Names (IDN).

Several comments or proposals made by members of the ad-hoc sub-group are summarized as follows:

- The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed that the ITU secretariat draw up a questionnaire to be submitted to the WG-WSIS; this would gather inputs and proposals on the role of ITU in Internet-related matters and ITU's participation in IGF meetings. Some delegations supported this proposal, while others raised the difficulty of defining such a questionnaire and asked to whom such a questionnaire should be sent and how the responses would be evaluated. It was decided that this proposal would be discussed further, for instance during the next WG WSIS in September. All Member States were invited to provide written contributions on this issue for the next meeting

- Pursuant to Resolution 102 and Decision 9 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of Antalya 2006, and in light of the feedback received during the second IGF meeting, some delegations supported the proposal to investigate the opportunity for ITU to organize an event on Internet public policy issues, before the 3rd IGF meeting (December 2008). No consensus was reached on this proposal during the meeting.

- The delegation of Brazil commented on the references contained in Document WG-WSIS-12-12 (page 3, paragraphs 5 and 6) relating to the Chairman's Summary, and requested its

deletion. The ITU secretariat announced that it would revise Document WG-WSIS-12-12, in accordance with the proposals of delegation of Brazil.

- With reference to Item 3 of the Specific proposals, the possibility for a representative from ITU to become a member of the IGF AG was discussed, but no consensus was achieved. The Members of the ad-hoc sub-group agreed on the principle that ITU play a more active role within the work of the IGF AG. However, any follow-up in relation to the change of ITUs status from observer to member of the IGF AG should take into account the rules and procedures established by the UN Secretary-General.

3.   Discussions on the role of ITU on Internet-related issues

Some initial discussions have started in relation to the above agenda item. However, given the lack of time, it was proposed to hold discussions that are more substantial during the following WG-WSIS meetings.

ANNEX 2

Second Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
Rio de Janeiro, 12 - 15 November 2007
Chairman's Summary

../.. in full in the official version but removed here to get a shorter document since the
[Chairman's summary](#) of the meeting is available on the [IGF web site](#).