

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, (provisionally agreed)

Recalling the importance of removing barriers to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, in particular, in developing countries.

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

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

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 given to of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to assess the implementation of WSIS at the regional and international level, (provisionally agreed with the exception)

Recalling also the 2001 Human Development Report “Making new technologies work for human development” and its propositions, which remain valid today, (provisionally agreed)

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270B and Councilits resolution 2007/29, (provisionally agreed)

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 contained in ref. #, (provisionally agreed)

Taking note Welcoming the multi-stakeholder input provided by the Global Alliance for ICT and Development to the Commission at its eleventh session.

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

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, (provisionally agreed)

A. Evolving challenges and opportunities (provisionally agreed)

1. Observes that the digital divide is decreasing in some aspects and increasing in others~~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;

1bis. Observes the continuing relevance of assisting developing countries in their efforts to overcome the digital divide with regard to both access and capacity;

2. Observes that the disparity in cost and quality of ~~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; (provisionally agreed with marked exception)

2bis. Observes that there exists a gender divide in quality and sophistication of access to the internet in both developed and developing countries.

2third. Observes that there is a need for equal participation of women and men in accessing the Internet and in the building of the Information Society, in both developed and developing countries;

3. Observes further the strong growth of mobile telephony subscriptions, especially in developing countries; (provisionally agreed or merge with op1)

4. ~~Observes~~ Notes with concern the growing number of incidents affecting global network safety and security and provoking service blackouts-outages in large regions of the world; (provisionally agreed)

5. Observes that governments work and their remarkable efforts to reduce the digital divide by encouraging technology investment in underprivileged areas has largely fallen short and that available Universal Access Funds are underused due to regulatory barriers, policy gaps and insufficient demand targeting;

~~5. Observes that governments work and their remarkable efforts 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;~~

alt5bis. Observes that while in some instances government efforts to encourage technology in underprivileged and less profitable areas has not kept pace with private sector investment, technology still has increased and expanded across all sectors at a dramatic pace. Government directed Universal Access Funds are sometimes underused due to regulatory barriers, policy gaps and insufficient demand targeting. Further, sometimes Universal Access Funds simply do not reflect the economics of new technologies and actual consumer needs. (op 5 and op alt5 to be merged. See op11. consistent terminology)

6. Observes further that ~~although many governments have developed national ICT policies, information society as well as development strategies,~~ in many countries

there is not ~~enough-adequate~~ 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~~. (provisionally agreed)

~~7. Takes note that the free pool of ipv4 addresses is expected to fully deplete between the second quarter of 2011 and the third quarter of 2012; (provisionally agreed)~~

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 ~~or non existant~~; (provisionally agreed)

7bis. Calls on all States to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, and that hinders the well-being of their population, in particular the achievement of an inclusive information society.

8. *Calls* on all stakeholders to increase efforts to reduce the disparity in access prices, including through the establishment of local Internet Exchange Points, and ~~the~~ increase of the number of operators in order to enable competition, also at the backbone level; (provisionally agreed)

9. *Calls further* on all stakeholders to continue the development and spread of easy to use applications and services for mobile phones, especially applications that are useful in rural areas and work with low bandwidth and high latency; (provisionally agreed with marked exception)

10. *Calls* on all stakeholders to cooperate more closely in making global networks universally accessible, more stable, resilient and secure and in overcoming ~~blackoutsoutages~~, incidents and attacks on these networks ~~as fast and~~ sustainable ~~sustainably~~ 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;

alt11. Recommends the modernization of mechanisms and policies so that the economics of new technologies and actual consumer needs are the primary focus when considering the best use of Universal Access funds. This principle should apply whether ensuring infrastructure for universal access or the financing of ICT infrastructure in underserved regions and areas; (to be seen with op 5 and alt 5)

11bis. Recommends the modernization of mechanisms and policies so that the economics of new technologies and actual consumer needs are the primary focus when considering the best use of Universal Access funds. This principle should apply whether ensuring infrastructure for universal access or the financing of ICT infrastructure in underserved regions and areas;

~~12. Recommends the mainstreaming of national ICT-policies into national political processes development and national poverty reduction strategies, particularly into national Poverty Reduction Strategies;~~

~~12bis. Recommends that -International cooperation at all levels – including public, private and corporate levels – is essential to help rural areas in accessing and benefiting from Internet and ICTs in general; (provisionally agreed move to pp)~~

~~13ter. Notes the letter by UNUSG, on behalf of the UNSG, to all organizations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet to report on the steps they have taken towards enhanced cooperation in accordance with Art. 71 of the Tunis Agenda for Information Society, and looks forward to the UNSG's report, based on the received information, to the GA and ECOSOC.~~

~~12ter. Recommends to carry out actions geared towards promoting the adoption of the IPv6 protocol at the public and private levels (provisionally agreed)~~

B. Successes of and shortcomings in the implementation of WSIS outcomes so far (provisionally agreed)

~~13. Takes Welcomes the success note with appreciation of the progress made so far by of the Internet Governance Forum, its multi-stakeholder approach and its innovative platform; (provisionally agreed)~~

~~13bis. Congratulates the Governments of Greece and Brazil for the successful completion of the first and second IGF respectively. Extend its appreciation to the IGF Secretariat. (provisionally agreed. Could it be moved to pp)~~

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 (provisionally agreed with exception marked)

16. Acknowledges Takes note of the efforts of the Regional Commissions in the coordination of WSIS-implementation, in capacity building and measuring of ICTs; (provisionally agreed)

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; (provisionally agreed)

17bis. Acknowledges the need for further improving the implementation of Action Lines by all Stakeholders through reporting the achievement and obstacles encountered by all countries; (similar to op 26)

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, in particular those from developing countries; ()

18bis. Notes with concern that some Action Line facilitations have encountered difficulty in involving participation of all stakeholders, largely due to lack of funds to finance the participation of NGOs and civil society representatives; (18 & 18bis to be merged?)

18terbis. Reaffirms that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet Governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet. (move to the top to IG? And use the whole par?)

Recommendations

19. Recommends that the international community preserves-continues to engage in 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 ()

19bis. Recommends the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet;

19ter. Recalls article 71 of the Tunis Agenda and decides to request the UN Secretary General to express his own views on the enhanced cooperation and to discuss with the UN membership possible activities and courses of action for starting the enhanced cooperation process;

20. Encourages the collaboration among all stakeholders, including international organisations, consistent with their mandate and existing budgetary resources,- with regard to multilingualization of the internet (provisionally agreed)

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; (provisionally agreed. Put reference to Partnership for Measuring the Information Society)

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; (provisionally agreed)

23. Stresses the need to develop a set of ICT impact indicators at the individual, household and community level, in a gender disaggregated manner, and as per other social differentials recognising special vulnerabilities and needs, 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-standard of living of poor-marginalised groups and communities, and of disadvantaged people; (check the name, reflect wsis language)

24. *Recommends to **Lead Agencies** to conduct open multistakeholder consultations to increase the visibility, participation, empower more stakeholders to mobilize financial resources to attend and effectiveness of the cluster of activities organized around the World Telecommunications and Information Society day every year. 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;*

24bis. Recommends that a facilitation mechanism should be established for the Financial Mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICT for development in the same consultations mentioned in par 24, to consider official development assistance, multistakeholder partnerships, innovative financial mechanisms and infrastructure and international interconnection costs, among others.

~~24ter. Recommends that the implementation of C7 e-science action line should be coordinated closely with the CSTD. (provisionally agreed)~~

25. *Recommends the introduction **in the facilitation process**, of electronic working tools like mailing lists, web 2.0 applications, observatories and clearing house models in order to enhance multi-stakeholder participation, in particular from developing countries; ()*

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~~bring to the attention of the Commission obstacles and -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 deemed necessary; (provisionally agreed)*

27. *Invites all actors and institutions involved in the **follow-up and 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~~improve information sharing and build synergies 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.~~ **28.** 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. (provisionally agreed)*

*~~29.~~ **29.** Calls on all stakeholders, in the interest of future generations, to give due attention to digital **preservation**; (provisionally agreed exception marked)*

***2930.** Calls further on all stakeholders to increase efforts to **adherence, accession and implementation** the ICT accessibility concept as spelled out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 9 ()*

~~3031~~. 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; (provisionally agreed)

~~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.~~
