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CS WORKING GROUP ON FOLLOW-UP

COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPHS 16 TO 22 AND 40 AND 41 OF DOCUMENT WSIS-II/PC-3/DT9-E

CHAPTER ONE: IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

AND CHAPTER FOUR: THE WAY AHEAD

Below are the contributions of the CS Working Group on WSIS Follow-up to Paragraphs 16 to 22 and 40 to 41 of the operational Part of the draft Tunis Declaration.

On form and structure, we are increasingly preoccupied by the growing length of the Draft Tunis Declaration and the repetition of ideas or formulations in numerous paragraphs. Serious trimming is necessary to avoid duplication, within Document DT-9 and also between the various parts of the whole Declaration.

We also reiterate our suggestion to group the present paragraphs 16 to 22 and 40 to 49 in the same Chapter Four. In particular, paragraphs 40 and 16 as well as 41 and 17 should be made more streamlined and coherent with one another. Thus Chapter Four, structured around the three main pillars (implementation, policy debate and evaluation / review) would naturally represent the concluding section of the Tunis Declaration, the “Follow-up Framework” of the WSIS process.

Finally, in order to prepare for further discussion in the coming days, we suggest that Paragraphs §20 to 22 should be grouped in a specific section devoted to coordination and general articulation between all initiatives, both in implementation and policy debate fora.

On substance, we note the evolution in the text from explicit mentions of civil society to the systematic use of the expression “stakeholders”. Given the difficulty of translations and the need for clarity, we need to make sure that the Tunis Declaration contains at least one clear definition of the term stakeholders, indicating explicitly that it includes civil society organizations.

Ms Chair, we all know the effective participation of civil society actors is a condition of the efficiency of follow-up mechanisms. But their full right to participate is also a fundamental question of principles. The presence in the Tunis Declaration of strong guarantees in that respect is a condition for the legitimacy of the whole follow-up framework. Notions of cooperation and partnership alone are not enough to ensure the “full and effective involvement of all stakeholders”. This later expression should therefore be used throughout

the document whenever required as a guarantee of the sincerity of the commitments of the various countries.

The attached table lists the comments on a paragraph by paragraph. Comments on the right column give some explanations on the rationale for the proposed changes, as oral interventions will not be possible in the available time for observer statements.

**Table of Comments on Paragraphs 16 to 22 and 40 to 41 of DOC DT9
By CS Working Group on Follow-up
Submitted to Sub-Committee B of PreCom3
September 27, 2005**

Document WSIS-II/PC-3/DT9-E	Proposed text	Explanatory Comments
<p>16. We acknowledge that multi-stakeholder participation is essential to the successful building of an inclusive and development-oriented information society. We underline that the participation of all stakeholders in implementing WSIS decisions on national, regional and international levels with the overarching goal of helping countries to achieve <u>internationally-agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals</u> is key to that success</p>	<p>10. We [solemnly] declare that a multi-stakeholder approach is essential for the building of an inclusive and development-oriented information society and should serve as the guiding principle of all WSIS follow-up activities. Full and effective involvement of all stakeholders is necessary to implement WSIS decisions at national, regional and international levels with the overarching goal of helping countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millenium Development Goals.</p>	<p>This paragraph justifies a stronger commitment than a simple acknowledgement.</p> <p>The term [solemnly] is added into brackets in case this paragraph becomes the first paragraph of Chapter Four as suggested.</p> <p>The expression “full and effective” that existed in previous drafts. should be maintained in subsequent paragraphs.</p> <p>“Participation” can be replaced by “involvement” if full and effective” is maintained.</p>
<p>17. We agree, in order to ensure the sustainability of progress towards the outcomes <u>goals</u> of WSIS after the completion of its Tunis phase, to establish a process of follow-up to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of WSIS, <u>respecting the principle of subsidiarity</u> at national, regional and international levels [<u>, as part of an integrated and co-ordinated process</u>]. That process may include, at each level, the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implementation; b) evaluation;[/ review] c) policy debate and review 	<p>17. We therefore decide to establish a follow-up framework to the WSIS process combining the following components at each level :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implementation b) policy debate c) evaluation and review <p><i>(see below for the necessary articulation with paragraph 41)</i></p>	<p>WSIS, as a Summit, is over in November; the creation of a follow-up framework should be one of the main outcomes of Tunis Two years of discussion on implementation cannot produce a mere process where existing actors do what they have always done.</p> <p>Implementation and policy debate are the two main components, complemented by regular evaluation and review meetings.</p>

[/ and follow up]		
<p>18. At the national level, based on the WSIS outcomes, we encourage governments, <u>with the participation of all stakeholders</u>, to set up a national <i>implementation</i> framework <u>[bearing in mind the importance of the enabling environment]</u>, in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National e-strategies, where appropriate, should be made an integral part of national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategies, aiming to contribute to the achievement of goals contained in the Millennium Declaration; b) ICTs should be fully mainstreamed into strategies for Official Development Assistance (ODA) through more effective donor <u>development partners</u> information-sharing and co-ordination, and through analysis and sharing of best practices and lessons learned from experience with ICT for development programmes; c) Existing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes, including those under the UN Development Assistance Framework, should be used whenever appropriate to assist governments in their implementation efforts at the national level; d) Common Country Assessment reports should 	<p>18. At the national level, we pledge to set up multi-stakeholder implementation frameworks with full and effective involvement of all stakeholders to guarantee implementation of the WSIS outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Thematic Initiatives related to the objectives of the Geneva Plan of Action developed by or with local actors should be actively encouraged. b) National e-strategies, where appropriate, should be made an integral part of national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategies, aiming to contribute to the achievement of the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration; c) ICTs should be fully mainstreamed into strategies for Official Development Assistance (ODA) through more effective development partners information-sharing and co-ordination, and through analysis and sharing of best practices and lessons learned from experience with ICT for development programmes; d) Existing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes, including those under the UN Development Assistance Framework, should be used whenever appropriate to assist governments in their implementation efforts at the national level; e) Common Country 	<p>Governments can and should commit individually in a document signed by Heads of State. “Encourage” is only appropriate in paragraphs directed at other actors.</p> <p><i>(New paragraph)</i> Implementation also starts with initiatives by local actors on specific themes. Any national framework should recognize their importance.</p>

<p>contain, [<u>when deemed suitable</u>] a component on ICT for development.</p>	<p>Assessment reports should contain a component on ICT for development.</p>	
<p>19. At the regional level:</p> <p>a) Upon request from governments, regional inter-governmental organizations <u>in collaboration with other stakeholders</u> could carry out WSIS implementation activities, exchanging information and best practices at the regional level, as well as facilitating policy debate on the use of ICT for development, with a focus on attaining <u>the internationally-agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals</u>;</p> <p>b) UN Regional economic Commissions, based on request of Member States and within approved budgetary resources, may organize regional WSIS follow-up conferences <u>in collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations</u> with appropriate frequency;</p> <p>We consider a multi-stakeholder approach and the participation in regional WSIS implementation activities by civil society, business entities <u>and others</u> to be essential-<u>necessary</u></p>	<p>19 At the Regional Level</p> <p>Regional organizations, in collaboration with other stakeholders, are encouraged to :</p> <p>a) carry out WSIS implementation activities</p> <p>b) facilitate exchange of information and best practices at the regional level,</p> <p>c) facilitate, as appropriate, regional Initiatives relevant to the objectives of the WSIS Plan of Action.</p> <p><i>Paragraph 13 b) related to regional follow-up conferences should be moved down to “evaluation and review” sub-section (see comments on future contributions)</i></p> <p>We reiterate that a multi-stakeholder approach and the full and effective participation in regional WSIS implementation activities by all stakeholders is necessary.</p>	<p>The expression “upon request from governments is either imprecise or redundant.</p> <p>“could” does not bring a sufficient guarantee of action.</p>

<p>UNDP—]should continue to be used to their fullest extent;</p> <p>d) Coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities would allow information exchange and avoidance of duplication of activities;</p> <p>e) The establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the ITU-led initiative “Connect the World”, which are aimed at bridging the digital divide, should be supported and encouraged;</p> <p>f) <u>[The head of a central coordinating body (ITU/WSIS-ES) and/or the Global Alliance on ICT and Development is to work closely with the bodies specified in the action line focal points (Ref to the annex on action lines).]</u></p> <p><u>[21. We request information society.]</u></p> <p><u>[22. Stressing WSIS web-site.]</u></p>	<p>b) Facilitation includes, amongst others, information exchange, sharing of best practices, provision of meeting facilities and secretarial assistance.</p> <p>COORDINATION (replaces 20 c), e) and f) as well as paragraph 22)</p> <p><i>Formulations for this part will come later in the process. They will cover, among others : coordination among agencies and multi-stakeholder coordination.</i></p> <p><i>Suppress paragraph 21</i></p> <p><i>Grouped with para 20 in coordination section</i></p>	
<p>40. Building an <u>inclusive development-oriented Information Society</u> will require unremitting effort. We thus commit ourselves to keep fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, to ensure sustainable follow-up to the implementation of [agreements] <u>[decisions]</u> [outcomes] and commitments reached during WSIS process and its Geneva and Tunis <u>phases of the Summit</u>. Taking into account the multifaceted nature of building the Information Society, effective cooperation among <u>governments</u></p>	<p><i>Paragraph 40 should be placed after paragraph 16 to form the new introduction of Chapter Four.</i></p>	

<p>and other stakeholders, based on respect for their mandates and leveraging on their expertise, is needed-<u>important</u>.</p> <p><u>41. WSIS follow up</u> of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.</p>	<p><i>Similarly, Paragraph 41 is much too repetitive and should be merged with paragraph 17 as they both describe the three different components of the WSIS Follow-up Framework.</i></p>	
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