**Commission on Science and Technology for Development**
**13th session**
**Geneva, 17-21 May 2010**

# Draft resolution on "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society"

Draft Resolution for adoption by the Council

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

"Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society"

The Economic and Social Council,

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

Recalling its resolution E/2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling also its resolution 2009/7 of 24 July 2009 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling Resolution 64/187 of the General Assembly, of 21 December 2009, on information and communication technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the 2010 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,

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary General on "improvements and innovation in existing financing mechanisms: information and communications technologies for development"

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary -General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to complete the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

**Taking stock: Reviewing the implementation of WSIS outcomes**

1. Notes with satisfaction the ongoing implementation of WSIS outcomes emphasizing in particular its multi stake-holder nature, the roles played in this regard by Action Lines facilitators, as well as the roles of UN Regional Commissions, UNGIS and its lead Agencies, and commends the high level advice of CSTD that facilitates the overall WSIS follow-up by this body;

2. Notes the respective reports of many UN entities submitted as inputs for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary General to the CSTD, with their own executive summaries, and published in the CSTD website as mandated in its

resolution E/2007/8; and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the CSTD secretariat;

3.  Notes the ongoing implementation of WSIS outcomes emphasizing in particular its multi stake-holder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as Action Lines facilitators, as well as the roles of United Nations Regional Commissions and UNGIS, and appreciates the role of the CSTD assisting ECOSOC as the focal point in the system wide follow up of WSIS;

4.  Notes the implementation at the regional level facilitated by the UN Regional Commissions as observed in the 2010 Report of the Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS at the regional and international levels", including steps undertaken in this respect, and draws upon the need to continue addressing issues of specific interest to each region focusing on the challenges and obstacles it may be facing with regard to the  implementation of all WSIS goals and principles with particular attention to ICT for Development.

5.  Reiterates the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the WSIS outcomes through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging of information among Action Line Facilitators; identification of issues that needed improvements; and discussion of the modalities of reporting the overall implementation process. And encourages all WSIS stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the WSIS stocktaking database maintained by ITU on the implementation of WSIS goals, and invites UN entities to update their initiatives in the Stocktaking database;

6.  Notes the benefits of forums like the ICT4all Tunisia, which provided an opportunity to share national experiences in the use of ICT for the development and promotion of entrepreneurship and competitiveness;

7.  Highlights the urgent need for, as a matter of urgency, the inclusion of the recommendations of the WSIS outcome documents in the revised guidelines for UN country teams on preparing a Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework, including the addition of an ICT for development component;

8.  Notes the holding, of  the WSIS Forum 2010 organized by ITU, UNESCO , UNCTAD and UNDP as a multi-stakeholder platform for WSIS implementation contributing to facilitating of the implementation of the WSIS action lines;

9.  Calls upon all States, in building the information society, to take steps with a view to avoiding and to refrain from taking 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 their well-being;

10. Reaffirms that while the digital divide may be shrinking in some areas, many challenges remain unaddressed as significant gaps remain within economies and societies that affect the demand for and the ability to use ICTs.

11. Notes with dissatisfaction that, for the majority of the poor, the developmental promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

12. Recognizes that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

13. Expresses concerns regarding the widening gap in broadband connectivity between countries at different levels of development, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in areas such as; inter alia; government, business, health and education. And expresses further concerns with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) and the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs).

14. Notes with concern the inequality of access to broadband infrastructure and services between developed and developing nations and within nations, and in particular the broadband divide that further marginalises the poor, the rural communities, and other disadvantaged groups such as women, the disabled, and the elderly. In this context, we recognise the importance of current initiatives aiming to achieve rapid broadband deployment and the need to prioritise innovative approaches within national and regional development strategies in this regard.

15. Welcomes in this respect the recent establishment, , Broadband Commission for Digital Development upon the initiative of ITU and UNESCO; with the key aim of accelerating the attainment of those goals through the introduction of ubiquitous access to broadband within the global partnership for development;

16. Notes that while a solid foundation for ICT capacity building has been laid in many areas with regard to building the Information Society, there is still a need for continuing effort to address the ongoing challenges especially for developing

countries and least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of the broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with ICTs and Internet governance issues.

17. Recognizes the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at national and local levels in providing advice, services, build capacity within the goal of building the inclusive, people centered and development oriented Information Society.

18. Notes that topics that were not central at the first and second phases of the World Summit in 2003 and 2005 continue to emerge, such as the potential of information and communications technologies to combat climate change, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, particularly against cyber exploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

19. Reiterates the importance of ICT indicators, as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies, and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies of social, cultural and economic development. And highlights that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated ICT indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services is essential for implementing ICT policies;

**Internet Governance**

20. Reaffirms the principles enunciated in the WSIS that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, Civil Society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism;

21. Recognizes para 35 of the Tunis Agenda that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. In this respect it is recognized that:

     a.    Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues.

b.     The private sector has had, and should continue to have, an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields.

c.     Civil society has also played an important role on Internet matters, especially at community level, and should continue to play such a role.

d.     Intergovernmental organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues.

e.     International organizations have also had and should continue to have an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies.

22. Recognizes that the Internet Governance related outcomes of WSIS, namely the process towards 'enhanced cooperation' and the convening of the IGF, are to be pursued by the UN Secretary General through two distinct processes and further recognizes that the two processes may be complementary to one another,

## Enhanced Cooperation

23. Recalls para 68, 69, 70 and 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

24. Takes note of the Secretary General's report titled "Enhanced Cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet", which was submitted earlier to the ECOSOC 2009 Substantive Session and reverted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development –CSTD that summarizes responses from international organizations in response to the request made to them to provide an annual report on their efforts towards enhanced cooperation on Internet – related public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, while also noting the interactive deliberations of the 13th Session of the CSTD regarding the enhanced cooperation,

25. Invites the UN Secretary General to convene open and inclusive consultations involving all member states and all other stakeholders to proceed with the process towards the implementation of enhanced cooperation in order to enable governments, on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues, through a balanced participation of all stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities, as stated in paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda. These consultations will be held before the end of 2010, the outcomes of which will be submitted to the 66th UN General Assembly for consideration through ECOSOC;

## Internet Governance Forum

26. Takes note of the  deliberations of the thirteenth Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development- CSTD, held in Geneva in May 2010 on the fourth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum – IGF which was held successfully in Sharm El-Sheikh , Egypt in November 2009, based on the Secretary General's Report;

27. Expresses appreciation for the work done by the Chair, the Secretariat, and the host governments of the IGF meetings and looks forward to the fifth meeting in Lituania in September 2010;

28. Takes notes of the recent emergence of  several fora on Internet governance at the regional and national levels in the past years;

29. Takes note of the deliberations of the IGF meetings where all stakeholders engage in an multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on a wide range of Internet Governance issues as mandated in paragraph 72 of the TA,

30. Takes note of the interactive discussions of the Fourth IGF meeting, including during the stock taking session chaired by the Under-Secretary General of the UN in response to article 76 of Tunis Agenda for the Information Society which requested the UN Secretary General to "examine the desirability of the continuation of the Forum, in formal consultation with Forum participants, within five years of its creation, and to make recommendations to the UN Membership in this regard", and notes the engagement of  Forum's participants in this regard through online contributions as well as through statements delivered during the stock taking session,

31. Invites the chair of the CSTD to establish, in an open and inclusive manner, a working group, to seek, compile and review inputs from all UN member states and all other stakeholders on improvements to the IGF in line with its mandate as set out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and report to its next substantive session in 2011 with recommendations as appropriate. This report is to constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, for consideration, should the mandate of the IGF be extended,


**The road ahead**

32. Urges the UN entities still not actively cooperating in WSIS implementation through the UN system and its follow-up, to take the necessary steps and commit towards a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society and to catalyze the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

33. Calls upon all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide a priority area of concern, put into effect sound strategies that contribute to E-

government development, and continue to focus on pro-poor ICT policies and applications including access to broadband at the grass roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide between and within countries,

34. Urges all stakeholders to prioritise the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable Broadband infrastructure for developing countries, and the use of relevant broadband services, in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development orientated and people centred information society, and to minimise the digital divide.

35. Calls upon international and regional organizations to continue  assessing and reporting on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

36. Urges all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfill their commitments under the "Monterrey Consensus";

37. Calls upon UN Agencies as well as other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with WSIS outcomes, to periodically review and modify methodologies of ICT indicators taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances.

38. 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;

39. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report about the implementation of the recommendations contained in the ECOSOC resolutions on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.