

United Nations Group on the Information Society



WSIS Process



UNGIS Chairs and Vice-Chairs



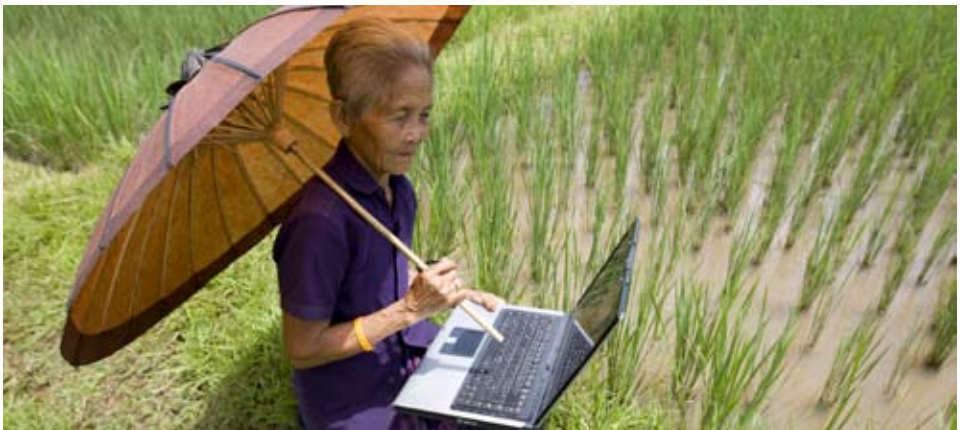
About UNGIS

The Tunis Agenda (November 2005) requested the UN Secretary General, in consultation with members of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to establish within the CEB, a UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), consisting of the relevant UN bodies and organizations with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

In April 2006, UNGIS was endorsed by the CEB. UNGIS serves as an interagency mechanism to coordinate substantive policy issues facing the United Nations system's implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, thereby contributing to improving policy coherence in the UN system, as requested by the 2005 World Summit. Subsequently, pursuant to Para 46 of the GA Resolution 62/208, UNGIS also ensures coordination within the United Nations development system in order to respond to the international attention being given to science and technology transfer as reflected by the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit.

In order to achieve its objectives, UNGIS:

- Contributes towards WSIS implementation, primarily at the international level, by mainstreaming the Information Society Agenda into the activities and programmes of CEB members;
- Coordinates with the mechanisms for national and regional implementation established in the Tunis Agenda, as well as the multi-stakeholder implementation process;
- Strengthens the role of the UN System in facilitating access of developing countries to new and emerging technologies, promoting transfer of technology, and mainstreaming science, technology and innovation policies, including ICTs, into national development policies or poverty reduction strategies in accordance with the priorities of countries;
- Facilitates synergies between organizations belonging to the UN system in order to maximize joint efforts, avoid duplication and enhance effectiveness in achieving the WSIS outcomes; and
- Promotes public awareness about how the UN system is implementing WSIS and is facilitating better access for developing countries to new and emerging technologies.



UNGIS Focus

- Consulting on Financial Mechanisms for Meeting the Challenges of ICT for Development
- Stocktaking of ICT-related projects of UNGIS members
- Mapping of UNGIS members' initiatives in the areas of science, technology and innovation as well as the promotion of transfer of technology
- Enhancing collaboration and information sharing through the WSIS community online platform
- Cooperating with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, encouraging UNGIS members to measure progress made towards reaching the WSIS targets
- Strengthening of the links between the WSIS process outcomes, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the UN Development Group (UNDG)
- Recommending how the UN system might best respond to GA resolution 62/208
- Facilitating implementation of joint initiatives towards 2015:
 - Open Access to Scientific Knowledge
 - Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Reviews
 - Child Online Protection



Coming Soon: Open Consultations on Financial Mechanisms for Meeting the Challenges of ICT for Development

With the objective of providing a channel for a proactive dialogue on matters related to the implementation of part B of the Tunis Agenda, i.e. Financial Mechanisms for Meeting the Challenges of ICT for Development, and pursuing the recommendations of the ECOSOC on the need for open consultations, UNGIS intends to convene a multi-stakeholder meeting to be held in Geneva in the fourth quarter of 2009. The meeting will be open to representatives from government and international organizations as well as individuals from civil society and the private sector. If you are interested in a pro-active role in this meeting (keynote speaker, panelists etc) you are encouraged to contact the UNGIS secretariat.

Message from UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon



“The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) brought UN organizations and programmes together around a common goal: bringing the great potential of information and communication technologies to all the world’s people.

The WSIS outcome assigned the UN system key tasks in this effort. Indeed, the magnitude of the issues involved -- and their continuous evolution -- makes coordination even more challenging and all the more important.

The UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) has an important role to play as we move ahead. UNGIS terms of reference give it a broad mandate to promote policy and programme coordination and coherence, and to provide overall guidance to the UN system in this area.”

Ban Ki-Moon
UN Secretary-General

UNGIS Members:

- ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
- ILO: International Labour Organization
- ITU: International Telecommunication Union
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNDESA: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
- UNECA: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNESCWA: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- UN-HABITAT: United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF: United Nations Children’s Fund
- UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UNWTO: World Tourism Organization
- UPU: Universal Postal Union
- WB: World Bank
- WFP: World Food Programme
- WHO: World Health Organization
- WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO: World Meteorological Organization
- WTO: World Trade Organization

**For more information, please visit www.ungis.org
or contact UNGIS Secretariat at contact@ungis.org**