



UNITED NATIONS GROUP ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (UNGIS)

United Nations Group on the Information Society



Open Consultation



**Overall Review
of the Implementation of the
WSIS Outcomes**

WSIS Process:  World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005)

www.ungis.org

UNGIS Chairs and Vice-Chairs: 

Open Consultation on the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS +10)

Introduction

This report has been prepared by the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) on the basis of an open consultation process on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (WSIS +10).

It documents, firstly, contributions by WSIS stakeholders on the possible process leading to the WSIS review at the UN General Assembly in 2015. The full contributions of all WSIS Stakeholders including governments, the private sector, civil society and intergovernmental organizations, which were submitted during the series of physical and online consultations from 20 May to 5 September 2011, are annexed to this report.

Secondly, based on these consultations, this report includes a Draft Plan of Action on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (WSIS +10). Several versions of the Draft Plan of Action were developed, published and discussed at one physical meeting and also online, from 19. September until 5. October 2011, with the invitation to all stakeholders to contribute.

Background

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcome documents and the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/252 resolved to conduct an overall review of the implementation of the Summit outcomes in 2015. The ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 172 (PP-10) on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS, including the possibility of holding a high-level event in 2014/2015 has requested ITU Secretary General to initiate the preparatory process at the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB). Consequently CEB tasked UNGIS to prepare, on the basis of an open consultation, an Action Plan to organize high-level meeting on the WSIS Review. The Action Plan would be presented to the CEB meeting in April 2012, and would take into consideration the strong support of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development served by UNCTAD

Open Consultation Process on the UNGIS Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS +10)

Building upon the outcomes of this meeting and the open and inclusive multistakeholder WSIS spirit, the following Open Consultation process is being followed:

Phase One: First Physical Meeting during the WSIS Forum 2011

Phase Two: Online Consultation : www.wsis-community.org (15 June – 5 September 2011)

Phase Three: Submission of Formal Contributions (15 June – 5 September 2011)

Phase Four: Elaboration of the Draft Action Plan (By 15 September 2011)

Phase Five: Second Physical Meeting (20 September 2011, 14:30 - 18:00, Room H, ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland)

Phase Six: Presentation of the Outcomes: Action Plan (5 October 2011)

Draft Plan of Action

Proposed Expected Final Outcomes of the Overall Review Process (WSIS+10)

- 1. Evaluation and Assessment Reports** (adaptations possible in the lead-up to 2015)
 - WSIS+10 Progress Report (Quantitative Focus)
(Initial Coordination by Partnership on the Measuring ICT for Development during the WSIS Forum 2012)
 - Review Reports by Action Line Facilitators (11 Action Lines)
(Template to be prepared by WSIS Action Line Facilitators' Meeting during the WSIS Forum 2012)
 - Self-evaluation National Review Reports
(Draft template to be prepared during WSIS Action Line Facilitators' Meeting of the WSIS Forum 2012)
 - WSIS+10 Stocktaking Report
(International Telecommunication Union)
 - IGF Secretariat Report
 - UNGIS Review Report
 - Contributions to the MDG Process

- 2. Possible forward looking outcome setting an agenda beyond 2015**

Proposed Preparatory Process and Meetings within the Framework of the Overall Review up to 2015

Preparatory process will include virtual working methods as an integral part of the overall review.

2012:

- **May: Start of Preparations for the WSIS+10 Review** during the WSIS Forum 2012, Geneva (2 days) to define
 - preliminary indications for the scope of the possible forward looking outcome, setting agenda beyond 2015
 - templates for the reports of the lead facilitators on the Action Lines
 - templates for the national self-evaluation reporting on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes

- **May: Report on the outcomes of the UNGIS Consultations on the WSIS+10 Review** to the 15th Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
- **October/December: UN General Assembly**

2013:

- **February/March: Multi-stakeholder Event for the WSIS+10 Review** (title to be decided)
(3 days event, hosted by UNESCO in Paris, with a high-level component)
 - Review of emerging trends in the Information Society
 - Development of recommendations of relevance to the forward looking outcome.
- **May: Preparations to the WSIS+10** during WSIS Forum 2013
(Geneva, 2-3 days)
 - Agreement on outline of the forward looking outcome
 - Discussion on text

2014:

- **May: Preparations to the WSIS+10** during WSIS Forum 2014
(Geneva, 2-3 days)
 - Finalization of the forward looking outcome
- **June/July: High-Level Meeting on the Overall Review (WSIS+10)**
(Location to be determined based on hosting proposals)
 - Presentation of all review reports
 - Adoption of the forward looking outcome

2015:

- **Report on the outcomes of the Overall Review Process** to the 18th Session of CSTD
- **UN General Assembly** to endorse the forward looking outcome.
- **Contribution to MDG Review Process**

Phase One: First Physical Meeting during the WSIS Forum 2011



*Note: The Draft Executive Summary of Statements is available in **Annexure I***

The first physical meeting of the UNGIS Open Consultations on the Overall Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS+10) was held on 20 May 2011, on the concluding day of the WSIS Forum 2011. More than 150 high-level representatives from the WSIS Stakeholder community took a proactive role in this first meeting of the UNGIS Open Consultation Process.

As the UNGIS Chair for 2011-2012, **Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General, ITU**, provided a brief background on the UNGIS Open Consultation Process. This was initiated when the 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU (Guadalajara, Mexico) adopted Resolution 172 on the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes, in line with the Tunis Agenda and the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/252, which decided to conduct an overall review of the implementation of the Summit outcomes in 2015. The ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 172 on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS, including the possibility of holding a high-level event in 2014/2015 has requested the ITU Secretary-General to initiate the preparatory process at the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB). Consequently the CEB tasked UNGIS to prepare, on the basis of an open consultation, an Action Plan to organize a high-level meeting on the WSIS Review. The Action Plan would be presented to the CEB meeting in April 2012.

Dr Touré highlighted that 2015 is not only the year set for achieving the WSIS Goals but also will be the review year for the MDGs at the MDG Summit. As it will be difficult to have two major events since one will most likely over shadow the other, 2014 is considered as a logical year for the WSIS Final Review meeting. The results of the meeting will also feed into the MDG review event in 2015.

Dr Touré invited all present to participate in the first physical meeting of the Open Consultations and put forth four themes that helped stir discussions:

1. Objectives, goals, possible outcomes.
2. Type of meeting to be held.
3. Type of preparatory process to be proposed.
4. Timeline.

Dr Indrajit Banerjee, Director, Knowledge Societies Division, UNESCO, reiterated that UNESCO, then UNGIS Chair, welcomed and supported the decision of the CEB and invited all stakeholders present to participate actively in the open consultations.

Dr Mongi Hamdi, Head Science Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics (DTL), UNCTAD, highlighted that UNGIS has proven to be a successful mechanism for interagency coordination and invited all stakeholders to express their views on the overall WSIS review in 2014.

Mr Gherardo Casini, Head, Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in Rome and Secretary to the Board, Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, informed all present that UNDESA was appointed as the rotating Vice-Chair of UNGIS for the year 2011-2012 and expressed commitment of UNDESA to the UNGIS Open Consultation process.

The UNGIS Chair and Vice-Chairs invited all stakeholders to activate their networks and help ensure that the UNGIS Open Consultation Process (WSIS+10) turns into a fully inclusive process respecting the voice of each stakeholder, enabling UNGIS to build a plan of action which addresses real needs.

Phase Two: Online Consultation: www.wsis-community.org (15 June – 1 September 2011)

Note: The summary of the WSIS Knowledge Communities Discussion is available in Annexure II

The online consultation was carried out from 15 June to 5 September 2011 on the WSIS Platform of Communities. The Stakeholders expressed their view points through an online discussion and video messages.

Questions asked for the online discussion:

How would you like to see the WSIS +10 review conducted?

1. Objectives, goals, possible outcomes
2. Type of meeting to be held
3. Type of preparatory process to be proposed
4. Timeline
5. Other comments

Questions asked for the video message:

Followed by 30 second brief statement on the major contribution brought by ICT for development, please address the following:

1. What are your expectations for the outcome of WSIS Review 2015, and concrete proposals in this regard?
2. What are your views on the progress made in implementing the WSIS outcomes?

Eleven written comments and seven video messages have been submitted. The newly introduced video message format enhanced interactions and facilitated the exchanges of ideas amongst stakeholders. Our records in fact show that those videos were watched about 600 times.

People generally consider WSIS as the best framework for setting a global vision and agenda for building an inclusive Information Society towards/beyond 2015 and highly appreciated its multistakeholder participation format¹. It is clear that stakeholders would like to see the overall review process to be also inclusive, open and participatory. They attached the importance to applying a bottom-up approach: some proposed organizing consultations at country level² and to ensure participation of all the stakeholders and pointed out that the consultation should go beyond UN agencies and traditional WSIS participants³. Financial support would be required to support participants from developing countries⁴. In terms of the format of a possible review event, some proposed a non-formal meeting⁵ and its outcome to be a concrete evaluation and assessment⁶, which will provide us with practical solutions⁷. Furthermore, a few stakeholders

¹ European Broadcasting Union; Mr Tim Unwin; Ms Malia Nobrega ; Mr Tapio Varis; APC; Indigenous ICT taskforce; Mr Fathi Essalmi

² Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication

³ ISOC Senegal

⁴ APC

⁵ Teresa Torreseca; EUROLINC

⁶ ISOC

⁷ Mr Tim Unwin

said that existing mechanisms such as the WSIS Forum⁸ and the IGF⁹ should be integral parts of the review process. The full listing of submitted comments is available at <http://www.wsis-community.org/pg/groups/15325/ungis-wsis-10-open-consultation-at-the-wsis-crowd-towards-knowledge-societies/>.

The WSIS Knowledge Communities (www.wsis-community.org) site was launched at the WSIS Forum 2009 as UNESCO's unique contribution to the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)'s outcomes. Over 2400 people have now joined the online platform and continue to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences to advance towards the 2015 WSIS goals. For more information, please send an e-mail to wsiscommunity-invitation@unesco.org or visit www.wsis-community.org.

⁸ Mr Ahmed Eisa

⁹ ISOC ; APC

Phase Three: Submission of Formal Contributions

Note: Find below a summary of all the Formal Submissions received from WSIS Stakeholders from the period of 15th June to 5th September 2011. Complete submissions are available in Annexure III

Questions asked:

1. Please provide objectives, goals and possible outcomes of the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes.
2. Please indicate what type of meeting(s) should be held within the framework of the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes.
3. Please describe the type of preparatory process that might be proposed for the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes.
4. Please provide a timeline for the Overall Review Process and all proposed meetings.
5. Please provide other comments, if any.

Introduction

In the true multi-stakeholder spirit of the WSIS, the Open Consultation on the Overall Review received several well thought out submissions. These will provide a good foundation for the draft plan of action.

Stakeholders were of the opinion that the WSIS +10 Review should aim to discuss not only achievements but also shortages, challenges and identify solutions and best practices providing recommendations for further actions as appropriate. While acknowledging the significant achievements made, stakeholders highlighted that the implementation of the WSIS outcomes vary between action lines, regions and countries, hence it could be concluded that the achievements and shortfalls are variable. This points to the necessity to conduct a complete review on the international, regional and national levels in order to assess completely the outcomes and shortfalls of the implementation process.

Several stakeholders expressed that the Review should have a strong link to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), directing the main focus on development, pointing out that it is important to consider that the MDGs will also be reviewed in 2015. The MDG process, with its target year of 2015, should be able to benefit from the findings of the WSIS+10. The Review should provide assessment on how the implementation of WSIS commitments and the use of ICTs have supported the achievement of the MDGs and sustainable development. Special consideration should be taken in the least developed countries, the poorest and the most marginalized groups of society.

All the submissions received echoed the sentiment that development of the ICT sector in the past years has introduced new technologies and challenges that make it necessary for the international community to tackle them as new themes. Stakeholders submitted that it is evident that some of the technologies, challenges, and themes that the international community deemed important in 2005 have lost their importance in recent years, while others have gained prominence. The fast pace development of digital and information technologies and their applications together with the ever expanding communication needs and the new innovative services is ongoing all over the world, in all continents, in all societies and

throughout the whole economy; there has not been such a development in the history when a new technology has penetrated so much in everyday life of all stakeholders.

Objectives, goals and possible outcomes of the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes

The following list includes examples of points made in the submissions related to Objectives, goals and possible outcomes

- 1) Complete Review of WSIS Outcome Documents at international, regional and national levels :
 - Horizontal Review: should include a revision of the implementation of the themes, action lines and targets.
 - Vertical Review: should focus on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes internationally, regionally, and nationally
- 2) Develop a new negotiated text
- 3) Reconfirm that WSIS Plan of Action should continue beyond 2015
- 4) Revise themes and identification of new challenges and gaps, vis-à-vis the new technologies and challenges that have emerged
- 5) Set new targets/goals based on the evaluation made with use of existing mechanisms, e.g. reports by facilitators of the action lines
- 6) Initiate training and capacity building initiatives that will facilitate the implementation of the WSIS Goals
- 7) Focus on regional meetings for identifying areas of regional cooperation
- 8) Develop funding mechanisms for implementation- connecting donors
- 9) Elaborate National evaluation reports
- 10) Align the WSIS Review with National ICT policies
- 11) Document best practices and encouraging replication of successful project
- 12) Take stock of all success stories, elaborating e.g. 2015 Golden Book of Achievements
- 13) Rank at National / Regional / Global levels
- 14) Set clear measurement criteria
- 15) Assess how the Tunis agenda has changed the development paradigm
- 16) Prepare a global report which bases its findings on the contributions received from different regions and stakeholder groups.
- 17) The United Nations Regional Commissions could be tasked to contribute to the review from the perspective of their respective regions. Possible regional report should be commensurable and be based on clear indicators.
- 18) Civil Society Report related to the 2003 Civil Society declaration (e.g. GIS Watch)

Type of meeting(s) could be held within the framework of the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes

The following list includes examples of points made in the submissions related to the types of meetings that should be held

- 1) Summit in 2014 for the review process (Level: Heads of States)
- 2) High Level Meeting (Level: Minister Level)

- 3) Preparatory meetings could be organized in the context of existing mechanisms, such as the Regional Meetings by Regional Commissions, WSIS Forum, Internet Governance Forum, CSTD
- 4) Only existing meetings like WSIS Forum should be used for overall review purposes and reporting.
- 5) Steering committee meetings
- 6) A non-formal meeting providing practical solutions

Type of Preparatory Process:

The following list includes examples of points made in the submissions related to the preparatory process:

- 1) Physical meetings must be limited, a preparatory process should be launched largely by way of electronic means (remote participation)
- 2) Avoid a cumbersome process including meetings such as "PrepCom".
- 3) Multilingual electronic spaces for the collection of information, dialogue, etc.
- 4) Objective should not be to attract high level participation, but rather to engage relevant experts from all stakeholder groups and regions in fruitful discussions including reaching out to technology communities.
- 5) Regional preparatory meetings should convene to consolidate regional inputs.
- 6) Consultations should be carried out at country level and participation should go beyond UN agencies and traditional WSIS community.
- 7) All stakeholders should be part of the preparatory process in a similar fashion as was implemented in both phases of the WSIS.
- 8) There should be flexibility to establish working groups that could facilitate the work of the preparatory committee. Such working groups may focus on specific hotly debated new themes and/or to prepare the texts that serve as the basis for negotiations on some of those issues.
- 9) The process should benefit from clear co-ordination mechanism within the United Nations framework.
- 10) Establish expert meetings to review the WSIS Action Lines and propose revisions which should be approved by the main official delegates in the main High Level Meetings during Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes.
- 11) Launch call for papers, which will feed into a meeting.
- 12) Workshop Style meetings are suggested for more impactful outcomes.
- 13) Build Virtual Societies
- 14) Use UN Regional offices as temporary Internet access points for remote participation.
- 15) Use Youth Forums- youth in the area of ICTs
- 16) Use online preparatory process planned keeping in mind the infrastructure in Africa.

- 17) Aim is to avoid overlaps, heavy bureaucracy and long negotiations.
- 18) Not a lengthy preparatory process
- 19) UNESCO has offered to host a meeting in 2013
- 20) India has offered to host a meeting in 2014

Timeline for the Overall Review Process and all proposed meetings

The following list includes examples of points made in the submissions related to the timeline:

- 1) Revisit this question on 5th October and proceed based on available Plan of Action
- 2) Preparatory review process 2012, 2013, 2014
- 3) Final Review meeting: 2014 (including to avoid collision with MDG Review)
- 4) Preparatory/Steering committee (e.g. to convene 3 times), regional meetings, working groups in 2011 or 2012
- 5) Comprehensive review and country ranking 2013
- 6) Final report should be compiled in 2015

Others

The following list includes examples of other points made in the submissions:

- 1) The preparatory process should be held in an Open, Inclusive, Transparent, Multi-stakeholder and Participatory manner.
- 2) Consider holding the preparatory meetings in 6 UN Languages as and when possible
- 3) Sensitive to human and financial resources- best use of limited resources
- 4) Effective preparatory process

Phase Four: Elaboration of the Draft Action Plan

A Draft Plan of Action built on the Interim Results of Open Consultation Process was presented to the WSIS Stakeholders for further comments and submissions online at www.ungis.org . This Draft Plan of Action is available in Annexure IV

Phase Five: Second Physical Meeting (20 September 2011)



The second physical meeting was held on the 20th of September 2011 from 14:30 -18:00 at ITU Headquarters, Geneva.

Please find below links to all the relevant documents and information for the document:

- [Agenda](#) 
- [Webcast](#) 
- [Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting Room](#) 
- [Presentation \(ITU\)](#) 
- [Presentation \(UNESCO\)](#) 



Comments Received till 3 October 2011

During the 2nd physical meeting it was requested that the Draft Plan of Action is left open for comments till 30th September 2011. All comments received from 20th September till 3 October are available in Annexure VI.