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 for 2011-2012

- Undertake follow-up to the CEB decision with regards to the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS+10)

- Organize a joint UNGIS input to the Rio + 20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (4-6 June 2012)

- Organize a joint UNGIS session at UNCTAD XIII Conference in Doha, Qatar

- Identify UN processes and events relevant to the UNGIS mandate and ensure preparation of the UNGIS position paper(s) in timely manner to ensure advocacy on use of ICTs

- Establish regular interactions with other UN interagency groups (UNDG, inter agency Task Force on MDGs) and establish a reporting mechanism to HLCP.

- Mapping ICT-related projects of UNGIS members through the WSIS Stocktaking database

- Enhance collaboration and information sharing through the online platform of WSIS communities

- Continue joint initiatives on:
  - Open Access to Scientific Information (OASI)
  - Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) reviews
  - Mobile for Development (MfD).

- Cooperate with the Partnership for the Measuring of ICT for Development

- Raise awareness about UNGIS
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