



Official Form for Written Submissions

A. Your Information

Please specify your Institution/Organization and your position.

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B. Formal Input

Some guiding questions for your submissions are listed below:

1. To what extent has progress been made on the vision of the people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society in the ten years since the WSIS?
2. What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes?
3. What should be the priorities in seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends?
4. What are general expectations from the WSIS + 10 High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly?
5. What shape should the outcome document take?

See attachment – “Written submission of the Russian Federation to the draft final document of the UNGA High-level Meeting on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes” – 4 pages.

Written submission of the Russian Federation to the draft final document of the UNGA High-level Meeting on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

Political Declaration of the UNGA High-level Meeting on the Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

We, the Heads and representatives of State and Government, assembled at the United Nations from 15 to 16 December 2015 to take stock of the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes, taking special attention to the challenges in the field of development and in other fields, as well as to their social and economic implications, especially for developing countries, observe with profound satisfaction that ten years ago, at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in its two phases (Geneva 2003 & Tunis 2005), the representatives of the peoples of the world adopted a common vision on the Information Society, identifying its main principles and challenges towards a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. The fundamental aim of the WSIS process was to foster the use of technology to improve peoples' lives and to bridge the digital divide.

We approve final documents of the WSIS+10 High-level Event elaborated through Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform and adopted by consensus in June 2014: WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, as well as the WSIS+10 events organized by UNESCO in 2013.

We note the importance of new development paradigm of the Information Society which in the future should evolve into the Knowledge Society. It is inadmissible to equate the development of the society to the development of technologies, forgetting the development of individuals, to substitute acquiring knowledge for acquiring skills in using computers and smartphones, to focus on bridging the digital divide and improving capacity rather than the quality and security of information in the Internet.

We observe that the participation of multistakeholders in the WSIS outcomes implementation contributed to strengthening their engagement according to their respective roles and responsibilities, but at the same time it needs to be further adapted to modern realities with clear assignment of roles and responsibilities for all the stakeholders, first of all from nongovernment sector, while maintaining the priority of governments in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

Recognizing the necessity to respect national sovereignty and applicable norms of the international law when addressing the use of information and communication technologies for development, noting the importance to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of ICTs, *we reaffirm* that the rights which people enjoy in their ordinary life, including the right to privacy, must be also protected in the use of the Internet.

We recognize direct relationship between the key goals of the WSIS process for building a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society towards the development of knowledge societies around the world and Sustainable Development Goals¹.

Progress made in the implementation of WSIS Outcomes

The uses of ICTs have developed considerably and become a part of everyday life since the second phase of the WSIS in 2005, accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development, increasing transparency and accountability, where applicable, and offering new opportunities to leverage technology, in developed and developing countries.

We welcome activities of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development which is a collaborative forum of the United Nations and other organizations in the collection and analysis of data about WSIS outcomes and ICTs for development, and its report "The Final WSIS Targets Review: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward" which

¹ WSIS-SDG matrix: Linking WSIS Action Lines with Sustainable Development Goals (www.wsis.org/sdg)

provides a comprehensive evaluation of the achievements made towards the WSIS targets agreed by governments at WSIS.

We support the Review of the implementation of Action Lines agreed in the WSIS+10 Statement on implementation of the WSIS Outcomes.

Challenges during implementation of WSIS Outcomes and new challenges that have emerged

We acknowledge Challenges during implementation of WSIS Outcomes and new challenges that have emerged, agreed in the *WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes*.

We recognize that while the extensive growth of ICTs' networks, services, applications and content has resulted in the global information society within ten years after the WSIS, an affordable access and the use of ICTs are far from being uniformly distributed. The most of the world population has limited access to the ICTs (particularly to the Internet) and cannot take maximum advantage of their potential.

We note with regret that access to the Internet though constantly expanding has failed to replicate the success of mobile telephony. Its progress is not ubiquitous, and in many respects the gap between the most and the least connected countries has increased, with richer countries achieving rapid rates of penetration and availability of ultra high-speed broadband. The Internet, particularly broadband Internet, has opened many opportunities that did not exist a decade ago. Favourable access conditions, in terms of both affordability and quality of service, enable using a range of applications for development related to health, education, business development, etc.

We recognize that processes towards enhanced cooperation to enable governments to play their roles and responsibilities on an equal footing in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet have not been fully established.

We note insufficient effectiveness of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as an autonomous structure capable to bear responsibility for the elaboration and adoption of global Internet governance policy.

Priority areas to be addressed in the implementation of WSIS Beyond 2015 and associated with the objectives

We acknowledge Priority areas to be addressed in the implementation of Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, adopted in the **WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015**

We reaffirm the urgent need to fully implement commitments of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, regarding financial mechanisms to solve tasks of ICTs for development, Internet governance and strengthening cooperation.

We invite the UN system organizations and all stakeholders to take necessary steps to prevent using Internet for violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Recognizing the need for respect of the rights or reputations of others, for the protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals, as stipulated in the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, *we propose* to take into account possible reservations and take appropriate measures to respect balance between upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Internet, on the one hand, and special role and special responsibility while using Internet, on the other hand.

We reaffirm, that 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.

We insistently highlight the importance of the security, continuity and stability of the Internet, and the need to protect the Internet and other information and communications technology networks from threats and vulnerabilities.

We call for facilitating the process of gradual transfer of control over the domain names and IP addresses allocation functions towards the international control under the auspices of the United Nations (or its specialized organization), avoiding monopolization of the Internet resources governance.

We note the need to ensure security and resilience of the critical Internet infrastructure in order to prevent outside manipulation, and for this purpose we call upon States to implement the storage of personal data of their citizens inside the territory of their own countries, to place domestic servers serving national segments of the Internet and to develop other elements of the critical Internet infrastructure.

We encourage global manufacturers of hardware and software to avoid in their products preinstalled viruses, malware, spyware and other kinds of applications or embeddings/backdoors that could cause unauthorized actions and data sending, as well as equipment malfunction, errors in software and data storages.

We encourage States to cooperate in the field of diversification and development of domestic production of software and hardware in order to improve functional security of the critical information and communication infrastructure.

We support providing users with access to high-quality and legal Internet content including information and scientific and educational resources, online services and applications, while complying with sovereign interests of a State, its cultural and traditional values, as well as respecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

We note that access to the information space and modern ICTs serves the public interests and plays the role of an instrument for the economy, science and social development. In this regard, it would be unacceptable to discriminate Internet user rights by territorial, political, gender or any other principle.

Follow-up, review and assessment of the implementation of the WSIS process beyond 2015

We believe that the review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes should be of complex nature reflecting implementation of all the commitments within the Plan of Action of the WSIS held in Geneva in 2003, and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of 2005, not discriminating between interrelated issues of ICT development and Internet governance.

We believe that UNGA High-level Meeting on the Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes is an important stepping-stone in the world's efforts to eradicate poverty and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We support Looking to the Future and further improvements in action lines of WSIS Plan of Action, outlined in the **WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015**.

We recognize that governments act as guarantors of rights and freedoms for their citizens, play a key role in economy, security and stability of the Internet infrastructure, as well as in the assurance of information security for their citizens, and undertake measures to prevent, detect and deter illegal actions in the global network.

We stand for considerable strengthening the role of governments, in order that they:

- i. establish and implement public policy, including international policy, on matters of Internet governance, and ensure security of the national Internet segment, as well as regulate within their law the activities of operating agencies and Internet providers;
- ii. establish policies aimed at meeting public requirements with respect to Internet access and use;
- iii. take necessary regulatory measures to ensure confidence and information security in provision of Internet services.

In this regard *we consider it necessary* to consecutively increase the role of governments in the Internet governance, with strengthening the activity of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in this field, as well as with support of the UNESCO activity in the development of ethical aspects of the Internet use and ICTs as a whole.

We encourage all States to:

- i. have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet operation and development based on international agreements between the States under the auspices of the United Nations;

- ii. promote multilateral, transparent and democratic mechanisms for Internet governance which will allow equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet;
- iii. foster development of common understanding in the issues of Internet security and further cooperation at national and international levels recognizing responsibilities of each State to ensure information security for their citizens.

We recognize the need to use the experience of, and the activities undertaken by, UN agencies in WSIS process, notably ITU, UNESCO, UNDESA and UNDP, and affirm that these agencies should play leading facilitating roles in the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and holding of the annual WSIS Forum with the involvement of all stakeholders for the review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

We support the prolongation of the IGF mandate only if the Forum's work is reformed which includes increasing practical efficiency of discussed issues and strengthening the role of governments including improvement of organizational, procedural and other aspects of the Forum's work.

We call upon the UN General Assembly to establish a special committee for preparation of universal convention on the Internet Governance in order to elaborate the international legal framework in this field, aimed at harmonizing the interaction of states, global internet companies, enterprises responsible for the development of standards, technologies and communication networks.

We recognize the importance of setting ICT and information society development targets, and welcome the Connect 2020 agenda that was approved by the ITU at the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014, which identified goals for the development of growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation and partnership in ICTs to be achieved by the end of the decade.

We call for periodic, at least once every five years, high-level assessment of the progress in implementation of the WSIS process.

We request the UN General Assembly to hold a Summit on the WSIS issues in 2020, and then hold the summits on a regular basis each decade.