



General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes

Official Form for Written Submissions

A. Your Information

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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?

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?

Since the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005), significant progress has been made at national, regional and global levels in attaining the vision of the 'people-centred, inclusive and development oriented Information Society'.

¹ When specifying your stakeholder type, please indicate one of the following: Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia, and Technical Sector.

Most notably, the international community has witnessed an unprecedented increase in the access to basic ICTs. According to ITU, in 2015, the number of mobile users reached 7 billion from 738 million in 2000, while 43% of the global population has access to the Internet, a seven-fold increase of that in 2000. Mobile networks covered 96% of the rural population in 2014. Broadband networks are also being deployed extensively globally.

These are only a few indicators bearing witness to the reach of the Internet, and its transformative effect on people-centred development across the globe. And, we are observing that such increased connectivity and usage of ICTs is revolutionizing the daily lives of people around the world. Today, the Internet has become the underpinning of modern economic, social and political life.

2. What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes?

Despite the unprecedented progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes, bridging the digital divide within and between countries remains a major challenge. To this end, more attention needs to be made in increasing investment in broadband networks and services to achieve the WSIS vision. We need to seek ways to better employ ICTs to achieve economic and gender equality as well as social inclusion.

While increased global Internet connectivity, in tandem with its burgeoning growth and commercial use, provide benefits to all, it has also led to a proliferation of challenges, including cyber crime, attacks, threats, ethical and privacy issues, among others. The international community needs to address these challenges at the respective fora in our efforts towards implementing WSIS outcomes.

Another challenge to implementing WSIS outcomes would be effectively leveraging ICTs so that it actually culminates in sustainable social and economic development, thereby contributing to attaining the soon-to-be adopted Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Lastly, properly monitoring and measuring WSIS outcomes are critical in further advancing ICTs. The international community still lacks sufficient statistics to show that ICTs do in fact result in greater economic growth and social development. The figures would be important in persuading a number of countries to further invest in ICT infrastructure - including broadband and Internet content - as well as to promote an open and secure cyberspace.

3. What should be the priorities in seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends?

1) Increased deployment of broadband networks

Despite efforts to deploy broadband networks across the globe during the past decade, only 43 percent of the world's population has access to cable broadband, and 47 percent to mobile broadband. However, to achieve WSIS outcomes towards the Information Society, increasing the deployment of broadband networks especially in the developing world is critical.

Korea, in fact, has been reaping the benefits of systematic, large-scaled investments in broadband infrastructure. In the 1990s, the Korean Government prioritized on ICT development, partly as a means to pull the economy out of a financial crisis. National infrastructure for high-speed Internet, and regulations promoting a competitive broadband market were established. As a result, Korea has been able to join the

ranks of the most wired countries in the world and enjoy the highest average Internet connection speed.

With the basic infrastructure in place and the continued development of ICTs, Korea has been able to exploit the unprecedented benefits stemming from the ongoing digital revolution, including the creation of new jobs and industries. New initiatives employing the Internet as a platform -- e-government, u-health, IPTV and m-banking -- are revolutionizing the lives of the Korean people. And now the Korean Government is pursuing a creative economy as a new national paradigm, which aims to converge ICT with creative ideas to further create new growth engines.

Therefore, in recognition of such benefits, the UN and member states should make increased efforts to pursue cooperation with the private sector and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, to invest in broadband infrastructure to contribute to attaining sustainable development goals and bridge the prevailing digital divide.

2) Increased attention to cyber threats

The Internet is a new horizon with endless possibilities, offering unprecedented economic and social benefits. However, on account of its open, anonymous and borderless nature, cyber threats are emerging as a formidable challenge to the security of the Internet. The international community should be fully aware of these mounting threats on our way towards the Information Society.

Korea, for instance, on account of the highly-interconnected nature of its Internet is becoming increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats. Since 2009, there has been a series of massive distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks and intrusions on government networks, broadcasting and financial systems.

Therefore, to leverage the Internet to meet the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the international community should raise the awareness of such threats and strengthen cooperation to secure the public confidence in the Internet. Korea, for one, held the third Conference on Cyberspace under the theme of 'Global Prosperity through an Open and Secure Cyberspace' in October 2013 to raise global awareness on the need for greater international cooperation to address the growing threats, while securing the benefits of the Internet.

3) Internet Governance

Concerns are being voiced that the recent unprecedented advances of ICT have outpaced the ability of the current governance to respond. This has led to varying views among countries and institutions on the future of Internet governance, especially when it comes to discussing international public policies.

And as the Internet continues to develop and impact all aspects of our lives, the issue of Internet governance will carry greater importance in the years to come. Therefore, the international community needs to continue to raise the awareness, discuss and come to an agreement on the future of Internet governance.

Korea has been a strong proponent of the multi-stakeholder model in relation to Internet governance. And to further advance the Internet and its benefits, all stakeholders - including government, private sector, civil society, academia and technology community - should come together to raise awareness and address the emerging issues concerning the Internet. This is more so given that today's interconnected, complex challenges can no longer be resolved without the cooperation and collaboration of all relevant actors.

In this connection, the relevance and importance of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is growing, as it

produces valuable outcomes and resources for interested stakeholders. The international community should further strengthen IGF, including its way of working, so that it can become a truly inclusive and effective forum for multi-stakeholders to convene and discuss ways to harness the enormous benefits of the digital revolution, while tackling the challenges along the road.

4) Capacity Building

Assistance to build cyber capacity should be provided to developing countries to create a more vibrant ICT economy, and strengthen their cyber security. Continued efforts to raise awareness of developing countries on the mounting cyber threats and ways to prevent or address them are also critical.

In this regard, the Korean Government has set up a Global Cyber security Center for Development (GCCD) in Korea in June, 2015. The Center will be tasked with promoting cyber security and other information protection in developing nations. The efforts to build the capacity of developing countries will contribute to bridging the digital divide across the globe.

4. What are general expectations from the WSIS + 10 High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly?

The WSIS + 10 High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly will be held at a momentous time – the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the UN and in the immediate aftermath of the adoption of the historic Post-2015 Development Agenda that will guide the development of the international community for the next fifteen years.

Therefore, it would be an opportune time to renew our collective commitment and responsibility to continue working towards the development of a people-centered Information Society. The international community should also highlight and discuss the essential role of ICTs and innovative ways of leveraging the Internet to achieve the Post-2015 Development Agenda, while bridging the digital divide.

The meeting should also come up with proposed actions and priorities for the next decade, based on a review of the previous decade, to reach the vision of the people-centred, inclusive and development oriented Information Society.

5. What shape should the outcome document take?

The outcome document should be concise, focused and forward-looking. The document should incorporate the inputs of all relevant stakeholders in attaining the vision of a 'people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society' that would pave the way for sustainable development. In addition, the WSIS outcome reports of UNESCO, ITU and CSTD should be duly reflected in the outcome document.