

Comments and views on WSIS+10 Review : Non-Paper

1. The document is a commendable effort to bring together various ideas expressed by delegations in a concise format. However, the final outcome document needs to raise ambition and not merely repeat the contours of Tunis Agenda.
2. A reference needs to be made to the current exercise being undertaken pursuant to the mandate of the Tunis Agenda to undertake a review of its outcome 10 years later. The “overall review” exercise as mentioned in para 37 of the Non Paper should include a requirement to report to the UNGA as is mentioned in Article 122 of the Tunis Agenda.
3. It should be also recognized that in the next decade, a large proportion of new internet users will come from developing countries. The Tunis Agenda, 2005 has been reasonably successful in increasing access in developing countries. However, at the same time it should be noted that there is a lack of participation from developing countries in policy development processes related to the internet. India would like to highlight the need to enable developing countries to have a say in the policies which have a direct impact on their social and economic development. The role of developing countries cannot be limited to receiving support for development, and they should have an active role in Internet governance. In working towards such inclusion, it is crucial to ensure that the objective is substantive inclusion, and not merely formal inclusion, keeping in mind barriers which may hinder participation in processes that are nominally open to all. The outcome should invite all developing countries to actively engage and participate in various fora related to Internet governance, and for these fora to explore means to facilitate such substantive engagement and participation.
4. The exercise undertaken by the CSTD Secretariat for developing the “Mapping of International Internet Public Policy Issues”, as well as by the UNESCO on developing the “Study on access, freedom of expression, privacy and ethics” through a multistakeholder dialogue and consultation had brought to the fore certain public policy areas where States have a greater obligation than other stakeholders, since nation states are ultimately responsible for ensuring national security and guaranteeing personal safety. In this context, it is important to recognize the need for identifying issues which have a direct impact on national security, and the need for an enhanced role for governments in dealing with such issues. This must get adequate attention in the Outcome document.
5. As we stated at our First Session on 1 July, 2015, this Review must result in an assessment of the relevance of the provisions of the Tunis Agenda in the framework of Agenda 2030. However, we do not find any linkages being established to the Action Lines of the Tunis Agenda with the implementation of Agenda 2030. This is important as it will enable the provisions of the Tunis Agenda to be used for the achievement of "internationally agreed development goals and objectives" in an integrated manner.
6. No new Action Lines have been created with no reporting and review mechanisms for the existing ones. As we have stated earlier, the outcome document must revisit, review and reassess the Tunis Agenda to update its action lines on the

basis of the experience of implementing this Agenda over the past ten years. We must also seek to accommodate new action lines to address the emerging issues in the Information Society, especially in the context of the Agenda 2030.

7. In addition to the above, we would suggest following language for insertion after certain paragraphs as indicated below:

8. Capacity-building remains a primary focus for all countries and people, more particularly in the most vulnerable countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in order to leverage the full potential of ICTs and facilitate technology transfer. We call for increased global efforts for cooperation in human resource development and skill creation.

9. The zero draft should reflect the provisions of paragraph 8 of the Tunis Agenda, which identifies the role that three issues - adequate and sustainable investments in ICT infrastructure and services, capacity building, and transfer of technology - can play in bridging the digital divides, and the provisions of Section G, paragraphs 114, 116, 120, and especially 123 (the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism) of the Addis Ababa Outcome Document.

10. We recognise that the social media has played a very useful role in connecting the communities and bringing social benefits to all class of people. The social media has helped in promoting the freedom of expression of speech and human rights. The social media should play an active role in extending outreach to the applications delivering social benefits, social justice, citizen services, disaster recovery, medical and health services and help in maintaining public order.

11. The commitment to the multi-stakeholder approach be truly global and inclusive in nature both in regular policy development and decision making. The efforts should be made to further expand outreach of Internet and development of community empowerment mechanism.

12. We recognise that there must be a sustained focus to remove “barriers to entry” for the outreach and inclusive growth of Internet across the globe. There is a need to ensure substantive inclusion of stakeholder while keeping in view the diversity of languages.

13. We call for uniform distribution of critical resources of Internet across the regions in the world.

14. We recognise that cyberspace is getting more and more rich in terms of information and applications. With the technological innovation taking place in this area more and more heterogeneous devices are being connected and accessing the applications on the Internet. The protection of critical information infrastructure and security of information assets and the information contained in the assets has thus assumed a vital importance. Cyber security, thus, has become an important component of Internet Governance. Cyber security is an increasing challenge to all stakeholders. All stakeholders must work together to cooperate and collaborate in securing the information assets, devices and information contained therein.

15. We recognise that newer and newer technologies are being implemented. Particular attention is to be paid to collaborate on the Research & Development and transfer of technology so as to have an equitable access of technology and the benefits of technology seamlessly across the regions.

16. There is a need for confidence building measures and international cooperation. There should be a free flow and exchange of information on incidents of cybercrimes, cyber security.

17. The sovereign jurisdiction of all states should be ensured on the information infrastructure and systems within the respective boundaries to ensure national security of respective countries.

18. We recognise that Public Private Partnership be encouraged for technology innovations, delivering citizen services, managing critical resources, protection of critical information infrastructure and delivery of citizen centric services.
