



WSIS C2 Action Line Facilitation Meeting
**Round Table on the ICT Projects and
Necessary Mechanisms for Successful Implementation**
19 May 2008, ITU, Geneva, Switzerland

**The Digital World Forum as a Necessary Mechanism
for Successful Implementation**

Revised 18 May 2008



PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

- The [Digital World Forum on Accessible and Inclusive ICT](#) (DWF),
- A [FP7](#) support action.
- Field : [Information and Communication Technologies](#)
- ICT-2007.9.1 International Cooperation: Development-related ICT research exploitation and cooperation roadmaps
- DWF started in January 2008.

DWF PARTNERS

- [W3C](#) coordinator : Stéphane BOYERA ([Project leader](#)), Daniel DARDAILLER
- [ERCIM](#) : Jessica MICHEL
- [FRANCE TELECOM](#) : Bruno CONQUET
- [NEMATRIX](#) ([Digital World](#)) : Roland BURGER
- [PC4D](#) ([ENSTA](#) - [ARMINES](#)) : Francis MUGUET
- [FUNDACIÓN CIBERVOLUNTARIOS](#) : Yolanda RUEDA, Adrien MANGIN
- [KUSAMOTU and KUSAMOTU](#): Ayo KUSAMOTU
- [MERAKA INSTITUTE](#) : Segopotso MOSHAPO
- [ONE VILLAGE FOUNDATION \(GHANA \)](#) : Kafui PREBBIE

DWF GOALS

- Works towards reducing the digital divide and social exclusion
- Assess existing low-cost technologies, their potential, their challenges
- Build roadmaps with stakeholders to leverage access to ICT in Developing Countries
- Create the conditions for their future successful implementation,
- Pave the way for strategic partnerships in view of developing interoperable solutions

DWF WORK PACKAGES (WP)

- **WP1: Mobile Web Applications (W3C).**
- **WP2: Low-Cost Laptop: inter alia explore how to play a proactive role in the area of low-cost laptops,**
- **WP3: Low-cost Broadband Access and Infrastructure: inter alia explore key R&D or standardization actions that could lead to a better interoperability order to leverage low-cost broadband availability**
- **WP4: Dissemination and Outreach: inter alia disseminate the roadmaps towards industry communities, political levels, EU circle, and local, regional and international forum.**

A Pioneering Non-Profit Initiative



- **Efforts to bridge the Digital Divide do not and cannot rely on the mass market alone.**
- **Mixture of prescription orders and a mass market.**
- **[OLPC](#) (first presented at the WSIS in Tunis) is a non-commercial academic initiative,**
- **For the first time, a Civil Society initiative has a major technological and commercial impact**
- **Despite technological breakthroughs, OLPC is plagued by logistical and political problems**

Industrial Follow-Up



- Following the fear of a breakthrough by [OLPC](#) that would create a new market
- Many commercial companies started or are starting low-cost UMPC (Ultra Mobile PCs)
- Stunning commercial success of the [eeePC](#) from ASUS (direct sales & bundle with Telcos)
- Processors & various chips for mobile phones (eg the leader [ARM](#)) are becoming [powerful enough](#) to equip a laptop,
- An incoming technological revolution on the horizon : mobile/laptop convergence.

Questions

- Would OPLC need a place to interface with all stakeholders ? a Forum ? to overcome its problems and elaborate a sound roadmap ?
- Are all these companies jumping on the UMPC bandwagon, enough in contact with governments (particularly from developing countries) and civil society ? to really study requirements to bridge the digital divide and to transform technological success into a social & educational success within the information society ?
- Similar problems, although less visible, but as important, arise with new networking technologies.

CONCLUSIONS

- To effectively bridge the Digital Divide
- Not to miss major technological evolutions such as the mobile/laptop convergence.
- Not to miss the inputs & requirements from Educators & Civil Society with whom the industry has very little contact.
- Not to miss the inputs & requirements from Governments for their social inclusive policies.
- Conversely for Governments (in particular from developing countries) not to miss technological partnerships and to avoid roadmap errors with a heavy political price.
- Urgent need to organize a sustainable Forum, building on the initial impetus and financial support of the FP7 [Digital World Forum](#) support action.

