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## Commonwealth of Independent States Interstate Committee of the CIS on Knowledge Promotion and Adult Education

## **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

Geneva, Switzerland, December 10-12, 2003

**Plenary Session** 

Statement by Academician, Professor Efim Malitikov, Chairman of the Interstate Committee of Commonwealth of Independent States on Knowledge Promotion and Adult Education, President of International Association Znanie

Your Excellency, Chairman! Thank you for your democratic attitude and your talent in running the Summit within the limits of the very tight schedule.

Your Excellency, Chairman! Your Excellencies! Ladies and gentlemen!

As well as it is impossible within one week to comprehend and even to make a schedule for the next Century, it is impossible for one decade to formulate the detailed Millennium Goals in which, as we see, ideas and terms of the last Century are not yet taking roots.

Mankind with hope and trust is watching systematic and energetic efforts of the United Nations which is consistently putting landmarks in international, intermental, financial and political diversity of directives and interests of the planetary world order.

The recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the World Summit of the Mountains in Bishkek and dozens of international events and initiatives are in the same context.

The World Summit on the Information Society is a direct instrument for the future, decisions of which contain both dangers to and perspectives of the Global World.

Today we cannot act locally out of the context of responsibility for Global consequences. Political and even financial interests must not prevail over global construction of thinking and actions moving to the background even national Law of Value.

Marginalization, poverty, destitution, which like Mendeleyev Table make up Sustainable Development of Mankind, will remain until we become a community of even dissemination and equal utilization of planetary knowledge as given by God. And it's not important who was the first to obtain, find, comprehend and apply knowledge, if it is of Earth, Mankind or Natural Environment.

Due to the different starting conditions **knowledge is not spread evenly on Earth** like butter on bread. The modern technologies of its dissemination are based mainly on E-mail formula. The developed countries of Europe and USA are the fashion-makers and dominant users in the world.

For developing and less developed countries – Law of Value, geographical inaccessibility and remoteness, climatic and natural components, financial non-affordability are shown by well-known statistical data: the majority of the Mankind lives on less than \$2 a day, more than 2 billion people - on less than \$1 a day. This is an average statistics and for many people in different countries these figures are even lower. And this is because of the fact that about one billion people are absolutely illiterate, they cannot read and write. The others don't posses sufficient modern knowledge.

The INTERNET dominates over other information technologies, but it can not reach the larges part of illiterate, that means doomed, Mankind.

Its fifth part lives in mountains, a significant number - in areas with difficult access and not enveloped by the civilization remote parts of the planet, where because of natural and climatic conditions as well as of costs Internet is not and will not be available

Hot spots of the planet, prisons, where millions of people fall out of the real life, who could not be send to the Moon, are also the white spot on the map. Thus, the final planet balance is not coping with the challenges of the Information Society with the help of the cable Internet, as an instrument. Relying on the Internet alone our Summit will not accomplish its own task.

Nevertheless, our repeatedly given examples of effective dissemination of knowledge with the help of modern satellite technologies, making available any part of our planet, which does not have transport, electricity, communications, Palaces of

Knowledge, schools, teachers, deficit of whom exceeded 15 million people out of 60 daily lagging behind modern knowledge **are not taken into consideration**.

The fact, that with large and so necessary size of scale, satellite technologies are becoming 100 times cheaper than the Internet and with the growth of the number of users are becoming available even for the poor, **is also not taken into consideration**. At the same time the efficiency of a modern teacher or lecturer who is in demand increases by a necessary and enough value to shorten the digital gap.

The language barrier is vanishing and high expenditures on trips to the university centers of the world and unique by their talents schools are decreasing becoming affordable to every person on the Earth.

400 cities in various countries are covered by our University centers from the Moscow teleport; the number of our students exceeds repeatedly the number of traditional classroom form educational centers and universities.

In former times, within of more than 50 years of classic lecture dissemination of knowledge this work was conducted by 4,5 million of educators and scientists, members of the all-union Znanie society, reading 25 million of lectures annually, which today is absolutely insufficient taking into consideration the current speed of knowledge renewal.

Nowadays, without expenses on stone palaces for schools, our 2500 professors work effectively right in shepherd settlements, distant villages in Chechnya and other hot spots of the planet and prisons with no danger to their lives, or psychic stresses and without a decline of synergetic effect in interaction with students. At the same time, independence and creativity is increasing in both groups.

It is a high time to change accents, to accept the obvious and include our proposal to the Summit Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, so as the new statistics of our work effectiveness could emerge before the Tunis phase of the Summit.

Thank You for Your attention.