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**Document WSIS/PC-2/DOC/3-E**  
**15 January 2003**  
**Original: English**

**Note by the WSIS Executive Secretariat**

**OUTCOME OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE 2 OF  
PREPCOM 1 OF THE WSIS  
(GENEVA, 16 TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2002)**

The attached report is hereby transmitted for information to the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on the Information Society.

Annex: 1

## **Outcome of the informal meeting of sub-committee 2 of PrepCom I of the WSIS**

Based on the document adopted in the First Preparatory Committee on Principles guiding the Preparatory work and the WSIS, as well as the proposal from the Chair of Sub-Committee 2 on themes for the WSIS, informal consultations of Sub-Committee 2 were held from 16 to 18 September 2002. The meeting agreed to submit the following as an informal input to the Regional Preparatory Meetings and to the Second Preparatory Committee of the WSIS.

In this regard, the following general set of principles was identified in a preliminary manner to guide the preparatory work and the Summit.

- The Preparatory Committee and the Summit should be aimed at extending the benefits of the Information Society to all and should be development-oriented, overcoming the digital divides
- The need to find a shared understanding of and to raise awareness of:
  - The information society; and
  - How the challenges of the digital divides can be met
- The Summit should consider both infrastructure and content issues
- Preservation of linguistic diversity and cultural identity should be a priority
- Relevant ethical dimensions of ICT should be considered
- A spirit of international co-operation should prevail
- ICTs are a tool for achieving economic and social goals, such as those stated in the UN Millennium Declaration, and not an end in itself
- The importance of universal and inclusive access to the Information Society
- [There is a need for broad-based partnerships among stakeholders][The importance of a wide spectrum of partnerships among stakeholders]
- The importance of communities and of utilising ICTs for the benefit of disadvantaged groups (e.g., women, youth, children, the disabled, indigenous peoples, migrants)
- [The importance of the issue of information network security]

In the same preliminary manner the following set of themes was identified as an initial basis for further work.

- Information and communication infrastructure: financing and investment, affordability, development, and sustainability.
  - Wide spectrum of partnerships for investments
- Identifying and overcoming barriers to the achievement of the information society with a human perspective
- [Universal and equitable] access to information and communication sciences and technologies [including technology transfer] and access to and creation of information and knowledge based on cultural and linguistic diversity

- The role of governments, relevant UN organs and agencies, relevant international, regional and national organisations including financial and development institutions, business sector, civil society/NGOs, academic institutions, media and other relevant actors in the development of an information society including promotion of ICTs for development
  - Capacity building: human resources development, education, and training
  - Options
    - [Information network security]
    - [Global ICT governance, including information security and network security, data protection, consumer security and user privacy]
    - [Information security and network security]
    - [Information security]
  - [[Enabling [a national and international] environment notably] [policies and regulatory frameworks][and establishing codes of conduct for business and enterprises]]
  - Promotion of development oriented ICT applications for all (e.g. education, health, culture, poverty eradication, e-government, employment, business, e-commerce, local content, environment, prevention and early warning systems, vocal and tactile applications)
  - Encouraging the participation of SMEs especially from developing countries in the ICT field
  - [Follow up and assessment]
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