

## United Nations Volunteers and the Volunteer Working Group of the Civil Society Bureau

### Inputs on the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action documents

We would like to submit to the consideration of the Chair Person of Sub-Committee 2 of PrepCom2 and the WSIS Secretariat the following inputs for the working documents to be produced during by 21 March 2003. (notes in CAPS for easier reference).

#### I Declaration of Principles

##### **A. Preamble**

7 ...new ways of thinking are called for. [VOLUNTEERISM, WHICH INVOLVES HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE GLOBALLY, IS ONE SUCH EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY IN ACTION]

##### **C. Key Principles**

4) Capacity building

*After 48*

[VOLUNTEERISM PROVIDES AN EFFECTIVE AND VALUE -ADDED MEANS TO HELP ADDRESS THE MASSIVE NEEDS OF HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY, BECAUSE OF ITS ATTRIBUTES OF UNIVERSALITY, SOLIDARITY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS].

#### II Plan of Action

##### **A. List of issues**

3) *The role of governments, the business sector and civil society in the promotion of ICTs for development*

after paragraph 10

[CATALYZE THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK BUILT DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS 2001 (IYV 2001), WITH NODES IN OVER 100 COUNTRIES, TO SUPPORT THE PLAN OF ACTION OF WSIS]

[PROMOTE CORPORATE OR EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVES ON ICT4D TO FACILITATE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SHARE SKILLS, EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES, IN ORDER TO HARNESS THEM IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY IN ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES]

**4) Capacity building: human resources development, education, and training**

15 In building an Information Society, we should take into account Youth, which forms the majority of the population in many developing regions and is a force for socio-economic development. Equipping young people

with knowledge and skills on ICTs to prepare them for full participation in the Information Society is an important goal. [IN ADDITION, YOUTH SHAPES THE INFORMATION SOCIETY. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY PROVIDE SKILLS AND COMMITMENT THROUGH VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO USE ICTS TOWARDS ATTAINING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.]

after paragraph 16

[SUPPORT SPECIAL ICT VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES, SUCH AS THE UNITEs INITIATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, A VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORIENTED TOWARDS BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE. THESE INITIATIVES CAN BE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO MAINSTREAM ICT INTO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES (AND INTO DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, IN PARTICULAR)]

[SUPPORT AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER NETWORK, INVOLVING STUDENTS, PROFESSORS AND STAFF, TO BUILD CAPACITY ON THE USES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ICT4D (AS INDICATED THE UN ICT TASK FORCE PLAN OF ACTION ITEM 10)

[FOSTER AND PROVIDE MECHANISMS FOR VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS OF DIASPORA (BOTH ON-SITE AND ONLINE)]

### **6) *Enabling environment***

22 Working towards open and flexible international and interoperable standards is an important issue for all countries so as to ensure that all can utilize the technology and associated content and services to their maximum potential. Development and deployment of open-source software should be encouraged, as appropriate, as should open standards for ICT networking. [A SPECIAL "PROGRAMMERS WITHOUT FRONTIERS" INITIATIVE, FOCUSED ON OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE AS APPLIED TO DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, COULD BE COORDINATED UNDER THE UN UMBRELLA]

### **7) *Promotion of development-oriented ICT applications for all***

after paragraph 30

[FACILITATE EXCHANGE MECHANISMS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND CULTIVATE KNOWLEDGE ACROSS PROJECTS RELATED TO VARIOUS APPLICATIONS OF ICT (EG. E-LEARNING, E-GOVERNMENT, E-BUSINESS, E-HEALTH, ETC.)]

## **B. Objectives**

35 Examples of possible concrete and comprehensive actions could include:

[ i) ESTABLISH NATIONAL/REGIONAL "ONLINE VOLUNTEERING" SERVICES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO PEOPLE TO COLLABORATE IN PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH THE INTERNET]

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