

## Position of the Czech Republic on the “Declaration” and the “Action Plan”

### **Introduction:**

The Czech Republic subscribes to the ideas and objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the declaration of the common vision of the “Information Society”. It fully identifies with the defined key principles of building an Information Society for all. A proof of this approach is the establishment as of January 1, 2003 of the Ministry of Informatics of the Czech Republic whose responsibilities correspond to the intentions included in the WSIS draft “Declaration” and “Action Plan”. Its significant support for the idea of the Information Society and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) development will be reflected in the enhancement of its economic and social potential, education and training, and last but not least, in the further development of public services and services provided by self-governing bodies.

The Czech Republic regards public administration information systems as the basic tool for reducing the costs of the functioning of public administration, sound knowledge management as well as for improving the citizen - state relationship. Information technologies can also play a very important role in increasing employment in particular in regions with the shortage of job opportunities and in promoting e-education. The Czech Republic makes every effort to make e-literacy part of the general knowledge of people and to develop people’s ability to work and orientate in the cyberspace. To this end, the Czech Republic has been implementing a five-year programme of State Information Policy in Education aimed at training all age groups of population in e-literacy.

The Czech Republic is prepared to provide within its capacities expert assistance in the implementation of WSIS conclusions in particular to the developing countries.

### **Comments on WSIS documents:**

1. Comments on the two documents for the WSIS Summit should in principle not change anything in what has been agreed at the PrepCom-2 in Geneva last February;
2. The texts of the two documents should be shortened so as to avoid overlapping of items mentioned in the Declaration and in the Action Plan;
3. More stress should be put on human rights in relation to the ICTs, and on the respect for the protection of privacy and security of information and know-how;
4. More stress should be put on the role of ICTs in relation to the quality of life and economic growth in society, to the field of education and health care, to providing for the needs of underprivileged groups of population, to the way of spending leisure time

and to the life style in general, and on the relation to the environment, nature and other people;

5. Worth underlining is that the primary objective of building the Information Society is not the aspect of resources but that of the final effect;
6. We recommend the texts to mention the importance of norms and standardization for effective ICTs use. It also appears worth considering the establishment of an international organization for the standardization of cross-border data exchange;
7. We recommend stress to be put on the need to introduce suitable forms of participation of private capital in the context of funding the realization of the “Action Plan” which should be coordinated with the other programmes focussed on a similar subject;
8. The objectives of the “Action Plan” should be realistic and its deadlines attainable. Article 45 of the “Draft Action Plan” does not meet this requirement.