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Draft Interim Report of the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Geneva, 15-26 September 2003

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I INTRODUCTION

1 In its Resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly of the United Nations welcomed the resolution of the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) endorsing the proposal put forward by the ITU Secretary-General for the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The General Assembly also invited the ITU to assume the leading role in organizing the Summit and its preparatory process, in cooperation with other interested organizations and partners.

2 The General Assembly Resolution further recommended that the preparations for the Summit take place through an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee that would define the agenda of the Summit, finalize both the draft Declaration of Principles and the draft Plan of Action, and decide on the modalities for the participation of other stakeholders in the Summit.

II ORGANIZATION

A Opening and duration of the meeting

3 The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society held its third session from 15 to 26 September 2003 in Geneva. The Committee held **four** Plenary Meetings and **12** Subcommittee meetings.

4 Mr Adama Samassékou, President of the Preparatory Committee, opened the first Plenary Meeting. Opening addresses were made by Mr Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of the ITU and Chairman of the High-Level Summit Organizing Committee (HLSOC); by Mr Moritz Leuenberger, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, who spoke on behalf of the Swiss Government; and by Mr Nitin Desai, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General for the WSIS.

B Agenda of the Plenary Meetings

10) 5 The Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda of the first Plenary Meeting as contained in Document WSIS/PC-3/ADM/4. Its agenda, as well as those of the Second (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/6) and Third & Fourth Plenary Meetings (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/7) can be found at www.itu.int/wsis/documents/

C Agenda of the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom-3)

6 The Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda of PrepCom-3, as contained in Document WSIS/PC-3/DOC/1. The agenda has been posted at www.itu.int/wsis/documents/

D Organization of work

7 The Executive Secretary informed participants about the Annotated Agenda (Document WSIS/PC-3/ADM/3) and the Draft Time Management Plan (Document WSIS/PC-3/ADM/2).

E Election of officers

8 Following the recommendations of the Bureau, PrepCom-3 elected by acclamation H.E. Ambassador Daniel Stauffacher (Switzerland) to chair Subcommittee 1 and H.E. Ambassador Asko Numminen (Finland) to chair Subcommittee 2.

9 The Preparatory Committee further elected by acclamation Mr Edgars Kalniņš (Latvia) as Rapporteur for the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

F Accreditation

10 The Preparatory Committee approved the lists of entities having requested accreditation, as contained in Document WSIS/PC-3/DOC/7.

G Report of the ITU Secretary-General

11 The ITU Secretary-General and Chairman of the HLSOC provided a report on the activities he had undertaken, in both his capacities, for PrepCom-3 and the Geneva phase of the Summit. He also provided information on activities undertaken by the ITU in relation to the WSIS (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/5).

H Report of the President of the Preparatory Committee

12 The President of the Preparatory Committee provided a report on the activities he had undertaken between PrepCom-2 and PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/4).

I Reports on activities directly related to WSIS

13 The Preparatory Committee heard reports from the following conferences:

- Report of the Pan-Arab Conference on WSIS held in Cairo, Egypt, from 16 to 18 June 2003. Speaker: Ambassador Nehad Abdel Latif (Egypt).
- Report of the « Conférence ministérielle de la Francophonie sur la société de l'information » held in Rabat, Morocco, on 4 and 5 September 2003. Speaker: Ambassador Hervé Cassan (Morocco).
- Report of the ITU Working Group on WSIS. Speaker: Yuri Grin (Russia).

J Attendance

14 In accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 56/183 and rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee, the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society was open to the full participation of all States that were members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies.

15 The following 152 States were represented: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Gabonese Republic, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwandese Republic, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somali Democratic Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vatican, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

16 The European Community was represented, conforming with the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee.

17 Palestine, having received a standing invitation from the United Nations General Assembly, was represented at PrepCom-3.

18 The following United Nations bodies were represented: International Trade Centre (ITC); United Nations; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations ICT Task Force (UNICT); United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UNNGLS); United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG); United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA); United Nations University (UNU); and United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

19 The following specialized agencies of the United Nations and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), The World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

20 The following invited intergovernmental organizations were represented: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), African Development Bank (AFDB); African Union (AU); The Arab League Educational, Cultural & Scientific Organization (ALECSO); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD); Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT); Asociación Hispanoamericana de Centros de Investigación y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones (AHCIET); Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI); Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC); Conseil de l'Union Européenne; Council of Europe; The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO); Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); League of Arab States (LAS); Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF); Organisation islamique pour l'éducation, les sciences et la culture (ISESCO); Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); Pan-African Postal Union; Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC); Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); and Union des radiodiffusions et télévisions nationales (URTNA).

21 A large number of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities, including ITU Sector Members, participated.

K Documentation

22 The Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee had before it the following official, administrative and working documents:

- Draft agenda of PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/1);
- Draft Declaration of Principles (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/2, including revised versions published in documents DT/1 Rev.2);
- Draft Plan of Action (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/3, including revised versions published in documents DT/2 Rev.1);
- Report by the President on the Preparatory Process from PrepCom-2 to PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/4);
- Report of the ITU Secretary-General on activities leading to PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/5);
- Draft Rules of Procedures of the WSIS (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/6 (Rev. 1));
- Accreditation of NGOs, civil society and business sector entities to the WSIS (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/7);
- Proposed Format of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/8);
- Provisional Draft Agenda of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/9);
- Draft Time Management Plan – WSIS PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/2)
- Annotated Agenda (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/ 3)
- Draft Agenda of the First Plenary Meeting of PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/4)
- Draft Agenda of the Second Plenary Meeting of PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/6)

- Draft Agenda of the Third and Fourth Plenary Meetings of PrepCom-3 (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/7)
- List of Participants (WSIS/PC-3/ADM/5)

These documents can be found on the WSIS website at: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/>.

III DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE WSIS

23 At its second plenary meeting on 22 September 2003, the Preparatory Committee, based on the Report of the Chairman of Subcommittee 1, adopted the Draft Rules of Procedure of the WSIS (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/11). This document appears as Annex 1 to this Interim Report.

24 Following the adoption of the Draft Rules of Procedure of the WSIS, the Spanish delegation took the floor and requested that the following statement be included in the report:

“Once again Spain re-affirms its renowned commitment to the progress of the World Summit on the Information Society and supports the adoption by unanimity of its Rules of Procedure.

Moreover, Spain is pleased to note that these revised Rules will allow broad participation by NGOs, the civil society and business entities, an important aspect of the reform process undertaken by the United Nations, with the support of the Spanish government, of all related fora.

In this context, the Government of Spain wishes to make known that it understands these Rules of Procedure which were approved now in a way that they will in no case violate the letter or the spirit of article 149 of the Spanish Constitution.”

IV DRAFT WSIS DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, DRAFT WSIS PLAN OF ACTION AND REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE 2

25 Subcommittee 2 met xx times during PrepCom-3 to review the Draft Declaration of Principles (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/2) and the Draft Plan of Action (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/3). It also established a Working Group, with Ms Lyndall Shope-Mafole (South Africa) as Chairperson. The draft text of the Declaration of Principles was considered by a special meeting of the Heads of Delegation.

26 In order to progress work on the two documents, ad hoc groups were set up on specific topics under the guidance of different countries.

27 It was agreed that observers could attend the discussions in the Plenary and Working Group Meetings and would be invited by the Chairperson to make brief statements. Observers were also invited to make brief statements at the start of each ad hoc group meeting.

28 A revised Draft Declaration of Principles (WSIS/PC-3/DT-1) was issued on Friday 19 September and a Chairman's Draft Plan of Action (WSIS/PC-3/DT-2) was issued on Sunday 21 September. Subsequent revisions of both documents were issued as follows:

- Draft Declaration of Principles: WSIS/PC-3/DT-/1 (Rev. 1) on 24 September 2003, (Rev. 2) and (Rev. 2A) on 25 September 2003 and (Rev. 2B) on 26 September 2003. In the evening of 26 September 2003, an Annex to (Rev. 2B) was issued.
- Draft Plan of Action: WSIS/PC-3/DT-/2 (Rev. 1) on 24 September 2003. The subsequent version was issued as Addendum 2 to the Report of the Chair of Subcommittee-2. In the evening of 26 September 2003, a Corrigendum 1 to Addendum 2 was issued.

29 At its third Plenary meeting on 26 September 2003, the Preparatory Committee heard the report of the Chair of Subcommittee-2 (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/10) (Annex 2 to this Interim Report), considered the revised version of the Draft Declaration of Principles (WSIS/PC-3/DT-1 (Rev.2B) with its Annex dated 26 September 2003) and the revised version of the Draft Plan of Action (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/10 Addendum 2, with Corrigendum 1 dated 26 September 2003) and decided that both documents should be considered as the basis for future negotiations. The two documents appear as Addendum 1 and Addendum 2 to Annex 2 in this Interim Report.

V ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE GENEVA PHASE OF THE SUMMIT

30 The draft agenda and the proposed format for the Geneva phase of the WSIS, as approved by the fourth Plenary meeting on 26 September 2003, are contained in Documents WSIS/PC-DOC/9 and WSIS/PC-3/DOC/8 (Rev.2), respectively. Those documents are attached to this report as Annexes 3 and 4. Paragraph 5 of WSIS/PC-3/8 (Rev.2) and paragraph 10 of its Annex 2 were the object of reservations by delegations from Australia, the United States of America and Israel. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested by those delegations to verify with the UN Secretariat how these two paragraphs conform to UN legal and protocol practice.

VI ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TUNIS PHASE OF THE SUMMIT

31 The President of PrepCom briefly summarized the situation with regard to the arrangements for the Tunis phase of the Summit, which have been discussed by the Bureau on a number of occasions. The Bureau has taken note of the report to PrepCom-2, which recommends that the Tunis phase of the Summit focus on the adoption of a digital solidarity charter and an agenda for regional action plans. In light of documents submitted by Tunisia and a proposal from the ITU Secretary-General, the Bureau requested more time to study the question and present its conclusions when PrepCom-3 resumes its work in November.

VII ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT INTERIM REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

32 The draft Interim Report of the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee was adopted during the Plenary Meeting on Friday, 26 September 2003. The Rapporteur was entrusted with the task of finalizing the Interim Report, with the assistance of the Executive Secretariat.

VIII SUSPENSION OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

33 PrepCom-3 decided to suspend its meeting and to reconvene in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 2003 (subject to the availability of resources) and from 7 to 9 December 2003.

34 PrepCom-3 requested that:

- 1) The President supervise informal consultations to facilitate the negotiations at the reconvened sessions;
- 2) On the basis of the discussions at PrepCom-3, as well as his consultations, the President prepare a non-paper on the Declaration;
- 3) The reconvened PrepCom-3 use document WSIS PC-3/DT-/1 (Rev. 2B) (Declaration of Principles) and WSIS/PC-3/DOC/10 (Rev. 1) (Add. 2) DT-2 (Rev.1) (Plan of Action) as its basis for negotiation. It may also consider the President's non-paper.

IX OTHER BUSINESS

35 There were no items under this point.

X ANNEXES

Annex 1: Note by the Chairman of Subcommittee 1 (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/11) and Draft Rules of Procedure of the Summit.

Annex 2: Report on the Work of Subcommittee 2. (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/10)
Addendum 1: Draft Declaration of Principles (WSIS/PC-3/DT/1 (Rev. 2B) and its Annex, dated 26 September 2003.
Addendum 2: Draft Plan of Action (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/10) (Rev. 1) (Add.2), dated 26 September 2003.

Annex 3: Draft Provisional Agenda of the Geneva Phase of the WSIS (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/9).

Annex 4: Proposed Format of the Geneva Phase of the WSIS (WSIS/PC-3/DOC/8(Rev.2)).
