

## **ICTDPB**

### **PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING WATCHDOG TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF WSIS PLAN OF ACTION AND DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**

#### **Background**

The overwhelming commitments of the developing countries in the WSIS 2003 held at Geneva, Switzerland during December 10-12, 2003 has began to fade within a very short span of time. It seems like the same old stories of unimplemented commitments. The scenario in most of the developing countries like Bangladesh is mostly same. Simultaneously, some countries have taken extensive initiatives and programs to implement the action plan and will ultimately benefit the nations through accessing the Solidarity Fund and other assistance from the development partners. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> round will create the opportunity to the participant countries to demonstrate their capacity and achievements for getting access to the fund.

The Action Plan of WSIS categorically mentioned the role of the stakeholders as *"Governments have a leading role in developing and implementing comprehensive, forward looking and sustainable national e-strategies. The private sector and civil society, in dialogue with governments, have an important consultative role to play in devising national e-strategies"*. So the responsibility of the govt. has been categorically specified & definite. There is no scope to avoid or transfer the responsibility.

The Objectives, goals and targets have also been defined in the Action Plan in details. The developing countries should initiate *Goal Based* activities to achieve the targeted plan towards accomplishing the WSIS vision. The initiatives may be in small & pilot scale, which will be scalable & replicable and can demonstrate the concern of the govt.

Developing countries are in dilemma to implement the WSIS Action Plan due to some critical issues like as follows :

- Priority setting between Poverty reduction and ICT
- Lack of Political Commitment
- Poor awareness level
- Role of Development Partners

- Limitation in Human Capacity

## **The reality in developing countries**

A huge gap exists in the implementation of WSIS Action Plan in Developing countries.

The defined role of the govt. is far away from the initiatives taken by the govt. and the gap is widening day by day.

### **Overcoming the obstructions .....**

A Program may be initiated by the civil society components in collaboration with development partners to work as Pursuing Agency to evaluate the activities of the developing countries on their commitments versus achievements. The program may be titled as **Watchdog** which will ensure follow up & monitoring activities and promote other activities towards implementation of the Plan of Action of WSIS. A detail report may be submitted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of WSIS.

### **1. Brief profile of Watchdog**

A global and regional co-operation / center may be set up with representatives from ITU / CTO, Civil society and development partners. The team will work as *Watchdog* to keep close monitoring of the activities of the govt., development partners and civil society.

The features of the watchdog are as under :

- The "Watchdog" will co-operate, support, advise, monitor and evaluate the process of implementation of Action Plan as committed by the Govt.s of developing countries
- The Watchdog initiative may be taken by ITU / CTO
- It will work globally
- Independent capacity to monitor
- Activity may be covered from Awareness building to conduct Study & Research, Sharing experience between best practices vs non performing countries, mediate between govt. and civil society
- Co-operate the govt.s to design PRSP to integrate ICT
- Crafting national e-Strategy
- Designing evaluation modules
- Resource Mobilization for Infrastructure, Capacity Building, Awareness building
- Coordinating among the stakeholders
- Networking among the global ICT initiatives

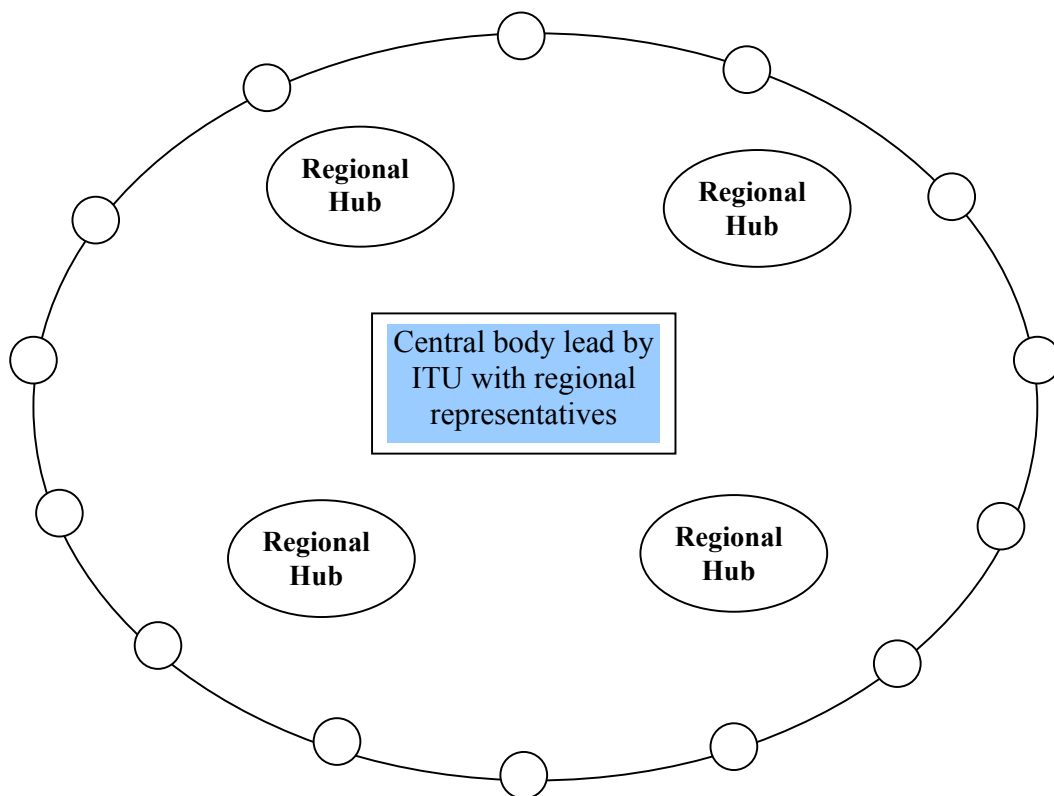
### **Implementation of Plan of Action – Voice of ICTDP'B**

Establishing a monitoring mechanism to follow up the implementation of Action Plan and Declaration of Principles of WSIS was raised in the recent Tokyo conference held in Japan. The issue was raised by ICTDP'B, a Bangladeshi NGO, with the experience that many good initiatives and endeavors finally can't bring any significant result due to lack of supervision and monitoring.

### **Establishing a global initiative – ICT4D Watchdog**

Particularly, establishing such mechanism will work as Watchdog to the countries whether they are complying as they committed, or even to pursue the govt. and other major stakeholders, this machine will work as instrument to catalyze the whole thing.

This organizational structure of the Watchdog can be described as follows :



### **Features of the operational mechanism of the Watchdog**

1. The role of the Watchdog will be – monitoring & follow-up of the implementation of the Plan of Action of WSIS.
2. Assess the country impediments and extend technical assistance to overcome the situation;
3. The Watchdog will be lead and established by ITU (International Telecommunication Union). Member countries will be invited to cooperate and join the initiative. Terms of Reference will be established for all the tire of the mechanism;

4. A Central Coordination Committee (CCC) at regional level will be established with participation of regional representation like Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America etc.;
5. Strong regional Hub will be appointed with inter-govt. agencies and other stakeholders;
6. Country level committee will be established and report to the Regional Hub with ICT4D indicators at country level, a participatory team from all stakeholders will be ensured;
7. Quarterly updates will be available and countries will be informed & notify about their position and advise to upgrade their position;

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