Ghana on behalf of the African Group

HA.37/92/01D

Dear Ambassador Karklins,

AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION OF DISCUSSIONS ON CHAPTER 1 AND CHAPTER 4 OF THE OPERATIONAL PART OF THE FINAL DOCUMENTS OF THE WSIS TUNIS PHASE AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Following the circular letter dated 2 May 2005 sent by Your Excellency to WSIS stakeholders inviting comments on Chapter 1 (Implementation mechanisms) and Chapter 4 (the Way Ahead) of the Operational Part of final documents of the WSIS Tunis Phase, the Africa Co-ordination Bureau met in Cairo on 8 May 2005 and reviewed Prepcom2 "Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DT/2(Rev.1)-E" and "Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DT/5-E" both dated 24 February 2005.

2.   At its meeting held on May 9, 2005 in Cairo the African Ministerial Committee on ICT, reviewed the summarized position and consolidated the African comments. The Committee accordingly mandated ECA to launch on-line consultations to further collect views from African stakeholders on the Chapters as well as on the Internet Governance. The on-line discussion session did run from 22 May to 4 June 2005 and was moderated by ECA staff and Africa Bureau members.

3.   In furtherance of this, I present on behalf of Africa our comments on the subjects listed above. Ghana's Ambassador to Geneva will be supported by other members of the African Diplomatic Corps to defend our positions during the **Informal consultation meeting on implementation and follow-up to WSIS**", to be held on Monday 13 June 2005 in Geneva.

4.   In addition to the three separate comments which are attached, it was the view of the participants of the on-line discussion list that a strong follow up mechanism should be established in all continents, especially Africa in order to properly implement the Geneva and Tunis decisions to enable Africa rip off the fruits of the information society. In this regard, at the African level the following follow up mechanisms is proposed:

> *"In order to build an inclusive Information Society the continent needs to commit itself to keep fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, to ensure sustainable follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached during WSIS process during the Geneva and Tunis summits.*
>
> *Taking into account the multifaceted nature of building the Information Society, effective cooperation among all stakeholders is needed, based on respect for their mandates and leveraging on their expertise. In this context, it is essential to set up the following follow up mechanisms:*
>
> - *National WSIS follow up committees composed of all stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, private sector, academia, local and rural collectivities, etc. to monitor and assess implementation of the Summit decisions and the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE).*
>
> - *Sub-regional coordination committees at the level of Regional Economic Committees (RECs) to monitor and coordinate implementation at the sub-regional level.*

- *Technical implementation and follow up Committee, at the continental level, under the political umbrella of the African Union (AU) Commission and the technical coordination of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The Technical Committee will be composed of:*

  - *Members of the Bamako Bureau as the core group*
  - *Experts from national follow up Committees*
  - *Regional Economic Committees*
  - *Regional organizations and networks*

  In order to implement the above structure and recommendations a regional conference should be organized every two years to assess implementation of the WSIS decisions and the ARAPKE, based on national, sectoral and sub-regional reports to be prepared by all the stakeholders."

5. On behalf of the African Ministerial Committee on ICT and on my own behalf, I thank you for your support and cooperation as well contributions as the Chair of the WSIS Preparatory Committee.

6. Accept, Your Excellency the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours faithfully,

ALBERT KAN-DAPAAH (MP)
MINISTER
(CHAIRMAN, AFRICA MINISTERS OF ICT)

/
H. E. MR. JANIS KARKLINS,
AMBASSADOR OF LATVIA TO SWITZERLAND,
(CHAIRMAN OF WSIS PREPCOM),
GENEVA.
a

Cc: H. E. Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei,
Ambassador and Permanent Rep of Ghana
to Switzerland,
Ghana Mission,
Geneva.

Chair of the WSIS PrepCom-2 Sub-Committee

COMPILATION OF AFRICAN COMMENTS ON CHAPTER ONE OF THE
OPERATIONAL PART (IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM)

Note: New text in bold. Deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~.

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1. We recognise that it is now time to move from principles to action, by encouraging stakeholders to take the Plan of Action one step further, identifying those areas in which progress has been made in implementing the commitments undertaken in Geneva, and by defining those areas where further efforts and resources are required.

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2. We acknowledge the leading role of governments in implementing the WSIS Action Plan at the national level. We encourage, as appropriate, those governments that have not yet done so to elaborate comprehensive, forward looking and sustainable national e-strategies, as an integral part of national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, in partnership with other stakeholders~~,~~ **,** by 2008~~]~~.

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3. We **support** ~~value~~ regional and international integration efforts as a contribution to the development of the global Information Society, and strong cooperation within and among regions is indispensable. The regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity-building and to the development, as appropriate, of national e-strategies and, regional implementation strategies. South-South cooperation shall be enhanced in order to foster knowledge sharing.

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4. Exchange of views and the sharing of effective practices are essential to implementing the Geneva **and Tunis** decisions at the regional and international levels. To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share useful knowledge and know-how, related to the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of national e-strategies and policies, as appropriate, in order to bridge the digital divide.

5. We reaffirm that, through the cooperation and partnership of all stakeholders, it will be possible to succeed in our challenge of harnessing the potential of ICTs as a tool to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration and thereby to continue improving the social welfare and development of all human beings.

6. We are committed to achieving the indicative targets, set out in the Plan of Action, that serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015, and to using ICTs as a tool to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, by:

a. mainstreaming and aligning national e-strategies across national **and regional** action plans**,** as appropriate, [with in-built time-bound measures/if possible, by 2008], aimed at achieving the development goals of the Millennium Declaration;

b. designing and implementing enabling policies and a regulatory environment that is supportive of ICT entrepreneurship and that promotes investment and the mobilisation of domestic resources;

c. building the ICT capacities of people **and institutions** , and improving educational programmes to allow greater access to ICTs;

d. promoting community volunteerism in the ICT4D sector;**d.** promoting community volunteerism **and community access to promote ICT application**s **;**

e. promoting public policies aimed at making/providing/ensuring affordable accessibility to hardware as well as software to populations living in developing regions, in particular in rural areas;

f. improving access to the world's health knowledge, in areas as diverse as global cooperation in emergency response, to reaching health professionals and individual citizens to improve healthcare and quality of life;

[new 6f bis.] **f. bis. local content production and link to rural life. Supporting the local production of content and combating poverty in rural areas;**

g. establishing monitoring and early-warning systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

g . establishing monitoring and early-warning systems, using ICTs, **in all areas of the world at risk, in order** to forecast and and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

h) **Providing increased attention and support to human resource development and education for the information society with emphasis on the youth and women in order to increase contribution to the broader knowledge economy.**

i) **Since Small and Medium Size Entreprises (SMEs) are playing an important role in ICT development and usage in most of the developing countries, obstacles that are stopping these companies from fully participating in Information Society development should be overcome. In this context, SMMEs should be supported in capacity building, creation of joint ventures and access to capital and markets at the regional and country levels.**

j) **earmarking adequate budgetary resources for the goals established in the e-strategies, through a Medium Term Expenditure Framework.**

7. The Geneva Plan of Action identifies international performance evaluation and benchmarking, taking into account different national circumstances, as an important aspect of the follow-up and evaluation. We applaud the initiatives taken in this area, including by those key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of ICTs who have joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development". We encourage national statistical offices to assist these efforts by providing data and technical support.

7. [second sentence] We applaud the initiatives taken in this area, including ~~by~~ those key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of ICTs who have joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development".

7. [last sentence] We encourage national statistical offices, **UN Regional Commissions, sub-regional organizations and other stakeholders ,** to assist these efforts by providing data and technical support, **as appropriate**.

8. We recognize that our goals can be accomplished through the involvement and cooperation of all Information Society stakeholders. We encourage continuing co-operation between and among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, for instance through the promotion of Multi-stakeholder partnerships including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), in a joint effort and dialogue with less developed countries, donors and actors in the ICT sector.

8. [after first sentence] **We also recognize that structuring optimal partnerships requires expertise and call upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to set up a working group as part of the Tunis outcomes, to serve in an expert advisory capacity in the evolution of multi-stakeholder partnerships at the national, regional and international level.** We encourage ………..

9. We commit ourselves to evaluate and follow-up progress in bridging the digital divide, taking into account different levels of development, so as to reach internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to assess the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the Information Society. We encourage all WSIS stakeholders to continue to contribute new and updated information on their activities to the WSIS stocktaking database, which was launched in October 2004 by the WSIS-ES and will be maintained by ITU, so that it becomes a valuable tool, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis Phase of the Summit.

9. [after first sentence] **All countries are invited to establish an information gathering mechanism at the national level with the involvement of all concerned parties.** We encourage all WSIS …….

10. In order to assure the sustainability of the WSIS process after the completion of its Tunis phase, we agree to establish an implementation mechanism for the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action, based upon co-operation among governments and all stakeholders, with the overarching goal of helping countries and societies to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. To that end, for each Action Line in the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action (as identified in the Annex), a team of stakeholders will work together to promote implementation. We request the UN Secretary-General to nominate, from among existing UN bodies or specialised agencies, those that will [moderate/coordinate] the work of each team, based on respect for their mandates and leveraging on their expertise, and within their existing resources.

10. [after last sentence] **We also recommend the establishment of multistakeholder partnerships at the regional level around the UN Regional Commissions to ensure implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions and organize Regional follow up Conferences every two years.**

11. The [moderator/coordinator] of each team identified in the Annex should periodically prepare a report on the implementation of the Geneva and Tunis Plans of Action based upon the information provided by, and the outputs from collaboration among, stakeholders, focussing particular attention on the progress towards achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, and submit it to [a defined coordination body]. The [head of a defined coordination body] will submit regular reports to the UN General Assembly, following its existing rules of procedure.

11 [after last sentence] The **head of a central coordinating body (ITU/WSIS-ES) or/and the Global Alliance on ICT and Development to work closely with action line focal points and the UN**

Regional Commissions at the regional level;

[Options for a defined coordination body (with participation of representatives of all stakeholders):
ITU/WSIS-ES;
"existing UN division" (within UN DESA) for following-up major UN conferences;
Newly-created UN Inter-agency task force, HLSOC-type, (supported by a 2-3 person secretariat);
Newly-created UN ICT Task Force-type forum (supported by 2-3 person secretariat);

Chair of the WSIS PrepCom-2 Sub-Committee

Compilation of comments on Chapter four, operational part

Russia	Annex	
	Action Lines	[~~Moderator~~/Coordinator]
	C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for Development	**-- UN Regional Commissions (UN RCs) +Regional political bodies**
	C2. Information and communication infrastructure	ITU **+ UN RCs**
	C3. Access to information and knowledge	ITU **+ UN RCs**
	C4. Capacity building	ITU/UNESCO **+UN RCs+Regional political bodies**
	C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	**UN RCs +Regional political bodies**
	C6. Enabling environment	ITU **+UN RCs +Regional political bodies**
	C7. ICT applications	ITU **+UN RCs**
	? E-government	
	? E-business	
	? E-learning	UNESCO
	? E-health	WHO
	? E-employment	ILO
	? E-environment	WHO**/UNEP/UN-Habitat**
	? E-agriculture	FAO
	? E-science	UNESCO
	C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	**UNESCO +UN RCs**
	C9. Media	--
	C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	**UNESCO**
	C11. International and regional cooperation	ITU**+UN RCs+Regional political bodies**
	B. Objectives, goals and targets	**-- ITU+UN RCs+Regional political bodies**
	D. Digital Solidarity	**-- Regional political bodies**
	E. Follow-up and evaluation	-- ITU **+UN RCs + Global Alliance on ICT and Development**

Chair of the WSIS PrepCom-2 Sub-Committee

Compilation of comments on Chapter four, operational part

Note: New text in **bold**. Deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~.

The Way Ahead

26. To build an Information Society will require unremitting effort. We thus commit ourselves to keep fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, to ensure sustainable follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached during WSIS process and its Geneva and Tunis summits. Taking into account the multifaceted nature of building the Information Society, effective cooperation among all stakeholders is needed, based on respect for their mandates and leveraging on their expertise.

26. [After last sentence]**Follow up mechanisms should be based on a multi-stakeholder approach. There is need to establish appropriate implementation mechanism involving relevant national, sub-regional, regional, and international bodies.**

Adequate financing mechanisms should be sought to implement the long term action plans dedicated to the building of the information society.

27.   [We agree that the follow-up to Internet governance should be separated from the other issues and organized as outlined in Chapter Three.]

28.   We request the Secretary-General of **ITU** ~~the Summit~~ to report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its outcome.

29.   We request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide—with the collaboration of all stakeholders, and fully utilizing the existing coordination mechanisms within or related to the United Nations—sustained follow-up within the United Nations system to the agreements and commitments reached at WSIS and to ensure effective secretariat support. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is further requested to submit a periodic report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on those follow-up efforts.

29. [Before first senence] **We agree in the establishment of multistakeholder partnerships at the regional level around the UN Regional Commissions to ensure implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions and organize Regional follow up Conferences every two years.**

African Debate on Internet Governance

Summary of discussions

Introduction

The debate on Internet Governance was launched on 7 May 2005 by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) upon request from the Chairperson of the African Ministerial Committee on ICT, H.E. Hon. A. Kan-Dapaah, Minister of Communication of Ghana. It run for 3 weeks in several African lists composed of 544 subscribers moderated by ECA staff and the African members of the WGIG.

The debate took into account the African Position adopted by the African Regional Conference for the WSIS held in Ghana from 2-4 February 2005, which recommended an international participatory Internet Governance system which would harmonize technical and policy issues related to Internet Governance for the benefit of the global community. This should translate in practical terms to:

- Lower Internet connection costs
- Affordable hardware and software
- Regional Administration of root server system
- National administration of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs).

Using the questionnaire developed by the WGIG secretariat, African stakeholders debated the various issues and came up with positions based on the needs of the continent.

When analyzing the various responses and proposals, it was evident that the participants spoke in one voice in the majority of issues. The summary of the contributions is below:

I. Process/Function 1: "Forum function"

There was unanimity on the need for an additional body which would not only serve as a multi-stakeholder discussion forum, but would also proffer policy advice albeit in a participatory manner. Indeed, according to the participants the world needed a more democratic representativeness at the level of the Internet Governance. The current model of Governance presents advantages certainly, but is not any more in accordance with geopolitics globalization. Notably for the following reasons:

- Globalization of the Internet and thus crosscutting situation of the

problems. The governance actors cannot master the various aspects

- The decisions cannot necessarily work everywhere
- Non objectivity (too influential presence of operators)
- The organizational and functional model of governance is obsolete
- Far too much Lobbying

All the countries of the world built and are still building the Internet, thus this common support should be managed as a universal good.

The new organizational model of governance should take into account regional and sub-regional specificities in terms of level of development, culture, needs, constraints etc. Other functions of this body could include that of serving as a coordinating linchpin among the different entities involved in the various aspects of Internet management (e.g. security, peace etc) and inter-governmental bodies including the UN.

This body would therefore address all issues related to the Internet within the confines of the available expertise and should be anchored at the UN.

The modalities for financing this body could entail soliciting for subscriptions from beneficiaries and bodies involved in the Internet management and administration field.

On the structure of this entity there was general consensus that the ideal structure could be in the form of a multi-stakeholder alliance/Board of appointed or elected public, private, civil society members and individuals taking into cognizance geographical representation. Membership tenure could be for a fixed 4/5year term under the possible supervision of the proposed anchor, the UN. Partnerships and coordination would be required with existing organizations and institutions which could also play a role as multi-stakeholder alliance members.

II. Process/Function 2: "Oversight function"

The governance of Internet is not about the simple management of IP addresses, but about taking decisions related to the general functioning of Internet whether it is in term of regulation in its widest sense or technical adaptations.

The oversight function could include issues such as policy advice, arbitration, monitoring, audit and communication. The general consensus was that the proposed new body should not only take over the Governmental oversight functions of the DNS and root server system administration, but all other areas of activity under the oversight of the USG. This oversight function through this new body should not only be applicable to ICANN, after the termination of the MoU in 2006, but also post 2006.

This new body should also replace the Government Advisory Committee (GAC) and take over its responsibilities and activities.

III.   Process/Function 3: Functioning/coordination of existing institutions

Although the functioning of existing institutions is in some way in line with the WSIS principles, enhanced multi-stakeholder participation is key to addressing important issues relating to local content/languages, security, universal access, affordability, resolution formulation processes etc. The activities of existing institutions could be coordinated through this new body and inter-agency cooperation guidelines could be developed through the creation of new models via the current WSIS process thus avoiding the need for tasking any existing institution with this role. The UN ICT Task Force or its replacement (The Global Alliance on ICT and Development) , which has played a key role in the WSIS process and has a key multi stakeholder dimension could take the lead in defining the cooperation function at the global level in cooperation with the ITU and the UN Regional Commissions at the regional level.

Existing institutions should in line with the WSIS principles

- Improve their awareness and communication plans
- Allow more participation by addressing the language barrier issue
- Open up for wider discussion on issues relating to content/language, security, universal access, affordability etc
- Ensure stakeholder participation in the resolution formulation process and multi-stakeholder partnerships

IV.   Process Function 4: Functioning/coordination at the national level

It becomes of paramount importance that Governments aligns their national decision-making processes with international Internet governance arrangements through participation in global activities thus enriching the consultative process. "The Internet Governance Space: Exploring the Core Issues from Africa's Perspective" commissioned by ECA and the UN ICT Task Force during the Accra Regional Conference on the WSIS indicates that the following issues should be tackled with the participation of all, including the African stakeholders: "multi-lingualization of Internet naming systems, spam, dispute resolution, affordable and universal access, social dimensions and inclusion, Voice over IP (VOIP), e-commerce, e-government, e-education, consumer, user protection and privacy, unlawful content and access protection, intellectual property rights, cultural and linguistic diversity, education and human capacity building, national policies and regulations among others". This can be achieved

by organizing fora on Internet Governance at the Global, regional and sub-regional levels.

Lessons relating to multi-stakeholder models could be drawn from organizations such as the UN ICT Task Force, ICANN, UN Regional Commissions, the ITU and Regional Internet Registries etc.