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RESOLUTION 1244

(Adopted at the eighth Plenary Meeting)

**ITU ROLE IN THE TUNIS PHASE OF WSIS AND
IN IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

The Council,

recalling

- a) the commitment reached during the first phase in Geneva of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, to realizing a common vision of the information society for ourselves and future generations and to harness the potential of ICTs to promote the development goals of the Millennium Declaration;
- b) Resolution 73 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998); Decision 8 and Resolution 113 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002); Resolutions 56/183, 57/238 and 59/220 of the UN General Assembly on WSIS; Resolution 57/270 B of the UN General Assembly on the implementation of and follow-up to major UN Summits; as well as Council Resolutions 1158, 1179, 1196, 1214 and 1222;
- c) the decisions of the first two PrepComs of the Tunis Phase of WSIS and the Reports of the Working Group on Internet Governance and of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms, established by the UN Secretary General;
- d) the results and proposals of WSIS regional and thematic meetings;
- e) that the WSIS preparations have been conducted through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process,

encouraging

the administration of Tunisia in its preparations for the second Phase, to be held in Tunis on 16-18 November 2005,

recognizing

that the core competencies of ITU in the field of ICTs—*assistance in bridging the digital divide, international and regional cooperation, radio spectrum management, standards development and the dissemination of information*—are of crucial importance for building the Information Society, as set out in paragraph 64 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles,

Part 1: ITU's preparations for the Tunis phase of WSIS

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

1. to continue to participate actively in the WSIS preparatory process, including the Group of Friends of the Chair (GFC) of WSIS, concerning ongoing discussions on implementation and follow-up of WSIS through a multi-stakeholder process, including through close co-operation with UNESCO (in line with Resolution 29 (Kyoto, 1994)) and other relevant UN agencies;
2. to forward to the WSIS preparatory process all relevant materials, including the amended report of the short-lived group on WTSA Resolution 46 and the reports of WSIS Thematic Meetings organized, or co-organised, by ITU;
3. to continue to contribute examples of ITU's WSIS-related activities to the WSIS stocktaking database;

requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as chairman of HLSOC

to continue to coordinate the collaboration of UN agencies and international organizations in the preparation of the Tunis phase,

instructs the Chairman of Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS)

to present to GFC and PrepCom-3 the annexed proposal for ITU's possible role in the implementation and follow-up of those sections of the WSIS Plan of Action that are relevant to ITU's core competencies, subject to the outcomes of the Summit with regard to implementation and follow-up, and within the financial resources of the Union;

encourages ITU Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to make proposals and provide inputs to the WSIS process;
- 2 to support the proposals and position of ITU in the WSIS process;
- 3 to make financial contributions to support the WSIS Trust Fund;
- 4 to take part in the Tunis Phase of WSIS at the highest possible level,

Part 2: ITU activities relevant to the implementation and follow-up of WSIS outcomes

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

in facing the financial requirements for the implementation and follow-up of WSIS outcomes, to take appropriate action, subject to the outcomes of the Summit with regard to implementation and follow-up, consistent with the financial provisions of Council Resolution 1250;

requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Secretary-General of ITU

to continue to collaborate with UN agencies and regional commissions and other regional and international organizations in the implementation and follow-up of WSIS outcomes, with "coordination" (*) by relevant international organizations (e.g., FAO, ILO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, WHO),

instructs the Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS)

- 1 to analyze the outcomes of WSIS and their implications for ITU's role in WSIS implementation and follow-up;

2 to prepare, based on inputs of the Member States and Sector Members, as well as those of the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, and submit to Council, proposals on:

- a) ITU actions to help accomplish the goals and objectives articulated in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, as adopted by the Geneva phase of WSIS, and the outcomes of the Tunis phase;
- b) how ITU should further adapt itself to the Information Society and the changing telecommunications environment including, for example, any amendments to the ITU Constitution and Convention, respecting the deadlines set out in No. 224 of the ITU Constitution and No. 519 of the ITU Convention, for presentation to Member States and Council-06 for further consideration and presentation to PP-06;

3 to report to Council-06 and PP-06,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to continue using ITU involvement in the WSIS implementation process for promoting the contributions of ITU in developing an information society and bridging the digital divide consistent with its core mission, in line with Resolution 129 (Marrakesh, 2002) and other relevant resolutions;

2. to continue providing all relevant information and assistance to the Council WG-WSIS for monitoring ITU inputs to the WSIS implementation and follow-up process, which specifically relate to ITU core competencies, especially if ITU is requested to play a role in the implementation and follow-up of those sections of the WSIS Plan of Action that are relevant to ITU's core competencies (see Annex), including timely preparation of concrete proposals with an estimate of their financial consequences;

3. to ensure that ITU integrates a strong monitoring and evaluation component in its activities relevant to the implementation and follow-up to ensure that the goals and objectives of the initiatives are achieved;

4. to continue to monitor the WSIS implementation and follow-up process and to report annually to Council on the financial and operational implications for ITU,

encourages ITU Member States

1. to support the proposals and position of ITU in the implementation and follow-up of WSIS outcomes;

2. to consider the outcomes of WSIS and to take action, as appropriate, including the adoption of national policies and regional approaches;

3. to make proposals to PP-06 on how ITU might further adapt itself to the Information Society and the changing telecommunications environment, taking into account the outcomes of WSIS.

Annex: Possible ITU “coordination” (*) role in implementation and follow-up of WSIS Action Lines, based on relevance to ITU core competencies, as part of a multi-stakeholder process

Action Lines	Relevance to ITU core competencies
C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for Development	High (2)
C2. Information and communication infrastructure	Highest (1)
C3. Access to information and knowledge	High (2)
C4. Capacity building	High (2)
C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	Highest (1)
C6. Enabling environment	High (2)
C7. ICT applications	
● E-government	Medium (3)
● E-business	Medium (3)
● E-learning	Medium (3)
● E-health	Medium (3)
● E-employment	Medium (3)
● E-environment	Medium (3)
● E-agriculture	Medium (3)
● E-science	Medium (3)
C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	Low (4)
C9. Media	Low (4)
C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	Low (4)
C11. International and regional cooperation	High (2)
B. Objectives, goals and targets	High (2)
D. Digital Solidarity	High (2)
E. Follow-up and evaluation	High (2)

Note: * This terminology is not yet finalized or adopted in the draft documents for the Tunis phase of WSIS and is not intended to prejudice the outcome of the Tunis phase.

(1) The term “highest” suggests that ITU could play a “coordination” role in this Action Line, if so requested.

(2) The term “high” suggests that ITU could play a “co-coordination” role with other UN agencies in this Action Line, if so requested.

(3) The term “medium” suggests that ITU could be considered as one of the stakeholders in this Action Line.

(4) The term “low” suggests that this Action Line could be considered as being of limited relevance to ITU core competencies.