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CONTRIBUTION ON THE POLITICAL CHAPEAU AND THE OPERATIONAL PART

Note: This contribution and proposed text relates to versions of the Tunis Commitment available as of 12th August 2005 of the Political Chapeau [WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3-E, 20 January 2005], and the Operational Part [WSIS-II/PC-2/DT/2(Rev.3)-E 9 June 2005, and WSIS-II/PC-2/DT/5-E 24 Feb 2005].

INTRODUCTION

The sexual abuse and exploitation of children through ICTs is one of the worst and fastest-growing areas of computer-related crime globally. These ICT crimes are a violation of children's human rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international instruments. These crimes also undermine national and international social and economic development, and the cultural and ethical fabric of all societies. To prevent this exploitation requires strong, urgent and concerted action at international and national levels, by Governments, by the ICT industry and by children's NGOs. The Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action refer to the need for WSIS to provide for the protection of children and young people:

* The Geneva Declaration of Principles: Our Common Vision: Section A, article 11 recognises that "young people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs", must be "empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers", and states the commitment of the parties to "ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and wellbeing".

* The Declaration of Principles Section B10, article 59 refers to the need for all actors in the Information Society to act against and to prevent "abusive uses" of ICTs including "all forms of child abuse, including paedophilia and child pornography, and trafficking in, and exploitation of, human beings".

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- The Geneva Plan of Action, Section C10: Ethical dimensions of the Information Society, article 25 refers to the need for the Information Society to be subject to universally held values and calls on all actors to enact the principles outlined in the above cited article 59.

Given the converging interests and responsibilities of the ICT industry, member States and child rights NGOs in protecting children and young people through these new technologies, WSIS is an appropriate mechanism and venue for establishing global principles, standards, lines of action, monitoring and reporting mechanisms in this area.

In the following summary of proposed text, new text is in **bold** and is numbered according to the version of the draft available

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED TEXT

1. With regards to the Political Chapeau

There needs to be a specific and distinct article in the Tunis text on children and young people, which reaffirms and carries forward the commitments made at the Geneva WSIS, in particular in the:
- Declaration of Principles (Articles 11 and 59), and;
- Geneva Plan of Action (Articles B7, C2-9a and C10-25c).

There is also a need to reaffirm the special rights, role and needs of children and young people in the Information Society, and that these should be addressed in any WSIS implementing mechanism from a rights-based approach. This also reflects the commitments to protect children and young people made by member States in ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols.

So far there is no text in the Tunis draft which adequately reaffirms or advances the commitments made by member States to child rights and protection in the Geneva Declaration or under United Nations' international instruments. We propose that Article 11 of the Political Chapeau of the Tunis Commitment should address the rights, roles and needs of children in the Information Society (as did Article 11 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles), and that this should stand as a separate article. Thus the needs of other groups mentioned in the existing text should be addressed in subsequent articles.

Proposed text for the Political Chapeau:
NB: New text is in **bold**

> 11. [new]
> **To that end, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the benefits of ICT reach all children and young people, as leading consumers now and primary shapers of ICT for the future. We shall pay special attention to ensuring the protection of the rights**

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and wellbeing of children and young people in the expansion of ICT access, in the development of applications and in the operation of services.

2. With regards to Chapter 1 – Implementation Mechanism

There is a need to include text in the Tunis declaration which provides an operational and implementing rationale and framework for the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action regarding:
- Human rights (Principles: 1, 3-5, and 58);
- The ethical dimensions of the Information Society (Principles: 56-59; Action 25a-d);
- And, in particular, on child rights and protection (Principles: 11 and 59; Action 7,9e and 25c).

So far there is nothing in Chapter 1 which addresses this or which provides the rationale for a child protection Action Line within the post-WSIS implementing mechanism. Our proposed text redresses this shortfall regarding child rights and protection as well as the need to acknowledge the fundamental role of international human rights standards, conventions and instruments in the development of the Information Society and ICTs for Development.

<u>**Proposed text for Chapter 1:**</u>
NB: New text is in **bold**

> <u>5. [add 'rights']</u>
> 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 **rights,** social welfare and development of all human beings.

> <u>6 [add 'universal human rights']</u>
> 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 **universal human rights and** the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, by:

> <u>6h [new]</u>
> **Incorporating policies and self-regulatory, co-regulatory or other effective frameworks to protect children and young people from abuse and exploitation through ICTs into national plans of action and e-strategies.**

3. With regards to Chapter 2 – Financial mechanisms

Expanded access to ICTs is important to the development and dignity of children and young people, especially those in developing countries and among marginalised groups. But expanding access to ICTs also expands exposure to the risks of abuse through ICTs, especially among children already vulnerable to sexual and other forms of exploitation. So it is vital that policies

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and measures to protect children and prevent their exploitation through ICTs are built into ICT for development programmes at all levels and by all actors – governments, donors, private sector, international organisations and civil society. This is particularly important as children and young people comprise a significant and growing proportion of the populations of many developing countries, and thus are likely to be leading recipients of and affected by ICT for development.

Proposed text for Chapter 2:
NB: New text is in **bold**

> 28. [add '**and that exercise social responsibility**']
> We underline that market forces alone cannot guarantee the full participation of developing countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services. Therefore, we encourage the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially those referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, to develop ICT infrastructure and ICT-enabled services that are viable and competitive at national and international levels, **and that exercise social responsibility**.
>
> **33.** Alt 1: [[We recognize that there are a number of areas lacking adequate financing as well as related approaches that are more coherent and consolidated.]
> Alt 2: [We recognize that there are a number of areas where the current approaches to ICT for development financing have devoted insufficient attention to date.]
> These include:
> 33g [new, same section to follow 33f]
> **Developing infrastructure, content, services, training and education that will ensure children and young people are protected from abuse and exploitation through ICTs, as an integral part of the expansion of access to ICTs for development.**
>
> 36. We acknowledge the following prerequisites for equitable and universal accessibility to and better utilization of financial mechanisms:
> 36j [new]
> **Ensuring that national and regional ICT for development policies, programmes and regulatory frameworks uphold and advance universal human rights, the rights and wellbeing of children, and the principle of non-discrimination, as outlined in the United Nations' charter and international conventions.**
>
> 37.   We recommend improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms, including:
> Article 37n [new]
> **Conducting assessments of the social impact on children and young people of all policies, programmes and projects for ICT for development.**

4. With regards to Chapter 3 – Internet Governance

There is a need to include text in the section on governance which recognizes that ethics and universal human rights are the foundation for the development of the Information Society and its governance. The text is needed to provide Action Lines for the Geneva Declaration articles on the

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ethical dimensions of the Information Society, on human rights, and on child protection. Included here is the call for a child protection Action Line to form a multi-stakeholder team within any post-WSIS implementing mechanism.

Proposed text for Chapter 3
NB: New text is in **bold**

> Ethical dimensions [new]
> **We reaffirm the fundamental importance of ethics for the Information Society and its governance. The use of ICTs and content creation should respect human rights and dignity in conformity with relevant international instruments.**

> Child protection [new]
> **We reaffirm that ensuring the rights, participation and protection of children is a fundamental principle of the Information Society and its governance. We call for a global, multi-stakeholder team on child protection to be established to address policy, regulations, research and development, and systems of cooperation.**

5. With regards to Chapter 4 – The Way Ahead

No additional text is proposed for this chapter. However, ECPAT International supports the proposal for a WSIS implementing mechanism of multi-stakeholder working groups to be coordinated by an appropriate UN agency and reporting regularly to the UN Secretary-General.

6. With regards to the Annex – Action Lines

There is a need to identify an Action Line for child protection which deals both with ICT applications and the ethical dimensions of the Information Society. We propose a child protection Action Line to form a multi-stakeholder team within any post-WSIS implementing mechanism. Such a team could begin work promptly, regardless of the WSIS implementing structure chosen.

The ITU should coordinate this multi-stakeholder child protection team, with the support of an appropriate child rights organization to provide the rights-based framework for its work. The team should be open to participation by governments, the private sector, civil society and international organisations with relevant expertise and interests.

Proposed text for the Annex:
NB: New text is in **bold**

> C7/C10
> **E-child protection** **Coordinator: ITU**

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Submitted by:

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BACKGROUND

- **ECPAT International**

ECPAT is a network of 73 groups in 67 countries working to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes. Our international Secretariat is based in Bangkok, Thailand.

We work with member and affiliate groups, civil society partners, Governments and international agencies to implement the Agenda for Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. ECPAT also has the mandate to monitor and report on the implementation of the Agenda for Action.

ECPAT International is an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We also co-chair the Subgroup against Sexual Exploitation of Children of the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The ECPAT International Secretariat is coordinating the research and contributions on the topic of violence against children in cyberspace for the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children.

With the Children's Charities Coalition for Internet Safety (UK), ECPAT International runs the make-IT-safe.net campaign which lobbies the ICT industry and Governments to take responsibility for protecting children from abuse and exploitation through ICTs. The campaign is backed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; by ICT companies including America Online, British Telecom, Microsoft and Vodafone; and by civil society and corporate supporters in more than 30 countries.

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- **ICTs and child protection**

On a global scale, children and young people represent one of the largest groups of users of new information technologies – especially of the Internet, email, peer2peer communications, newsgroups, chat rooms, instant messaging, web cams and mobile phones. They also represent about half the population of developing countries which are the target recipients for most ICT for Development. These developing countries are already experiencing the biggest growth in mobile phone markets, especially in Africa and Asia, and rapid expansion of Internet access.

These new technologies offer many opportunities and benefits to children and young people as leading users of ICTs, but they also pose dangers, including:
- An explosion in the production, distribution and use of child pornography through the Internet and other interactive technologies such as peer2peer networks and mobile phones;
- More sexual abuse and exploitation of more children and young people to produce this child pornography;
- The development of sexual ICT crimes against children as a global criminal activity worth billions of dollars each year, increasingly linked to organised gangs, and to the trafficking and prostitution of children and to child sex tourism.
- The stalking and 'grooming' of children and young people for sexual abuse by adults through chat rooms and mobile phones, which can lead to actual sexual abuse and sometimes worse.
- The exposure of children and young people to illegal and dangerous images and messages through ICTs, including pornography and incitement to violence, race hate, self-mutilation and suicide.

These dangers can only increase with 3G technologies.

The sexual abuse and exploitation of children through ICTs is one of the worst and fastest-growing areas of computer-related crime globally. These ICT crimes are a violation of children's human rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To prevent them requires strong, urgent and concerted action at international and national levels, by the ICT industry and by governments.

ECPAT believes the ICT industry must do much more to protect children than the disjointed and sporadic actions taken so far. The ICT industry, with its global reach and vast technological and financial resources, needs to look at worldwide industry standards for child protection, and at an international mechanism to set and monitor these standards as well as to research safety technologies, and to fund worldwide education campaigns in all the major languages.

States must also do more internationally and nationally to protect children through ICTs, to uphold their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related protocols. Unfortunately, too few governments have comprehensive laws which criminalise child pornography or related ICT crimes against children. These legal vacuums allow children to be exploited and abused with impunity – undermining those international frameworks and co-operation which do exist, such as the European Convention on Cybercrime and Interpol's shared child pornography database.

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Parents, teachers and children and young people themselves have roles to play. However, the primary responsibilities for protecting children and young people in these new technologies – along with the capacity to actually make a global difference – rest with the ICT industry and with the States.

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FULL TEXT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Political Chapeau**

Political chapeau - Tunis Commitment

WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3-E, 20 January 2005
Note: New text in **bold**. Deleted text in strikethrough. [Comments in *italics*.]

Existing text	Proposed text
From Geneva to Tunis 1. We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, have gathered in Tunis from 16-18 November 2005 for this second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to reiterate our unequivocal support for the *Declaration of Principles* and *Plan of Action* adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003. We reaffirm our desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development oriented Information Society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and effective multilateralism, and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, to achieve their full potential and to promote sustainable development, to improve quality of life, to eradicate poverty and to attain the internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration.	
2. The Tunis Summit represents a unique opportunity for us to strengthen the confidence in the future while its core subjects concerning the Information Society shift world attention away from narrowly-defined concepts to global ones, which transform peoples' activities and	

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interactions in ways that challenge traditional assumptions. The implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Geneva Summit is taking place amidst accelerating development of ICTs, which impact policies, human, economic, social and cultural development, bringing about profound changes in society.	
3. This Summit is an important stepping-stone in the world's efforts to eradicate poverty and to attain the internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration. By the Geneva decisions, we established a solid long-term link between the WSIS process, and other major United Nations conferences and summits. We call upon governments and all stakeholders to join together to implement the commitments set forth in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action. In this context, the outcomes of the recently concluded Summit meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration are of special relevance.	
4. We seek to reaffirm the commitments made in Geneva and build on them in Tunis by focusing on Financial Mechanisms for bridging the digital divide, on Internet Governance and related issues, as well as on follow-up and implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, as referenced in chapters two, three and four of [the operational part of this document/the operational document: Tunis agenda for action].	
Key principles 5. We reaffirm our resolution in the quest to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer, by recalling that governments, as well as	

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private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, should work together to: improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to information and knowledge; build capacity; increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs; create an enabling environment at all levels; develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media; address the ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and encourage international and regional cooperation. We confirm that these are the key principles for building an inclusive Information society, the elaboration of which is found in the Geneva Declaration of Principles.	
Development orientation 6. We recognise that knowledge is vital to human existence and that strengthening diffusion and exchange of knowledge would contribute to economic, social and cultural development, and help all countries reach the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.	
7. Furthermore, ICTs have made it possible for a vastly larger population than at any time in the past to join in sharing and expanding the base of human knowledge, and contributing to its further growth and application to education, health and science. ICTs have enormous potential to expand access to quality education, to boost literacy and universal primary education, and to facilitate the learning process itself and thus lay the groundwork for a fully-inclusive and open information and knowledge society.	
8. We also recognize that, [just as] the ICT	

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revolution can have a tremendous positive impact as an instrument of sustainable development[, in the absence of an appropriate enabling environment at national and international levels, it could reinforce and increase existing social and economic divisions, widen the gap between rich and poor countries, between regions, and between individuals — including between men and women].	
9. We reaffirm our commitment to removing all obstacles to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic and social development of countries and the welfare of their citizens, in particular, in developing countries. Alternate 9. We urge states to take steps to assist in overcoming obstacles to bridge the digital divide, particularly those that impede the full achievement of the economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and hinder the well-being of their population.	
10. We shall strive unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs for people everywhere, to ensure that the benefits are more evenly distributed between and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all.	
Alternate 10+11: We shall strive unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs for people everywhere, to ensure that the benefits of the Information Society are more evenly distributed among and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all. In so doing, we shall pay special attention to the	

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roles and special needs of all countries and all segments of society and we reaffirm the commitments taken in this regard in the Geneva Declaration of Principles.	
11. To that end, we shall pay special attention to the roles and particular needs of all countries and all segments of society, and reaffirm the commitments taken in this regard in the Geneva Declaration. Alternate 11A. To that end we shall pay special attention to the role and particular needs of ~~children, young people~~, women, marginalized and vulnerable groups of society including migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees, unemployed and underprivileged people, minorities and nomadic people, people with disabilities, poor people, particularly those living in remote, rural and marginalized urban areas, indigenous peoples, people of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, Highly Indebted Poor Countries, countries and territories under occupation, and countries recovering from conflict or natural disasters. Alternate 11B. To that end, we shall pay special attention to the role and particular needs of ~~the youth~~, women and older people and to the special situation of indigenous peoples. We also recognize the role and special needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups of society including the disabled, migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, underprivileged and poor people and of people of countries facing adverse economic situations, geographic isolation, occupation, conflicts or natural disasters.	11. [new] **To that end, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the benefits of ICT reach all children and young people, as leading consumers now and primary shapers of ICT for the future. We shall pay special attention to ensuring the protection of the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in the expansion of ICT access, in the development of applications and in the operation of services.**
Further commitments	

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We hereby undertake further commitments to …*	
Resource mobilisation, including human resources We commit ourselves to mobilising resources, including human resources, to ….*	
Participation and international cooperation 12. We are convinced that our goals can be accomplished through the involvement, cooperation and partnership of governments and all stakeholders and that international cooperation and solidarity at all levels are indispensable if the fruits of the Information Society are to be shared equitably by all.	
Conclusion 13. Our efforts will not stop with the conclusion of the Summit. The emergence of the global Information Society to which we all contribute provides increasing opportunities for all our peoples and for the global community that were unimaginable only a few years ago. We must harness these opportunities.	
14. We strongly believe that full and timely implementation of decisions we took in Geneva and in Tunis, the establishment of appropriate follow-up mechanisms thereto, and closely integrating this process in the overall strategy embodied in the Millennium Declaration — through openness, inclusiveness and transparency; promotion of co-operation among stakeholders; and flexibility—is the way to achieve this goal. We therefore reaffirm our strong resolve to develop and implement an effective and	

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| sustainable response to challenges and opportunities of building a truly global Information Society that benefits all our peoples. | |

- **Chapter 1**

Operational Part – Tunis Agenda for Action Note: New text in **bold.** Deleted text in strikethrough. [Comments *in italics*.]	
Existing Text	**Proposed Text**
Chapter 1 – Implementation Mechanism WSIS-II/PC-2/DT/2(Rev.3)-E 9 June 2005	
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.	
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].	
3. We 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	

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appropriate, of national e-strategies and, regional implementation strategies. South-South cooperation shall be enhanced in order to foster knowledge sharing.	
4. Exchange of views and the sharing of effective practices are essential to implementing the Geneva 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.	5. [add 'rights'] 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 **rights,** 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 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	6 [add 'universal human rights'] 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 **universal human rights and** the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, by: 6h [new] **Incorporating policies and self-regulatory, co-regulatory or other effective frameworks to protect children and young people from abuse and exploitation through ICTs into national plans of action and e-strategies.**

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entrepreneurship and that promotes investment and the mobilisation of domestic resources; c. building the ICT capacities of people and improving educational programmes to allow greater access to ICTs; d. promoting community volunteerism in the ICT4D sector; 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; g. establishing monitoring and early warning systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters.	
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.	
8. We recognize that our goals can be accomplished through the involvement	

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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.	
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.	
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 cooperation 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	

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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.	
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. [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);	

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- **Chapter 2**

Existing text	Proposed text
Chapter 2 – Financial Mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICT for development WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/11-E (Annex1(Rev.1)) 1 March 2005	
15. We thank the UN Secretary-General for his efforts in creating the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and we commend the members on their report.	
16. We recall that the mandate of the TFFM was to undertake a thorough review of the adequacy of existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for development.	
17. The TFFM report sets out the complexity of existing mechanisms, both private and public, which provide financing for ICTs in developing countries. It identifies areas where these could be improved and where ICTs could be given higher priority by developing countries and their development partners.	
18. Based on the conclusion of the review of the report, we have considered the improvements and innovations of financing mechanisms, including the creation of a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration of Principles.	
Scale of the problem 19. We recognise the existence of the digital divide and the challenges that this poses for many countries, which are forced to choose between many competing	

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objectives in their development planning and in demands for development funds whilst having limited resources.	
20. We recognise the scale of the problem in bridging the digital divide, which will require adequate and sustainable investments in ICT infrastructure and services, and capacity building, *[and transfer of technology]* over many years to come. [Chair's proposed text to replace italicized text in 20 above: We recognize the need to promote an environment conducive to transfer of technology for mutual advantage, on mutually agreed terms, and allow non-discriminatory access to appropriate required technology.]	
21. We recognize that the development goals of the Millennium Declaration are fundamental. The Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development is the basis for the pursuit of adequate and appropriate financial mechanisms to promote ICT for development, in accordance with the Digital Solidarity Agenda of the Geneva Plan of Action.	
22. We recognise and acknowledge the special and specific funding needs of the developing world, as referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, which faces numerous challenges in the ICT sector, and that there is strong need to focus on their special financing needs to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration.	
23. We agree that the financing of ICT for development needs to be placed in the context of the growing importance of the role of ICTs, not only as a medium of	

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communication, but also as a development enabler, and as a tool for the achievement of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration.	
24. In the past, financing of ICT infrastructure in most developing countries has been based on public investment. Lately, a significant influx of investment has taken place where private sector participation has been encouraged, based on a sound regulatory framework, and where public policies aimed at bridging the digital divide have been implemented.	
25. We are greatly encouraged by the fact that advances in communication technology, and high-speed data networks are continuously increasing the possibilities for developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, to participate in the global market for ICT-enabled services on the basis of their comparative advantage. These emerging opportunities provide a powerful commercial basis for ICT infrastructural investment in these countries. Therefore, Governments should take action, in the framework of national development policies, in order to support an enabling and competitive environment for the necessary investment in ICT infrastructure and for the development of new services. At the same time, countries should pursue policies and measures that would not discourage, impede or prevent the continued participation of these countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services.	
26. We take note that the challenges for expanding the scope of useful accessible information content in the developing world are numerous, in particular, the issue of financing for various forms of content and applications requires new attention, as	

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this area has often been overlooked by the focus on ICT infrastructure.	
27. We recognise that attracting investment in ICTs has depended crucially upon an enabling environment, including good governance at all levels, and a supportive, transparent and pro-competitive policy and regulatory framework, reflecting national realities.*)*	
28. We underline that market forces alone cannot guarantee the full participation of developing countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services. Therefore, we encourage the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially those referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, to develop ICT infrastructure and ICT-enabled services that are viable and competitive at national and international levels.	<u>28. [add '**and that exercise social responsibility'**]</u> We underline that market forces alone cannot guarantee the full participation of developing countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services. Therefore, we encourage the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially those referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, to develop ICT infrastructure and ICT-enabled services that are viable and competitive at national and international levels, **and that exercise social responsibility**.
29. We recognize that, in addition to the public sector, financing of ICT infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and South-South co-operation. 30. We recognize that, as a result of the growing impact of sustainable private sector investment in infrastructure, multilateral and bilateral public donors are redirecting public resources to other development objectives, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and related Programmes, policy reforms and mainstreaming of ICTs and capacity development. We encourage all governments to give appropriate priority to ICTs, including traditional ICTs such as broadcast radio and TV, in their national	

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development strategies. We also encourage multilateral institutions as well as bilateral public donors to consider also providing more financial support for regional and large-scale national ICT infrastructure projects and related capacity development. They should consider aligning their aid and partnership strategies with the priorities set by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their national development strategies including their poverty reduction strategies. 31. We recognise that public finance plays a crucial role in providing ICT access and services to rural areas and disadvantaged populations including those in Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries. 32. We note that ICT-related capacity building needs represent a high priority in all developing countries and the current financing levels have not been adequate to meet the needs, although there are many different funding mechanisms supporting ICTs for Development.	
33. Alt 1: [[We recognize that there are a number of areas lacking adequate financing as well as related approaches that are more coherent and consolidated.] Alt 2: [We recognize that there are a number of areas where the current approaches to ICT for development financing have devoted insufficient attention to date.] These include: **a.** ICT capacity building programmes, materials, tools, educational funding and specialized training initiatives, especially for regulators and other public sector employees and	**33.** Alt 1: [[We recognize that there are a number of areas lacking adequate financing as well as related approaches that are more coherent and consolidated.] Alt 2: [We recognize that there are a number of areas where the current approaches to ICT for development financing have devoted insufficient attention to date.] These include: 33g [new, same section to follow 33f] **Developing infrastructure, content, services, training and education that will ensure children and young people are protected from abuse and exploitation through ICTs, as an integral part of**

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organizations; **b.** Communications access and connectivity for ICT services and applications in remote rural areas, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and other locations presenting unique technological and market challenges; **c.** Regional backbone infrastructure, regional networks, Network Access Points and related regional projects, to link networks across borders and in economically-disadvantaged regions which may require coordinated policies including legal, regulatory and financial frameworks, and seed financing and would benefit from sharing experiences and best practices; **d.** Broadband capacity to facilitate the delivery of a broader range of services and applications, promote investment and provide Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users; **e.** Coordinated assistance, as appropriate, for countries referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, in order to improve effectiveness and to lower transaction costs associated with the delivery of international donor support; **f.** ICT applications and content aimed at the integration of ICTs into the implementation of poverty eradication strategies and in sector programmes, particularly in health, education, agriculture and the environment; In addition, there is a need to consider the	**the expansion of access to ICTs for development.**

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following other issues, which are relevant to ICT for development and which have not received adequate attention: **g.** Sustainability of Information Society related projects, for example the maintenance of ICT infrastructure; **h.** Special needs of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), such as funding requirements; **i.** Local development and manufacturing of ICT applications and technologies by developing countries; **j.** Activities on ICT-related institutional reform and enhanced capacity on legal and regulatory framework; **k.** Improving organisational structures and business process change aimed at optimizing the impact and effectiveness of ICT projects and other projects with significant ICT components; **l.** Local government and initiatives based in local communities that deliver ICT services to communities in the areas such as education, health and livelihood support.	
34. Recognizing that the central responsibility for coordination of public financing programmes and public ICT development initiatives rest with governments, **we recommend** that further cross-sectoral and cross-institutional coordination should be undertaken, both on the part of donors and recipients within the national framework.	
35. Multilateral development banks and institutions should consider adapting their existing mechanisms, and where appropriate designing new ones, to provide for national and regional demands on ICT development.	

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36. We acknowledge the following prerequisites for equitable and universal accessibility to and better utilization of financial mechanisms:
 	
   a.   Creating policy and regulatory incentives aimed at universal access and the attraction of private sector investment;
   b.   Identification and acknowledgement of the key role of ICTs in national development strategies, and their elaboration, when appropriate, in conjunction with e-strategies;
   c.   Developing institutional and implementation capacity to support the use of national universal service/access funds, and further study of these mechanisms and those aiming to mobilize domestic resources;
   d.   Encouraging the development of locally relevant information, applications and services that will benefit developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
   e.   Supporting the "scaling-up" of successful ICT-based pilot programmes;
   f.   Supporting the use of ICTs in government as a priority and a crucial target area for ICT-based development interventions;
   g.   Building human resource and institutional capacity (knowledge) at every level for achieving Information Society objectives, especially in the public sector;
   h.   Encouraging business sector entities to help jump-start wider
	<u>36j[new]</u>
	36. We acknowledge the following prerequisites for equitable and universal accessibility to and better utilization of financial mechanisms:
	
	Ensuring that national and regional ICT for development policies, programmes and regulatory frameworks uphold and advance universal human rights, the rights and wellbeing of children, and the principle of non-discrimination, as outlined in the United Nations' charter and international conventions.

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demand for ICT services by supporting creative industries, local producers of cultural content and applications as well as small businesses; **i.** Strengthening capacities to enhance the potential of securitised funds and utilising them effectively.	
37. We recommend improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms, including: **a.** Improving financial mechanisms to make financial resources become adequate, more predictable, preferably untied, and sustainable; **b.** Enhancing regional cooperation and creating multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially by creating incentives for building regional backbone infrastructure; **c.** Providing affordable access to ICTs, by the following measures: i. Reducing international Internet costs charged by backbone providers, supporting, *inter alia*, the creation and development of regional ICT backbones and Internet Exchange Points to reduce interconnection cost and broaden network access; ii. Encouraging ITU to continue the study of the question of the International Internet Connectivity (IIC) as an urgent matter to develop appropriate Recommendations; *(Note: See Annex)* **d.** Coordinating programmes among governments and major financial players to mitigate investment risks and transaction costs for operators entering less attractive rural and low income market	37. We recommend improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms, including: <u>Article 37n[new]</u> **Conducting assessments of the social impact on children and young people of all policies, programmes and projects for ICT for development.**

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segments;

e. Helping to accelerate the development of domestic financial instruments including by supporting local microfinance instruments, ICT business incubators, public credit instruments, reverse auction mechanisms, networking initiatives based on local communities, digital solidarity and other innovations;

f. [Accelerating the pace of financing of ICT infrastructure by promoting North-South flows and South-South cooperation] / [*Improving the ability to access existing financing facilities for ICT infrastructure and services and promoting North-South flows and South-South cooperation*];

g. [Providing the financial support]/[Establishment of a "virtual" financing facility] to leverage multiple sources in support of programmes oriented to digital inclusion and identified investment objectives in key areas notably broadband, rural and regional projects, and development of local language content, capacity building, [and creative industries;]/[entertainment enterprises, training software, regional Web Portals, media broadcasts based in local communities and motion picture DVDs;**]**

h. [Enabling developing countries to be increasingly able to generate funds and new financial instruments including trust funds and seed capital adapted to their economies**;]**

i. Urging all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus;

j. [Development of [a]/[an innovative] "rapid response" policy and regulatory support mechanism to intervene in support of [short-term] ICT sector policy initiatives;]

k. Encouraging increased voluntary contributions;

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l. Establishing responsibilities relative to universal service: regulatory frameworks must establish the responsibilities for universal service of all national and international telecommunication/ICT services operators[, in a technology-neutral manner]; **m.** Making, as appropriate, effective use of debt relief mechanisms as outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action, including *inter alia* debt cancellation and debt swapping, that may be used for financing ICT for development projects, including those within the framework of poverty reduction strategies.	

- **Chapter 3**

Existing text	Proposed text
Chapter 3 - Internet governance	
[to be discussed following release of the final report of the WGIG]	Ethical dimensions [new] **We reaffirm the fundamental importance of ethics for the Information Society and its governance. The use of ICTs and content creation should respect human rights and dignity in conformity with relevant international instruments.** Child protection [new] **We reaffirm that ensuring the rights, participation and protection of children is a fundamental principle of the Information Society and its governance. We call for a global, multi-stakeholder team on child protection to be established to address policy, regulations, research and development, and systems of cooperation.**

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- **Chapter 4**

Existing text	Proposed text
Chapter 4 – The Way Ahead WSIS-II/PC-2/DT/5-E 24 Feb 2005 **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.	
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 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	

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the General Assembly of the United Nations on those follow-up efforts.	

- **Annex**

ANNEX	
Action Lines [Moderator/Coordinator] C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for Development C2. Information and communication infrastructure C3. Access to information and knowledge C4. Capacity building C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs C6. Enabling environment C7. ICT applications ● E-government ● E-business ● E-learning ● E-health ● E-employment ● E-environment ● E-agriculture ● E-science C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content C9. Media C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society C11. International and regional cooperation B. Objectives, goals and targets D. Digital Solidarity E. Follow-up and evaluation	[add] C7 and C10 **E-child protection - ITU**