

European Broadcasting Union (EBU)

Broadcasters contribution to the Political Chapeau and Monitoring Mechanisms of the WSIS second phase

The World Broadcasting Unions (WBU), which groups regional broadcasting unions representing the leading radio and television organisations throughout the world (both commercial and public), stress the importance of the Broadcasters' Declaration, which was handed over to Kofi Annan in Geneva on 9 December 2003 and subsequently made part of the official Report of the WSIS first phase.

The WBU request the Official Delegations to the WSIS second phase to recognize the indispensable role of media in the implementation of the information society. The WSIS Political Chapeau must stress that a basic right of all men and women in the information society is to have access, in their own language and culture, to a faithful, reliable representation of the world they live in, at the local, national and global level. Broadcasting is the major tool to fulfil this basic right which conditions the other benefits expected from the information society, in particular economic development and other UN Millennium Goals. For this purpose, it is essential that in every country broadcasters have the means to carry out their mission and that broadcasting environment follows the conditions specified in the Broadcasters' Declaration: freedom and pluralism of the media, cultural diversity, broadcast services accessible and affordable to every citizen, etc.

The WBU request that WSIS monitoring mechanisms comprise a significant section related to broadcasting development.