Input to the 7th meeting of the WSIS Group of Friends of the Chair (GFC) Possible draft text for paras 10, 11 and 29 of the Operational Document

Operational part of the final document / Tunis Agenda for Action / Tunis Plan of Implementation

Important Note:

As put forward in the past, the WSIS Youth Caucus strongly supports that the Operational Document be titled as "Tunis Plan of Implementation". By doing so, we are reaffirming that all the stakeholders of the Information Society have firmer commitment and determination to rally institutional and financial support to realizing the Geneva Plan of Action. The last thing we need is another Plan or Agenda of Action emerging out of the Tunis Summit.

Proposed revisions and additions to the draft texts are in colored characters.

Original draft from Group of Friends of Chair (11 January 2005)	Possible revised draft
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. **We acknowledge** that multi-stakeholder participation in the building of the inclusive and development-oriented information society is essential. We **strongly emphasize** that the continuous and substantial involvement of all stakeholders in implementing WSIS decisions on national, regional and international levels with the overarching goal of helping countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals is a key to success. 11. In order to assure the sustainability of the WSIS process after the completion of its Tunis phase, **we agree to establish a process of action-oriented and time-bound implementation of and follow-up** to the outcomes of the [Geneva and Tunis phases of] WSIS, at national, regional and international levels. It may include, at each level, the following elements: a) implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of WSIS with the appropriate institutional and financial support from all stakeholders ; b) evaluation of information society developments (including through a digital opportunity index); c) policy debate and review.

	12. At the <u>national level,</u> based on the WSIS outcomes, **we encourage** governments to set up a national *implementation* framework with full and effective participation of civil society and business entities; a) National e-strategies, where appropriate, should be made an integral part of national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategies, aiming to contribute to the achievement of the goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; b) ICTs should be fully mainstreamed not only into strategies for Official Development Assistance (ODA) through more effective donor information-sharing and co-ordination, and through analysis and sharing of best practices and lessons learned from experience with ICT for development programmes; but, equivalently important, in the provision of public services and programs by governments through collaboration with civil society and the private sector. c) Existing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes, including those under the UN Development Assistance Framework, should be used whenever appropriate to assist governments in their implementation efforts at the national level; d) Common Country Assessment reports should contain a component on ICT for development.
	13. At the <u>regional level</u>: a) Upon request from governments, regional inter-governmental organizations should carry out WSIS implementation activities, exchanging information and best practices at the intra- and inter-regional levels, as well as organizing policy debate on the use of ICT for development, with a focus on attaining internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; b) UN regional economic commissions, based on request of member states and within approved budgetary resources, must organize regional WSIS follow up conferences with appropriate frequency and establish ICT for development funding windows; c) **We consider** a multi-stakeholder approach and the full and effective participation in regional activities by civil society and business entities to be essential.

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);

14. At the <u>international level</u>:

a) *Implementation* of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the Summit in the UN system should take account of the main themes and action lines in the Summit documents;
b) Each UN agency, according to its mandate and competencies, and based on decisions of their respective governing bodies, should facilitate activities among different stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to help national governments in their implementation efforts. The facilitation should include knowledge creation through research, information exchange, sharing of best practices, and assistance in developing public/private and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Facilitation should be carried out within the approved budgets of the respective agencies;
c) Coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities would allow information exchange and avoidance of duplication of activities;
d) The establishment of sustainable multi-stakeholder partnerships[, such as the ITU-led initiative "Connect the World"], which are aimed at bridging the digital divide, should be supported and encouraged;
e) The modalities of coordination of implementation activities among the UN agencies should be defined by the UN Secretary General on the basis of existing practices within the UN system [and within the WSIS]. The experience of, and the activities undertaken by, UN agencies in the WSIS process—notably ITU, UNESCO and UNDP—should continue to be used to their fullest extent.

| **Chapter Four: The way ahead** | **Chapter Four: The way ahead** |

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. *Evaluation and policy formulation,* at the national level, should be conducted by governments. **We consider** the full and effective participation in the *policy debate and action implementation* by the civil society and business entities to be essential.

30. A realistic international and regional performance *evaluation* and benchmarking (both qualitative and quantitative), through comparable statistical indicators and research results, including by using a methodology for a composite ICT development index (digital opportunity index), should be developed to follow up the implementation of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes, taking into account different national circumstances.

31. The *stocktaking* of activities related to the implementation of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes could be a valuable source of information in the evaluation process.

32. **We request** the Secretary General of the United Nations to submit an annual report to the ECOSOC and/or UNGA on implementation activities of the WSIS decisions within the UN family.

33. *Review and policy debate* should be organized in the framework of the follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the Economic and Social fields, as provided for in UNGA Resolution 57/270. It should be an integral part of the review process of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

[new para] We request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in partnership with pertinent United Nations agencies, international development institutions, civil society and the business community, to re-convene WSIS stakeholders in 2010 and 2015 and review the status of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Plan of Implementation and, where efforts are lacking, to call for increased commitment and support.

[new para] We encourage all stakeholders, importantly governments, to sustainably support the Digital Solidarity Fund and commit to realizing multi-stakeholder partnerships in closing the digital divide.

34. Continuous involvement of all stakeholders in the policy discussion after Tunis Summit is essential and the modalities of such participation should be established.

The WSIS Youth Caucus strongly supports the proposal of the Government of Spain to "establish a World Internet Day" (new para 30). However, building an inclusive Information Society, bridging the digital divide and raising awareness on the issues of WSIS are beyond the scope of the Internet alone thus must include traditional and modern ICTs such as television, radio and mobile phones. Our proposal then, respecting the language of Para 30 put forward by the Government of Spain, is to:

New Para 30. We propose to establish a World *ICT (or ICT4D)* Day. This Day could help to raise awareness, on an annual basis, of the importance of *ICTs as enabling tools for sustainable development and poverty reduction*, and more broadly on the issues dealt with in the Summit as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.