

## **Chair of Sub-Committee B of PrepCom-3**

### **REPORT ON THE WORK OF SUB-COMMITTEE B**

1. Subcommittee B, under the chairmanship of Ms. Lyndall Shope-Mafole (South Africa), met four times in full session from Sunday 13th to Tuesday 15th November 2005 to discuss the “Tunis Commitment”, the financial mechanisms and the implementation and follow-up of the operational document, including some informal consultations in small groups. Mr. Ambassador Janis Karklins took the chair on behalf of Ms. Shope-Mafole for the evening session on 13th November, since Ms. Shope-Mafole had not yet arrived in Tunis. Statements of observers were presented in almost all the sessions.
2. The subcommittee started work on the following documents, along with some Room Documents, as proposed text from delegations for paragraphs still under discussion:
  - Document WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/12(Rev.3), on the Tunis Commitment with agreed paragraphs and some paragraphs in square brackets;
  - Document WSIS-II/PC-3/DOC/7(Rev.1) on the financial mechanisms, with agreed paragraphs and a small number of paragraphs in square brackets;
  - Document WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/26(Rev.2) on implementation and follow-up, with agreed paragraphs and some paragraphs in square brackets.
3. During the course of the meetings, the following informal consultations were conducted to create acceptable texts on the document DT/12(Rev.3) on the Tunis Commitment. While having these consultations, Paragraph 45 was suspended until all the texts on the implementation were fully settled.
  - Paragraph 3 and alt 3: Russia, UK and Pakistan
  - Paragraphs 4 and 5: Ghana, Iran and Norway
  - Paragraph 9: USA and Egypt
4. The following informal consultations were also conducted to create acceptable texts on the document DT/26(Rev.2) on implementation and follow-up.
  - Paragraph 11n: Ghana, Iran and Norway.
  - Paragraphs 18 and 19: USA and Egypt.
  - Paragraphs from 23 to 30B: Canada and Russia
5. Subcommittee B examined the remaining paragraphs in these documents, taking into account the outcomes of these above-mentioned small groups, and completed several readings of

these documents. Those portions of the text considered closed were marked “(Agreed)”, although the whole text remains in square brackets. Furthermore, those paragraphs still to be decided were kept in square brackets.

6. The title of Document DT/26, the operational part, was discussed only briefly and therefore not finalized.
7. WSIS-II/PC-3/DOC/7(Rev.1) was all agreed, WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/12(Rev.4) was agreed to with the exception of paragraphs 4 , 5 and 45 ; WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/28 was all agreed with the exception of paragraph 11n and the cluster of paragraphs 20, 21, 24-30B, including the Annex.

In order to complete this work in time for the Summit, the following documents are offered to the Final Plenary of Prep-Com 3 as a basis for discussion and final adoption:

- Document WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/12(Rev.5);
- Document WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/28(Rev.1) which combines the WSIS-II/PC-3/DOC/7(Rev.1) and WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/26(Rev.2) on financial mechanisms and implementation follow-up.

8. All of the documents referenced above, together with the full text of contributions from stakeholders, are available on the WSIS website at <http://www.itu.int/wsis>.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their dedication, cooperation, support, understanding and patience. In particular, I would like to thank those delegations that coordinated the small meetings that provided us with text that allowed us to progress with our work even in cases where this was not conclusive.

I would also like to thank you, Mr. President, for your guidance and assistance during this difficult negotiations, under heavy time pressure.

Mr Chairman, my work was made easier by a team of staff from the WSIS Executive Secretariat and the ITU: Joel Desaulles, Phillippa Biggs, Naomichi Numata (Manao), Cristina Bueti, Youlia Lozanova and Knut Rakus. This work could not have been accomplished without their unconditional, professional and totally dedicated support. The interpreters and translators deserve special mention.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the host country, Tunisia, for their warm hospitality. When we adjourned our PrepCom in Geneva, and agreed to resume in Tunis just prior to the Summit, it was clear that this would put additional strain on our hosts. We arrived here as our hosts were still preparing to receive us and therefore our conditions of work may not have been ideal. The opportunity, however, to see them at work and to watch our venue being transformed literally overnight from a building site into a world-class African cyber-city has made us appreciate how welcome we are even more.

Being a part of this process from its proposal by Tunisia in 1998 to the conclusion of its second phase in this country has been an honour and major learning process for me and gives me a lot of hope that indeed we can build an inclusive development-oriented Information Society together. Thank you all and thank you Africa for this honour.

Annexes: Document [WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/12\(Rev.5\)](#), Document [WSIS-II/PC-3/DT/28\(Rev.1\)](#).