

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: DRAFTING PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY CUBA TO THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR

Proposals for the Preamble

We reaffirm that only through the cooperation and joint action of all stakeholders will it be possible to overcome successfully our challenge of harnessing the potential of information and communication technology in order to promote the development goals of the Millennium Declaration and keep constantly improving the social welfare and development of all human beings. In that respect, we reiterate our decision to adopt measures focused on development, particularly in developing countries, so as to bridge the digital divide.

We are determined to remove any impediments to bridging the digital divide, mainly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic and social development of developing countries and undermine the welfare of their citizens. To that end, we will work to fulfill the principles and measures contained, respectively, in the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted during the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in December 2003, in Geneva.

We are committed to further strengthen the United Nations and the entire multilateral system of international relations, since we are convinced that a stronger multilateralism will consolidate measures in favor of sustainable development and of international peace and security, which are crucial to build an Information Society.

Proposals for the operative part

Chapter I

States will take all necessary actions in order to achieve a just and inclusive Information Society, free of unilateral measures that are inconsistent with international law and with the UN Charter, contrary to the full realization of the economic and social development of the people of the countries concerned and detrimental to the welfare of their citizens.

OR

In the process of building the Information Society States will adopt measures that guarantee the full attainment of the economic and social development of all countries, thus furthering the welfare of their citizens, and to that end they will take all necessary actions in order to abolish unilateral measures that are inconsistent with international law and with the UN Charter and that prevent the accomplishment of those goals.

In cooperation with other stakeholders we will search for possible methods of better sharing the advantages of the information technology revolution among developed

and developing countries. To that end, we will encourage the holding of international and regional thematic meetings within the Summit process in order to identify those methods.

We will work to remove the technological barriers that prevent a broader and better interconnectivity among our societies. To that end, we will assess bilaterally or multilaterally the best methods of achieving that goal and will rule out the implementation of unilateral measures inconsistent with international law and with the UN Charter.

Joint efforts should be undertaken with the participation of all stakeholders in order to design ICT-assisted programs to reduce illiteracy. To that end, among other actions, an international thematic meeting could be held within the Summit follow-up process.

We will join forces with the ITU and relevant regional organizations in order to ensure that the radio frequency spectrum is managed in the public interest and in accordance with the principle of legality, with full observance of national laws and regulations as well as relevant international agreements, thus contributing to build an Information Society based on the respect of legality.

Chapter IV

We agree to institutionalize the WSIS follow-up mechanism within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly and, on that basis, to hold regular conferences to evaluate the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted during the first phase of the Summit, in December 2003, in Geneva.