

Suggested elements for political chapeau and paragraph on implementation and follow-up on Tunis Summit

**Submitted by the European Union
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POLITICAL CHAPEAU

- Taking into consideration the UN Millennium Declaration, September 2000.
- Reconfirming the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action.
- Reaffirming support and commitment to the key principles set out in the Declaration of Principles, and as reflected in the Plan of Action of the first phase of WSIS.
- Recognising the impact of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) on society in general and the citizen in particular;
- Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
- Reaffirming our commitment to the rule of law in international and national affairs, international humanitarian law and the concept of good governance.
- Further reaffirming respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Recognising the role of the media and the need to protect its independence.
- Acknowledging the opportunities that ICTs - as tools for knowledge and information sharing – have to offer world-wide for sustainable economic growth, social cohesion and political and cultural development in an Information Society for all.
- Reaffirming commitment to turning the digital divide into digital opportunities for all;
- Emphasising the importance of implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the WSIS-process.
- Recognising the need to translate the principles and actions of the WSIS Declaration of Action into concrete and tangible activities, through existing mechanisms, including greater use of public-private partnerships, and enhanced dialogue and co-operation with partners.
- Welcoming the continued participation and contribution of the private sector, international organisations and civil society, and highlighting the vital and indispensable role they should play in all phases and at all levels of the WSIS-process, and its implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENEVA DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PLAN OF ACTION / FOLLOW-UP TO THE TUNIS SUMMIT

- Emphasising the urgent need to respect and implement the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action.
- Reconfirming the importance of the outcome of the Stocktaking Exercise.
- Concentrating on the implementation of the Geneva undertakings, focusing on a limited number of priorities in order to achieve tangible results and to be able to translate principles into actions.
- Underlining the importance of effective implementation and follow-up, notably the need to define modalities for the follow-up of the Tunis Summit and an eventual review of the WSIS-process.
- Stressing the need to align the development aspects of WSIS with follow-up and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration.
- Also recognising the importance of follow-up and implementation in the UN system, as part of an integrated and co-ordinated approach to the monitoring and implementation of the major UN conferences.
- Encouraging co-operation between stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the outcome of the WSIS-process, especially the promotion of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), in a joint effort and dialogue with less developed countries, donors and actors in the ICT sector.
- Identifying the need to assist the ODA-beneficiary countries and countries in economies in transition to strengthen their capacity to mainstream ICTs in their national development plans and poverty reduction strategy and to effectively co-ordinate donor funding.

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