



**World Summit on the Information Society  
UNESCO between Geneva and Tunis**

**Group of the Friends of the Chair**

**UNESCO 's Ten Points for the *Political Chapeau* of the Final Document(s)**

The Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted by the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva (December 2004), recognize the values and principles that are essential to build an inclusive and pluralist “information society” to which UNESCO refers more appropriately as “knowledge societies”.

UNESCO considers the following **ten points** as essential for inclusion in the *Political Chapeau* of the Final Document, and recommends that the text:

1. Refer explicitly to the term “knowledge societies” as it includes issues going beyond connectivity and technological development encompassing a broader and more empowering vision that is based on the potential of ICTs to enhance human development;
2. Reiterate the commitment of all stakeholders to the Geneva principles as part of an enlarged policy agenda addressing the profound social, political, cultural and institutional dimensions of change that the world is facing;
3. Refer explicitly to “Freedom of expression”, “Universal access to information and knowledge”, “Preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, multilingualism and local content”; and “Equal access to quality education” as indispensable principles for building knowledge societies;
4. Restate the commitment to the central importance of literacy, including information literacy and universal primary education as key factor for building knowledge societies (*paragraph 29*);
5. Restate the central importance of ethical issues at stake (*paragraphs 56-59*);
6. Highlight the importance of international standard setting instruments (*paragraphs 44 and 60*);
7. Endorse the importance of new forms of partnership and cooperation involving all stakeholders in developing knowledge societies (*paragraph 17*);
8. Assert that Internet governance mechanisms should be based on the principle of “openness”, encompassing interoperability, freedom of expression in knowledge societies and measures to resist any attempt to censor content (*paragraphs 48-50*);
9. Confirm the commitment of all stakeholders to identify efficient and sustainable financial mechanisms to help narrowing the digital divide (*paragraphs 61-63*);
10. Express hope that the extraordinary participatory spirit and richness of initiatives that the WSIS process has generated will continue after the Tunis phase.