

**Initial Views of the United States of America  
in Preparation for Phase II of the  
World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

The United States appreciates the efforts of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to develop a document to serve as a basis of negotiations in PrepCom II. We are pleased to be a part of the Group of the Friends of the Chair (GFC) and look forward to participating in its deliberations. The U.S. offers the below statement as an initial view of Phase II of the WSIS and we look forward to offering additional views as the preparatory process unfolds.

Background

During the Geneva Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the global community came together to recognize that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a key element of economic growth, social development and political progress. By agreeing to the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, the United States reaffirmed our commitment to the importance of the use of ICTs to promote peace, security and stability, and to enhance democracy, respect for human rights, open and transparent government and the rule of law. We are pleased that through the adoption of the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, the international community recognized that infrastructure development, human capacity building, and network security are critical to achieving this vision.

A global consensus emerged at the Summit that a multi-stakeholder approach to the development of ICTs and, in particular the Internet, is essential. Relevant stakeholders include governments, the private sector and civil society. The Summit recognized the importance of private and public sector involvement as a prerequisite for the successful international coordination and cooperation needed to meet our shared goal of ensuring that all the world's inhabitants realize the benefits afforded by the Internet.

## Phase II of WSIS

Phase II of WSIS will focus on three themes – implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, financing mechanisms for ICT development, and Internet governance. Consistent with the agreement reached at PrepCom I, Phase II will not reopen the agreements reached in Phase I.

Instead, we believe Phase II should offer an opportunity for all stakeholders to reaffirm the following:

- freedom of expression
- promotion of democracy
- advancement of scientific research and development
- human capacity building
- infrastructure development
- growth of the Internet
- network security

With respect to the issues of Internet Governance and Financial Mechanisms, the United States fully supports the ongoing work of the Secretary General in this regard and looks forward to reviewing the results of those efforts in the context of the WSIS Preparatory Committee. We look forward to an open and transparent consideration of these issues and believe the Preparatory Committee is the appropriate organization to negotiate the essential source documents of the Summit. The GFC, as the drafting group, should take care not to duplicate the efforts of these groups.