

Draft  
16 November 2004

**Political chapeau / Tunis Commitment**

Idea	Text	Source
Introductory text	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>We, the representatives of the peoples of the world</b>, have gathered in Tunis from 16-18 November 2005 for this second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society to continue the work begun in the first phase, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003.</li> <li>2. <b>One Summit, in two phases</b>, provides a unique occasion for the global community to address the challenges and opportunities of the emerging global Information Society in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, and to set the course towards ensuring that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies (ICTs), are available to all.</li> </ol>	G/OS
Renewed commitment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>We reiterate our unequivocal support for the Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action</b> adopted by the first phase of the Summit, and our resolve to uphold the principles and implement the commitments we agreed on in Geneva as part of a broad policy agenda addressing the profound social, political, cultural and institutional dimensions of change that the world is facing.</li> </ol>	G/OS
Agreed elements of the Information Society	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>We reaffirm our common desire and commitment</b> to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society that would embody our common vision and agreed principles and commitments as set out in the documents adopted in Geneva while taking into consideration the diversity of each country and each region.</li> <li>5. <b>We recognize</b> that ICTs—from basic radio and telephone services through advanced Internet technology, such as broadband platforms—are central for an emerging global Information Society that touches every aspect of our shared global agenda and the lives of our societies and citizens.</li> <li>6. At the same time, <b>we reaffirm that the Information Society is not about technology</b>. It is about empowering people and enhancing their participation in the economy and society. It is about using ICTs to support education and knowledge sharing, and access to health-care.</li> </ol>	G  G  G/OS

	<p>7. ICTs are not an end in themselves, but powerful tools to promote peace, security and stability, to enhance democracy, social cohesion, good governance and the rule of law. They can be used to promote economic growth and enterprise development through ICT-supported productivity gains and applied innovations. Infrastructure development, human capacity building, information security and network security are critical to achieving these goals.</p> <p>8. <b>We recognize</b> that inclusiveness, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, freedom of opinion, expression and information, cultural and linguistic diversity and local content are fundamental to the Information Society.</p> <p>9. <b>We recognize</b> that, to ensure that the benefits of the Information Society are more evenly distributed between and within societies, we must be particularly attentive to the roles of women and girls and to the needs of older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, minorities, and other marginalized and vulnerable groups.</p> <p>10. <b>We recognise that</b>, in order to confront effectively challenges and threats resulting from malicious use of ICTs, we need to multiply our efforts in developing effective means of assuring information security and network security.</p>	<p>G/OS</p> <p>G/OS</p> <p>G/OS</p> <p>G</p>
Further commitments		
Resource mobilisation, including human resources		
Issues for Tunis	<p>11. <b>We have accomplished much</b> since we first met in Geneva. We seek to reaffirm and enhance the commitments already made by focussing on a thorough review of existing financial mechanisms for bridging the digital divide; and by investigating and making proposals for action on international Internet governance issues, as well as on the follow-up to the WSIS process, as referenced in chapters two, three and four of [this document / Operational document – “Tunis Agenda for action”].</p>	G



International co-operation	<p>17. Our efforts will be enhanced by international cooperation at all levels to improve coherence between national and international efforts for a truly global and concerted approach to sharing the benefits of the Information Society. Countries that have developed and implemented appropriate ICT policies should make efforts to provide and share useful knowledge and know-how.</p>	G
Conclusion	<p>18. Yet, <b>there is still much work to be done</b>, and this work does not stop with the completion of the WSIS process. The emergence of the global Information Society to which we all contribute provides increasing opportunities for all our peoples and for the global community that were unimaginable only a few years ago. We must harness these opportunities and deliver on the promise of the information revolution.</p> <p>19. <b>We strongly believe</b> that full and timely implementation of decisions we took in Geneva and in Tunis, and closely integrating this process in the overall strategy embodied in the Millennium Declaration is the way to achieve this goal. <b>We therefore reaffirm our strong resolve</b> to develop and implement an effective and sustainable response to challenges and opportunities of building a truly global Information Society that benefits all our peoples.</p>	G  G