

BRAZILIAN DELEGATION'S PROPOSAL

Final Document of the Second Phase of World Summit on the Information Society

**Proposal for changes and amendments in order to promote an
“ICT for development approach”
to the Second Phase of the WSIS:**

Political Chapeau

Draft January 04 2005

**Proposal for changes and amendments in order to promote a “development
approach” to the Second Phase of the WSIS:**

Paragraph nine:

9. We shall strive unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs for people everywhere, to ensure that the benefits are more evenly distributed between and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all. We shall improve the accessibility, connectivity and security of ICTs in developing countries through open-source and free software¹.

Paragraph eleven:

11. We are convinced that our goals can be accomplished through the involvement and partnership of all stakeholders of the Information Society, including governments, international organizations, business entities and civil society and that international cooperation and solidarity at all levels are indispensable if the fruits of the Information Society are to be shared equitably by all.

¹ For a detailed information on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), vide:

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/c3em21d3_en.pdf ;

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/c3em21d2_en.pdf;

For Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) use in companies and government, vide:

IBM: http://r0.unctad.org/ecommerce/event_docs/fossem/palfreyman.pdf;

NOKIA: http://press.nokia.com/PR/200301/887777_5.html;

For Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) use in Government, vide:

Sweden: <http://www.isd.mel.nist.gov/projects/rtlinux/swedish-open-source.pdf>

US Department of Defense: <http://learn.arc.nasa.gov/worldwind/dodfoss.pdf>;

US NASA: <http://www.nas.nasa.gov/News/Techreports/2003/PDF/nas-03-009.pdf>

United Kingdom: <http://www.ogc.gov.uk/oss/OSS-policy.html>

European Commission: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/opensource/cases/text_en.htm

BRAZILIAN DELEGATION'S PROPOSAL

Operational part

Draft January 04 2005

Proposal for changes and amendments

Paragraph three:

3. **We value** regional and international integration efforts, as a contribution to the development of the global Information Society and strong cooperation within and among regions is indispensable. The regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity-building and to the development of national implementation strategies. South-South Cooperation shall be enhanced in order to foster knowledge sharing.

Paragraph four:

4. Exchange of views and the sharing of effective practices are essential to implementing the Geneva decisions at the regional and international levels. To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share useful knowledge and know-how, related to the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of national implementation strategies and policies. **We encourage** WSIS stakeholders to continue to organize and participate in regional and international conferences and WSIS-related thematic meetings in order to narrow the digital divide.

Paragraph six:

5. **We are committed** to achieving the indicative targets, set out in the Plan of Action, that serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015, and to using ICTs as a tool to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, by:
 - mainstreaming and aligning national implementation strategies across national action plans aimed at achieving the development goals of the Millennium Declaration;
 - creating digital opportunities through multi-stakeholder partnerships;
 - designing and implementing enabling policies and a regulatory environment that is supportive of ICT entrepreneurship and that promotes investment and the mobilisation of domestic resources;
 - building the ICT capacities of people;
 - promoting community volunteerism in the ICT4D sector;
 - promoting public policies aimed at making/providing/ensuring affordable accessibility to hardware as well as software to populations living in developing regions, in particular in rural areas.

Paragraph seven:

6. The Geneva Plan of Action identifies international performance evaluation and benchmarking as an important aspect of the follow-up and evaluation. We applaud the initiatives taken in this area, including by those key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of ICTs who have joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development". We encourage governmental statistical bureaux to assist these efforts by providing data and technical support.

Paragraph nine:

8. **We commit ourselves** to evaluate and follow-up progress in narrowing bridging the digital divide, taking into account different levels of development, so as to reach internationally agreed

development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to assess the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the Information Society. **We encourage** all WSIS stakeholders to continue to provide financial support and to contribute new and updated information on their activities to the WSIS stocktaking database, which was launched in October 2004 by the WSIS-ES and will be maintained by ITU, so that it becomes a valuable tool, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis Phase of the Summit.

Paragraphs sixteen twenty:

16. In the past, financing of ICTs in developing regions has been closely related to the business cycles of the ICT industry. A significant influx of financial resources in the ICT sector as well as governmental mobilization in many developing countries have had visible results: in less than 15 years, more than a billion people have gained access to telephones (fixed and mobile), and sometimes to computers, the Internet and other means of sharing information.

17. We note that this investment has had the greatest development impact where ICT markets have been opened and private sector participation has been encouraged and where governments were aware of the importance of public policies aimed at narrowing the digital divide.

18. We recognise that attracting investment in ICTs has depended crucially upon a supportive enabling environment for business and an ICT policy and regulatory environment that encompasses open entry, fair competition and market-oriented regulation. We are also aware that market forces need guidance from public policies.

19. We note that the vast majority of financing of ICT infrastructure and services has come from the private sector and that North-South flows are increasingly being augmented by South-South cooperation flows and domestic financing.

20. Multilateral and bilateral public donors are redirecting public resources to policy reforms and other development needs, including the mainstreaming of ICTs in the development sectors. We note that this reflects the growing importance of private sector investment in infrastructure and we encourage more public and multilateral donations to regions in need.

Paragraph twenty-four:

24. Accordingly, we recommend improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms, including:

- Enhancing regional cooperation and creating multi-stakeholder partnerships; especially for trans-national infrastructure backbones;
- Reducing internet interconnection fees charged by big backbone providers;
- Coordinating programmes among governments and major financial players to mitigate investment risks and transaction costs for operators entering less attractive rural and low income market segments;
- Creating policy and regulatory incentives and more open access policies;
- Creating policy and regulatory incentives in order to foster the use of free and open source software as a way to ensure widespread access and increase security at affordable prices;
- Identification and acknowledgement of the key role of ICTs in national poverty eradication ~~reduction~~ strategies, and the elaboration of e-strategies in conjunction with poverty reduction strategies;
- Developing institutional and implementation capacity to support the use of national universal service/access funds, and further study of these mechanisms;
- Ensuring the relevance to developing countries of the information applications, services and national content delivered by ICTs;
- Supporting the “scaling-up” of ICT-based pilot programmes;
- Using ICTs in government as a catalyst for implementation of successful e-strategies;
- Enabling tax, tariff, import, and business regulation policies designed to reduce risks and financial burdens for, and provide incentives to, ICT investors, start-up firms, and domestic financial resources;

- Helping to accelerate the development of domestic financial instruments including by supporting local microfinance instruments, ICT small business incubators, public credit instruments, digital solidarity and other innovations;
- Building human resource capacity (knowledge) at every level for achieving Information Society objectives, especially in the public sector;
- Encouraging business sector entities to help jump-start wider demand for ICT services by supporting local producers, programmers, artists and small businesses in the applications and content fields.

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