

Draft
4 January 2005

Political chapeau / Tunis Commitment

Idea	Text
From Geneva to Tunis	<p>1. We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, have gathered in Tunis from 16-18 November 2005 for this second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to reiterate our unequivocal support for the <i>Declaration of Principles</i> and <i>Plan of Action</i> adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003, and we reaffirm our commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international law and effective multilateralism, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, to achieve their full potential and to promote sustainable development, to improve quality of life, to eradicate poverty and to attain the internationally-agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>New 1 bis: The Tunis Summit represents a unique moment in the history of mankind. It strengthens the confidence in the future while its core subjects concerning the Information Society shift world attention way from narrowly-defined concepts to global ones, which transform peoples' activities and interactions in ways that challenge traditional assumptions. The implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Geneva Summit is taking place amidst accelerating development of ICTs, which impact policies, human, economic, social and cultural development, bringing about profound changes in society.</p> <p>2. In Geneva, we established a solid long-term link between the WSIS process, and other major United Nations conferences and summits. We call upon governments and all stakeholders to join together in committing to implement the Geneva decisions. In this context, the outcomes of the recently concluded Summit meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration are of special relevance.</p> <p>3. We seek to reaffirm and enhance the commitments already made by focussing on Financial Mechanisms for bridging the digital divide, on Internet Governance and on follow-up and implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, as referenced in chapters two, three and four of [this document/the Operational Part].</p>
Key principles	<p>4. We reaffirm our resolution in the quest to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer, by recalling that governments, as well as private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, should work together to: improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to information and</p>

<p>Develop- ment orientation</p>	<p>knowledge; build capacity; increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs; create an enabling environment at all levels; develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media; address the ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and encourage international and regional cooperation. We confirm that these are the key principles for building an inclusive Information society, the elaboration of which is found in the Geneva Declaration of Principles.</p> <p>5. We recognise that knowledge is vital to human existence and that wider dissemination and diffusion of knowledge would contribute to economic, social and cultural development, and help all countries reach the internationally-agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.</p> <p>6. Furthermore, ICTs have made it possible for a vastly larger population than at any time in the past to join in sharing and expanding the base of human knowledge, and contributing to its further growth. ICTs have enormous potential to expand access to quality education, to boost literacy and universal primary education, and to facilitate the learning process itself—and thus lay the groundwork for a fully-inclusive and open information and knowledge society.</p> <p>7. We also recognize that the ICT revolution can have a tremendous positive impact as an instrument of development, if an appropriate enabling environment at national and international levels is put in place. However, in the absence of the latter, it could reinforce and increase existing social and economic divisions, widen the gap between rich and poor countries, between regions, and between individuals—including between men and women.</p> <p>8. We reaffirm our commitment to removing all obstacles to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic and social development of countries and the welfare of their citizens, in particular, in developing countries.</p> <p>Alternate 8: We acknowledge that bridging the digital divide, and achieving fully the economic and social development of countries is a dynamic process and could be accomplished by removing difficulties and seizing opportunities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Alternate 9+10: We shall strive unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs for people everywhere, to ensure that the benefits of the Information Society are more evenly distributed among and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all. In so doing, we shall pay special attention to the roles and special needs of all</p>
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	<p>segments of society and we reaffirm the commitments taken in this regard in the Geneva Declaration of Principles.</p> <p>10. To that end, we shall pay special attention to the roles and special needs of all segments of society, and reaffirm the commitments taken in this regard in the Geneva Declaration.</p> <p>Alternate 10A. To that end we shall pay particular attention to the role and special needs of children, young people, women, marginalized and vulnerable groups of society including migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees, unemployed and underprivileged people, minorities and nomadic people, people with disabilities, poor people, particularly those living in remote, rural and marginalized urban areas, indigenous peoples, people of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, Highly Indebted Poor Countries, countries and territories under occupation, and countries recovering from conflict.</p> <p>Alternate 10B: To that end, we shall pay particular attention to the role and special needs of the youth, women and older people and to the special situation of indigenous peoples. We also recognize the role and special needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups of society including the disabled, migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, underprivileged and poor people and of people of countries facing adverse economic situations, geographic isolation, occupation, conflicts or natural disasters.</p>
Participation and international cooperation	<p>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 at all levels is indispensable if the fruits of the Information Society are to be shared equitably by all.</p>
Conclusion	<p>12. Our efforts will not stop with the conclusion 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.</p> <p>13. [We strongly believe 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. We therefore reaffirm our strong resolve 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>