



WSIS+10 High-Level Event

Open Consultation Process

Official Submission Form #1 on the Outcome Documents of the WSIS +10 High-Level Event 13-17 April 2014, Sharm el-Sheikh

Background: The WSIS+10 High-Level Event will be an extended version of the WSIS Forum to address the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes related to the WSIS Action Lines under mandates of the participating agencies, while providing a platform for multistakeholder coordination of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, with involvement and participation of all WSIS action line facilitators, other UN agencies and all WSIS stakeholders.

The WSIS+10 High-Level Event will review the WSIS Outcomes (2003 and 2005) , in particular, related to the Action Lines with a view to developing proposals on a new vision beyond 2015, potentially also exploring new targets. The meeting will be organized taking into account decisions of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly.

This open and inclusive open consultation process will result in:

- Draft Outcome Documents for consideration by the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, by 1st March 2014:
 - Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes
 - Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of the participating Agencies

(Please see the Official Submission Form #1)

- Multistakeholder guidance on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format of the WSIS +10 High-Level Event.

(Please see the Official Submission Form #2)

Please note that formal submission should be sent to the wsis-info@itu.int not later than **20 September 2013**.

A. Your Information

Title: Ms

First name: Deborah **Last name:** Brown

Organization: Access (accessnow.org)

Organization type: Civil Society **Country:** United States of America

B. Formal Input on the WSIS+10 High-Level Event Outcome Documents

Referring to the background documents i.e. the WSIS +10 Visioning Challenge, the Final Statement and Final Recommendations from the WSIS+10 Review Event Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development, the Booklet WSIS Forum 2012 & 2013: Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015 and the WSIS Forum 2013 Outcome Document, all WSIS Stakeholders are kindly invited to provide formal submissions and inputs towards the Outcome Documents of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

1. Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

(Please note that the anticipated length of this Statement is two pages)

Since the two Summits, in 2003 and 2005, WSIS Stakeholders have made every effort in implementing a common vision of the Information Society.

Overall;

- a) What are the main achievements in the area of the information society, in particular, in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines, in the past ten years?

As noted in the Final Statement and Final Recommendations from the WSIS+10 Review Event Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development that emerged from the Paris 2013 meeting, multistakeholder processes have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing issues affecting the knowledge and information societies. While not an end in and of itself, we feel that growing acceptance and institutionalization of multistakeholder processes is a necessary precondition for achieving the Action Lines and fulfilling WSIS's goal of a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society.

Additionally, there have been significant achievements with regard to expanding information and communication infrastructure (C2) over the last ten years, which in turn has led to advances in other action lines, such as access to information and knowledge (C3). However advances have been uneven, and as a result we are left with a wide digital divide, which we note in the following section. We also see progress with regard to international and regional cooperation (C11). In particular we consider the Internet Governance Forum and regional and national iterations of it as key processes in advancing international and regional cooperation around internet-related public Policy.

b) What key identified challenges would need to be addressed in the next 10 years?

Expanding affordable access

Safeguarding and advancing human rights

Deepening multistakeholder governance

Ensuring the internet's open architecture and interoperability

c) What do the WSIS Stakeholders envision for an information/ knowledge society ensuring that the youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples benefit from the enormous opportunities provided by the ICTs?

We envision inclusive and democratic decision-making processes that give voice to all marginalized communities, including the youth, women, poor, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. We see the best way to ensure that these communities benefit from the enormous opportunities provided by the ICTs is to include them in decision-making that meets the particular challenges that they face. Additionally, expanding affordable access, safeguarding human rights, and maintaining the internet's open architecture, will ensure that they enjoy the full benefits of an information/knowledge society.

2. Draft WSIS +10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of the participating agencies (Definition of new priorities and objectives for WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015)

Please note: Participating agency refers to the Agencies tasked by the WSIS Outcomes to lead facilitation of WSIS Action Lines; See Annex to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

a) In your opinion, what are the **key emerging trends** in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) landscape that should be considered in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015? **Please specify the Action Line you are providing an input for.**

Please note: You may wish to refer to the WSIS Forum 2012 & 2013 Booklet on Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015, available at www.wsis.org/review/mpp.

- C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
 - Public governance authorities, as well as all stakeholders including civil society and the private sector, have important roles to play in the promotion of ICTs for development. While the Tunis Agenda has been instrumental in institutionalizing the multistakeholder model, the roles and responsibility framework outlined in para. 35 of the Tunis Agenda is unnecessarily limiting. Shifting away from the roles and responsibilities framework would allow all stakeholders to contribute more freely for the promotion of ICTs for development.
- C2. Information and communication infrastructure
 - Click here to enter text.
- C3. Access to information and knowledge
 - Click here to enter text.
- C4. Capacity building
 - Click here to enter text.

- C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
- C6. Enabling environment
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
- C7. ICT Applications:
 - E-government
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - E-business
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - E-learning
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - E-health
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - E-employment
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - E-environment
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - E-agriculture
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - E-science
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
- C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
- C9. Media
 - As the WSIS Forum 2012 & 2013 Booklet on Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015 notes, there are increasing challenges in addressing freedom of expression and privacy protection on the internet. The liability of intermediaries and governmental surveillance are also negatively impacting to freedom of expression on internet and the right to privacy. Moreover, we have documented cyberattacks on journalists and bloggers, who are targeted specifically for the opinions they hold and express online.
- C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
- C11. International and regional cooperation
 - [Click here to enter text.](#)

b) What are areas that have **not been adequately captured by the framework of the existing 11 WSIS Action Lines** and would need to be addressed beyond 2015? **Please specify the Action Line you are providing an input for.**

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 - [Click here to enter text.](#)
- C2. Information and communication infrastructure
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c) In your opinion are there any priority areas that need to be addressed in the implementation of WSIS Beyond 2015.

Affordable access: While there has been notable growth in internet penetration over the last 10 years, approximately two-thirds of the world still lacks access to the internet, particularly in the developing world. Even where access now exists, it is not affordable for large portions of society. Additionally, one could say we're experiencing a "new" digital divide between those who have low quality access mostly via mobile phones and those with access to cheap, high-speed broadband. Addressing this problem, through the deployment of broadband and internet exchange points (IXPs) for example, should continue to be a priority in the next 10 years.

Human rights: Although the internet is perhaps one of the most important enablers of human rights today, human rights are under increasing threat in the online/digital environment. We view safeguarding and advancing human rights, such as freedom of expression and association, the right to privacy, and access to information as priority challenges to address in the next 10 years. It is critical that institutions and individuals with human rights expertise, such as UNESCO, take the lead in addressing these issues. We therefore strongly support the recommendation from the WSIS+10 Paris meeting that all stakeholders "[r]espect freedom of expression, as defined in the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to education, science and technology and artistic and cultural expressions remain essential for progress towards inclusive knowledge societies, and enhanced cultural diversity" as well as the recommendation to "Promote and ensure the safety of online journalists, bloggers and human right activists." We also recall Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/20/8, which firmly establishes that the same rights people enjoy offline apply online.

Multistakeholder framework: The multistakeholder framework for internet governance continues to face challenges. We consider the Internet Governance Forum and its regional and national iterations to be valuable institutions for deepening the multistakeholder framework and support their continuation over the next 10 years and beyond. We therefore support the recommendation of the WSIS+10 Paris meeting that all stakeholders "[a]cknowledge the importance of and renew their commitment to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)."

Open architecture and interoperability: We would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining an open Internet based on open standards development processes, as key enablers for an inclusive knowledge and information societies as a priority issue in the next ten years.

3. Ensuring accountability of the WSIS Action Lines beyond 2015 (Targets and Indicators for an open and inclusive information/knowledge society for all beyond 2015)

Please note that information provided under this point will be relevant to the second physical meeting of the open consultation process on WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

- a) How can the **monitoring and evaluation** of future implementation of the WSIS process, in particular, the Action Lines be better enabled?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- b) What are the **priority areas** that the post-2015 WSIS process should focus on and which goals and targets could monitor the new vision for WSIS beyond 2015?

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Safeguarding and advancing human rights

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4. Any additional comments or suggestions

We welcome this opportunity to contribute to the Open Consultation for the WSIS+10 High Level Event and we support the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the designated system-wide focal point for follow up to the WSIS outcomes.