



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: Mr

First name: Matthew **Last name:** Shears

Organization: Center for Democracy & Technology

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?

CDT believes that the WSIS Action Lines have helped draw attention to the role that ICTs can play in realizing development goals.

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

The UNGIS joint statement on the post 2015 development agenda, issued in May 2013, notes that “the potential of ICTs as key enablers for inclusive development have yet to be fully acknowledged, harnessed and specifically linked to the achievement of all other MDG targets.” CDT agrees with this assessment and believes that there is insufficient emphasis in the WSIS review output documents (including the Emerging Trends Beyond 2015 report) on key building blocks that could facilitate ICTs playing their important role in development.

Some of these these building blocks are touched upon later in the UNGIS statement: “ICTs by themselves cannot guarantee the achievement of development goals. Strategic policies, human capacity, appropriate knowledge management, relevant content development, infrastructure deployment, and an enabling environment are critical factors to ensure that the potential of ICTs for sustainable development is fully harnessed by and for all.”

CDT believes that these “critical factors” - or building blocks - are the key challenges that need to

be addressed in the next 10 years, and include, among others:

- Protecting, respecting and promoting human rights and recognition of their importance to realizing economic development;
- Establishing environments that will facilitate economic and social development on a foundation of human rights and the rule of law
- Building models of governance at national, regional, and international levels that are open, transparent, and inclusive, and encourage multistakeholder participation in policy development and decision-making;
- Ensuring that the Internet remains open, unconstrained by technology mandates and burdensome regulation, and free of limitations on what, when, and how users can communicate, access information, and build community.

All of the above are essential to realizing information/knowledge societies for all citizens, to ensuring continued economic and social development, and to realizing the goals of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

- 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?

CDT envisions an information/knowledge society in which all persons have a voice in their community, in the governance of their country, and in the development of policies that are important to them. Their voices should be heard and their opinions respected, and they must have access to the technologies -- and particularly the Internet -- that enable them to express themselves.

ICTs empower people to learn, to trade, to create, to find community and to contribute. But ICTs do not thrive in a vacuum - they require, among others:

- Infrastructure that allows for widespread affordable access;
- Social and political conditions that encourage people to use the Internet freely (rule of law, human rights respecting policies);
- Broader structures that enable people to take advantage of social, economic, and educational opportunities online;
- Governance models that support broader participation in shaping the future of the information society.

As we note in this submission, any future development agenda will need to continue to focus on these important enablers so that everyone can have a voice and enjoy the 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
 - CDT is pleased to see that the 2013 WSIS Forum identified the importance of “promot[ing] the multistakeholder approach to measuring ICT4D and WSIS targets to get maximum information” as an emerging trend. The Emerging Trends report also notes that “good public governance can leverage ICTs in ... ways to increase efficiency and accountability...”. One of the primary benefits of multistakeholder approaches is the opportunity they provide to ensure that policy and decision-making is informed by the best information possible, provided by a range of experts and others who will be affected by the policy. But this benefit does not only accrue in the field of measuring how well existing or on-going programs meet target goals.

CDT suggests that all stakeholders, at the national, regional, and international level, encourage the development of multistakeholder approaches to the deliberation, drafting, and implementation of the full range of policies and processes related to ICTs and development. We note that multistakeholder processes are recognized in the UNESCO WSIS+10 review final statement as “essential in addressing issues affecting the knowledge and information societies” and their explicit encouragement is recommended. The WSIS+10 High Level Event in Sharm el-Sheikh should similarly emphasize the importance of continuing to make progress in implementing open, inclusive, and transparent policy mechanisms and processes at all levels so that the role of all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development is enhanced.

- 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
 - The technical community and the private sector have critical expertise that must be better incorporated into cybersecurity related policy-making. Better cyber-risk analysis and risk management will come from a better understanding and analysis of the threats and actors involved; this would allow for more tailored and proportionate policy responses.

CDT encourages stakeholders to invest in existing fora that work to build confidence and security in ICTs. While new national, regional, and international frameworks may be appropriate in some cases, there is already an ecosystem of entities and structures that address the issue of cybersecurity. All frameworks must be subject to "evidence-based policy-making" involving all stakeholders and the necessary expertise.

We continue to be concerned by the catch-all approach to the issue of cybersecurity and the use of invasive and disproportionate policy responses that can imperil human rights and economic development. In this context we fully support the need for education and awareness building and refer you to our paper on Unpacking Cyber Security

(<https://www.cdt.org/paper/unpacking-cybersecurity-threats-responses-and-human-rights-considerations>).

- **C6. Enabling environment**

- As we noted in our response to C1, multistakeholder governance is a critical enabler of economic development and is essential to the realization of the MDGs and a post 2015 development agenda. CDT appreciates the focus in Action Line C6 in the Emerging Trends report on the role of stakeholders, and particularly the need for “defining and implementing broadband strategies in collaboration with all stakeholders” and “the need for smart regulation based on open consultation with all stakeholders” and the “increasing importance of an open policy and regulatory environment”. The UNGIS joint statement notes how “international cooperation and multistakeholder collaboration on the strategic use of ICTs to address a wide range of issues during the past decade has produced a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise”. There is an emerging consensus that multistakeholder governance is a necessary component of any process pursuing ICTs and development goals.

CDT suggests that a post 2015 development agenda takes as a central theme the need to establish, at local, national, regional, and international levels, the structures and mechanisms that would allow and encourage multistakeholder governance to flourish.

We also note that while the Emerging Trends report identifies a number of elements central to an enabling environment for the deployment and adoption of ICTs, several other crucial building blocks are missing including, for example: separation of national telecommunications operator from the state; independent regulatory authority; Internet neutrality provisions; a stable investment regime; and Internet exchange points, among others.

- **C7. ICT Applications:**

- E-government
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- 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
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- **C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content**

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- **C9. Media**

- [Click here to enter text.](#)

- **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.**

- C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
 - As noted above - further emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of open and inclusive multistakeholder policy processes, particularly as they relate to ICTs and to development issues.
- 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
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- C7. ICT Applications:
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- C11. International and regional cooperation
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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.

CDT would like to highlight two priority areas that need to be addressed by all stakeholders within a post 2015 development agenda.

These are: 1) the importance of enabling environments and an open Internet to realizing the full potential of ICTs for development; and 2) the critical role human rights based, open, inclusive, and participatory governance is to empowering individuals and communities to contribute to, participate in, and enjoy the benefits of development. These have been touched on above and are further elaborated on below.

CDT believes that for the potential of ICTs to be fully harnessed for realizing development goals there must be a clear commitment from governments and intergovernmental organizations not only to support and facilitate enabling regulatory and investment environments, but also to ensure that the Internet remain open and neutral. Preserving and promoting the open Internet and its crucial enabling role will be critical to meeting development goals, as the UNGIS joint statement notes: “ICTs in general, and the Internet in particular, play an important part in ensuring rights-based development, especially enabling wider exercise of freedom of expression and press freedom, which in turn are critical to combating corruption, ensuring gender-sensitivity, deepening accountability, and promoting socially inclusive development”.

The Internet has thrived because it is a uniquely open platform that supports potentially limitless innovation and robust exchange of ideas and opinions. An open Internet is based upon principles such as user control, open and consensus based standards, and regulatory approaches that preserve the neutrality and openness of the Internet. Internet neutrality principles support user choice, create an environment that enables the enjoyment of the freedoms of speech and association, provide unfettered access to information and education, and encourage the pursuit of creative and innovative endeavors. Ensuring that the Internet remains an open and neutral platform should be priority for all stakeholders.

In addition to enabling regulatory and investment environments and policies ensuring an open Internet, CDT believes that good governance and the respect and promotion of human rights are essential prerequisites to realizing the development and policy goals of a post 2015 development agenda.

The theme of the importance of protecting and promoting human rights runs through the UNESCO WSIS+10 final statement, from promoting freedom of expression, to protecting privacy and diversity. Governance is also prominent: the benefits of multistakeholder processes have been highlighted, both in terms of the role they have played in moving the WSIS process forward and in contributing to the creation of enabling environments for development.

Governance and human rights were also central to the findings of the UN’s A Million Voices survey and report, and were highlighted in the Key Messages section: “People demand that this new agenda be built on human rights, and universal values of equality, justice and security. Better governance, of markets and of the environment, underpins many of their calls.”

CDT suggests that the key aim of the WSIS, that of harnessing the potential of information and communication technology to promote and realize development goals, should be carried through to a post 2015 development agenda. However, in order to further facilitate and encourage that important and ambitious theme, there needs to be explicit recognition of and demonstrable actions taken by all stakeholders towards:

- 1) building enabling environments and ensuring the continued openness and neutrality of the Internet; and

- 2) encouraging and facilitating people-centered and inclusive governance models and mechanisms that are based on human rights and the rule of law.

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?

Monitoring and evaluation of priorities within a post 2015 development agenda should be undertaken through greater multistakeholder involvement and participation.

- 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?

Any future priority areas will hopefully be linked to and a part of a post 2015 development agenda.

4. Any additional comments or suggestions

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