

Launch Meeting of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms

4 October 2004, New York

Report

Executive Summary

1. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the first phase of which was concluded in Geneva last December, requested that a Task Force on Financial Mechanisms be established under the aegis of the Secretary General of the United Nations to undertake a review of the adequacy of existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for development. It was officially launched on 4 October at United Nations Headquarters.¹

Approach of the Task Force:

2. While the proposal for the Digital Solidarity Fund was a motivating factor for setting up the Task Force, it was agreed that the approach, as suggested by the text of the WSIS plan of action was not to come up with a black and white response on the question of the Fund but to allow for *shades of grey* and explore options based on a review of the various mechanisms used to finance the different dimensions of ICTD. Various participants also proposed that the question of the adequacy of ICTD financing needed to be framed in the context of broader development priorities and needs. The voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund that has been established will be reviewed in the context of public-private partnerships and emerging financial mechanisms.

Identification of Financing Challenges:

3. In assessing the challenges related to financing ICTD it was pointed out that the main issue might not be a purely financial one, although this was seen to vary across regions within and across countries. The issues were seen to be more complex. To be effective, it was proposed that the task force should consider the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders and how they might combine to maximize the availability of private capital and the effective use of public resources. In the context of fostering private investment in the sector, participants pointed to the critical role played by a supportive enabling environment (legal, policy and regulatory) needed to underpin these sectors if specific incentives were to be effective. It was also emphasized that the analysis of financing needs could not take past history as a guide because of the major changes heralded by the new technologies which included leapfrogging, reductions in costs and expanded options. In addressing the issue of financing of ICT in the development sectors, it was proposed that the framework should help to clarify whether financing ICT was the issue or whether it was financing for development more generally.

ICTD as a priority for development financing:

4. Although the view of the taskforce was that it would not be very productive to explore specific sectoral applications such as ICT in health or education, it was agreed that the development uses of ICT, including most importantly its role in permitting innovative solutions to traditional problems, were critical to understanding the overall priority that needed to be assigned to it and should be focused on in the report.
5. There were differences in views as to whether the development case should include a focus on increasing access to ICT by the poor (market failure by itself was not viewed as a justification) or whether the focus should be on the development services and applications enabled by ICT which contributed to the *public good*?

Role of Global/Regional/National Financing Mechanisms:

6. Participants stressed the need not only to look at national and global mechanisms but also to incorporate a strong regional dimension in terms of specific needs and challenges and solutions by way of coordination, cooperation and approaches to financing including support for interconnection between national networks to reduce costs.
7. There was a divergence in views about whether an acknowledgement of the importance of ICTD directly implied support for a *dedicated* global financing mechanism for ICTD. Participants stressed a variety of modalities, ranging from *direct budgetary support* to developing countries enabling them to decide what priority to assign to ICTD, to ensuring that for low income and the least developed countries that ICTD is included in a country's PRSP and/or related development strategy. Others emphasized the importance of the public, public-private or multi-sector partnerships in covering the grey areas that fall between the public and private roles and stressed the increasing importance of the local private sector and communities in facilitating access and use of ICT.

Next Steps:

8. Consultations with stakeholders on key issues and gathering of evidence. A draft report outline based on inputs from the meeting will be shared. Next meeting: 29 November 2004

¹ For the press release, please see <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/pi1616.doc.htm>

Agenda

9. The agenda items for the launch meeting of the task force were structured along the themes of the issues paper that had been prepared for this purpose. There were sessions on: (i) the WSIS context of the Task Force; (ii) key issues for discussion and a framework indicating priority areas for financing; (iii) infrastructure and access; and trends, issues and prospects relating to: (iv) private sector finance and foreign direct investment; (v) public funding and public-private partnerships: extending and complementing the market through enlightened public policies; (vi) universal access funding: the public good model; (vii) development finance and official development assistance: strategic cooperation to bridge the gaps; and emerging mechanisms & new modalities.

Opening Remarks, WSIS Context and the Approach of the Task Force

10. In his opening remarks, Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of UNDP and chair of the Task Force provided a background on the origins and work of the Task Force. He indicated that while the proposed Digital Solidarity Fund was a major motivating factor for the Task Force, the approach, as suggested by the text of the WSIS plan of action, was not to come up with a single response but to present a range of options. Looking at recent trends and experiences, he pointed to the range of complementary mechanisms and digital solidarity initiatives that can help to address different aspects of the problem and facilitate greater access to and use of ICT to better deliver on health, education, accountable and participatory government and increase opportunities for growth and development. José Antonio Ocampo, Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Department of Economic and Social Affairs, pointed to the need to look into different forms of provisioning and implementation and to build on what is working in the various regional and national contexts. Ambassador Karklins, President of the WSIS Preparatory Committee for the Tunis Phase, pointed out that member states wanted to see a report that was forward looking. He underscored the expectation for WSIS-Tunis to be a summit focused on solutions with regard to issues emanating from WSIS-Geneva.
11. There was some discussion on whether the Task Force should narrowly focus on the financing question as opposed to framing the issue in broader terms. Some of the participants highlighted the fact that different areas of focus required different types of financing mechanisms. In closing his remarks, Mark Malloch Brown stressed that this forum should be a place to assess the evidence and to think creatively about an exciting package that could meet the spirit of the resolution and overcome the current polarization on the ICTD financing issue.
12. Shoji Nishimoto, Director, Bureau for Development Policy, and UNDP focal point for the Task Force, focused his remarks on the processes relating to the work of the Task Force as well as on the substantive challenges and opportunities before it. He stressed the need for the Task Force to hold consultations and hear from stakeholders. He pointed to the need to use ICT tools to gather inputs and comments on key issues between now and the next and final meeting of the Task Force on 29 November 2004.

The 'Issues Paper' and Issues posed by the Task Force

13. David Townsend, the lead author of the issues paper, began with a quick presentation of the concept of *network-driven* or *ICT-enabled* development. He highlighted some issues relating to infrastructure and access, knowledge and capacity, and then moved to provide an overview of the different mechanisms used to finance priority areas such as policy frameworks, backbone infrastructure, access, applications, content, and capacity development.
14. In addition to highlighting and elaborating on some of the issues identified in the framework such as need to explicitly focus on human capacity development and incorporate a focus on e-governance, the discussion also focused on the following issues:
 - i. The question of "adequacy": Is ICT under-invested in *absolute* terms or *relative* to the other development goals to which it is connected?
 - ii. The case for public financing of ICTD: What is the primary rationale for public financing of ICT for development: *market failure* in the provision of ICT or and/or provision of a *public good/s* facilitated by ICT?
 - iii. Appropriate Financing Mechanisms: Are a range of national, global or regional mechanisms required to meet the ICT related development objectives? Is there agreement on the need for a "dedicated" global mechanism to assist in financing ICTD?
 - iv. Evidence: The objective of the Task Force is to facilitate an evidence-based dialogue. Given the paucity of good data regarding the mainstreaming of ICTD, how should the Task Force proceed in making its case and recommendations in this area?

The question of adequacy and approach to assessing financing “gaps”:

15. With regard to the issue of assessing “adequacy”, participants pointed to the need to look at both *relative* and *absolute* under-investment. It was generally agreed that poverty reduction, and the response to HIV/AIDS and hunger were substantially under-funded relative to the needs whereas financing and investment in ICT had exploded in both relative and absolute terms at least until the late 1990s. It was suggested that the report needed to acknowledge these developments in private sector investment and financing even as it highlighted a variety of measures that could be used to address the remaining gaps.
16. Some of the participants suggested that as far as increasing *access to ICT* is concerned, the main issue might not be a purely financial one, although this varied across different regions and countries. In the context of fostering the role of the private sector, which was seen as the primary mover in this area, participants pointed to the critical role played by supportive enabling policies and competitive regulatory frameworks in encouraging private investment in the sector and in increasing access. However, there was also a variation in views as to the components of the supportive enabling environment, the pace and strategy for *transitioning* by countries which had invested heavily in developing their public assets, and about mechanisms and approaches that can foster cost-effective access in areas underserved by the market.
17. Both in terms of written submissions and the discussion in the meeting, it was proposed that the analytical approach used to identify *financing gaps and challenges*, should take into the inter-actions between the role of regulatory/ICT sector, business policies, ICTD and e-government strategy frameworks in stimulating investment on the one hand, and through considering the impact of advances in areas of technology on the other.

Priority Assigned to ICTD:

18. While financing for ICT for development was a stated priority for many developing countries, it was not clear how significant a priority this was *relative* to the need to finance the achievement of other development goals. In the context of the small island developing states, it was pointed out that ICT was absolutely critical in bridging distance, strengthening linkages with their Diasporas, enhancing investment and assisting in the provision of public services, information and networking.
19. It was also pointed out that even for countries and partners aware of the development potential of ICT, it was still very much of an *emerging area* of focus with all the attendant difficulties in capacities to mainstream and use ICT as well as the inability to draw on extensive cost-benefit analyses and assessments based on solid data. The relatively slower growth in this area should not be seen as a sign that this was not important for development. Instead the trends highlighted the need to strengthen human capacities at all levels. Human capacity development was also an area with a long gestation period and required dedicated attention. Many of the participants also suggested that the report could serve a very useful function through acting as an educational and awareness-raising tool for developing countries and development partners alike.
20. Further, it was pointed out by participants that the full benefits of ICT were unlikely to be realized if it was only applied on a project or sector basis. Unleashing ICT’s development potential involves a system wide approach and requires an economy-wide focus if it is to yield the benefits that accrue from the transformation in the ways of doing things and its role in permitting innovative solutions to traditional development problems. In making the case for ICTD at a time of constrained budgets, the critical issue was not the broad range of roles that ICT can play in development, but rather a focus on how it could *better* deliver on public/social services such as healthcare and education, foster transparent and effective government and competitive businesses. Some suggested priority areas focus included rural networks usable by multiple service providers, trans-border connectivity, post-conflict situations and conflict prevention, government networks and e-governance. While the task force agreed that it could not go into specific sectoral applications in detail, it emphasized the need to provide evidence and capture the application and use dimensions that are critical for making clear the overall development priority that should be assigned to ICTD. There were also some suggestions to look into ways of reducing costs for ICTD applications to make them more affordable, particularly standardized applications deployed in E-Government.

Global/Regional/National Financing Mechanisms:

21. Many of the participants stressed the need not only to look at national and global mechanisms but also to incorporate the regional dimension – particularly for Africa – and to focus on regional coordination and cooperation. Insufficient coordination on regional interconnection and infrastructure development was seen as a major reason for the high connectivity costs in certain areas. The regional dimension was also important when it

came to Small Island Developing States that faced challenges arising from their remote location; small but dispersed populations and relatively small market size.

22. There was a divergence in views about whether an acknowledgement of the importance of ICTD implied a need to support some sort of *dedicated* global financing mechanism for ICTD. The participants stressed a variety of modalities, ranging from *direct budgetary support* to developing countries enabling them to decide what priority to assign to ICTD, to ensuring that for low income and the least developed countries ICTD is included in a country's PRSP and/or related development strategy. Others emphasized the importance of the public, public-private or multi-sector partnerships in covering the grey areas that fall between the public and private roles and stressed the increasing importance of the local private sector (including local banks and non ICT companies) and communities in facilitating access, training and use.

Overseas Development Assistance and ICTD

23. As regards public financing, one of the questions asked was to what extent the rationale for assistance should include a focus on facilitating access to ICT, which to date had been addressed largely through a patchwork of solutions. While there was a recognition that equitable access was unlikely to result from a functioning of the market mechanism alone, it was pointed out that there were a range of approaches could be used to bridge the access gap and service uneconomic areas and these should be assessed. It was suggested that any case for public financing for access should be carefully made since there were limited public resources available to address all the various urgent development priorities.² It was proposed that the focus for ICT in ODA should be on the *public good/s* that ICT can facilitate. These could be defined at the national, regional and global levels. However, there were differences as to whether access to ICT itself constituted a public good or whether the welfare gains needed to be specified in terms of the capabilities and services that ICT's use made possible. In general, the expressed views of various participants appeared to support both these rationales outlined above, to a greater or lesser extent. There was a suggested recommendation for the report to elaborate the public-good case further – at the global, regional and national levels.

Specific Issues relating to Fostering Access and Building Infrastructure

24. David Townsend commenced the session with a number of questions on the subject of access and the discussion touched on a number of issues, which included:
 - The roles of private sector, governments and donors in increasing access to ICT for development
 - The importance of business climate and regulatory environment as far as reducing barriers and enabling the private sector to operate effectively as well as in reducing the cost of connectivity.
 - Comparison of public, private sector and NGO implementations of access centers from the point of view of sustainability and impact. Complementarities between them were also raised as an issue.
25. It was acknowledged that telephony – particularly mobile telephony had grown rapidly in all regions and was often the most promising forms of increasing access, including public access, although it was still largely an urban phenomenon. It was pointed out that the growth of the ICT sector was associated with growth in GDP. Some participants however pointed out that the growth of mobile telephony was not without some (unintended) side effects. Increased competition from mobile telephony and the relative decline in the entities supporting fixed line development had had the consequence, in the short term, of undermining “backbone” development in some regions where this was typically undertaken by the public sector or some combination thereof. They suggested a need to explore technology options, address issues related to the transition, and explore emerging opportunities.
26. There was a discussion regarding the issue of perceived financing gaps vs. implementation modalities. Some participants referred to studies by the OECD and others comparing public, private and NGO implementations of public access centers. They pointed out that in many parts of Africa and elsewhere, phone shops and centers, particularly those operated by the private sector, were growing rapidly and were often commercially sustainable. This was in contrast to the earlier – often donor supported – initiatives that had faced problems relating to high connectivity costs, ICT and business skills capacity limitations on the part of the selected operators. It was pointed out that this emerging niche was being explored only by the large or foreign private sector operating franchise and/or well as self-managed operations (e.g. Africa Online's e-touch programme) but also effectively used by the local private sector that was able to offer services, albeit of a different quality, at a lower cost and build close relationships with local communities. It was also pointed out that these different approaches need not

² Market failure has been used as a short-hand to refer to the gaps left by the operation of the market mechanisms. However, it was also pointed that the inability of the poor to afford something should not be seen as a definition of market failure, except when the market fails to reach populations that can afford at least shared public access.

be contradictory or competitive and that it was importance to acknowledge the complementarities between public, private and NGO implementations and the mutually re-enforcing roles of different stakeholders.

27. The implementation role for the public sector in various instances was also discussed including financing or catalyzing access in under-served areas, combining access provision with the delivery of public services and adoption of e-governance, and its role in public-private partnerships which seek to raise awareness, build capacity and extend access, (e.g. [look@world](#) Foundation, Estonia). In the case of the SIDS, a greater role for the public sector or even public financing for multi-stakeholder/multi-sector partnerships was raised given the difficulties in attracting private sector investment because of their small dispersed populations and perception of limited market potential.
28. Participants at the meeting and through their written inputs pointed to the need to explore new and emerging cost-effective technology and business approaches for extending access. These included models involving the use of micro-finance (e.g. Grameen) to support NGO and/or local community individuals/entrepreneurs as well as the business case approaches and examples discussed by C.K. Prahalad. The later build on innovative uses of ICT and show how businesses can profitably address the needs of the “bottom of the pyramid” or the 4 billion or so people who live on less than \$2 a day.
29. As indicated earlier, there was a variation in views as regards whether a case could be made for public financing of infrastructure/access on the basis of addressing *market failure* or filling in the gaps arising from areas where private sector entry was currently unprofitable. This appeared to depend upon the specific national contexts and challenges. There was also a discussion regarding the use of national universal access funds. It was claimed by some that in large part these were a product of the fixed-line era, and that mobile licensing/zoning schemes could be used to achieve some of the same ends.
30. There was a plea to extend the notion of infrastructure to incorporate human and institutional infrastructure. Private sector funding was seen as supporting the following *infrastructure layers*: infrastructure, light infrastructure (computers), content and applications. A focus on the human infrastructure dimension would cut across all these other infrastructure layers but it has been missing and can be seen to account for the limitations of initiatives that have focused mostly on hard infrastructure. Human and institutional infrastructure development requires a dedicated focus and cannot be left to the market alone. Some interesting financing models are now emerging for addressing this need: e.g. the IFC and Citibank are working with human resource firm/s in India to develop sustainable financing approaches for scalable ICT skills development.

Private Sector Finance & Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): Trends & Future Prospects

31. Pierre Guislain commenced the session by providing with an overview of the trends in private investment in telecoms, factors limiting and stimulating it, and pointing to recent changes in the investment climate. Foreign direct investment in the IT sector was seen to be slowing down somewhat since the late 1990s after reaching an all time high. At same time, the role of the domestic and regional private sector actors was seen to be increasing to some extent. The latter was viewed as a positive trend.
32. There was a discussion about the relative importance of various factors relating to the business and regulatory environment likely to influence the pace and direction of private sector investment in telecoms infrastructure and services. This included basic infrastructure (roads, electricity,) and general rules and costs of doing business.³ It was noted that the basic elements of an environment conducive to private sector investment and enterprise were essentially the same for all sectors of the economy, including ICT.”
33. While there were differences in views regarding the roles of the public and private sectors, the pace of different reforms in the ICT/telecom sector and timetable for decreasing limits on FDI, there was general agreement on the need to foster a competitive performance-oriented enabling environment, demarcate the roles of the regulator and operators, and for supporting effective licensing and inter-connection approaches/regimes. There were pleas to learn from the recent history of reform and privatization and to explore various ways in which increased competition could be fostered. These included competition between entities that were organized the lines of private-private, public-public, and/or public-private depending upon the particular contexts and situations.

³ As one participant pointed out - there are all sorts of administrative barriers and costs in setting up a capital-intensive business. These costs are not just license fees, but taxes. In one country there were close to a 112 separate taxes that had to be paid. A range of issues need to be addressed to enable the private sector to build-out before establishing an sort of additional funding mechanism to which the private sector is also expected to contribute.

34. Given the time taken to transform a regulatory environment (typically a 3-5 year process), some of the participants pointed out the need to focus on a two-pronged strategy and/or a strategy for the transition.
35. There was a strong emphasis and support for approaches that sought to “incentivize” new investment.

Discussion on Universal Access Funding (UAF): A Public Good Model

36. This session was chaired by Christian Ossa who commenced the discussion by pointing out that countries were adopting a variety of approaches to address the issue of access and these should be assessed on the basis of whether they are effective or not and not on the basis of any one-size fits all approach.
37. Sonia Jorge provided an introduction to national universal access or telecommunications development funds that have been initiated in 60 or more countries. These funds are one of the few types of dedicated mechanisms for financing ICTD at the national level. Approaches to resource mobilization for the funds vary: in Chile, funding comes from the national public budget. In Colombia and some other countries, the funds draw on contributions from the private operators in the sector.
38. It was pointed out that subsidies from these funds have traditionally been the mechanism proposed for sharing risk and servicing under-served areas but over time the experience of the funds has been quite varied. Their effectiveness has been increased when they have been integrated into national e-strategies (e.g. Sri Lanka) and where they have established a more transparent and accountable relationship with stakeholders and contributors. Many emphasized the “Chile” model. Others pointed to the difficulties arising from the often “narrow” resource mobilization base (private telecom operators) and the governance structure (e.g., a lack of transparency and accountability, politicization of the use of the funds and their use for non-ICT purposes) and the use of conflicting criteria for resource mobilization and disbursement for some of the other funds. It was proposed that if the Task Force was going to advocate for an extension of the use of USF-type mechanisms, it should be done in a very thorough, careful and analytical way and it should draw on lessons learned and consideration of alternative possible approaches including the creative use of licensing and zoning schemes where possible. Other suggestions touched upon exploring a move from a pure access/connectivity focus towards support for e-health, e-education initiatives etc. (e.g. Dominican Republic).
39. The voluntary *Digital Solidarity Fund*
The issues paper produced for the meeting had situated the voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) as a global variation of the model of national universal access funds. While some saw them as being similar in structure, the approach of analyzing it under the same rubric as national universal access funds was found to be confusing. The proposal made was that the DSF that has been established should be reviewed in context of public-private partnerships and emerging mechanisms. The orientation note produced by the DSF was also shared with participants. Some of the participants also pointed to the novel and innovative approach to resource mobilization and support which involves cities and local authorities.
40. In summing up the discussion, Christian Ossa stressed the fact that countries need to have strategies as to how they will address the needs of the poor whether through the funds that have been setup which need to have a clarity of purpose or through otherwise adapting to the new contexts.

Discussion on Development Finance and Official Development Assistance (ODA): Strategic Cooperation to Bridge the Gaps

41. Sarbuland Khan began by pointing out that many of the dialogues in global fora such as Dot-Force, UN ICT Task Force, and WSIS had yet to effectively touch the wider development community. This was the result of a range of reasons: multiple priorities competing for attention with ICTD, the fact that ICTD is a relative new comer, as well as because of the view that ICT infrastructure and access, being profitable, can be effectively undertaken by the private sector, leaving ODA to be allocated to urgent development priorities and concerns. This has been compounded by the fact that many of the ICTD initiatives have been largely been at the project level, where the gains of using ICTD are unlikely to be fully visible. He also pointed to trends in ODA and private sector investment which appear to have had a greater focus on Asia relative to some of the other regions, particularly parts of Africa.
42. Susanne Hessebarth, a Task Force consultant working with OECD/DCD, presented the results of the analysis of the data available on ODA allocated to ICT infrastructure and ICTD activities. The findings suggested that from about 1995 there has been a shift in support to different infrastructure sectors. ICT appears to have gone from a 7% to about a 3% share. Energy too has been declining. Water and transport on the other hand have increased in

importance. i.e., many of the donors/development partners appear to have increased the relative allocation to water and transport. Another type of shift that was noted was towards rural development and within that to energy. Overall, the share of ICT infrastructure in ODA has declined, with 1998 representing a break in the overall ODA funding structure. On the other hand, private funding in ICT infrastructure saw a dramatic upward trend although that appears to be leveling off recently. Mainstreaming of ICTD is much harder to track although it appears that the decline in the allocation for ICT infrastructure has been attended by an increased mainstreaming of ICT into the development sectors. There have also been some shifts in the manner in which assistance is disbursed with some development partners moving away from earmarked and project assistance towards direct budget support where developing countries with a view to enabling developing countries decide on priorities themselves.

43. Some of the participants suggested that the priority assigned to ICTD should be left to countries to decide and expressed some unease with a focus on any type of dedicated global financing mechanism to support ICTD. It was pointed out that any such global mechanism would also be competing for resources with other global/regional financing mechanisms and would not necessarily guarantee an increase in the resources that could be secured for ICTD.
44. PRSPs, particularly MDG-friendly PRSPs, were seen as another instrument to align development resources for low-income and the least developed countries. The issue here was how to strengthen development effectiveness and to make the most effective use of public resources. ODA could be used to leverage private investment and to even assist countries with transitional mechanisms to assist with reforms in the ICT sector. It could be used to support use of ICT to increase opportunities for growth and development particularly in rural areas where private sector funding is not flowing and where first degree poverty reduction priorities had been met. Other suggested areas of focus included cross border connectivity, which was viewed as a global and regional goods issue and where the ODA and private sector funding could be seen as coming together to address a complex challenges (e.g. EASSy East Africa Submarine Cable system), countries recovering from disaster or those that could be prevented from going into crisis. E-government/e-governance and ICTD in crisis/post-crisis countries were perceived to be other potential areas of focus.

Discussion on Emerging Mechanisms & New modalities

45. Participants explored the need to think of innovative approaches similar to the case of other recent summits. While there was an appreciation that business should continue as usual and the fact that creative approaches could be effective in mobilizing new constituencies, there was no agreement on any one new and innovative mechanism. Some of the participants also felt it was premature to talk about these types of new mechanisms when the existing ones could be enhanced and increased private sector involvement secured through improvements in the business and regulatory environment. They also pointed to the role of case studies in the report in illustrating what are critical conditions. Rather, in this context, all participants felt the focus should be on “*incentivizing*” investment and on capacity-building support on issues relating to the regulatory environment. There were also a suggestion to link financing and change management and transitional mechanisms, for example through some sort of transitional change management funds.

Conclusion and Next Steps:

46. Task Force confirmed that its role is to come up with a clear analysis of existing financial mechanisms and instruments, including a review of the newly established voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, and to recommend options that could be considered by the WSIS Prepcom on this issue in 2005.
47. It was agreed that the Task Force would continue the consultation process involving wider stakeholders.
48. The President of the WSIS Preparatory Committee for the Tunis Phase requested a debriefing on the Task Force work to date and an informal consultation with the ambassadors of the member states and other interested constituencies on 16 November 2004 in Geneva.
49. The Task Force members were requested to be actively involved in the report drafting process by providing comments and inputs based on the outline to be circulated shortly⁴
50. It was agreed that the next and final in-person Task Force meeting of the Task Force will be held on 29 November, 2004 in NY

⁴ The Draft Outline will be circulated with this draft Task Force meeting report.

Annex I
Agenda

Monday 4 October, 2004

- 09:00 - 09:30 *Breakfast and initial networking*
- 09:30 - 09:40 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator and Chair of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms
- 09:40 - 09:50 José Antonio Ocampo, Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- 09:50 - 10:00 **Introduction and Discussion of Agenda**
Presenter: Shoji Nishimoto, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP
- 10:00 - 10:10 **WSIS Context for the Task Force**
Presenter: Janis Karklins, President of the WSIS Preparatory Committee for the Tunis Phase
- 10:10 - 11:15 **Framing the issues**
Presenter: David Townsend, senior consultant for the TFFM
Key Issues and Proposed Framework of the Report
- Enhancing impact, sustainability and scalability of ICT for Development
- 11: 15- 11:30 *Coffee Break*
- 11: 30-12:15 **Infrastructure and Access**
- Trends, Prospects and Issues
Presenter: David Townsend, senior consultant for the TFFM
- 12:15 - 13:00 **Private Sector Finance and Foreign Direct Investment**
- Trends, Prospects and Issues
Presenter & Chair: Pierre Guislain, World Bank
- 13:00 - 14:00 *Working/Networking Lunch*
- 14:00 - 14:45 **Public Funding and Public-Private Partnerships: Extending and complementing the Market through Enlightened Public Policies**
- Trends, Prospects and Issues
Chair: Pierre Guislain, World Bank
- 14:45 - 15:30 **Universal Access Funding: The Public Good Model**
Trends, Prospects and Issues
Chair: Christian Ossa, UN DESA *Presenter:* Sonia Jorge, consultant for TFFM
- 15:30 - 15:45 *Coffee Break*
- 15:45 - 16:30 **Development Finance and Official Development Assistance: Strategic Cooperation to Bridge the Gaps** Trends, Prospects and Issues
- *Chair:* Sarbuland Khan, UN DESA *Presenter:* Susan Hessebarth, consultant for TFFM
- 16:30 - 17:15 **Emerging Mechanisms & New Modalities**
Chair: Shoji Nishimoto, Assistant Administrator & Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP
- 17:15 - 17:45 **Summary and Conclusions**