FINAL AGREED DRAFT

WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

A. Preamble

The ITU coordinated WSIS+10 High Level Event took place in close collaboration with all UN Agencies under their respective mandates, pursuant to ITU Council Resolution 1334.

This statement and the related WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 have been developed keeping in mind the following principles:

a. Focus on the WSIS Action Lines and measurement of their implementation.

b. Develop a vision upon existing framework of Action Lines, identifying emerging trends, challenges and priorities for new decade, without making existing framework of Action Lines obsolete.

c. Geneva Declaration and Geneva Plan of Action still remain valid until further decisions by General Assembly.

d. Restrict the proposals on Action Lines, under the responsibility of the respective UN Agencies, to the Geneva Plan of Action.

e. Avoid proposals referring to the outcomes of the Tunis phase of WSIS on the following, implementation mechanism, follow up, internet governance (other than internet issues relevant to action lines), IGF, enhanced cooperation, CSTD.

f. Avoid prejudging the outcomes of the 68th Session of the General Assembly on modalities of the Overall Review.

g. Respect mandates given by Tunis Agenda and respect for the multi-stakeholder principles.

Ten years ago, at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in its two phases (Geneva 2003, & Tunis 2005), the representatives of the peoples of the world adopted a common vision on the Information Society, identifying its main principles and challenges towards a people-centered inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. The fundamental aim of the WSIS process was to foster the use of technology to improve peoples' lives and to bridge the digital divide.

The uses of ICTs have developed considerably and become a part of everyday life since the second phase of the WSIS in 2005, accelerating social and economic growth, sustainable development, increasing transparency and accountability, where applicable, and offering new opportunities to leverage technology, in developed and developing countries.

The information and communication technologies (ICTs) have also demonstrated their value as a facilitator and development enabler in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, major challenges still lay ahead for counteracting the wide disparities in development and enabling all groups and all countries to benefit from universal access to information and knowledge. Moreover reaping the benefit of ICTs use has yet not been shared in all countries proportionately. In particular we reaffirm para 36 of the Tunis Commitment regarding the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict.

To this effect, international law, and in particular, the charter of UN is applicable and is essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open secure peaceful and accessible ICT environment.

Since the WSIS process started, emphasis has been given to the multi-stakeholder approach and its vital importance in the WSIS implementation at the national, regional and international levels and in taking forward the WSIS themes and Action Lines. Such approach contributed to strengthening the engagement of all stakeholders[1] to work together, within their respective roles and responsibilities.

In this context;

We reaffirm the great importance of ICTs in further development of Information Society, stimulating innovations, empowering different groups of people in developed and developing countries, providing access to information and fostering economic and social growth.

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[1] See Para 35 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society

We invite the UN system organizations and all stakeholders within their respective roles and responsibilities to take full advantage of ICTs in addressing the development challenges of the 21st century and to recognize them as cross-cutting enablers for achieving the three pillars of sustainable development.

1. *We reaffirm* the vital role of youth and youth organizations as recognized in paragraph 11 in the WSIS Declaration of Principles, stating that "youth should be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and wellbeing". The role of youth was also underlined in the World Programme of Action for Youth, where ICT is identified as one of the 15 priority areas, in the sense that it can provide youth with the opportunity to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage. In addition, the ITU Global Youth Summit in 2013 declared youth as a force for progress, and assured the importance of their full participation in decision making processes to improve democracy, marking that the spread of information among young people can directly foster empowerment and innovation on a global scale (BYND 2015 Global Youth Declaration). While progress has been made, it is important to exert greater efforts to ensure the implementation of mentioned program, declarations and others alike.

2. We reaffirm the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and we also reaffirm paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 18 of the Geneva Declaration."

3. While there is recognition of the potential of ICT as a tool for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women accessing and using ICTs, a "gender divide" has also been identified. We reaffirm the importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women empowerment, guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society and taking into account the mandate of the newly established agency UN-WOMEN, the recommendations of the High Level Panel in the post-2015, The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World

Conference on Women in 1995. We therefore wish to recall and emphasise the importance of taking into account throughout the WSIS+10 Statement and Vision para 12 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles stating that the development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society. We are committed to ensuring that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. To this end, we should mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end.

4. We recognize and acknowledge that challenges on bridging the digital divide still remain unaddressed adequately and requires sustainable investments in ICT infrastructure and services, capacity building, facilitate know-how transfer, as well as to promote the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms.

5. Recalling the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities, the Geneva principles paragraph 11, 13, 14 and 15, Tunis Commitment paras 20, 22 and 24, and reaffirming the commitment to providing equitable access to information and knowledge for all, building ICT capacity for all and confidence in the use of ICTs by all, including youth, older persons, women, indigenous and nomadic peoples, people with disabilities, the unemployed, the poor, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people and remote and rural communities, it is crucial to increase the participation of vulnerable people in the building process of information Society and to make their voice heard by stakeholders and policy-makers at different levels. It can allow the most fragile groups of citizens worldwide to become an integrated part of their economies and also raise awareness of the target actors on the existing ICTs solution (such as tolls as e-participation, e-government, e-learning applications, etc.) designed to make their everyday life better.

6. We believe that ICTs have the potential to be a key enabler of development, and to be a critical component of innovative development solutions in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. ICTs should be fully recognized as tools empowering people, and providing economic growth towards achieving development, taking into account the growing importance of relevant content, skills and an enabling environment.

7. Learning from the lessons of the past decade we need to turn our attention on the next period to those who provide create and manage the ICTs the professionals that empower the users of ICT to ensure that the rate of development can continue and increase.

8. The evolution of the information society over the past 10 years is contributing towards, inter alia, the development of knowledge societies around the world that are based on principles of freedom of expression, quality education for all, universal and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. When mentioning the information society, we also refer to the above mentioned evolution and to the vision of inclusive knowledge societies.

B. Overview of the implementation of Action Lines

The commitment and adoption of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Geneva Plan of Action of 2003 and the Tunis Agenda and Commitment of 2005 led to significant progress but also raised challenges. The most notable achievement of the current implementation of the WSIS Action lines is the participation and rising interest of all stakeholders, at the national, regional, and international levels, in jointly building and shaping the inclusive information society and raising awareness and overcoming the challenges that this process entails. This section highlights the progress achieved towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines :

We note with satisfaction
1. That the WSIS Action Lines have helped in building a common understanding of the desirability to realize a truly global interconnected and inclusive Information Society. And that the implementation of those Action Lines has helped in drawing the attention to the crucial role the ICTs can play in many areas including reducing poverty and promoting literacy.

2. That the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action has led to the development of international, regional and national strategies and plans for the development of inclusive Information Society.

3. That there is greater awareness of the importance of promoting digital inclusion for youth, age-related disabilities, women, the vulnerable and marginalized, indigenous peoples, local communities and persons with disabilities and special needs, while promoting the wealth and sustaining the diversity of the world's languages

4. That the enabling environment -the policies, content and capacities required to make good use of technologies for development- is understood today as being as important as infrastructure investments.

We acknowledge the significant

5. Efforts made towards the realization of a global ICT based economy through adopting and implementing appropriate national ICT policies with a view to integrating the efforts of all stakeholders.

6. Contribution of all UN Agencies in charge of facilitating Action Lines, and all stakeholders, actively contributing to the WSIS implementation.

We particularly emphasize

7. The importance of the work carried out by the "Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development" on the development of a set of core ICT indicators that has been adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, as well as, acknowledge the ICT Development Index (IDI).

We recognize that

8. Many countries have made considerable progress in implementing the Action lines in the form of tangible policies, projects and services across the different sectors of the society.

9. ICT infrastructure development has been boosted by several enablers such as new policies and technologies including broadband and mobile solutions, Universal Service Funds, planning and background data, the development of national and regional internet exchange points and international standards.

10. The access to information and knowledge has widened and deepened in the past 10 years due to technological advancement in connectivity, expanded mobile penetration and broadband access and the emergence of new platforms and applications, such as social media and cloud computing.

11. Improved access to ICT in education over the past 10 years enhanced development of all groups and supported the development of skilled labor force, providing active participation in the society and availing new opportunities for social mobility.

12. The efforts exerted to increase affordable access to ICTs in the developing countries and in particular LDCs.

13. There has been increasing awareness by policy makers of the importance of public access to ICTs and the different tools to combat the digital and knowledge divide.

14. There has been awareness of the need for greater collaboration among governments and all relevant stakeholders to address different aspects of endeavoring to ensure confidence, security, privacy and personal data protection, safety and trust in the use of ICTs. International and regional cooperation and capacity building programs have been recognized as key elements in achieving this.

15. The WSIS Plan of Action has contributed to a deepened understanding for the significance of ICT for development among policy and decision makers, including of the ethical dimensions of the Information Society.

16. ICTs play an important role in socio-economic development through job creation and entrepreneurship.

17. The WSIS Plan of Action has contributed to supporting research in e-Science providing better understanding of emerging trends, its impact and future direction.

18. Cultural diversity has been recognized as an integral part of the information society and sustainable development.

19. Innovative financial mechanisms, public private partnership, as well as adequate and sustainable investments contributed to the progress towards building inclusive Information Society.]

20. The annual WSIS Forum has become an efficient global multistakeholder platform for coordination of the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes. The decennial countries and Action Line facilitators reports initiated by the WSIS Forum served as a basis for the WSIS+10 High-level Event.

21. WSIS Stocktaking Process, including WSIS Project Prizes, has become, an efficient and effective platform for collection of ICT-related projects for WSIS Action Lines providing useful contribution to the sharing best practices at the global level.

    We note

22. The event titled "First WSIS+10 Review Event *Towards Knowledge Societies, for peace and sustainable development*" hosted by UNESCO and co-organized with ITU, UNCTAD and UNDP in February 2013 and its results.

C. Challenges-during implementation of Action Lines and new challenges that have emerged

We acknowledge that the WSIS Action Lines, in a multistakeholder approach, have helped and continue to help in building awareness of the importance of people centric inclusive and development oriented Information Society.

We note that the WSIS Action Lines have been contributing in enabling and supporting a sound framework and approach for realizing the goal of an inclusive Information Society.

We recognize
- That several challenges have been identified in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines that still remain and would need to be addressed in order to build inclusive Information Society beyond 2015.

- The need for ensuring proper integration of the WSIS and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We further recognize the following challenges that have emerged in the implementation of Action Lines and new challenges in the implementation of these Action Lines beyond 2015:

1. The need to protect and reinforce all human rights, and to recognize their importance to realize economic and social development, ensuring equal respect for and enforcement of all human rights online and offline.

2. The need to fully integrate gender equality perspectives in WSIS related strategies and facilitate their implementation as referred to in the Preamble to ensure that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes.

3. The need for more engagement of youth and enhancement of their participation in the WSIS process, to facilitate their inclusion and to strengthen their role in the Information Society development at the national, regional and international levels as referred to in the Preamble.

4. The need for continued extension of access for people with disabilities and vulnerable people to ICTs, especially in developing countries and among marginalized communities, taking into account the commitments mentioned within the preamble.

5. More than half of the world's population is still not connected to the Internet, and therefore the information and communication infrastructure, capacity and local content development needs to continue to be addressed, especially in rural and remote areas.

6. The need for further improving management and use of radio-frequency spectrum/satellite orbits for facilitating development and deployment of low-cost telecommunication networks, including satellite networks for all countries, taking into account special needs of developing and least developed countries. These are implemented through application and in accordance with ITU Radio Regulations.

7. That greater efforts are still required to improve affordable access to ICTs, information and knowledge for all people, in particular in the developing countries and LDCs. There is also a need to ensure equity of access, including public access, in terms of human capacities and access to current and new ICTs, between urban and rural communities within countries and between countries around the world.

8. There is still greater need for the north-south cooperation, complemented by south-south cooperation to facilitate know-how transfer, as well as to promote the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms in order to facilitate the transition to digital economy and reduction of poverty.

9. The need to promote access for all to information and knowledge, while respecting individual privacy, and to encourage open access to-publications and information, including in the research sector, and particularly in developing and least developed countries

10. The ICT role in poverty reduction need to be enhanced through north-south and south-south cooperation in facilitating the digital economy.

11. The deployment of broadband networks is still needed to achieve the sustainable development agenda beyond 2015 and to ensure that   ICT applications and services and new technologies required for people' empowerment and wellbeing become available to everyone.

12. The need to promote access for all to public information and knowledge, including open access to scientific information, particularly in developing and least developed countries and among marginalised communities in all countries.

13. ICTs have become vitally important drivers for economic growth and development, and have stimulated innovation and new business opportunities. It remains important that adequate policies and frameworks enable Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to benefit from the economic potential of ICTs,

14. A need for all education and lifelong learning opportunities for all members of society, using educational programmes, distance education and open educational resources (OER) and applications to build ICT competencies responsive to specific societal and user needs and to better enable and empower teachers, educators and learners.

15. The need to exchange views on best practices to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs while considering the importance of developing international cooperation among all relevant stakeholders as appropriate.

16. The need to strengthen the continued development of appropriate network security and privacy, and continue to support capacity building and coordination on incident response and to encourage the creation of national and regional computer incidence response teams (CIRTs) to better respond to ICT security incidents.

17. The need to increase the global, regional and national awareness of the relevance of WSIS process to national economic development-related strategies, policies and initiatives and the role it could play in their development, which underpin global development of ICTs, promote investment in ICTs and infrastructure, and foster entrepreneurship and innovation.

18. The need to enhance policies, including policy coherence across key information society sectors and reduce the skills gap, which is growing, between rich and poor within the same country, between countries, and between regions.

19. The need to continue to set realistic goals and to take decisive actions to reduce the technology gap, which is growing, between developed and developing countries.

20. The need to call upon all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

21. The need to develop frameworks, measures and other initiatives (e.g. IXPs) to enhance better access to ICTs especially in developing countries.

22. The need to continue to promote investment and foster entrepreneurship and innovation in ICTs at the national, regional, and international levels as appropriate.

23. The need to recall the importance of creating a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. To that end, we reiterate that ITU and other regional organizations to continue taking steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements.

24. The need for a coherent linkage between the WSIS process at the international level and initiatives at the national and regional levels including bottom up initiatives, as appropriate.

25. The need to ensure environmental sustainability, including by avoiding any harmful impacts that may result from the disposal of massive e-waste.

26. The need to respect human diversity in all its forms, in particular, cultural and linguistic diversity as well as diversity of tradition, religious beliefs and convictions to develop measures and policies to safe guard endangered languages and preserve cultural and linguistic heritage, including by supporting multilingualism in the use of ICTs.

27. The need for people to have media and information literacy skills that are indispensable in order to fully participate in an inclusive Information Society.

28. The need to increase the awareness of all stakeholders of the ethical dimension in the use of ICTs and encourage international and interdisciplinary reflection and dialogue on the ethical challenges of emerging technologies and the information society.

29. The need for sufficient investment in digital inclusion measures, taking into account innovative approaches to bring the benefits of ICT to all, including access to software and hardware in a non-discriminatory manner.

30. The need to promote further dialogue on the protection of privacy in light of technological developments.