



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 September 2015

Excellency,

I am pleased to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), H.E. Mr. Jānis Mažeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia, and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, forwarding a Non-paper which will serve as a starting point for further discussions of the outcome document.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', written over a printed name.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



Permanent Mission of Latvia  
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

1 September 2015

Excellency,

As co-facilitators of the General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), we would like to thank you for your participation in the First Preparatory Meeting of the review process that was held at the beginning of July. Following this meeting we received many written contributions that have helped us to develop the non-paper which will frame our discussions on the key elements and objectives of the document to be adopted in December. We are pleased to enclose the non-paper here, and we welcome your delegation's comments.

The non-paper reflects a broad range of inputs, from written submissions to oral statements to the results of UNESCO, ITU, and CSTD reviews of WSIS progress. We encountered a wide range of views, not always in agreement on either inclusion of a topic in the review or the direction it should take. We therefore designed the non-paper to be a compilation of the majority of inputs. We would like to use the non-paper as a starting point for detailed discussion and guidance while keeping in mind that we need to arrive at a concise and focused outcome document. In many cases, we have created "entry points" for different topics and ideas; therefore we would appreciate your suggestions on how to further refine these items.

Comments on the non-paper will be accepted through Monday, 14 September, using the online form at <http://unpan3.un.org/ws10/>. Based on these inputs, we will issue a zero-draft during the last week of September. Until the 15th of October, we will be accepting online comments, so that there is full clarity on the issues that must be addressed in the Second Preparatory Meeting from 20-22 October. Please note that we are also continually available for consultations.

Should your office require any additional information, Ms. Elina Volksone, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Latvia, ([Elina.Volksone@mfa.gov.lv](mailto:Elina.Volksone@mfa.gov.lv)), and Ms. Khaula Ali Khamis Alshamsi, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the UAE, ([k.alshamsi@mofa.gov.ae](mailto:k.alshamsi@mofa.gov.ae)), are available.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Jānis Mažeiks  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
Republic of Latvia

Lana Z. Nusseibeh  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
United Arab Emirates

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

# WSIS+10 REVIEW: NON-PAPER<sup>1</sup>

## Preamble

1. We reaffirm the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society defined by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as the objectives and norms established in the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.
2. We recognize that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an integral and key part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both as a means of implementation and a target of the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. We recognize the digital economy as an important and growing part of the global economy and global sustainable development.
4. Many innovations have transformed the ICT landscape and presented new opportunities for ICTs to contribute to sustainable development. These include fixed and wireless broadband, mobile Internet, smartphones and tablets, cloud computing, social media and big data.
5. However, there are still critical digital divides between and within countries, which need to be addressed, and new challenges have arisen as a result of rapid changes in technology.
6. Promoting access to ICTs and the Internet for all, as well as the ability of people to use and create ICTs, is fundamental to the WSIS vision. Particular attention should be paid to the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, as well as the specific challenges facing women, young people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and marginalised communities.
7. Multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement are essential to the successful realization of the WSIS vision. We applaud the work of diverse stakeholders in implementing WSIS outcomes, in their various roles and responsibilities, and we reaffirm the value of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement.
8. We recognise the important contributions to the WSIS review made by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); we take note with appreciation of the WSIS review by CSTD, the outcome documents from the UNESCO-organised conference Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development and the WSIS+10 High Level Event organised by ITU. We take note of the WSIS+10 Statement, which was agreed at that Event.

## The Digital Divide

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<sup>1</sup> This Non-Paper attempts to provide an overview of issues and priorities highlighted by Member States and stakeholders in their written submissions. It is not a draft for negotiations.

9. There have been considerable increases in ICT connectivity, use and creation that support sustainable development. In particular, the number of mobile phone subscriptions is estimated to have risen from 2.2 billion in 2005 to 7.1 billion in 2015, and the number of Internet users from 1.0 billion to 3.2 billion.
10. However, digital divides remain, both within and between countries. There is a risk that these divides will widen as technology and services evolve, and as the speed and quality of connectivity become more important, particularly with the evolution of broadband, which is now essential for achieving sustainable development.
11. We also draw attention to the persistent gender digital divide, and commit to mainstream gender in the implementation of the WSIS vision, notably through the Action Lines. We encourage all stakeholders to take measures, as soon as possible, to substantially increase the number of women with Internet access.
12. Harnessing the potential of ICT for development requires truly equitable access for all. Priority should be given to ensuring that ICTs are affordable and relevant, that content is available in different languages and formats that are accessible to all people, and for them to have capabilities to make use of ICTs.
13. We take note of the targets for the growth of access, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation and partnerships in ICTs, as agreed by the international community under the Connect 2020 Agenda, adopted at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014.
14. We encourage all stakeholders to take measures to achieve universal Internet access by 2030.
15. Moving forward, and as reflected in the Tunis Agenda, we reaffirm the call for increased efforts in capacity building, technology transfer, and multilingualism, to address the digital divide.

#### **ICT for Development**

16. The spread of ICT and accelerating global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate progress across the economic, social, and environmental pillars of sustainable development. The Information Society will play a critical enabling role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
17. We recognize that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy.
18. Priority should be given to leveraging the critical role that ICT plays in enabling resource efficiency, particularly of energy and water, as well as sustainable urban development and the evolution of renewable technologies.

19. We recognize the opportunity afforded by clean energy and reuse, recycling, and disposal of ICT waste to mitigate environmental impacts of ICT use and growth.

#### **Human Rights**

20. We reaffirm all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, to achieve the WSIS vision. We underscore the need for respecting freedom of expression, the independence of press and the right to privacy. We emphasize that no person shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home, or correspondence, consistent with countries' obligations under international human rights law.
21. We reaffirm that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online.

#### **Internet Governance**

22. The Internet has continued to grow in number of users, speed of access, range of services, and many other ways, necessitating fast-changing and flexible governance structures.
23. There is general agreement that the governance of the Internet should be open, inclusive, and transparent, within the working definition of Internet governance as 'the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet'.
24. We reaffirm the principles agreed in the Geneva Declaration that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholder groups.
25. We call for further internationalization of Internet governance, including greater participation of developing countries and the full implementation of Enhanced Cooperation, as set forth in the Tunis Agenda, and taking note of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues.
26. We acknowledge the unique role of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in the governance of the Internet, as a multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues. We extend the IGF mandate for another X years. While taking into account the report of the Working Group on improvements to the IGF, we consider whether there is a need for clearer terms of reference for IGF's governing structure, working methods, and outcomes. We note the need to continue building upon current efforts, to ensure support for the participation of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

## **Cyberspace**

27. We recognize the growing role of cyberspace and reaffirm the importance of confidence- and security-building initiatives for it to the future of the Information Society.
28. Cyber security is an increasing challenge to all stakeholders. We reaffirm para. 35 of the Geneva Declaration, which stipulates that “a global culture of cyber security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies” in order to foster trust and security in the emerging Information Society.
29. We call for increased global efforts and cooperation in combating cybercrime and countering cyber-threats.

## **Follow-up and Review**

30. We are committed to achieving the WSIS vision through an enabling environment and global partnership that encourages innovation, technology transfer and investment. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide an important framework for ICT policy and investment.
31. There will be a continued focus on mobilizing domestic public and private resources to spur ICT access and content creation. We recognize the importance of public-private partnerships, universal access strategies and other approaches to this end. We also recognize the need for increased focus on the contribution of ICTs to development by donors (public and private), international financial institutions and other development partners, especially through interventions that de-risk investment and catalyse new public and private finance. We express concern at the lack of progress on the Digital Solidarity Fund, welcomed in Tunis as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature, and we call for a review of options for its future.
32. We call for official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to developing countries where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.
33. We call for intensified investment in content development, including content in a wider range of languages for universal inclusion.
34. Capacity-building remains a primary focus for all countries and people, particularly in the most vulnerable countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in order to leverage the full potential of ICTs and facilitate technology transfer. We encourage a prominent profile for ICT in the new technology mechanism established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
35. Priority should be given to addressing cross-cutting technical challenges that affect the implementation of Action Lines adopted in the Tunis Agenda, including the implementation of IPv6, the deployment of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and the resilience of international ICT networks and resources.

36. We call for increased efforts to improve the extent of ICT data collection and analysis, including quality of connectivity, such as speed and consistency; disaggregation of data on ICT connectivity, use, and creation.
37. We call for the continuation of the annual review of the WSIS outcomes, and for an overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in X years. We also call for coordination of reporting on ICT for development within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.