

25 July 2006

Presented by the Facilitator

**Draft resolution of ECOSOC  
on follow-up to WSIS and review of CSTD**

The Economic and Social Council,

PP1. *Welcoming* the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society<sup>1</sup>,  
**(agreed)**

PP2. *Recalling* the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, adopted in Geneva in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in Tunis in 2005 by the World Summit on the Information Society and endorsed by the General Assembly<sup>2</sup>, **(agreed)**

PP3. *Recalling* further the 2005 World Summit outcome<sup>3</sup>, **(agreed)**

**PP4.** *Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on modalities of the inter-agency coordination of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, including recommendations on the follow-up process<sup>4</sup> and which reviews the actions taken since the convening of the Summit and emphasizes the need for full implementation of Summit decisions **(agreed)**

PP5. *Taking note* also of the ongoing United Nations reform process, **(agreed)**

PP.6 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/252<sup>5</sup>, which requests the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the Summit, and to that end, requests the Council, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

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<sup>1</sup> See A/60/687

<sup>2</sup> UNGA resolutions 59/220 and 60/252.

<sup>3</sup> UNGA resolution 60/1.

<sup>4</sup> E/2006/85

<sup>5</sup> UNGA resolution 60/252

including considering strengthening the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach, **(agreed)**

PP6.bis *Bearing in mind* Economic and Social Council decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, and resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992, by which the Council established the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and defined its terms of reference, as well as the Council's Decision 2005/308 on methods of work of the Commission, **(agreed)**

PP6.ter Recognizing the need to strengthen the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in order to enable it to undertake activities defined by WSIS, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach, **(agreed)**

PP7. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/270B on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, **(agreed)**

PP8. *Recognizing* that the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS should be an integral part of the integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and should contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and should not require the creation of any new operational bodies<sup>6</sup>, **(agreed)**

PP9. *Acknowledging* the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries including those countries with special needs as they are stated in the WSIS outcome documents to benefit fully from the potential of information and communication technologies<sup>7</sup>, **(agreed)**

PP10. *Stressing* the importance of the WSIS outcomes to the building of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help to bridge the digital divide<sup>8</sup>, **(agreed)**

PP11. Reaffirming the need for ensuring an effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the academic and scientific community, and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS, **(agreed)**

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<sup>6</sup> UNGA resolution 60/252 (pp 4)

<sup>7</sup> UNGA 60/252 (pp 5)

<sup>8</sup> UNGA resolution 60/252 (pp 6)

**PP12.** *Taking note* of the action taken by the Secretary-General to convene the Internet Governance Forum, **(agreed)**

PP12bis. *Taking note* of the request to the United Nations Secretary-General to start a process towards enhanced cooperation as referred in paragraphs 69-71 of the Tunis agenda; **(agreed)**

**PP13.** *Taking note* of the establishment, within the UN system Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), of the UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), consisting of the relevant UN bodies and organizations with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes, and *noting* the importance that the Council be kept informed of the progress in its work as a part of the annual reporting on the work of interagency bodies to the Council, **(agreed)**

PP14. *Acknowledging with appreciation* the role played by UNCTAD in providing secretariat support to the Commission, **(agreed)**

Follow-up to WSIS

OP1. *Welcomes* the strong developmental orientation of the outcomes of both the Geneva and the Tunis phases of the Summit, and urges their full implementation, **(agreed)**

**OP2.** *Decides* to carry out its responsibilities for overseeing the system-wide follow-up to WSIS outcomes in the context of its annual consideration of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the coordination segment on the basis of a thematic approach and a multi-year programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/270B, based upon the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and drawing upon other relevant inputs, **(agreed)**

**OP2.ter**

*Takes note* of the important role of UN Regional Commissions and *encourages* them to undertake specific activities in accordance with the WSIS outcomes, **(agreed)**

Role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

*Mandate*

**OP3.** *Decides* that, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/270B and 60/252, the Commission shall effectively assist ECOSOC as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of WSIS, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development, also taking into account the provisions of paragraph 60 of the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit<sup>9</sup>; **(agreed)**

OP3.bis *Agrees* that the system-wide follow-up shall have a strong development orientation, **(agreed)**

**Proposal for OP4 by the President of ECOSOC**

**OP4.** *Decides* that, in the exercise of its responsibility as defined in paragraph OP2 above, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall (G77: **monitor,** **(examine information provided by the organizations of the UN system and (Switzerland: other stakeholders,))** review and assess progress made in implementing the outcomes of WSIS and advise the Council thereon, including through the elaboration of ~~practical~~ (G77)

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<sup>9</sup> UNGA resolution 60/1 (pp 60)

recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering Summit outcomes. To that end, the Commission shall:

**Proposal for OP4a by the President of ECOSOC**

- a) **(Monitor, examine,)** review and assess progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of Action Lines, recommendations and commitments contained in the outcome documents of WSIS;
- b) identify and disseminate best and effective practices and lessons learned, as well as identify gaps and obstacles encountered, in the implementation of WSIS outcomes [and suggest initiatives and make **policy options recommendations** on actions required to overcome the latter] **(US: delete text in brackets, add: in full compliance (G77: in accordance) with the TAIS (G77: WSIS outcomes) or use para 71 of 57/270B; Russia supports the US)** ; and

para 71 of 57/270B: share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation of WSIS outcomes (US, EU, AUL: support as alt to b)

- c) **(JK:)** promote dialogue and foster partnerships in coordination with other appropriate UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies to contribute to the attainment of the WSIS objectives and [implementation of its outcomes, **US**] to use ICT for development and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, with the participation of **(G77: governments, private sector, civil society and the UN and other international organizations according to their different roles and responsibilities;)** all stakeholders, including, *inter alia*, governments, international organisations, private sector and civil society, including existing multi-stakeholders groups and platforms, according to their respective roles, in accordance with the established practices in the ECOSOC and WSIS **(G77: delete “and WSIS”)** and in conformity with paragraph 10 below;

*Composition*

**OP5.** *Decides* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall be enlarged to [47] [**(President: 43)**] **(G77: 45; US: no increase)** members **(G77: and)** to

strengthen its substantive capacity and enhance **[effective and meaningful]** (US) participation of Member States in its work. The additional members shall be elected, bearing in mind the principle of balanced and equitable geographical distribution and in accordance with procedures and timetables to be established by the Council, from among the States Members of the United Nations or States Members of specialized agencies;

*Working methods*

**OP6.** *Also decides* that the Commission shall meet annually for a period of [5] [7] [10] working days in Geneva (**G77: 7 working days, on an experimental basis with review after two years**);

**President: 5 days, after two years undertake review of the practices and report to ECOSOC with its recommendations**

**EU: package OP5, OP6 and OP10.**

**JK: these plus the mandate in a package; IGF acknowledged in PPs**

**OP7.** *Decides* that in line with the Council's decision 2005/308, and in the exercise of its responsibilities as defined in OP2 above the Commission shall continue working on the basis of biennial action cycles; (**agreed**)

**OP7bis.** Taking into account the Commission's mandates as contained in OP3 above, *decides* that in the next session the Commission shall develop its agenda and a multi-year work programme; (**agreed**)

**OP8.** *Decides* that its future sessions will increasingly be conducted as interactive dialogue; (**agreed**)

**OP9.** *Decides* that, in addition to its traditional working practices, the Commission will continue to explore development-friendly and innovative use of electronic media, drawing upon existing online databases on best practices, partnership projects and initiatives, as well as other collaborative electronic platforms, which would allow all stakeholders to contribute to follow-up efforts, share information, learning from the experience of others and explore opportunities for partnerships. (**agreed**)

*Multi-stakeholder approach*

## **OP10 (G-77 and China)**

**OP10a** *Decides that* while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved

**President: OP10a.** *Decides that while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the decision making in the Commission should continue to be intergovernmental,* (EU, US: support; G77 prefers own text)

**OP10b** *Decides also that:*

- a) Pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, non-governmental organizations and civil society entities without consultative status to ECOSOC, but which have received accreditation to WSIS, may participate, upon approval by ECOSOC, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of the United Nations **(EU: of ECOSOC and WSIS)**, as observers in the next two meetings of the Commission. This provision is based on the understanding that in the meantime, said organizations and entities apply for consultative status to ECOSOC in accordance with existing rules and procedures, and that in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31, the Committee on NGO is invited to consider such applications, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations and to do so as expeditiously as possible.
- b) On an exceptional basis, without prejudice to existing rules of procedure, business **(US: private)** sector entities may be invited upon approval by ECOSOC to participate as observers in the work of the Commission in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECOSOC.

**OP10c.** [Decides that every effort should be made to mobilize and ensure meaningful and effective participation, including through providing assistance, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small- and medium-size enterprises, industry associations and development actors.] **(US: brackets)**

## **OP10 EU proposal**

**OP 10a. *Decides* that while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved.**

**OP 10b. *Decides* also that:**

- a) **Pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, non-governmental organizations and civil society entities without consultative status to ECOSOC, but which have received accreditation to WSIS, may participate, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of the United Nations, in the next two meetings of the Commission, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the functional Commissions of ECOSOC and drawing upon the practices experienced during WSIS. This provision is based on the understanding that in the meantime, said organizations and entities apply for consultative status to ECOSOC in accordance with existing rules and procedures, and that in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31, the Committee on NGO is invited to consider such applications, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations and to do so as expeditiously as possible.**
- b) **Following recent practice of ECOSOC and its functional commissions and without prejudice to existing rules of procedure, private sector entities shall be invited by the Chairperson of the Commission to participate in its work in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECOSOC and WSIS practice. A list of private sector entities having applied for invitation shall be circulated to states members of the Commission 45 days prior its annual meeting. As a rule, private sector entities accredited to WSIS, including ITU sector members, are invited. The invitation of a private sector entity may be suspended or cancelled by the Chairperson of the Commission on request of a member state not later than 7 days before the meeting.**

**Proposal by the President of ECOSOC:**

**OP10a. *Decides* that while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the decision making in the Commission should continue to be intergovernmental, (EU, US: support; G77 prefers own text)**

**OP10b *Decides* also that:**

- a) Pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, non-governmental organizations and civil society entities without consultative status to ECOSOC, but which have received accreditation to WSIS, may participate, upon approval by the Council, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of the United Nations, and taking into account, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of WSIS preparatory committee, in the deliberative part of the next two meetings of the Commission. This provision is based on the understanding that in the meantime, said organizations and entities apply for consultative status to ECOSOC in accordance with existing rules and procedures, and that in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31, the Committee on NGO is invited to consider such applications, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations and to do so as expeditiously as possible.
- c) Relevant business, including private sector, entities may participate, upon approval of the Council, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of the United Nations, and taking into account, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of WSIS preparatory committee, in the deliberative part of the next two meetings of the Commission.

*Secretariat support*

**OP11.** Requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective [and **upgraded**] (US) substantive [and **technical**] (US) secretariat (US: restore) support [by UNCTAD] (US) to the Commission, ~~currently successfully provided by UNCTAD~~, to enable it to perform [its expanded role] (US: **effectively**) while ensuring, in this regard, close collaboration with other relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies;

*Reporting*

**OP11.bis** Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on the implementation of WSIS outcomes as a part of his annual reporting to the Commission, **(agreed)**

**OP12.** Requests the Commission to submit to the Council, within its annual report, information on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes at the regional and international level; **(agreed)**

OP13. *Decides* to keep the General Assembly advised, through its annual report of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes, taking into account the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

**(agreed)**

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JK: **Next and last meeting: Wednesday 26 July**