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**President of the WSIS Preparatory Committee**  
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**REPORT ON THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE  
SECOND PHASE OF THE SUMMIT**

**I Introduction**

1 On 21 December 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 56/183 concerning the organization of a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). By this resolution the General Assembly of the United Nations welcomed the resolution of the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in which the ITU Council endorsed the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union for the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society in two phases, the first phase in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 and the second phase in Tunisia in 2005. The General Assembly also invited the International Telecommunication Union to assume the leading managerial role in the Executive Secretariat of the Summit and its preparatory process, in cooperation with other interested organizations and partners.

2 The General Assembly further recommended that preparations for the Summit take place through an open-ended intergovernmental Preparatory Committee that would define the agenda of the Summit, finalize both the draft Declaration and the draft Plan of Action, and decide on the modalities of the participation of other stakeholders in the Summit.

3 On 22 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 57/238 concerning the World Summit on the Information Society.

4 On 22 December 2004, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 59/220 concerning the World Summit on the Information Society. By this resolution, the General Assembly expressed its gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for having hosted the first phase of WSIS in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and for the support and arrangements put at the disposal of the Summit. Furthermore, it renewed with gratitude its acknowledgement of the generous offer of the Government of Tunisia to host the second phase of WSIS, to take place from 16 to 18 November 2005. The resolution took note of the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on the first phase of WSIS and endorsed the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted on 12 December 2003.

**II Preparatory process: the meetings of the Preparatory Committee**

5 At the Geneva Summit of the WSIS, 10-12 December 2003, in its resolution on "Arrangements for the Tunis Phase of the Summit", Governments decided "to hold a preparatory meeting in the first half of 2004 to review those issues of the information society which should form

the focus of the Tunis phase of the WSIS and to agree on the structure of the process for the second phase on the basis of contributions from delegations. The Bureau of the Tunis phase of the WSIS under the leadership of its Chairman should commence preparation of this preparatory meeting.”

6 At the joint initiative of the Tunisian Government and the International Telecommunication Union, an informal meeting was held in Tunis on 2 and 3 March 2004. The aim of the meeting was to hold preliminary discussions on the second phase of WSIS, focusing on the following three items:

- implementation of the Geneva Action Plan;
- outputs expected from the second phase of the Summit;
- preparatory process for the second phase.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Bureau of the PrepCom, international organizations, the International Bureau of Civil Society and the CCBI (Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors).

## **6 First meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the second phase - PrepCom-1**

The first meeting of the WSIS Preparatory Committee, convened by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), took place in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 1 to 5 July 2002 and took the following decisions:

### **6.1 Election of the President of the Preparatory Committee**

PrepCom-1 elected H.E. Ambassador Janis Karklins, Latvia, as President of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis phase of WSIS, by acclamation. Ambassador Karklins is the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations Office in Geneva. In 2002, he was Vice-Chair of the Working Group of Constitutional Reform of WIPO, and from 2002 to 2003, Chairman of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration.

### **6.2 Rules of Procedures of the Preparatory Committee**

PrepCom-1 adopted an amendment to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedures of the Preparatory Committee allowing to increase the number of Vice-Presidents of the WSIS Preparatory Committee from fourteen to twenty-nine.

### **6.3 Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Preparatory Committee**

On the basis of consultations carried out with the regional groups of the United Nations system, PrepCom-1 elected the following Vice-Presidents by acclamation:

- African Region: Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Senegal, Zambia
- Asian Region: Bangladesh, China, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia
- Eastern European Region: Armenia, Belarus, Hungary, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro
- Latin America and Caribbean Region: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela
- Western Europe and others Region: Canada, France, Greece, Norway, Spain, United States of America
- Ex-officio members (host countries): Switzerland and Tunisia.

### **6.4 Focus, output and preparatory process of the Tunis phase**

In accordance with the decision taken during the Geneva phase on the preparations for the Tunis phase, and paragraph 29 of the Geneva Plan of Action, PrepCom-1 reviewed those issues of the

Information Society that should form the focus of the Tunis phase of the WSIS and decided on the structure of the preparatory process for the second phase, as follows:

“ The focus of the Tunis Phase should be:

- Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, with particular attention to the challenges facing the Least Developed Countries;
- Consideration of the report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and appropriate action;
- Internet governance: consideration of the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and appropriate action.”

Furthermore, it was decided that:

- 1) the agreements reached in the Geneva phase should not be reopened;
- 2) the output of the Tunis Phase should be a final document or documents, comprising a concise political part and an operational part, both of which reflect the areas of focus of the Tunis phase and reaffirm and enhance the commitments undertaken in the Geneva phase;
- 3) the preparatory process of the Tunis Phase should be inclusive, efficient, transparent and cost-effective;
- 4) that a group of friends of the President of the PrepCom of the Tunis Phase, with the assistance of the WSIS Executive Secretariat and in consultation with regional groups, should prepare a document to serve as a basis for negotiations in PrepCom-2, taking into account, as appropriate, the outcomes of relevant thematic, regional and other WSIS-related meetings;
- 5) that PrepCom-2 should take place in Geneva, for a duration of seven working days, starting on 17 February 2005.

## **7 Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee - PrepCom-2**

The Preparatory Committee for the Tunis phase of WSIS held its second meeting from 17 to 25 February 2005 in Geneva and took the following decisions:

### **7.1 Election of the Chairperson of Sub-Committee**

PrepCom-2 elected H.E. Ambassador Ileana di Giovan (Argentina) as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee mandated to negotiate the Final Documents of the Tunis phase.

### **7.2 Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit**

PrepCom-2 approved the amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedures of the Summit in order to increase the number of Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Summit to thirty.

### **7.3 Presentation of reports on activities directly related to WSIS**

PrepCom-2 heard the following reports:

- a. Interim report on WSIS Stocktaking, presented by Dr. Tim Kelly, ITU/WSIS-ES.
- b. Report of the Group of the Friends of the President of the Preparatory Committee. The Report with its two annexes was introduced by the President of the Preparatory Committee. PrepCom-2 accepted the two annexes as the basis of negotiations.
- c. Report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms, presented by Mr. Shoji Nishimoto, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Development Policies of the UNDP.

- d. Preliminary Report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), presented by Mr. Markus Kummer, Executive Secretary of WGIG.

#### **7.4 Organization of work for the Tunis Phase of the Summit**

PrepCom-2 agreed on the Draft Proposed Format of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society to be submitted to the Tunis Summit, at its Organizational meeting, for final approval.

#### **7.5 Negotiation work on the Final Documents of the Tunis phase**

On the basis of the Report of the Sub-Committee and in preparation for the third meeting of the PrepCom, PrepCom-2 decided that:

1. the text of chapter two of the Operational Part (Financing Mechanisms), as it stood at the conclusion of PrepCom-2, should be forwarded directly to PrepCom-3.
2. the text of the Political Chapeau, as it stood at the conclusion of PrepCom-2, together with a compilation document containing written comments and proposals (Document DT/4), should be forwarded directly to PrepCom-3.
3. the Group of Friends of the Chair (GFC) should continue to draft proposals for chapters one (Implementation Mechanisms) and four (The Way Ahead) of the Operational Part. These new proposals should be in addition to the written comments and proposals presented during the first reading on 21 February, contained in the compilation documents on chapter one (DT/2(Rev.1)) and chapter four (DT/5) respectively. The above-mentioned documents should be forwarded to PrepCom-3, where a decision on use of the new proposals should be taken. All stakeholders were invited to continue making contributions to chapters one and four. The modalities of composition and the methods of work of the Group of Friends of the Chair should be defined by the PrepCom Bureau, in consultation with the regional groups.
4. the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) should be presented in mid-July 2005. All governments and other stakeholders were invited to submit written comments and proposals for chapter three by August 15. Thereafter, a compilation of these contributions should be forwarded to PrepCom-3, together with the report of the WGIG.

#### **7.6 Proposal of the Swiss Delegation**

In the final plenary of PrepCom-2, Switzerland submitted a "Proposal of the Swiss Delegation for a Paper on the Implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action". Several delegations asked for further clarification of the proposal. Due to the lack of detailed information, PrepCom-2 decided to refer the Swiss proposal to the PrepCom Bureau with the mandate to take appropriate decision after receiving additional details from Switzerland and holding consultations with regional groups.

### **8 Third meeting of the Preparatory Committee - PrepCom-3**

The Preparatory Committee for the Tunis phase of WSIS held its third meeting from 19 to 30 September 2005 in Geneva and took the following decisions:

#### **8.1 Election of the Chairpersons of Sub-Committee A and B**

PrepCom-3 elected H.E. Ambassador Masood Khan (Pakistan) as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee A, dealing with chapter 3 (Internet Governance) of the Operational Part of the Final Documents and Ms. Lyndall Shope-Mafole (South Africa) as Chairperson of Sub-Committee B, dealing with the negotiations on the Political Chapeau and all other chapters of the Operational Part except Internet Governance, by acclamation.

## **8.2 Accreditation of civil society and private sector entities**

PrepCom-3 received the list of NGOs, civil society and private sector entities recommended by the Executive Secretariat for accreditation. The United States asked the Secretariat to clarify the reason why the NGO named “Human Rights in China” was not included in the recommended list. The Executive Secretariat explained that the file of the NGO was not complete and that NGOs with incomplete files did not figure on the list. The explanation by the Secretariat as to the reasons why HRIC’s file was incomplete did not satisfy U.S. concerns. The United States proposed therefore that the NGO “Human Rights in China” should be recommended for accreditation. China then introduced a motion “not to consider NGOs that were not on the list recommended by the Executive Secretariat” and asked for a roll-call vote. The Preparatory Committee adopted the motion introduced by China by a recorded roll-call vote of 52 to 35, with 35 abstentions. The list of NGOs, civil society and private sector entities recommended by the Executive Secretariat for accreditation was approved by PrepCom-3.

## **8.3 Presentation of reports on activities directly related to WSIS**

PrepCom-3 heard the following reports:

- a. Report on WSIS Stocktaking, presented by Dr. Tim Kelly, ITU/WSIS-ES.
- b. Report of the Group of the Friends of the President of the Preparatory Committee, introduced by H.E. Ambassador Janis Karklins (Latvia), President of the Preparatory Committee.
- c. Report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), presented by Mr. Nitin Desai, Chairman of the WGIG.

## **8.4 Negotiation work on the Final Documents of the Tunis phase**

At its second and last Plenary meeting on 30 September 2005, the Preparatory Committee heard the Report of Ambassador Masood Khan (Pakistan), Chair of Sub-Committee A, and the Report of Ms Lyndall Shope-Mafole (South Africa), Chair of Sub-Committee B. On the basis of these Reports, the PrepCom decided as follows:

- to suspend PrepCom-3;
- to consider the outcome text of Sub-Committee A related to chapter three (Internet Governance) of the Operational Part as the basis for further negotiations at the resumed PrepCom-3 session to be organized before the Tunis Summit;
- to set up, under the chairmanship of the President of PrepCom of the Tunis phase of WSIS, a Negotiation Group which would held two sessions, each of a duration of 2/3 days, ahead of the Tunis Summit. Its aim would be to conclude the negotiation work of Sub-Committee B. One session would deal with the Political Chapeau and the paragraphs remaining in square brackets of chapter two of the Operational Part (Financial Mechanisms); the other session would deal with the paragraphs remaining in square brackets in chapters one (Implementation) and four (Follow up).
- to mandate the PrepCom Bureau to discuss and decide upon the date, venue and modalities of the resumed PrepCom-3 session ahead of the Tunis Summit.

Furthermore, PrepCom-3 decided that the Final Documents of the Tunis phase of WSIS would consist of two separate documents.

### **8.5 Intersessional Negotiation Group, 24 to 28 October 2005, Geneva**

On 7 October 2005, the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee decided that the Negotiation Groups, set up by PrepCom-3 to conclude the negotiation work of Sub-Committee B ahead of the Tunis phase, would hold its sessions from 24 to 28 October 2005 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. While the Negotiation Group was not open to observers, Ambassador Karklins, Chairman of the Group, kept them regularly informed of the ongoing work. The Negotiation Group worked intensively during this week and achieved a real advancement in the negotiation work of the Final Documents of the Tunis phase. However, several issues, including the transfer of new technologies and the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS process, could not find a final consensus and had to be deferred to the resumed Prepcom-3 in Tunis.

### **8.6 Resumed PrepCom-3, 13 – 15 November 2005, Tunis**

The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee decided that PrepCom-3 would be resumed on Sunday, 13 November 2005, for a three-day session (13 – 15 November 2005) in Kram PalExpo, Tunis, under the rules of procedure of the PrepCom, which allow all stakeholders to participate actively.

After a short organizational Plenary meeting at 1200 hours on Sunday, 13 November 2005, the work proceeded in Sub-Committee on Internet Governance, chaired by Ambassador Masood Khan (Pakistan), and on all other outstanding issues, in Sub-committee B chaired by Ms. Lyndall Shope-Mafole (South-Africa), and chaired by the President of the Preparatory Committee in her absence on the first day of the resumed PrepCom-3.

On Tuesday, 15 November 2005, a second plenary meeting was convened from 1930 to 2100 hours to hear the Report of Sub-Committee B. After a final meeting of Sub-Committee A, the closing Plenary meeting of the resumed PrepCom-3 agreed in the evening of 15 November 2005, after having adopted the Report of Sub-Committee A, to submit both outcome documents -- “Tunis Commitment” and “Tunis Agenda for the Information Society” -- to the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society for adoption in plenary.

## **III Regional conferences and thematic meetings held during the second phase of WSIS**

9 The following regional and sub-regional conferences have been held:

- Second Bishkek-Moscow Sub-Regional Conference on the Information Society and Regional Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies for Development, 16-18 November 2004, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.
- Western Asia Regional Conference, 22-23 November 2004, Damascus, Syria.
- African Regional Conference, 2-4 February 2005, Accra, Ghana.
- The Pan Arab Sub-Regional Conference on WSIS Phase II, 8-10 May 2005, Cairo, Egypt.
- Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, 31 May – 2 June 2005, Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference, 8-10 June 2005, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

10 The following thematic meetings have been held:

- Workshop on Internet Governance (ITU), 26-27 February 2004, Geneva, Switzerland.
- WSIS Thematic Meeting on Spam (ITU), 7-9 July 2004, Geneva, Switzerland.

- Information Technologies and Law (Government of the Republic of Belarus/UNESCO/UN/UNDP Office), 28-29 October 2004, Minsk, Republic of Belarus.
- “Latin America e-Business Forum Empowering SME Exporters through ICTs” (ITC/Camara Brasileira de Comércio Eletronico), 2-5 November 2004, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- WSIS Session (CODATA/ICSU), 10 November 2004, Berlin, Germany.
- Role and Place of Media in the Information Society in Africa and the Arab States (Government of Morocco/Orbicom), 22-24 November 2004, Marrakech, Morocco.
- Global ICT Conference 2004, “Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy: Problems and Solutions” (The Government of Azerbaijan/orld Summit Award /UNDP), 25-28 November 2004, Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Economic and Social Implications of ICT (ILO/ITC/OECD/UNCTAD), 17-19 January 2005, Antigua, Guatemala.
- ICT Applications in Natural Disaster Reduction (WMO), 21 January 2005, Kobe, Japan.
- International Conference on Freedom of Expression in Cyberspace (UNESCO), 3-4 February 2005, Paris, France.
- Measuring the Information Society (UNCTAD/OECD/ITU/UIS/UN Regional Commissions/UN ICT Task Force/World Bank), 7-9 February 2005, Geneva (with a follow-up meeting on 7-10 June 2005, Beirut, Lebanon).
- Role of ICT for Disaster Reduction” (APT/ITU), 28 February 2005, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Indigenous Peoples in the Information Society (Indigenous Media Network/Canadian Government), 14-18 March 2005, Ottawa, Canada.
- Multilingualism for Cultural Diversity and Participation of All in Cyberspace (UNESCO), 6-7 May 2005, Bamako, Mali.
- “Asia Media Summit” (AIBD/ASBU/SABA), 9-11 May 2005, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- World Conference on ICT for Capacity-Building: Critical Success Factors (UNESCO), 11-13 May 2005, Paris, France.
- Tokyo Ubiquitous Network Conference (Government of Japan/ITU/UNU), 16-17 May 2005, Tokyo, Japan.
- Cultural Diversity in Knowledge Societies (UNESCO), 17-19 May 2005, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Online forum on Intellectual Property in the Information Society (WIPO), 1-15 June 2005, Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Summit Contributory Conference on ICT and Creativity (Government of Austria/Austrian International Center of New Media), 2-3 June 2005, Vienna, Austria.
- Forum on Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security (UNECE/ECA/ECLAC/ESCAP/ESCWA), 20-21 June 2005, Geneva, Switzerland.
- International Policy Dialogue: Mainstreaming ICT for Development: the Key Role of the Private Sector (Government of Germany), 21-22 June 2005, Berlin, Germany.

- Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Bridging the Digital Divide (Government of Republic of Korea/MIC/KADO/ITU), 23-24 June 2005, Seoul, Korea.
  - Forum on ICTs and Gender for WSIS 2005 (APWINC/KADO/ITU), 24-25 June 2005, Seoul, Korea.
  - WSIS Thematic Meeting on Cybersecurity (ITU), 28 June – 1 July 2005, Geneva, Switzerland.
  - “The Impact of ICTs on Democracy Development” (Government of Greece), 30 June – 1 July 2005, Thessaloniki, Greece.
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