Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting
(PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase)

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Medina Conference Centre, Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, 24-26 June 2004

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I   Introduction

1   In its Resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly of the United Nations welcomed the resolution of the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in which the 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, a first phase in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 and a second phase in Tunisia. 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   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."

II   Organization

A)   Opening of the meeting

4   The Preparatory Committee held its first session (called Preparatory Meeting – PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase) from 24 to 26 June 2004 at the Medina Conference Center, Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia. The Committee held six Plenary Meetings.

5   Mr Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of ITU and Chairperson of the High Level Summit Organization Committee, opened the first Plenary Meeting and presided over the election of the President for the Preparatory Committee for the Tunis phase of the WSIS.

B)   Election of the President of the Preparatory Committee

6   The Preparatory Committee elected H.E. Ambassador Janis Karklins, Latvia, as President of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis phase of WSIS, by acclamation.

C)   Agenda

7   The Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase), as contained in Document WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)
2. Election of the President of the Preparatory Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)
4. Amendment of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee
5. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Preparatory Committee
6. Election of other officers of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)
7. Accreditation of NGOs, civil society and business entities
8. Organization of work of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)
9. Report of the ITU Secretary General on activities leading to the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)

10. Report by a representative of the UN Secretary General on the Working Group on Internet Governance

11. Report by a representative of the UNDP on the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms

12. The focus and output of the Tunis phase

13. The structure of the process for the Tunis phase

14. Arrangements for future Preparatory Committee meetings

15. Adoption of the Report of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)

16. Other business

17. Closing of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)

D) Amendment of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee

8   The provisional Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase of WSIS proposed an amendment to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee agreed to replace Rule 9 with the following text:

> **"Rule 9**
>
> **Elections**
>
> The Preparatory Committee shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President and twenty-nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall act as the Rapporteur; these officials being elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the Bureau, as well as two *ex officio* Vice-Presidents nominated by the host countries of the Summit. The Preparatory Committee may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions."

E) Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Preparatory Committee

9   The Preparatory Committee, based on consultations carried out with regional groups and the Bureau, 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

F) Election of other officers of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase)

10   The Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation Mr George Papadatos (Greece) as Rapporteur.

G)   Accreditation

11   The President reminded participants that the WSIS is a Summit in two phases and that all entities accredited during the Geneva Phase of WSIS remain accredited for the Tunis Phase of WSIS. The Preparatory Committee approved the lists of entities having subsequently requested accreditation, as contained in Document WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/3.

H)   Organization of work

12   The Executive Secretary informed participants about the Annotated Agenda (Document WSIS-II/PC-1/ADM/3) and the Draft Time Management Plan (Document WSIS-II/PC-1/ADM/2), the latter being revised to reflect the decision under agenda item 10.

13   At its first Plenary meeting, on 24 June 2004, the Preparatory Committee heard brief general statements from the following States: Ireland on behalf of the European Union; Japan; Norway; Korea; Spain, Latvia; Indonesia; Algeria; Syria; Haiti; Brazil; Belarus; Pakistan; Sudan; Zambia on behalf of the African Group; China and Canada.

14   At its second Plenary Meeting, on 24 June 2004, the Preparatory Committee heard statements by the following States: Chad, Cuba and Botswana.

I)   Report of the ITU Secretary-General on activities leading to the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase)

15   The Secretary-General presented a written report on the outcome of the Summit as well as activities undertaken by ITU and the UN system to prepare for the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee (Document WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/4).

J)   Attendance

16   In accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 56/183 and rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee, the first session of the Preparatory Committee of Phase II was open to the full participation of all States that were members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies.

17   The following 127 States were represented: Algeria; Andorra; Angola; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belarus; Belgium; Benin; Bhutan; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Comoros; Congo (Rep. of); Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cuba; Czech Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Egypt; El Salvador; Estonia; Finland; France; Gabon; Gambia; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Guatemala; Guinea; Haiti; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Korea (Republic of); Kuwait; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Monaco; Mongolia; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar, Namibia; Nepal; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Poland; Portugal; Russia; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia and Montenegro; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Syria; Tanzania; The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States of America; Uruguay; Vatican; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

18   The European Community was represented, conforming with the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee.

19   Palestine, having received a standing invitation from the United Nations General Assembly, was represented.

20   The following United Nations bodies were represented: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); United Nations (UN); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCUWA); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); United Nations ICT Task Force (UN ICT); the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UNNGLS) and United Nations University (UNU).

21   The following specialized agencies of the United Nations and related organizations were represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), The World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

22   The following invited intergovernmental organizations were represented: Agence Internationale de la Francophonie; African Development Bank (AFDB); The Arab League Educational, Cultural & Scientific Organization (ALECSO); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), International Organization for Migration (IOM); League of Arab States (LAS); Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF); Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

23   A large number of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities, including ITU Sector Members, attended the session.

K)   Documentation

24   The first session of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase of the WSIS had before it the following official documents:

•   Draft agenda (WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/1)

•   Amendment of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure (WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/2)

•   Accreditation of NGOs, civil society and business sector entities to the WSIS (WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/3)

•   Report of the ITU Secretary-General on activities leading to the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis Phase of the Summit) (WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/4)

These documents can be found on the WSIS website at the following address: http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents .

III   Report by representatives of the United Nations Secretary General on the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms and on the Working Group on Internet Governance

25   Mr S. Nishimoto, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme, reported on the progress accomplished by the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms, which was established pursuant to a decision of the Geneva Phase of the Summit (Declaration of Principles, paragraph 61 and Plan of Action, paragraph D2(f)). The Task Force is expected to be in place by mid July 2004 so as to issue a preliminary report by November 2004. The report will be finalized by December and submitted to PrepCom-2 in February 2005. The presentation of Mr Nishimoto is available at www.itu.int/wsis/preparatory2/hammamet/index.html .

26   Mr M. Kummer, Executive Coordinator, Secretariat of the Working Group on Internet Governance, reported on the work carried out for the Working Group on Internet Governance, established pursuant to a decision of the Geneva Phase of the Summit (Declaration of Principles, paragraph 48 and Plan of Action, paragraph C6-13b). The Secretariat will start working as of 1 July 2004 and hold a round of consultations open to all governments and stakeholders on the composition and structure of the Working Group in September 2004. Appointment of members of the Working Group will take place in October 2004. There will be three or four meetings of the Working Group, and open-ended consultations could take place back to back with PrepCom-2 and in April or May 2005. The final report will be available at the latest by July 2005. The presentation of Mr Kummer is available at www.itu.int/wsis/preparatory2/hammamet/index.html .

IV   The focus and output and structure of the process of the Tunis phase – Arrangements for PrepCom-2

27   Starting on the morning of the second day and continuing on the third day, the Plenary considered agenda item 12, on the focus and output of the Tunis phase, agenda item 13, on the structure of the process for the Tunis phase, and agenda item 14 on arrangements for future Preparatory Committee meetings. Following an extensive exchange of views, the President of the PrepCom distributed a draft decision, which was refined by Governments in a Working Group. The final text of the Working Group was adopted at the final Plenary meeting on 26 June 2004 and is annexed to this report.

28   The document is in line with the requirements of paragraph 29 of the Plan of Action adopted at the Geneva phase. In particular, it provides a decision on the focus of the Tunis phase, the outputs and the structure of the preparatory process. It sets the dates and duration for PrepCom-2 and establishes a process for preparing documents for PrepCom-2. It also contains a chart ("roadmap") illustrating the preparatory process for the Tunis phase.

V   Adoption of the Report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee

29   The draft Report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee was adopted during the final Plenary meeting, on 26 June 2004. The Rapporteur was tasked with the finalization of the Report, with the support of the Executive Secretariat.

VI   Closing of the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase)

30   At the final Plenary meeting, on 26 June 2004, in a closing statement, the host country thanked all participants for their contributions during the Preparatory Meeting. The Regional Coordinators, on behalf of their member states, expressed their appreciation to the Tunisian Government for the excellent facilities provided during the Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1) and for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to all participants.

VI   Annex

Annex 1: Decision of PrepCom-1
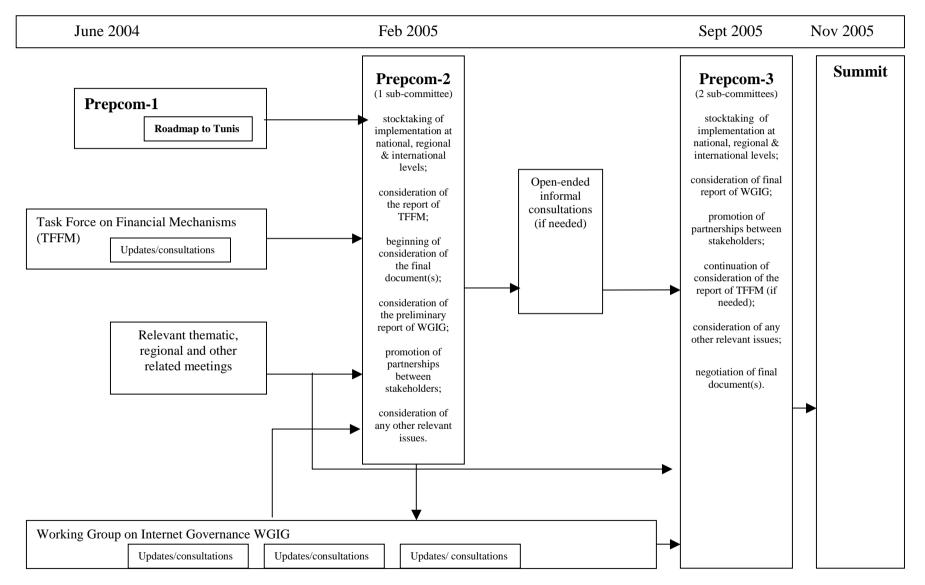
ANNEX 1

Decision of PrepCom-1

One Summit, in two phases, provides a unique opportunity for the international community to address questions about the Information Society in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially Information and Communication Technologies, are available to all. The Geneva phase has adopted a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action. In accordance with the decision taken during the Geneva phase on the preparations for the Tunis phase, and Para 29 of the Plan of Action, the preparatory meeting (PrepCom-1 of the Tunis phase) reviewed those issues of the Information Society that should form the focus of the Tunis phase of the WSIS and agreed on the structure of the preparatory process for the second phase, as follows:

A.   The Focus, Output and Preparatory Process of the Tunis Phase

1) 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;

2) The agreements reached in the Geneva phase should not be reopened;

3) 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;

4) The preparatory process of the Tunis Phase should be inclusive, efficient, transparent and cost-effective; in principle, following the roadmap illustrated in the annexed chart.

B.   PrepCom-2

1) 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, will 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;

2) PrepCom-2 will take place in Geneva, for a duration of seven working days, starting on 17 February 2005.

Annex: Outline of the Preparatory Process for the Tunis Phase of WSIS

| June 2004 | Feb 2005 | Sept 2005 | Nov 2005 |

Prepcom-1

> **Roadmap to Tunis**

Prepcom-2
(1 sub-committee)

stocktaking of implementation at national, regional & international levels;

consideration of the report of TFFM;

beginning of consideration of the final document(s);

consideration of the preliminary report of WGIG;

promotion of partnerships between stakeholders;

consideration of any other relevant issues.

Open-ended informal consultations (if needed)

Prepcom-3
(2 sub-committees)

stocktaking of implementation at national, regional & international levels;

consideration of final report of WGIG;

promotion of partnerships between stakeholders;

continuation of consideration of the report of TFFM (if needed);

consideration of any other relevant issues;

negotiation of final document(s).

Summit

Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM)

> Updates/consultations

Relevant thematic, regional and other related meetings

Working Group on Internet Governance WGIG

> Updates/consultations   Updates/consultations   Updates/ consultations