Interim report on the WSIS Community discussion:
(www.wsis-community.org)
Open Debate on the WSIS Forum 2011
(26 January 2011)

This document provides an overview of contributions made by stakeholders from 15 October 2010 to 22 January 2011 on the WSIS Community.

The WSIS Community is an online collaborative platform launched by UNESCO at the WSIS Forum 2009. Over 700 people have joined the online community so far and continue to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences to advance towards the 2015 WSIS goals. For more information, please send an e-mail to wsiscommunity-invitation@unesco.org.

Please note below list of topic and format suggestions has been compiled based on the contributions made by participants, without endorsement or prioritization. The full listing of submitted comments is available on the “WSIS Forum 2011 Open Consultation Group” page at the http://www.wsis-community.org/pg/groups/15325/wsis-forum-2011-open-consultation-on-the-format-and-the-thematic-focus/.

Thematic Focus proposed for the WSIS Forum 2011

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<th>The future of e-government: Open government and collaboration</th>
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<td>▪ The dynamics of ICT is often faster and e-government key factors must evolve. How the governments should be prepared for rapid changes in ICT?</td>
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<td>▪ What is the impact of Web 2.0 concept and tools for empowering citizens: advantage and disadvantage?</td>
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<td>▪ What is the role of ICT in changing citizens’ current culture and disseminating awareness about their new role?</td>
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<td>▪ The need of creating common international ICT language to minimize the global gap in using ICT terminologies, definitions and concept.</td>
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<th>Inclusion of disadvantaged communities, including people with special needs and nomads children through ICT</th>
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<td>▪ Disabled individuals are still excluded in many ways of life, especially information communication technology (ICT), so ICT training is an important key qualification and the Standard ICT training is insufficient for marginalized community.</td>
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<td>▪ In Sudan, hundreds of thousands of nomad’s children are excluded from education and they are out of school due to climate change or poverty. ICT can play a great role to get them back to the education system.</td>
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### WSIS and MDGs

- Developing countries need a more effective and “bottom-up” approach to information processes:
  - What role can play the information society to give a voice to marginalized people?
  - What role can play bottom-up media to strengthen peace-building processes?
  - How to develop an international consensus over ethic in media and ethical public policies on media?

### ICT and Assistive Technology

- How will the use of ICT&AT promote inclusion of the individual into activities in the school and community?
- What are the features/capabilities of the technology that would assist the persons with disabilities?

### "Vendor capture" problem in the context of e-government procurement and interoperability enforcement by the public sector

- Governments often lack awareness about strategic procurement and many professional consultants are only prepared to provide vendor-side strategies.
- In a situation where several governments consider massive spending on e-government solutions a procurement strategy is essential to reap the benefits and cut costs.

### Impact of ICTs on Knowledge production, sharing and access

- Is there a change in the nature of knowledge influenced by ICTs?
- How to encourage an active participation of developing countries instead of passive consumption?

### Open educational resources and the related fields of Open Access (OA) to scientific information, and Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)

- It is important to increase awareness and access to, as well as building the capacities to viably develop OERs in building inclusive knowledge societies and in achieving sustainable development.
- Open Access to scientific and technical knowledge is an essential component of the information society. Aspects of two Action Lines from the WSIS Plan of Action – Action Line C3 (“Access to Information and Knowledge”) and Action Line C7 (“e-Learning” -- specifically as it relates to e-Science) – are tied to Open Access.

### Formulating new ICT indicators in light of emerging ICT developments

- How to formulate new ICT realistic and comparable indicators? It should be in line with today’s ICT development which would permit measuring and following-up the WSIS targets. Maybe it could be necessary to harmonize both groups of indicators: WSIS targets indicators and the IDI indicators.

### The International framework for global cooperation against cyber crimes and threats

- At present there is not any global framework to act against cyber crimes. The question is whether international conventions such as Budapest Convention can work or not.
- We need several interactive panels which discuss different aspects of the issue. In addition, panelists should be geographically-balanced.

**Child Online Protection**

- How to further enhance cooperation between governments and public and private sections in different countries?

**The development, diffusion and implementation of knowledge-based community-building virtual platforms for social innovations**

- This should look at the roles of different types of knowledge within processes of social learning that integrate the physical and virtual dimensions of ICT4D projects and initiatives. This theme is deeply related to the problem of scaling up of projects into ICT4D or social-innovation movements.

**Maximizing the impact of ICT use for development**

- Enhancing multistakeholder cooperation

- Analyzing successful case of planned development using ICTs from emerging countries namely China, Brazil, and India. In Africa, we should consider several parameters such as the problem of energy, broadband, and the transition of IPv6, domain name, ICT policy and regulation.

**Human Rights and ICTs**

- How ICT can contribute to advocate fundamental rights of human beings?

  Examples of human rights topics
  - Censorship, human rights and digital rights (building on the civil society declaration for WSIS)
  - Privacy and surveillance (mobile and location technologies, hardware open and closed platform and devices)
  - Freedom of expression in the age of new media
  - Invasive genetic technology and biometric technology
  - National and international strategies
  - Corporate responsibility and complicity
  - Capacity building
  - Gender equality
  - Copyrights, DRM and intellectual property

**The nature of global scientific knowledge production**

- As the part of MDG, it is essential that low-income areas actively participate in the process of combating HIV and other diseases and ensuring environmental system, research in how to effectively accomplish these goals. Following issues can be discussed:
  - Are ICTs being used for creating truly global scientific knowledge enterprise?
- Are ICTs being used for scientific collaboration?
- What gender disparities exist within the scientific enterprise in low-income areas? Are female researchers using ICTs to integrate themselves into professional networks or to improve the quality/quantity of publication productivity?

### Internet connectivity in Africa

- How to reduce connectivity cost?

### Socio-professional inclusion and equal-opportunities of people with disabilities through ICTs

- Develop common policy and strategy to bridge digital divide
- It is important to identify necessary skills which will enable people with disabilities to actively participate in the society. We should also conduct country case study to identify appropriate educational training tool.

### The major changes in the international diplomacy and cultural agenda with the emergence of social media

- What exactly "open source" approach means when it concerns international work of national cultural organizations? Need to take a look at the potentials of social media to reach global audiences within the agenda of cultural institutions’ practice at global level.

### Regional geographic distribution of responsibilities for Internet governance

- ITU, IGF, ICANN

### Format of the WSIS Forum 2011

#### Shortening duration of the event

- 2-3 days will be sufficient

#### Enhancing remote participation

- Using WebEx (used at the 5th IGF meeting)
- Exploring further Web2.0 tool