

**Summary of Conclusions**  
**Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee**  
**Global Alliance for ICT and Development**  
**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
**2 September 2009, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Nave Lewis, Parque Fundidora**  
**Monterrey, Mexico**

**I. Introduction**

The sixth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) was held in the afternoon of 2 September 2009, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Nave Lewis, Parque Fundidora, in Monterrey, Mexico.

Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and reiterated UNDESA's support for the work of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development.

The Chairman, Mr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, welcomed the new members of the Steering Committee and proposed that the Committee adopt the provisional agenda, as submitted. The provisional agenda was adopted (Annex II).

**II. Summary of Discussion**

A brief presentation was made by Mr. Sarbuland Khan outlining the Action Plan of GAID for the coming year. This Action Plan was drafted after much collaborative work and world-wide consultations with the GAID community and includes inputs from all of the various stakeholders.

Members of the Committee engaged in an interactive and lively discussion on the future course of GAID, taking into account the views expressed and suggestions made during the meeting of the Strategy Council at its session earlier in the day. The main highlights of the discussion are summarized below:

- In the past year, GAID has continued its growth into a powerful platform for mainstreaming ICT into the United Nations development agenda. GAID will continue to provide multi-stakeholder inputs to inter-governmental policy dialogue in the General Assembly, ECOSOC and CSTD. It should continue to play an important role to keep the attention on the need for maintaining ICTD policy dialogue initiated by the WSIS. GAID will focus on several levels of activity in the coming year, namely: 1) policy dialogue and mainstreaming ICT in the United Nations development agenda; 2) showcasing top programs, best practices, lessons learned and advisory services; 3) providing networking opportunities and support for GAID members' initiatives; 4) network development and community building; and 5) reaching the world to create a global ICTD community in support of the MDGs and identify champions who could promote ICT applications for each MDG and its related targets.
- The Committee members stressed the need to focus on actions and results through its networks and partnerships. In this context, they welcomed the launch of the 'Partnership on Education for All in the Digital Age.'

- GAID should explore ways in which it can become increasingly more self-sustainable. It was recommended that in regard to funding and the budget that in-kind and self contribution should be considered. The committee would like to explore new avenues for income generating activities, possibly through the website, to raise money for the Alliance in the future using the leveraging capacity of GAID. It was also noted that showcasing the success of the GAID website in attracting extensive hits could be used to advertise the success of the organization when seeking additional funding resources. Committee members agreed that this should be explored and called for some research and development in this area. The Chairman indicated that he will take the lead to approach governments, foundations and other financial institutions to mobilize financial support on the basis of a full financial statement and the Action Plan.
- Members made suggestions to make use of web-based outreach efforts using new web 2.0 and 3.0 tools such as social networking and graphs, digital convening, web – meetings using sites such as LinkedIn and OOVVOO; Steering Committee members could also be invited to represent GAID at international gatherings.
- The creation of an ICT for MDGs Matrix was considered and approved by the Steering Committee. This matrix will serve as a policy making tool for government's who would like to best use ICT in their quests to meet the Millennium Development Goals. UNDESA/DPADM will take the lead on this initiative along with the GAID Secretariat. All of GAID's various stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in this exercise to create a truly high-level deliverable on the best ways to use ICT to achieve the MDGs.
- The Committee explored the idea of a Declaration of Rights to Information Society, aligned to the WSIS – Rights to Information. This idea will be reviewed and addressed in the coming year. It was also suggested that meetings in the future could be open for remote participation, via an *ooovoo* platform or other web – meeting tools.
- The Committee members noted with great interest that an innovative U-Movement platform was being developed to support the MDGs.

### **III. Decisions and Conclusions**

Members of the Committee agreed that:

1. The main goal of GAID should remain to mainstream ICT in the general United Nations Development Agenda.
2. GAID was invited to attend the upcoming African Union summit which will focus on ICTD issues. The GAID will contribute to this important meeting both logistically and substantively.
3. The new initiatives presented to the Committee should be reviewed in light of the views expressed and comments made by members of the Strategy Council at its session earlier in the day and action should be taken subsequently through consultations among members of the Committee.

4. The Government of Macedonia offered to host the GAID annual meetings and global forum in 2011. The Chairman welcomed this generous offer and recommended that the Committee accept it. The Steering Committee agreed.
5. The Committee reviewed the financial situation of GAID in light of the Statement of Income and Expenditures submitted to it. It expressed appreciation and thanks to members who have contributed either financially or in-kind to the core budget and to the various activities of GAID. The Chairman generously pledged to double his commitment to the core budget and encouraged the rest of the committee members to contribute. The Chairman will continue to reach out to the broader GAID community to encourage an increased level of financial contributions.