Strengthening Capacity on e-government and ICT Policy – United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Concepts and Issues of the Information Society

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Topics

♦ Some concepts
♦ Issues of the Information Society
♦ Public Policies Concerns
♦ The World Summit on the Information Society
Some concepts

- Data
- Information
- Knowledge
Technology

- As “knowledge”
- Information Technology
- Communication Technology
- Information & Communication Technology (ICT)
Convergences

Analogical

Digital

Digital
Spaces

♦ Internet
♦ WWW
♦ Global Network
♦ Cyberspace
Societies

Information or Knowledge?
The Final Goal
IS Components

- Infoculture/Infostructure
  - Computer Literacy (how)
  - Empowerment (what for)

- Infrastructure
  - Hardware/Software
  - Contents
IS Sectors

**Vertical**
- E-government
- E-business
- *E-ducation*
- E-health
- E-culture
- E-media
- E-...

**Tranversal**
- Human Capital
- Regulatory Framework
- Financial Resources
Topics

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OECD countries agreements

- Dynamic competition
- Private investment
- Adaptable regulatory framework
- Open access to networks
While

- Universal provision and access to services
- Equality of opportunities
- Content diversity
- Worldwide cooperation
Some social issues

Information society is a social matter, not a technical or a commercial one.
Some social issues

The “Digital Divide” is to be approached collectively
Some social issues

ICT use should lead to positive social transformations
It is not an easy match
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National Strategies

ICT as a Sector
- Export Markets
  - Costa Rica
  - India
- Inner Markets
  - Brazil

ICT as Enabler
- Global Position
  - Malaysia
- Development Goals
  - South Africa
  - Estonia
Public Policies Concerns

♦ Education
  ♦ Citizens
  ♦ ICT professionals
  ♦ Civil servants
Public Policies Concerns

♦ Regulatory framework
  ♦ Freedom of expression
  ♦ Copyrights – Public domain
  ♦ Telecom services
  ♦ Privacy and security
  ♦ Universal access
Public Policies Concerns

- Indicators
  - Infrastructure
  - Capacities
  - Social impact
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WSIS: background

♦ Resolution 73 (ITU, 1998)
♦ Council decision (ITU, 2001)
♦ Resolution 56/183 (United Nations General Assembly)
WSIS: background

♦ Phase 1: 10 to 12 December 2003 (Geneva, Switzerland)
♦ Phase 2: 16 to 18 November 2005 (Tunis, Tunisia)
WSIS: after precom3

- Declaration of Principles
- Plan of Action
Declaration of Principles 1/3

♦ An IS For all
♦ Stakeholders role
♦ ICT infrastructure
♦ Content access
♦ Capacity building
♦ Enabling environment
Declaration of Principles 2/3

♦ ICT-Applications: benefits in all aspects of life.
♦ Cultural [identity] and linguistic diversity, local content [and media development]
Declaration of Principles 3/3

- Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
- International and regional cooperation
Plan of Action 1/3

- Information and communication infrastructure
- Access to information and knowledge
- Role of governments, business sector, civil society and UN and other public international organizations
Plan of Action 2/3

- Capacity building
- Building confidence, trust and security in the use of ICT
- Enabling environment
- ICT Applications
Plan of Action 3/3

♦ Cultural identity and linguistic diversity, local content and media development
♦ Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
♦ International and regional cooperation
Main Problems

- Multi-stakeholder process
- Governance
- Education
- Public domain knowledge
- Gender considerations
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Thanks
Merci
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