WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE WORLD SUMMIT?

Patronage: Secretary – General of the United Nations
Organizer: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Host countries: Switzerland – 2003
              Tunisia – 2005
STAKEHOLDERS

Member States of the United Nations

Intergovernmental Organizations (Observers)

Private Sector (Observers)

Media (Observers)

Civil Society (Observers)

NGOs (Observers)

Alain Modoux - SES/WSIS 2003
WSIS PURPOSE

To develop a common vision and understanding of the Information Society and to adopt:

- a Declaration of Principles
- a Plan of Action
Philosophy underpinning the WSIS

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) provide immense opportunities to promote and foster social, economic, cultural and political development.

- They can be a powerful tool to leapfrog the existing development divide and accelerate efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environment degradation and gender inequality.

- They are effective means to foster inclusion and empowerment.
WSIS Preparatory Committee

- President: Adama SAMASSEKOU (Mali)
- Bureau: 18 members
  - President Samassekou
  - 15 representatives of States (3 per region)
  - Switzerland
  - Tunisia
- Executive Director: Pierre GAGNE (ITU)
- Delegate of the Swiss Federal Council: Ambassador Daniel STAUFFACHER
WSIS Preparatory Process

- Regional Conference Bamako (May 02)
- PrepCom-1 Geneva (July 02)
- Regional Conference Bucharest (Nov. 02)
- Regional Conference Tokyo (January 03)
- Regional Conference Bávaro (January 03)
- Regional Conference Beirut (February 03)
- PrepCom-2 Geneva (February 2003)
- Intersessional meeting Paris (July 03)
- PrepCom-3 Geneva (September 03)
- PrepCom-3 bis Geneva (November 03)
WSIS Preparatory Process

- PrepCom-1: setting the Rules of procedure
- Regional meetings: assessing the regional priorities and sensitivities
- PrepCom-2: identifying key issues and clearing the ground for the Draft Declaration of Principles and Draft Action Plan
- Intersessional meeting: refining the working documents for the Draft Declaration of Principles and Draft Action Plan
- PrepCom 3 + 3bis: Finalizing the Draft Declaration of Principles and Draft Action Plan
To define ways and means of bridging the digital divide that separates the “haves” and “have nots”

hence making information and communication technologies accessible and affordable to everyone, everywhere in the world
WSIS main issues

Access to ICTs

- Problems related to telecom infrastructures
  - connectivity
- Problems related to cost-in-use
  - telecommunications tariff
  - internet
  - electronic equipment + software

⇒ community access points and public services
⇒ open source software
⇒ setting up an appropriate open and competitive environment
Access to content, i.e. to information & Knowledge

- Barriers
  - illiteracy (basic and ITC illiteracy)
  - language
  - belonging to an underprivileged group (gender, age, disabled, etc.)
  - excessive commercialization of contents

⇒ Training
⇒ Vibrant and rich public domain
WSIS main issues

- Setting up an enabling environment, including legal, regulatory and policy frameworks
- Promoting cultural diversity and multilingualism
- Developing human capacity through education and training
- Measuring and mapping the Information Society
- Encouraging technology transfer and investment
WSIS main issues

● A sensitive but crucial issue: freedom of expression in cyberspace

Strong pressure from civil society
- Media organizations
- Content professionals (scientists, artists, librarians, archivists, etc.)
- Human Rights advocacy groups
- Social movements

● Particular concern regarding how restrictions and limitations will be worded

⇒ to avoid paving the way for future abuses
WSIS main issues

- A priority but controversial issue: military and civil security in cyberspace

  Strong governmental commitment
  - to fight against cyber-crime, terrorism

  Other concerns:
  - consumer and privacy protection
  - authentication

⇒ Create trust in cyber-space
WSIS main issues

- **ICT applications for economic, social, cultural and political development**
  - e–society: broader local content and applications
  - e–inclusion: Information Society beneficial to all and fostering social cohesion
  - e–education / e–learning: empowering people
  - e–commerce: more competitiveness and better jobs
  - e–government: more efficient and accountable
  - e–governance: democracy and participation

etc…
WSIS Dichotomy

Technology
↓
Technical / economical issues
↓
Governments / private sector’s concerns
↓
ITU – WB – WIPO issues

Content
↓
Societal / cultural issues
↓
Civil society’s concerns
↓
UNESCO issues
How to influence WSIS decision-making process?

Through

- **civil society** (bureau)
- **intergovernmental organizations** (UNESCO, ILO, UNICEF, etc.)
- **national governmental delegations**
How to participate actively in WSIS?

- in attending PrepCom meetings (registration compulsory)
- in sending comments on and amendments to Draft Declaration and Action Plan
- in preparing concrete programmes to be included in Action Plan (ex. Project of Swiss Commission for UNESCO to help "content professionals" in PMA)
- in organizing a parallel event (conferences, round tables, exhibit, etc.)
- in taking part in discussion fora on Internet
Situation one week before the intersessional meeting in Paris

- Draft Declaration of principles refined and incorporating governments’ contributions (36 pages) + observers’ contributions (86 pages)
- Draft Plan of Action refined and incorporating governments’ contributions (63 pages) + observers’ contributions (131 pages)
- Reference document compiling both governments and observers’ contributions in a tabular form (376 pages)
- A reading guide (35 pages)
Objectives of the intersessional meeting in Paris and PrepCom-3

- Identification of convergent views, paragraph by paragraph
- Identification of divergent views and setting up of ad hoc working groups to come to a compromise (if possible)
Working Groups set up during PREPCOM-3

- The right to communicate and human rights (Canada)
- Internet security (Italy, for the EU)
- Internet governance (Kenya)
- Enabling environment (Brazil)
- Cultural identity/Local content/Ethical dimensions (India/Argentina)
- Media (Switzerland)
- Financing (Sweden)
- Infrastructure (Saudi Arabia)
- Access to information and knowledge (Kenya)
- Capacity-building (Costa Rica)
- ICT applications (Egypt)
A sensitive but crucial issue: freedom of expression in cyberspace

- **Draft Declaration of Principles (26 September 2003)**

9) **Media [development]**

The existence of [independent pluralistic and free] media [in accordance with the legal system of each country and] based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [particularly on Articles 19 and 29] is crucial to any conception of the Information Society. [Individuals and media should have access to available information]/[Freedom of access to and use of information for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge are important principles of the Information Society.] [Pluralism of information and diversity of media ownership should be encouraged]. Traditional media in all its forms will continue to have an important role in the Information Society and ICTs should play a supportive role in this regard. [Formulation of professional and ethical standards in journalism is the responsibility of media professionals.]
A priority but controversial issue: military and civil security in cyberspace

Draft Declaration of Principles (26 September 2003)

5) Building confidence, trust and security in the use of ICTs

Strengthening the trust framework including network and information security, authentication, privacy and consumer protection, is a prerequisite for the development of the Information Society and for building confidence among users of ICTs. A global culture of cyber-security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in co-operation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies. These efforts should be supported by increased international co-operation. Within this global culture of cyber security, it is important to enhance security and to ensure the protection of data and privacy, [as well as to avoid the creation of barriers to access and trade]. In addition, it must take into account the level of social and economic development of each country and respect the development-oriented aspects of the Information Society.
A priority but controversial issue: military and civil security in cyberspace

- **Draft Declaration of Principles (26 September 2003)**

5) **Building confidence, trust and security in the use of ICTs**

While recognizing the principles of universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations, and recalling the relevant resolution of the UNGA, ICTs can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their security [in both civil and military fields]. It is necessary to prevent the use of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes [, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information] [in accordance with the legal system of each country].

Spam and cyber-security should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels.
Objectives of PrepCom-3 bis (Geneva, 10-14 November, 2003)

- to resolve differences between governmental delegations, that is to eliminate brackets;
- if possible, to shorten the draft Declaration of Principles;
- to polish up the text and make it worth reading;
- to reach a consensus on ways and means of funding the Plan of Action
The Geneva World Summit Programme (8 – 13 December 2003)

- Political Summit: high level meetings reserved to Heads of State and other VIPs
- 4 Round Tables with participation of Heads of State and other top level representatives from private sector and civil society
- ICT-4D Platform: more than 150 WSIS events (conferences, seminars, round tables, workshops, etc.) organized in parallel by NGOs, corporations, IGOs, etc. + exhibition showcasing the development dimension of ICTs (best practices, innovations, experiences, etc.)
- World Electronic Media Forum organized by UN/DPI and EBU
- InfoDev Symposium (World Bank + SECO)
- Launching of a community platform wsis.on-line.net etc.