



Provisional
Facilitator For
Action Lines
C1 & C7eGov

**WSIS Implementation
Consultation Meeting on Action Line C1**

**“The role of public governance authorities and
all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development”**

Open to all WSIS Stakeholders

**Tuesday, 16 May 2006, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Conference Room XXIII, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland**

SUMMARY REPORT
(revised 13 July 2006)

1. The first Consultation Meeting on the Implementation of Action Line C1 took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 May 2006 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The objective of the Meeting was to exchange information and discuss possible cooperation modalities among stakeholders for the implementation of the specific Action Line.
2. The Meeting was open to all stakeholders—the entities committed to and involved in the promotion of ICT for development—and was attended by 43 participants, including: 15 representatives from Member States, 19 representatives from UN agencies and regional and international organizations, 7 from civil society and academia, and 2 from the private sector¹. The Meeting took place on the occasion of the Cluster of WSIS-related Events around the World information Society Day.
3. The Meeting was convened by UNDESA, opened by Mr. Patrizio Civili, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of UNDESA, and chaired by Ms. Haiyan Qian, Chief of the Knowledge Management Branch of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of UNDESA. Mr. Nikhil Chandavarkar, Chief of the Communications and Information Management Service of UNDESA assisted in the facilitation of the meeting.
4. Mr. Civili opened the Meeting by recalling the objectives of this first consultation: to bring about a first exchange of views on the implementation modalities of action Line C1 of the WSIS Plan of Action. He then noted that UNDESA had been designated interim moderator/facilitator for Action Lines C1, C7egov and C11, and reminded participants the principles that the collaboration among stakeholders is supposed to follow. Finally, he presented the Action Line C1 and highlighted the main challenges related to its implementation. As the presentation of Mr. Charles Geiger, Executive Director of WSIS could not take place as scheduled, Mr. Civili made reference in his speech to aspects of the WSIS outcome documents relevant to the meeting.
5. Following the opening session, the Chairperson, Ms. Haiyan Qian, asked participants to introduce themselves and the work of their respective entities; then she opened the floor for participating stakeholders to discuss possible cooperation modalities.

¹ A complete list of participants is to be found in Annex I

6. At the stocktaking session the representatives of a number of participating entities presented their respective projects, to include:

- a) Pan African Parliament
- b) Development Gateway
- c) Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
- d) Egypt
- e) European Commission
- f) Italy – Chamber of Deputies
- g) Italy – Ministry of Innovation and Technologies
- h) ITU – WSIS Secretariat
- i) Microsoft
- j) Siemens
- k) Spain – Basque Parliament
- l) Sri Lanka
- m) Sweden – Parliament
- n) UNCTAD – Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development
- o) UN/DESA – Communications and Information Management Service
- p) UN/DESA – Division for Public Administration and Development Management
- q) UN/DESA – Rome Office

7. The themes that emerged in the presentations and discussion included:

- a) National e-strategies formulation and implementation
- b) The role of Parliaments in the promotion of ICTs for development; ICTs for inter-parliamentary cooperation
- c) e-democracy readiness self-assessment
- d) Public/Private Partnership (PPP) and Multi-Sector Partnership (MSP)
- e) Foreign Direct Investments and investment promotion in the ICT Sector
- f) e-government at the national and local level
- g) e-security;
- h) e-learning;
- i) e-libraries;
- j) e-health;
- k) Legal and regulatory framework for ICT development; Intellectual property rights
- l) Public sector administration and reform
- m) Economic reform
- n) Telecom privatization, de-regulation, liberalization; infrastructure development
- o) Digital divide

Areas of Discussion and General Consensus

- a) WSIS implementation is a multi-stakeholder process which involves the organisation of activities conducted in the field, through programmes, projects and partnerships. On the

other hand, general follow-up of post-summit activities is the process of review of how implementation is working.

- b) The Action Lines are the result of a process of negotiation rather than analytical classification: they are the expression of the will of Member States. In order to facilitate the process of implementation, stakeholders should exercise a degree of discretion and good judgment in interpreting language, re-organizing the items by theme, establishing linkages among action lines, clustering/bundling up items within and across action lines, creating sub-themes.
- c) Sharing of information—including sharing of best practices—and establishing synergies among stakeholders emerged as the activities that participants considered most important in the consultative process.
- d) Key to success of the group is to establish good communication channels and processes.
- e) A large number of participants who pre-registered to this meeting eventually could not travel to Geneva. In addition, a number of stakeholders have expressed their interest in being kept informed of developments of the work of the C1-Group regarding the Action Line implementation. On-line tools should be used in the consultative process to the largest extent possible. The tools should be interoperable and accessible to all interested stakeholders.
- f) The WSIS Stocktaking database seems to be a good starting point for sharing information on the activities of stakeholders of the C1-Group. However there is a need to coordinate with representatives from ITU in adapting its current database to fit the needs of the individual Action Line implementation, and to make the database fully accessible to the participating stakeholders, not only for entering information on their respective projects and activities, but also for obtaining information from the database in a user-friendly manner.
- g) The WSIS Stocktaking exercise lists projects mainly undertaken by International Organizations. What is lacking in that database is a record of those actions that national governments are conducting in the field, which are not considered as projects, but national programmes.
- h) Sub-grouping Action Line C1 according to themes may be useful and necessary at some point, given the scope and complexity of the themes listed under Action Line. Facilitating thematic sub-groups should be easier than dealing with the whole Action Line themes in one big group.
- i) As a number of stakeholders stated their intention to build partnerships to strengthen the implementation of the specific activities of competence, it was perceived that the Action Line consultation process could indeed facilitate the establishment of synergies among stakeholders.
- j) There are issues regarding Action Line implementation mechanism and modalities of cooperation among stakeholders which are common to all action lines (e.g. linkages among Action Lines, clustering themes, creating sub-themes, stocktaking exercise, etc). These common issues will be subject of discussion at the next Action Line Facilitators Meeting, to be held in the Fall of 2006.
- k) It was pointed out that in fora such as the one of C1 often the academia is not adequately represented.

Specific Proposals

- a) The C1-Group will continue to exchange ideas through the on-line discussion board accessible through the UNPAN website.
- b) The C1-Group will launch an on-line consultation to further discuss the work of Action Line C1, on the themes and the modalities of the Action Line implementation process. The result of this consultation would be reported at the Second Action Line Meeting (time and place to be established).
- c) UNDESA should further explore the feasibility of using the WSIS Stocktaking Database as a tool to map the activities of stakeholders of Action Line C1 to minimize duplications and explore possible partnerships. The WSIS stocktaking tool should be adapted and upgraded to the specific needs of the Action Line Group.
- d) The platform of UNPAN could serve as a clearing house for stakeholders to look at what is being done around the world on specific themes.
- e) It would be useful to stakeholders if the facilitator would promote sharing of examples of Public/Private partnerships and Multi-Sector Partnerships.
- f) Action Line C1 involves many players (stakeholders), at different levels (local, national, regional, international, political, technical, etc) who are not known to each other. Thus one of the first tasks of this Group is to identify each player, cluster players according to sector and level of capacity, and finally devise ways to work together. This can be at best achieved by creating sub-groups under the Action Line.
- g) In Action Line C1 it is better off to cluster the themes which have communalities into 2-3 major sub-themes; then open a discussion group for each sub-theme, and then report the respective outcome to the C1-Group in the next meeting.
- h) A request to establish a C1 Sub-Group was put on the table.
- i) Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can be a way to efficiently implement projects. It is necessary to be aware that partnerships, especially in the ICT sector, need a certain environment to be successful. It was proposed to set up a C1 Sub-Group on Partnerships.
- j) The role of academia in the C1 forum should be reinforced, and partnerships among universities, industry and institutional actors should be encouraged.
- k) The Representative of EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) suggested that the second Action Line Meeting is held back-to-back with the EPFL Conference on "Shaping the Open World of Tomorrow: Identity Management and Security Threats at the local and regional level" that will take place in Lausanne on 14th October 2006.

8. The Chairperson concluded the meeting recognizing that progress was made towards a common understanding of how to best ensure that implementation for Action Line C1 takes place, and that synergies have been established among its stakeholders. She also stated that a draft report of the meeting with other related information would be made available on the Action Line webpage for comments, and that UNDESA would follow-up on the agreed proposals made in the meeting to bring further the consultative activities together with all stakeholders of the Group on Action Line C1 implementation.