

11 July 2006 noon

Non-paper
Presented by the President of ECOSOC

**Elements
for a decision by ECOSOC
on follow-up to WSIS and review of CSTD**

The following elements, derived from the discussion at the formal meeting of ECOSOC on agenda items 6 and 13(b) on 10 July 2006, could form a basis for further discussion:

The Economic and Social Council

... (pps)

- *Taking note* of the establishment, within the UN system Chief Executive Board (CEB), a UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), consisting of the relevant UN bodies and organizations with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes, and requests to be kept informed of progress in its work in the context of the reporting by the Secretary-General;

- *Taking note* of the action taken by the Secretary-General to convene the Internet Governance Forum;

1. *Decides* to carry out its responsibilities for overseeing the system-wide follow-up to WSIS outcomes in the context of its annual consideration of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the coordination segment on the basis of a thematic approach and a multi-year programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/270B, relying upon the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and drawing upon other relevant inputs;

Role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Mandate

2. *Decides* that, in accordance with resolution 57/270B, the Commission shall have the primary responsibility to assist ECOSOC in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS while maintaining its current mandate

on science and technology for development, taking into account the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit;

3. *Decides* that, in the exercise of its responsibility as defined in paragraph 2 above, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall monitor, review and appraise the progress made as well as obstacles and constraints faced in the implementation of the outcome documents of the WSIS and advise the Council thereon, including the elaboration of practical measures aimed at furthering Summit recommendations. To that end, the Commission shall:
 - a. review progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of Action Lines, recommendations and commitments contained in the outcome documents of WSIS;
 - b. identify best practices developed, as well as gaps and obstacles encountered, in the implementation of WSIS outcome and make policy recommendations on actions required to overcome them in full compliance with the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society; and
 - c. promote dialogue and build partnerships for further development of the information society, for the use of ICT for development and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, with the participation of all stakeholders, including, *inter alia*, governments, international organisations, private sector and civil society, including existing multi-stakeholder groups and platforms, in accordance with the established practices in the ECOSOC and in conformity with paragraph 9 below;

Composition

4. *Decides* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall be enlarged to 47 members. The additional members shall be elected, bearing in mind the principle of balanced geographical distribution and in accordance with procedures and timetables to be established by the Council, from among the States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies;

Working methods

5. *Also decides* that the Commission shall meet annually for a period of [5] [7] [10] working days in Geneva;
6. *Decides* that the Commission shall adopt a series of two-year action cycles, which include, in the first year of the cycle, a “Review Session”, the objective of which is to evaluate progress in implementing the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and in the second, a “Policy Session”, the objective of which is to identify best practices developed and gaps and obstacles encountered in the implementation of WSIS outcome, as well as actions and initiatives required to overcome them;

7. *Decides* that its future sessions will increasingly be conducted as interactive dialogue, and with broad-based participation of governmental delegations and of civil society, academic and scientific community, private sector, organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations;
8. *Decides* that the Commission will continue to explore innovative use of electronic media, drawing upon existing online databases on best practices, partnership projects and initiatives, as well as other collaborative electronic platforms, which would allow all stakeholders to contribute to follow-up efforts, share information, learning from the experience of others and explore opportunities for partnerships.

Multi-stakeholder approach

9. *Decides* that, subject to their approval by the Council, non-governmental organizations, private sector groups and civil society groups that have been accredited to WSIS can participate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, in the next two sessions of the Commission, this being on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of procedure of the United Nations. This provision is based on the understanding that in the meantime, said organizations and groups apply for consultative status to ECOSOC in accordance with existing rules and procedures;

Secretariat support

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure effective and upgraded substantive secretariat support to the Commission to enable it to perform its expanded role while ensuring, in this regard, close collaboration with other relevant United Nations organizations;

Reporting

11. *Requests* the Commission to submit to the Council, within its annual report, information on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes at the regional and international level;
12. *Decides* to keep the General Assembly advised, through its annual report of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to WSIS outcomes, taking into account the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.