

Post Tunis mechanisms allowing for NGO inputs

Financing mechanism
Private initiative; Outside of the WSIS process

Digital Solidarity Fund - DSF

Inaugurated in Geneva on 14 March 2005, outside of the WSIS process, as a private foundation under Swiss law.

WSIS did not set up the DSF but just welcomed it as "an innovative financial mechanism" (§ 28, Tunis Agenda).

Initiated in the aftermath of the Geneva Summit on an initiative by the City of Geneva and the President of Senegal, it allows the voluntary commitment of public authorities, including local authorities, and private entities for with the view to transform the digital divide into digital opportunities.

Partnerships with civil society entities.

www.dsf-fsn.org

GENEVA SUMMIT
10-12 December 2003
TUNIS SUMMIT
16-18 November 2005

Implementation at the international level

Systemwide follow-up to WSIS

Multistakeholder policy dialogue on Internet Governance

UN Group for the Information Society (UNGIS)

UNGIS is a formal interagency coordination process (§ 103). Not open to other stakeholders.

www.ungis.org

Multi-stakeholder Implementation process

WSIS provided that multi-stakeholder **implementation at the international level** is moderated/facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate, taking into account themes and action lines of the Geneva Plan of Action (§ 108 to 110).

Consultation process:

- 24 February 2006: Consultation of Action Line Facilitators.

Action line facilitation meetings, 2006:

- 9 March: C2 - Infrastructure
- May 2006: Cluster of ALF meetings - Geneva (C1; C7a; C7 - b-e; C2; C4 - C6; C5; C8; C11)
- 16-22 October: Cluster of ALF meetings, facilitated/moderated by UNESCO - Paris (C3; C7-c; C7-h; C9; C10)

A new cluster of Action Line meetings took place on 14-25 May 2007.

www.itu.int/ws/implementation

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

WSIS requested ECOSOC to review the CSTD to oversee the **follow-up to WSIS** in a multi-stakeholder approach (§ 105).

Consultation process:

- 13 February 2006: ECOSOC consultation on strengthening the CSTD.
- 16 May 2006: 2nd ECOSOC consultation on the future role of the CSTD
- 18 May 2006: CSTD informal panel on the future role of the CSTD

Reform process:

- 15-19 May 2006: IXth session of the CTSD (Geneva).
- 27 July 2006: ECOSOC resolution 2006/46 on the review of CSTD mandate and composition.

Xth session of the CSTD: 21-25 May 2007

stdev.unctad.org

Internet Governance Forum IGF

WSIS invited the UN Secretary General to convene the IGF for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and clarified its mandate, structure and functions (§ 67 and 72 to 79, Tunis Agenda)

- 16-17 February 2006: Open consultations in Geneva.
- 31 March 2006: Conclusion of on-line consultations on issues to be discussed.
- 18 April 2006: Deadline for submissions for Multi-Stakeholder advisory Group membership.
- 22-23 May 2006: IGF Advisory Group meeting

30 Oct. - 2 Nov. 2006: Inaugural IGF meeting (Athens, Greece)

- 12-13 Feb. 2007: IGF stock taking meeting
- 3 September 2007: IGF consultation

12-15 Nov. 2007: 2nd IGF meeting (Rio, Brazil)

2008: 3rd IGF meeting (India)
2009: 4th IGF (Cairo, Egypt)

www.intgovforum.org
www.igfbrazil2007.br

UN multi-stakeholder initiative
Outside of the WSIS process

UN ICT Task Force

Established at the request of ECOSOC in March 2001, the ICTTF aimed at supporting at the global level the efforts to bridge the digital divide and ICT for development.

Terminated in Tunis in Nov. 2005

www.unicttf.org

Global Alliance for ICT and Development

This initiative was intended to replace the UN ICT TF at the end of its mandate. It provides a multi-stakeholder global forum and platform for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and advocacy and by catalyzing multi-stakeholder action oriented partnerships encouraged under the GAID umbrella.

19-20 June 2006: Inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).

22-24 September 2007: First GAID Global Forum on Youth and ICT (Geneva, Switzerland).

www.un-gaid.org

Flow of Information

Implementation of and follow-up to WSIS: multiple spaces for building the information society

Taking place in two phases, the World Summit on the Information Society resulted in four outcome documents: the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of action were adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society were agreed in 2005. The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society reaffirmed strong engagements for the strengthening of the information society and a number of targets and policies. It also provided extensive guidance for the institutional architecture to be set up to carry out the implementation of all these objectives and the follow up-to this process until 2015.

It is quite noticeable for a UN World Summit that heads of States decided in Tunis that the implementation process at the international level and the follow-up activities would be accomplished separately¹. Beyond implementation and follow up structures, other information society-related mechanisms were set up by the Tunis Agenda (IGF), but also in addition to it (GAID).

Implementation of the WSIS outcomes

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society set up a very decentralised implementation effort, based on the national, regional and international levels.

At the national level, governments, with the participation of all stakeholders, are encouraged to set up national implementation mechanism.

At the regional level, regional inter-governmental organisations and UN Regional Commissions can hold regional implementation activities with other stakeholder approach upon request of governments.

At the international level, the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society provided that a multi-stakeholder implementation process should be organised taking into account the themes and WSIS action lines as defined in Geneva in 2003. UN agencies are requested to moderate or facilitate this multi-stakeholder process in accordance with their particular fields of activity, through an informal process. The WSIS outcome also requested that the implementation should not require the creation of any new operational body.

In practice, the first steps of the international implementation process focused on confirming one *Focal Point* within the UN system for each action line, defining working modalities and priorities. In 2006 and 2007, most of these thematic *Action Line Facilitation meetings* were organised for one day in May, prior or parallel to the yearly session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). Between the yearly gatherings of stakeholders, some action line facilitators have also developed on line working modalities and information sharing tools.

As a multi-stakeholder process, the implementation by action line is open to all actors engaged in achieving the WSIS goals. All interested civil society entities, not only those accredited to WSIS, are allowed to participate in *Action Line Facilitators'* meetings. Focal points have so far been identified as follows² :

C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development	UN DESA
C2. Information and communication infrastructure	ITU
C3. Access to information and knowledge	UNESCO
C4. Capacity building	UNDP
C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	ITU
C6. Enabling environment	UNDP
C7. ICT Applications	
E-government	UN DESA
E-business	UNCTAD
E-learning	UNESCO
E-health	WHO
E-employment	ILO
E-environment (not yet confirmed)	WMO
E-agriculture	FAO
E-science	UNESCO
C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	UNESCO
C9. Media	UNESCO
C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	UNESCO
C11. International and regional cooperation	UN DESA

Meetings of Action Line Moderators/Facilitators was convened in February 2006 and May 2007 by ITU, UNESCO and UNDP. It refined the facilitators' general terms of reference and constituted a space for exchange of experience in performing this role.

In addition, all UN agencies are requested by the Tunis Agenda to implement the WSIS outcomes within their mandate and competence. A formal interagency coordination mechanism was established and launched in July 2006 through the UN Group on the Information Society³. Its role is to avoid duplication, develop synergies and enhance effectiveness of the system. It meets once a year and adopts a yearly work plan.

Follow up to the WSIS outcomes by ECOSOC

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was requested to oversee the WSIS system wide follow up and to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)⁴. In July 2006, ECOSOC adopted Resolution 2006/46⁵, deciding that the CSTD will assist ECOSOC as the *focal point in the system-wide follow-up to WSIS*. Besides its existing mandate, the CSTD was given the new mandate to review and assess progress made in WSIS implementation and advise the Council on recommendations thereon. It also provides more flexible participation modalities for civil society, including WSIS accredited entities, and the private sector.

The CSTD meets once a year in May for 5 working days. It also holds an annual inter-session panel in November-December. It directly reports to ECOSOC.

Which articulation between implementation and follow-up?

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as well as ECOSOC Resolution 2006/46, did not establish any clear relationship between implementation and follow-up. Even though the CSTD was mandated

to review and assess implementation processes and to make recommendations thereon, no mechanism had been determined in order to provide it with relevant information on the implementation process.

To overcome this missing articulation, the CSTD adopted at its 10th session in May 2007 a resolution⁶ asking all Action Line Facilitators and other actors in charge of implementation at the international level to inform the Secretariat about the progress in WSIS implementation. This information would serve as the basis of the annual Secretary-General's report on the WSIS follow-up.

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Created by the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue to discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance and to facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet. Convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations, it meets annually for at least five meetings. In convening and organising the annual IGF, the UN Secretary General is assisted by a 47-member multi-stakeholder Advisory Group. The inaugural IGF meeting gathered 1.200 participants from all stakeholder groups in Athens, Greece, between 30 October and 2 November 2006.

Global Alliance for ICTs and Development (GAID)

Even though GAID has not been established as an outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society, but by the UN Secretary-General in April 2006, its activities will interact with the post-WSIS implementation and follow up process.

GAID is both a platform for cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, and an initiative to catalyse multi-stakeholder action-oriented partnerships to harness the potential of ICT in achieving the MDGs. GAID performs its activities through a decentralised structure, including through regional networks, stakeholder networks and Communities of Expertise. GAID is conceived as an open multi-stakeholder forum with open ended membership. GAID is governed by a Steering Committee and a Strategy Council and serviced by a small secretariat located at DESA in New York.

As part of its activities, GAID will also feed into the work of the CSTD and ECOSOC, providing one of the multi-stakeholder inputs in the WSIS follow up.

* * *

The Tunis outcome documents, agreed at the conclusion of the two WSIS phases, provided a very complex implementation and follow up structure. All institutional actors have been recognised a role in their field of competence as the result of this negotiated compromise. Some recent developments have tended to strengthen the overall coherence between the various mechanisms. But this structure in which post-WSIS tasks were spread out among a rather high number of UN actors still makes inputs from various stakeholders much more difficult on the long term.

¹ Other UN Summits generally provided a single international body with the task to support the implementation and perform the follow up to the Summit's decisions (see follow up to the UN Earth Summit or to the Beijing Platform for Action).

² More information at <http://www.itu.int/wsisis/implementation/facilitators.html>

³ More information at www.ungis.org.

⁴ See www.unctad.org/cstd.

⁵ See <http://stdev.unctad.org/docs/e2006-46.pdf>.

⁶ See CSTD-10 Report, p.1: http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ecn162007d4_en.pdf.