

# WSIS Golden Book

International Telecommunication Union

# WSIS Golden Book

February 2006



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## Foreword

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held in two phases: firstly, in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003, followed by Tunis from 16-18 November 2005. The Summit of solutions provided a vision of a future Information Society, in which ICTs are used everywhere, by everyone, as well as setting out the challenge to realise this vision, by turning principles into actions. It is in accepting this challenge, and in working to translate the commitments made in Tunis into reality, that our work continues beyond WSIS.



In Tunis, governments affirmed their dedication to establishing the foundations for the Information Society, in the **Tunis Commitment** and the **Tunis Agenda for the Information Society**. Through the unique multi-stakeholder approach adopted at WSIS, new responsibilities were given to all stakeholders – governments, business entities, civil society and international organisations – for implementing the **WSIS Plan of Action**, adopted in Geneva.

This **Golden Book** records and acknowledges the commitments made during the Tunis Phase of the Summit. It recognises the valuable work being done, in projects large or small, planned or already underway, through team efforts and by inspired leadership, for the benefit of all. Paragraph 120 of the **Tunis Agenda** calls upon all stakeholders to continue to contribute information on their activities on WSIS implementation to the database that will be maintained by ITU.

Our task now is to fulfil these commitments, by building on the extraordinary goodwill and pledges made in Tunis. It is my hope that this **Golden Book** will help to promote new commitments to complement those already undertaken.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yoshio Utsumi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yoshio UTSUMI

Secretary-General of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)  
Secretary-General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



## I. Introduction to the Golden Book

The **Golden Book** records and acknowledges the valuable work being undertaken by many different stakeholders, now and into the future, to implement the goals of WSIS and build the future Information Society. It affirms and recognises the pledges made at Tunis and tracks progress in implementation, as envisaged in the WSIS outcome documents (the **Geneva Declaration of Principles, Geneva Plan of Action, Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society**<sup>1</sup>). In this way, the **Golden Book** complements the WSIS outcome documents, by providing tangible proof of stakeholders' dedication and commitments to implementing the WSIS goals.

The **Golden Book** is the outcome of a long and exceptional process, a process that started in 1998 with the proposal for a UN Summit on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The WSIS was exceptional in its pioneering attempt to envision the shape and form of the future Information Society. It was bold in its efforts to broach such a complex and far-reaching topic, a topic that continued to evolve during the course of the Summit, as the negotiations on Internet Governance bear witness. It was unique in the decision to hold the Summit in two Phases: the first in Geneva, with a second and concluding Phase in Tunis. The **Golden Book** is a key outcome among the many reports generated during the WSIS process, as a charter of commitments announced by stakeholders during the Tunis Phase of WSIS.

And yet, in some ways, the **Golden Book** is a new beginning. It represents the beginning of the implementation of WSIS goals and targets, as stakeholders move to fulfil the pledges made during the preparations for the Tunis Phase and to substantiate their promises. It should help quantify the resources, financial and human, that have been dedicated to WSIS implementation as a result of the Tunis Phase. As an early evaluation, ITU estimates that at least 3.2 billion Euros was pledged at Tunis. It underlines that, although the World Summit concluded on 18 November 2005, the work of the WSIS process continues in a host of new initiatives and projects that aim to connect unconnected communities and bring telecommunications into the everyday lives of many more people.

<sup>1</sup> The four outcome documents of the WSIS are available on the WSIS website at: [www.itu.int/wsis/outcome](http://www.itu.int/wsis/outcome).

## II. The WSIS Process

The WSIS process began in 1998 with the proposal of the Tunisian delegation to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis to hold a UN Summit on the benefits and challenges of ICTs. Following consultations with what is now the Chief Executives Board for coordination (CEB), the ITU Secretary-General reported to the ITU Council at its 1999 session that the CEB had reacted positively and that other organisations and agencies had expressed interest in being associated with the Summit.

In 2001, the ITU Council decided to hold the WSIS in two phases, with a first Phase in Geneva, Switzerland, and a second Phase in Tunis, Tunisia. By **UN Resolution 56/183**, the 56th General Assembly established the framework for the Summit, to be held under the high patronage of the UN Secretary-General, with ITU taking the lead managerial role. An inter-governmental Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was appointed to determine the agenda of the Summit, decide the modalities of participation of other stakeholders and draft documentation. In an innovative move, the General Assembly encouraged UN bodies and inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society and the private sector to actively participate in the Summit and contribute to preparations.

The Geneva Phase of WSIS was held on 10-12 December 2003. Nearly fifty Heads of State and Government, 82 Ministers and 26 Vice-Ministers, and 11'000 participants from 175 countries attended, as well as high-level representatives from international organisations, the private sector and civil society. It set out a clear vision of the future development of the Information Society in the **Geneva Declaration of Principles** and **Geneva Plan of Action**. However, the Geneva Phase concluded with some issues only partly resolved, including plans for the implementation of the **Plan of Action** and financing of ICTs for development, as well as Internet Governance.

**“In the Tunis phase of the Summit, we will be closing one chapter on the development of a common vision of the Information Society, and we will be opening a new and much bigger chapter, on the implementation of that vision”**

Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of the WSIS, at the opening ceremony of the Tunis Phase of WSIS, 16 November 2005



The Tunis Phase was held on 16-18 November 2005 to address these issues. Nearly fifty Heads of State and Government, 197 Ministers and Vice-Ministers, and 19'000 participants from 174 countries attended, as well as representatives from international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society and the private sector. Governments reaffirmed their dedication to the goals of WSIS in the **Tunis Commitment**. The **Tunis Agenda for the Information Society** set out a clear basis for implementation among stakeholders (governments, business entities, civil society and international organisations). A UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) will be created for inter-governmental implementation. For the multi-stakeholder implementation that is a foundation stone of the Summit, the Annex to the **Tunis Agenda** attributes responsibility for facilitating implementation in each of the eleven WSIS Action Lines to the UN bodies and specialised agencies

The work undertaken in Geneva and Tunis created a shared understanding of the principles for the development of the Information Society and the steps needed to implement them. The WSIS can be seen as an agenda-setting process that has established a common vision of the Information Society, and the tasks that need to be undertaken by stakeholders, over the next decade.



### III. The Evolving Information Society

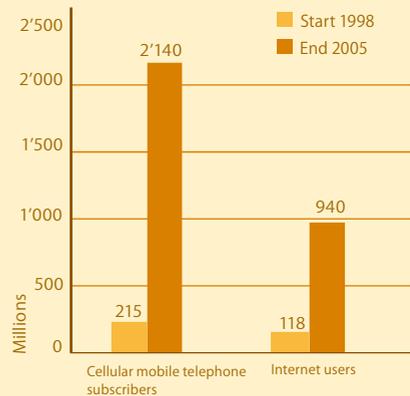
During the seven years since the initial proposal for the WSIS at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference of Minneapolis in 1998, and the conclusion of the Tunis Phase in November 2005, the ICT industry has transformed almost beyond recognition (see Figure 1). Since that time:

- The number of mobile phone users has increased tenfold from 215 million mobile phone users at the start of 1998 to an estimated 2.15 billion by the end of 2005.
- The number of Internet users has increased from just over 100 million Internet users when the Summit was conceived to close to one billion by the time the Summit was concluded.
- There has been significant progress in connecting communities and villages, although ITU estimates that, at the time of the Summit, around 800'000 villages—or 30 per cent of all villages worldwide—remained without any kind of connection.

The Information Society is not static, and will continue to evolve, long after the WSIS will recede into memory. The digital divide, long-framed and debated in terms of basic connectivity, is changing and assuming new dimensions, including digital exclusion by language, by gender, and even by high-speed access. Technological progress and the introduction of ubiquitous networks mean that the digital divide will continue to evolve. It is to bridge the digital divide and connect unconnected communities that ITU has launched initiatives such as the **Connect the World** programme, which aims to bring access to ICTs to the estimated one billion people worldwide for whom making a telephone call is still out of reach.

The WSIS has made provision for a review of its outcomes in 2015, the year designated for achievement of WSIS targets in connecting all villages, hospitals and schools with ICTs. This is also the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in fields such as poverty reduction, hunger alleviation and infant mortality, among others. By adopting common targets integrated with the broader goals of humanity, the efforts of stakeholders can be coordinated and combined, avoiding duplication. The WSIS also agreed a common methodology for evaluating progress towards bridging the digital divide, with a core set of common ICT indicators and the use of a new composite index for benchmarking and evaluation.

**Figure 1. Growth of the key enablers of the Information Society during the WSIS process, 1998-2005**



Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators Database



## IV. Origins of the Golden Book and its achievements

During the first Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-1) of the Tunis Phase, held in Hammamet on 24-26 June 2004, one of the three areas of focus of the Tunis Phase was designated as the “follow-up and implementation of the **Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action** by stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, with particular attention to the challenges facing the Least Developed Countries”<sup>2</sup>.

A Stocktaking of WSIS-related issues was launched in October 2004 with the dual purpose of providing an inventory of activities being implemented by governments and other stakeholders in response to the Geneva and Tunis decisions, and of tracking the progress made in building the Information Society.

The **Report on the WSIS Stocktaking** gives a brief summary of the many projects and initiatives being implemented at the local, national and international levels around the world, with a special focus on multi-stakeholder partnerships as an important means of mainstreaming ICTs in all aspects of life. The **Report on the WSIS Stocktaking**<sup>3</sup> was officially launched on 16 November 2005 during the Tunis Phase and was well-received by the Summit, which noted it with appreciation<sup>4</sup>. The Tunis outcome documents call for greater exchange of information, and in particular for contributions concerning important new initiatives in WSIS implementation.

PrepCom-2 of the Tunis Phase, held in Geneva in February 2005, mandated the Inter-governmental Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to consider the proposal by Switzerland to present a summary report of “stakeholder commitments” to the Summit. The Bureau accepted the Swiss proposal in August 2005. At the proposal of the President of the PrepCom of the Tunis Phase, the Latvian Ambassador Janis Karklins, the initiative to detail stakeholder commitments announced or planned during Tunis was entitled the **Golden Book**.

The **Golden Book** project was formally launched in October 2005. It complements the WSIS Stocktaking exercise, but focuses specifically on new projects conceived or undertaken during the Tunis Phase and new financial commitments for activities related to WSIS implementation. The intention is to mobilise and promote commitments, and raise awareness of them and their profile in the media. All stakeholders were invited to share information on their new WSIS-related projects and initiatives and to make public their commitments, planned or underway, with details of deadlines, financial engagements and the activities undertaken through the **Golden Book** website and database. The deadline for contributions expired on 20 January 2006; however, late entries were still accepted until 31 January 2006, when the **Golden Book** database was frozen.

By 31 January 2006, the **Golden Book** had registered more than 375 entries. One-third of the entries came from international organisations, a further third from governments and the remaining commitments originated with civil society, business and other entities. A special aim of the **Golden Book** initiative, given the ambitious, but achievable, goal of bridging the digital divide, was to measure the value of financial commitments undertaken by stakeholders. They were requested to indicate the value of their new initiatives to allow an approximate estimation of their overall value.

<sup>2</sup> see document WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/5.

<sup>3</sup> available at [www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc\\_multi.asp?lang=en&id=2167|0](http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=2167|0)

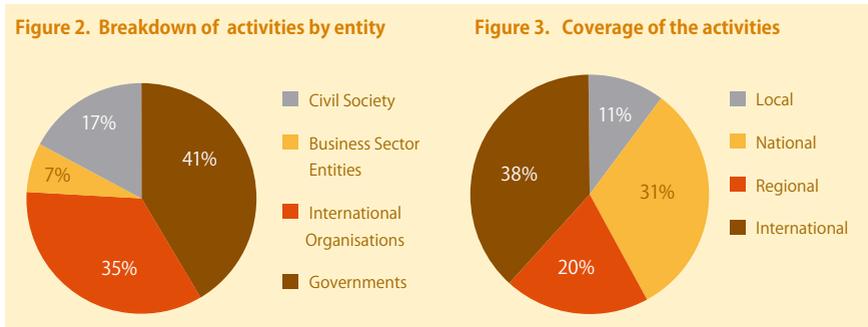
<sup>4</sup> see para 120 of the **Tunis Agenda for the Information Society** at [www.itu.int/wsis/outcome](http://www.itu.int/wsis/outcome)

The **Golden Book**<sup>5</sup> stands as a charter of the commitments made at Tunis. However, the Stocktaking webpage and database<sup>6</sup> are ongoing and will be maintained by ITU and further developed as a dynamic, ongoing, free and user-friendly resource open to all WSIS stakeholders, as well as to a wider audience. The **WSIS Stocktaking** gives the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences through access to thematic pool resources. The facility also encourages multi-stakeholder partnerships by offering networking information and contact details of potential partners. The ITU has actively analysed both the **WSIS Stocktaking** and the **Golden Book** databases in order to promote significant ongoing and forward-looking activities that encourage implementation of WSIS goals.

As we move to implementation, this **Golden Book** should bring fresh impetus to the WSIS process beyond Tunis. It highlights the new ideas and valuable work being undertaken to promote ICTs throughout the world, and should act as a source of inspiration for governments and policy-makers everywhere. It should also serve as a key reference for all organisations seeking to begin activities in new areas or other countries, enabling them to establish contact with potential partners. Above all, it should act as an honourable pledge of the activities and commitments of stakeholders everywhere, announced during the Tunis Phase. It is hoped that the **Golden Book** will remain an enduring legacy of WSIS, and will serve as a milestone for tracking progress towards building the future Information Society.

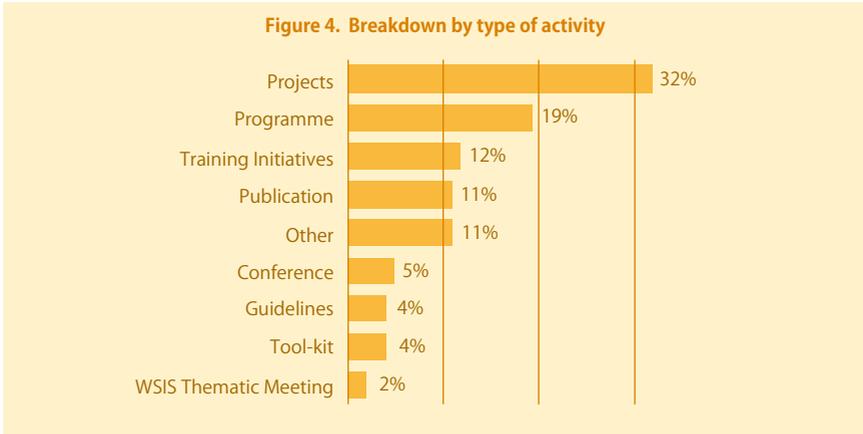
The total number of commitments and new initiatives submitted to the **Golden Book** database by 31 January 2006 was 378, of which 41 per cent came from governments, and a further 34 per cent from international organisations. The remaining entries were submitted by civil society (17 per cent) and the business sector (7 per cent) (see Figure 2). Commitments were submitted by WSIS stakeholders from 65 countries and 40 international organisations.

Figure 3 shows that nearly 40 per cent of the activities submitted were international. Nearly a third of projects were national in character. The remaining third were implemented at the regional (20 per cent) and the local (11 per cent) levels.



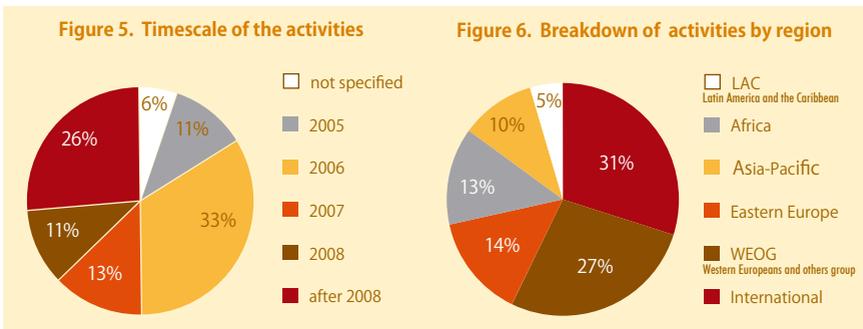
<sup>5</sup> [www.itu.int/wsis/goldenbook](http://www.itu.int/wsis/goldenbook)  
<sup>6</sup> [www.itu.int/wsis/stocktaking](http://www.itu.int/wsis/stocktaking)

**Figure 4** summarises the breakdown of type of commitments and new initiatives. Around 30 per cent of announced commitments were described as projects. One fifth of initiatives were defined as programmes. Around 23 per cent of the entries were indicated as training and publications. Five per cent of initiatives were defined as conferences, and 6 per cent as tool-kits and guidelines.



More than 83 per cent of registered projects extend beyond 2005. Most new initiatives are planned for the year 2006 or before 2008. A third of entries indicated that initiatives should be completed in 2006 and 26 per cent of all commitments extend after 2008. The remaining 13 per cent and 11 per cent of entries will be completed in 2007 and 2008 respectively (see **Figure 5**).

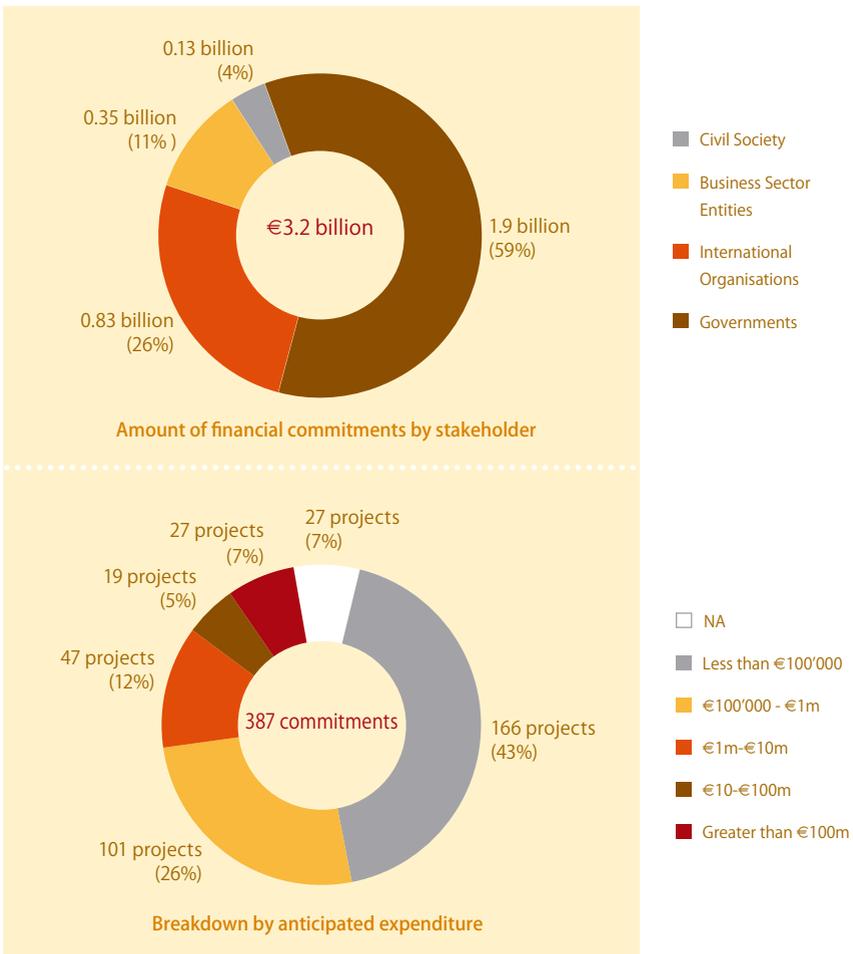
The largest number of commitments was announced by international stakeholders, the source of nearly one third of registered new initiatives. More than 27 per cent of commitments were submitted from Western Europe. The share of registered announcements from Eastern Europe and Africa was similar, at more than 13 per cent. The remaining commitments were submitted by entities from Asia-Pacific and Latin American Countries (see **Figure 6**).



More than 93 per cent of registered entries had some financial nature. WSIS stakeholders have committed to spend at least 3.2 billion Euros over the coming years. Nearly 60 per cent of financial measures were committed by governments. More than 25 per cent comes from international organisations. The remaining resources came from business sector stakeholders and civil society (see Figure 7).

More than 43 per cent of commitments fell under the category of small financial commitments, below 100'000 Euros. More than two thirds of these came from international organisations (44 per cent) and governments (33 per cent). The remaining third derived from civil society (20 per cent) and business (4 per cent).

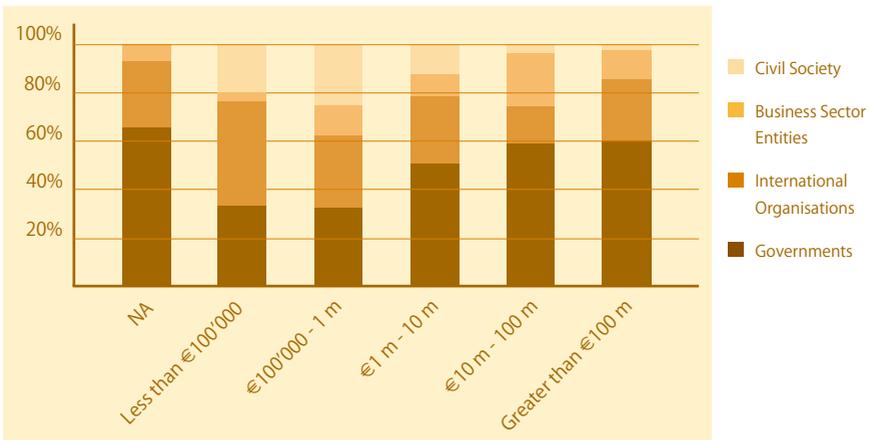
**Figure 7. Financial Resources Committed to Promote ICTs during the Tunis Phase of WSIS**



Around 24 per cent of financial commitments fell within the second category of 100'000 to 1 million Euros. Also in this category, two thirds of commitments came from international organisations (33 per cent) and governments (32 per cent). The remaining third derived from civil society (26 per cent) and business (9 per cent).

Around 8 per cent of all new initiatives fell within the category of the greatest commitments, greater than 100 million Euros. These initiatives were mostly announced by governments (60 per cent) and international organisations (27 per cent).

**Figure 8. Scale of financial commitments by different stakeholders**



**Note on methodology**

This report presents a rough estimation of the overall value of financial commitments, representing an approximate value of financial resources committed by WSIS stakeholders for the implementation of new initiatives over the coming years. In the calculation of the overall value of financial commitments by each category, the lower threshold value was multiplied by the number of registered announcements. In the category "less than 100'000 Euros", it has been assumed that 50'000 Euros reflects a representative value of new initiatives announced.

## V. Implementation by WSIS Action Line

This section provides a representative sample of the projects that have been submitted to the **Golden Book**, listed according to the WSIS action lines.

### 1. Role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development (C1)

The **Tunis Commitment** reaffirms the important roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in developing the Information Society. This section outlines some of the government and multi-stakeholder actions that were pledged publicly at Tunis.

**“The Internet is... a unique and grand collaboration. If its benefits are to spread around the world, we must promote the same cooperative spirit among governments, the private sector, civil society and international organisations”**

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the opening ceremony of the Tunis Phase of WSIS, 16 November 2005

In **Japan**, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications ([www.soumu.go.jp](http://www.soumu.go.jp)) launched the “Asia Broadband Programme” ([www.dosite.jp/e/ja/aisa/index\\_asia.html](http://www.dosite.jp/e/ja/aisa/index_asia.html)) to make Asia a global information hub through the deployment of broadband platforms. Japan is developing measures to bridge the digital divide and bring the benefits of ICT to all people in Asia to further Asia’s social, economic and cultural development.

In **Tanzania**, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development ([www.moct.go.tz](http://www.moct.go.tz)) is seeking to develop the national broadband infrastructure connected to the EASSy project to cater for services in Tanzania, with a focus on improving governance, health and communications, especially in rural areas, in line with commitments towards universal service and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In **Turkey**, the Ministry of Education ([www.meb.gov.tr](http://www.meb.gov.tr)) launched a “Support Campaign for Computers in Education” ([www.bilgisayarliegitedestek.org](http://www.bilgisayarliegitedestek.org)) in June 2005, with the support of the private sector. To promote the campaign, VAT and corporate tax exemptions are available until 2010. By February 2006, 70’000 computers and 3’200 IT classrooms had been donated, with community and civil society support. 240’000 computers are now used in schools for 17 million students. The campaign is encouraged to add 300’000 computers over the short-term, with one million as the long-term target.

The **infoDev Forum** ([www.infodev.org](http://www.infodev.org)) announced its work programme and new annual conference to be held in Washington DC in June 2006, “Linking Knowledge and Action

in ICT for Development". This event will unite policy-makers, donors, private sector innovators, NGOs and highlight the initiatives that partners (including UNESCO, COL, ITU and governments) can undertake to address challenges in harnessing ICT for development goals.

**Nokia** ([www.nokia.com](http://www.nokia.com)) and **Grameen Foundation USA** launched a collaborative rural village phone project to bring affordable telecom services to rural villages in Rwanda and Uganda using mobile phones. With the help of microfinance, villagers can become "village phone operators" and earn their own income through new business opportunities. Nokia and GFUSA will also study the impact of micro credit and mobile telephony on development ([http://press.nokia.com/PR/200511/1021392\\_5.html](http://press.nokia.com/PR/200511/1021392_5.html)).

The **OCCAM** ([www.occam.org](http://www.occam.org)) "ICT Village project" aims to develop a replicable model for the diffusion of broadband in disadvantaged communities by 2006. Telemedicine, e-learning and e-governance will be provided through broadband to help reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. This project is coordinated by OCCAM under the National Solidarity Fund of the Government of Tunisia and the Advisory Board, with representatives from international organisations including ITU, FAO, ESA, UNDP, UNDESA, UNESCO, the World Bank and IFRC.

The **UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia** ([www.escwa.org.lb/](http://www.escwa.org.lb/)) is designing "Guidelines for ICT policy". These Guidelines will focus on ICT policies and strategies at the national, sectoral and institutional levels, as well as their effective implementation. They will provide member countries with the means to implement ICT policies, a framework for harnessing ICTs and key applications, as well as pave the way for partnerships between ICT policy-makers and planning authorities to develop plans of action in harmony with a regional plan.

### Box 1: The Role of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in telecoms in Africa

**UNESCO** is working with intergovernmental agencies (e.g. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), bilateral development agencies, the private sector and various NGOs on Community Multimedia Centres ([www.unesco.org/webworld/cmc](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/cmc)) to help communities in Mali, Mozambique and Senegal.

A CMC combines both community radio by local people in local languages with telecentre facilities with global reach (Internet, e-mail, phone, fax and photocopying services). By integrating the two, CMCs combine local and global content and offer new possibilities for empowering the community. CMCs should be defined, designed and delivered mainly by national stakeholders in order to respond to the needs of the community.

It is hoped that the combination of a grass-roots public platform with access to information highways will promote the public debate and public accountability that are essential for strengthening democracy and good governance.

**Telecentre.org** ([www.telecentre.org](http://www.telecentre.org)) seeks to connect telecentres, networks, innovators, social investors and other stakeholders who believe that ICTs can be used to strengthen individuals and communities. Canada's International Development Research Centre, Microsoft and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation have supported telecentres in Africa, Asia and South America through networks giving telecentre managers the raw materials, training, support, marketing, and technology they need.

## 2. Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the Information Society (C2)

The **Tunis Agenda** recognises the importance of investment in ICT infrastructure and services as a key means of bridging the digital divide and building an inclusive Information Society. Examples of initiatives to promote infrastructure include:

In **Columbia**, in the framework of the Compartel programme, the Ministry of Communications announced plans to extend the project “Broadband Access for the Public Institutions”. The second phase will provide connectivity to Internet to 4’357 public institutions during the next 5 years.

In **Lithuania**, the Ministry of Transport and Communications ([www.transp.lt](http://www.transp.lt)) launched a “Strategy for Broadband Infrastructure Development 2005-2010” to: allow wider access to broadband networks; develop the provision of electronic services; promote competition in broadband; promote social and economic development; and reduce the digital divide. It focuses on promoting access in rural areas from 98 per cent of Lithuania by 2010.

In **Myanmar**, the Ministry of Communications, Post and Telegraphs (MPT) ([www.mpt.net.mm](http://www.mpt.net.mm)) has launched a Broadband Satellite Gateway. The IPSTAR Broadband Satellite System (Thailand) can be used for corporate meetings, technical support functions, distance learning, telemedicine, job recruitment interviews, direct sales, legal work telecommuting, and manufacturing IP-based networks.

### Box 2: Connecting Villages and Remote Communities

In **China**, the Ministry of Information Industry ([www.mii.gov.cn](http://www.mii.gov.cn)) has been working on the “Cun Cun Tong” or “Village Connected” Project since January 2004 to promote universal service in rural areas. This project aims to establish telephone service to 70’000 villages without service. By end 2005, more than 50’000 villages had been connected, with the remaining 20’000 villages to be connected during 2006-2010.

In **Ethiopia**, the ICT Development Agency ([www.ictadethiopia.org](http://www.ictadethiopia.org)) has invested in the Rural Connectivity Project (RCP) to increase access to telecom services and Internet to communities throughout Ethiopia. More than 15’000 villages do not have access to telecom services. RCP prioritises ICTs in helping communities find markets for their products to boost their economic and human development.

In **Indonesia**, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology ([www.postel.go.id](http://www.postel.go.id)) has announced two programmes. Programme “DESA berDERING 2010” seeks to provide telephone access to all villages by 2010. 43’000 remote and rural villages (out of a total of 72’000 villages) will be equipped with at least one telephone line under universal service obligations. The “Desa Pinter Programme” aims to equip telecentres with more telephone lines and Internet by 2025. Mastel ([www.mastel.or.id](http://www.mastel.or.id)) is a civil society project that seeks to increase Internet and telecom access for poorer people in rural areas through telecentres.

The **Republic of Nauru** has licensed SWANSat Holdings (<http://swansat.com>) to provide two-way broadband services using geosynchronous orbit satellites. The first spacecraft will be deployed in 2010, providing telecom services to disadvantaged communities including VoIP telephony, email, and text messaging.

In **Nigeria**, the Ministry of Communications launched the National Rural Telephony Programme (NRTP). NRTP aims to provide telecom services to 343 Local Government Areas (LGAs) without telecom services. The first phase started with 218 LGAs and should be finished by 2006. When fully completed, the project will add 150'000 lines to the national network to provide Internet to underserved areas.

In Africa, the **e-Africa Commission** ([www.eafrica-commission.org](http://www.eafrica-commission.org)) is working with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, Southern African Development Community, World Bank and African telecom operators on NEPAD "ICT Infrastructure Programme in South Africa". This Programme will establish the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) linking South Africa to Port Sudan, with landing stations along the east coast of Africa, and rationalise the development of its broadband network.



The **Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation**, with Arab governments, Arab Financing Corporations, UNESCO, the private sector, the Arab States Broadcasting Union, Arab Broadcasting Corporations, ISESCO and the World Islamic Call Society is seeking to bring Arab rural communities into the Information Society ([www.alecso.org.tn](http://www.alecso.org.tn)). A second generation of the VSAT system of ARABSAT is planned.

In **Azerbaijan**, a private CDMA operator, Caspian American Telecommunications ([www.catel-az.com](http://www.catel-az.com)), has launched the "Rural Area Telecommunications Programme" to provide telephone, 3G mobile and Internet services to rural areas.

The **ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** ([www.itu.int/ITU-T/](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/)) has committed to organising a number of workshops over the next two years dedicated to technical issues in advanced telecom infrastructure, including Next Generation Networks (NGNs).

**Regulatel** ([www.regulatel.org](http://www.regulatel.org)) in conjunction with the World Bank, PPIAF and ECLAC, has launched a Project on "Universal Access to Telecoms in Latin America" ([www.cepal.org/socinfo/default.asp?idioma=IN](http://www.cepal.org/socinfo/default.asp?idioma=IN)) to promote universal access. This project analyses demand and supply of telecom services and proposes models for universal access to meet demand for telecom services in underserved areas of 19 member countries ([www.cibertele.com/acceso%5Funiversal](http://www.cibertele.com/acceso%5Funiversal)).

### 3. Access to information and knowledge (C3)

The **Tunis Agenda** reaffirmed all stakeholders' commitment to providing equitable access to knowledge and information for all. Examples of actions to promote this include:

The **"Million Book Project"** is a digital library that aims to spread access to knowledge. Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt ([www.bibalex.org/isis](http://www.bibalex.org/isis)), Carnegie Mellon University, Internet Archive (San Francisco) and about twenty universities and development institutions from the US, China and India, are digitising one million books over three years to publish them on the Internet. Partners are providing varied content to ensure that the collection is diverse and multilingual. This project is a collaborative effort of multinational stakeholders to build a Global Digital Library to preserve human heritage and create an inclusive Information Society.

The **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia** ([www.escwa.org.lb](http://www.escwa.org.lb)) has launched a regional partnership network promoting ICT for Development. This project brings together potential partners and catalyses ICT projects through an online "Portal for ICT Partnerships", with a content management system and network for knowledge-sharing in online communities. ESCWA has promoted partnerships for ICT for development in poverty alleviation and R&D.

The **UN Regional Commissions** (ESCWA, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP) have committed to knowledge networks and ICT access points for disadvantaged communities. The project seeks to increase the participation of disadvantaged communities (with an emphasis on women) in knowledge networks to deploy relevant knowledge for sustainable development (particularly in employment, education, gender and health).

#### Box 3: Gender Equality in Access to ICTs, Information and Opportunities

Several promising initiatives have been launched to promote gender equality in access to information and opportunities.

In **Cameroon**, the Women's Centre for the Promotion of Development (CEFEPROD) ([www.cefeprod.org](http://www.cefeprod.org)) seeks to advance the access of women and rural youth to ICTs with the aim of reducing poverty. This Centre focuses on empowering women and youth in rural areas, their groups and networks to ensure their full participation in social change and the reduction of poverty.

**ICTs for Development in Arab Region (ICTDAR-UNDP)** ([www.ictdar.org](http://www.ictdar.org)) extended the "WRACTI - Empowering Women Through Knowledge" project to Palestine and Morocco (already implemented in Egypt, Tunisia and Lebanon). In support of two MDGs (the eradication of poverty and gender equality), this initiative educates women on their rights and the rights of their children with legal information through access to ICTs, websites, CDs and "frequently asked questions". Material is produced in collaboration with religious leaders and legal experts.

The **World Federation of Engineering Organisations** ([www.wfeo.org](http://www.wfeo.org)), in collaboration with UNCTAD and civil society, seeks to promote gender equality and empower women in science, engineering and technology in North Africa and the Middle East by improving their professional skills and networking. It will host an international congress on Women in Science, Engineering and Technology; a professional training programme for women; and carry out a study on the state of women in these domains.

#### Box 4: Open Source Software

Open Source or Open Access Software is digital, online, free of charge, and free from most copyright and licensing restrictions. It can help users with limited resources to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Information Society. Several promising initiatives were launched to promote open access to software and technical resources.

**CERN** has adopted a specific Publication Policy to promote Open Access at <http://open-access.web.cern.ch/Open-Access/pp.html>) recommending that scientific information, software tools, networking infrastructure and the training to use these should be made freely available.

The **United Nations University** ([www.onlinelearning.unu.edu](http://www.onlinelearning.unu.edu)) helped launch the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2015). UNU's main aim is to facilitate the development and sharing of online educational materials between academic institutions from industrialised countries and the developing world. This involves the promotion of Open Source Software, resources and networks to support educational and research institutions in the developing world.

The “FLOSSWorld project” ([www.flossworld.org/](http://www.flossworld.org/)), initiated by **UNU-MERIT** ([www.merit.unu.edu](http://www.merit.unu.edu)), aims to build a global constituency for Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS) and open standards research, with partners from Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, India, Malaysia, South Africa and Europe through regional and international workshops.

**IFAD** ([www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)) has a number of activities to provide public global goods to the rural poor. The “Rural Poverty Portal” ([www.ruralpovertyportal.org](http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org)) is an interactive Internet portal that connects rural poor people with policy-makers, IFAD staff and development partners. It aims to help eradicate rural poverty by sharing information and knowledge and by raising awareness of these issues.

In **Indonesia**, Mitranetra Education Foundation for the Blind's ([www.mitranetra.or.id](http://www.mitranetra.or.id)) Reading Diversification Programme aims to bridge the disability divide and empower blind people to participate in the Information Society. It will publish 300 e-books, an online magazine and Digital Library Service, available through digital speech software and Internet in four telecentres in Indonesia.

The private **Association of Community Internet Centres** ([www.apwkomitel.org](http://www.apwkomitel.org)) has launched “Distributing Multipurpose Community Internet Centre” to bring the Internet to Indonesian towns and villages and enhance cybersecurity, including for e-payments.

In the **United Kingdom**, ExhibitChoice Ltd has launched the “Developing Telecoms” project ([www.developingtelecoms.com](http://www.developingtelecoms.com)) to build ICTs in developing countries. The project aims to create an online information resource for the products, services, technologies and strategies needed to raise teledensity and reduce the digital divide.

### Box 5: ICT Access For Youth

In the **Netherlands**, the Ministry of Economic Affairs with support from Global Portal for Children and ITU ([www.itu.int/ITU-D/youth](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/youth)) will launch “Child Helpline International” ([www.childhelplineinternational.org/about/activities.php](http://www.childhelplineinternational.org/about/activities.php)) to provide multilingual toll-free telephone lines for children in need in some 70 countries. CHI will provide a global portal through which children can be connected with counsellors.

**ICTs for Development in Arab Region (ICTDAR)** ([www.ictdar.org](http://www.ictdar.org)), in collaboration with NGOs, governments and Microsoft, is extending its AjialCom “Opening The Gates of Opportunity” initiative to Yemen and Tunisia in 2006. AjialCom seeks to educate youth using ICTs and enable them to play a greater role in their communities. Over 40 per cent of the population of the Arab region is under 18, while the youth of today represent the leaders of tomorrow. ICTDAR already has more than 50 youth centres in Morocco and Egypt, where AjialCom supplies computers, servers, Internet access, content and IT training. It addresses key issues (including drugs, HIV/AIDS and sexual education) and promotes learning, health and employment opportunities.

“Lagos Digital Village” ([www.lagosdigitalvillage.org.ng](http://www.lagosdigitalvillage.org.ng)) is a training and opportunity centre for Nigerian youth in Lagos, **Nigeria**, that aims to bridge the digital divide and open doors to young Nigerians, improve their quality of life, and help them in the job market in which they may have only limited opportunities. This a multi-stakeholder partnership of Junior Achievement of Nigeria ([www.janigeria.org](http://www.janigeria.org)), Microsoft and the Lagos State Government ([www.lagosstate.gov.ng](http://www.lagosstate.gov.ng)), with support from volunteer tutors and the Lagos Mainland Local Government.

The **National Centre for Information and Educative Communication of Spain** ([www.cnice.mecd.es](http://www.cnice.mecd.es)) is organising a course on the problems of violence and exclusion of young people and adolescents, including underlying reasons and preventative measures for better values ([www.cnice.mecd.es/recursos2/convivencia\\_escolar/index.htm](http://www.cnice.mecd.es/recursos2/convivencia_escolar/index.htm)).

In **Peru**, the Alexander Von Humbolt Institute of Tropical Medicine has initiated the “Access for All Young People to ICTs” programme offering tools and training to poor, disabled, rural, and other young people to improve their livelihoods, raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and reduce risk of infection ([www.upch.edu.pe/tropicales/capacita/otros.htm](http://www.upch.edu.pe/tropicales/capacita/otros.htm)).

The **World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters** (AMARC) ([www.amarc.org/](http://www.amarc.org/)) and stakeholders pledged in Tunis to start a “Best Experiences Initiative on the use of Community Radio and ICTs for Development to meet the MDGs”, with community radio members in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In **Brazil**, United Business Net (<http://unb.unbnet.com.br>) is a civil society initiative that promotes open Internet access. It aims to universalise access to the Internet and promote digital inclusion, regardless of religion, race, education and social class. It seeks to assist developing countries in making progress in the respect of human rights, including children’s and women’s rights, as well as in poverty reduction and development.



## 4. Capacity-Building (C4)

The **Tunis Agenda** notes that ICT-related capacity-building represents a high priority. Many of the activities submitted were relevant to this Action Line. Examples include:

In **Finland**, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (<http://formin.finland.fi>) has launched a ICT4D project to integrate ICTs into municipal management in Nicaragua and improve local democratic processes and governance through ICT use. The Finnish ICT4D policy aims to integrate and mainstream ICTs into all fields of development policy.

The **Government of Mexico's** "e-Mexico National System" ([www.e-mexico.gob.mx](http://www.e-mexico.gob.mx)) helps Mexico's transition to an Information Society through three Action Lines: Connectivity, Content and Systems. Connectivity covers services (present and future), coverage and the establishment of a network of Digital Community Centres (CCDs). To date, a network of 7'500 CCDs has been established, planned to reach 10'000 by end 2006, with over 5 million visitors monthly.

**Intel** ([www.intel.com](http://www.intel.com)) is extending the "Intel Teach to the Future Program" to train a further 10 million teachers in developing nations over the next five years in the use of technology to enhance learning. The plan has already trained over 3 million teachers in 35 countries since 2000. Intel announced that it will donate 100'000 PCs to classrooms in developing nations to improve learning skills. Through the expansion of this programme, Intel believes it will be able to reach one billion students in developing nations by 2010.



To address the regulatory challenges posed by the rapid evolution of ICTs, **ITU** ([www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)) in collaboration with InfoDev ([www.infodev.org](http://www.infodev.org)) has launched a web-based toolkit to assist policy-makers, regulators and stakeholders in regulatory reform. The 2005/2006 phase addresses legal and institutional aspects of regulation, spectrum management, pricing, interconnection, competition, new technologies and regulation. This initiative is a strong contribution towards building an enabling environment and capacity-building, in response to the **WSIS Plan of Action**.

**ITU** committed to launch an interactive ICT Success Stories portal in early 2006 to share information and best practices on experiences gathered from developing countries to inform stakeholders, improve working practices and disseminate successful and new ideas. This portal is part of a wider consultative process that enables stakeholders to exchange ideas, contacts and networking information ([www.itu.int/ict\\_stories/](http://www.itu.int/ict_stories/)).

The “Local e-Governance Capacity-Building Programme” of **UN Institute for Training and Research** ([www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org)) coorganised the World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society ([www.it4all-bilbao.org](http://www.it4all-bilbao.org)) in Bilbao, Spain on 9-11 November 2005, where local authorities pledged their commitment to implement an “e-local agenda” at the municipal and regional levels. The Local e-Governance Programme enables local authorities in Burkina Faso, South Africa, Poland, China and Brazil to develop their e-local agendas and implement ICTs at the local level.

The **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs** ([www.un.org/esa](http://www.un.org/esa)), together with UNPAN ([www.unpan.org](http://www.unpan.org)), the European Parliament and other UN agencies have launched the “Africa Interconnected Parliaments Action Plan” ([www.parliaments.info](http://www.parliaments.info)). This project seeks to help African Parliaments modernise their information management systems and become more open and participatory to promote transparency, accountability and good governance.

**“In the Information Society, we become richer by sharing what we have, not by hoarding it.... What is required is a new pact between “haves” and “have-nots”.** Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of the WSIS, at the opening ceremony of the Tunis Phase of WSIS, 16 November 2005

## 5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (C5)

The **Tunis Agenda** underlines the importance of security and stability in the Information Society and seeks to enhance the protection of personal information, privacy and data. Examples of activities relevant to this Action Line include:

In **Malta**, the Ministry for Investment, Industry & Information Technology ([www.miti.gov.mt](http://www.miti.gov.mt)) has initiated a “Making the Internet a Safer Place” Project. The National ICT Strategy (2004-2006) includes security measures to protect citizens, businesses and children online. MIIT set up a hotline against online abuse. The Ministry, with Childnet International, Maltanet and Microsoft, is planning an awareness campaign to help parents protect their children from online dangers and make the Internet safer.

**Nigeria’s** National Cyber Security Policy Drafting Committee is working on a National Cyber Security policy (<http://nigeriacybersecuritypolicy.jot.com/WikiHome>) to ensure a safely connected, committed and caring society; provide security for all users of cyberspace, especially children; and protect national infrastructure from sabotage.

The **European Commission** ([http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/index_en.htm)) has launched the “Safer Internet Plus Programme” to promote safer use of the Internet, fight against illegal content, spam and other harmful content, and empower parents and teachers with Internet safety tools. International cooperation is an integral part of the programme.

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## 6. Enabling environment (C6)

The **Tunis Agenda on the Information Society** recognises that an enabling environment at the national and international level is essential for the development of the Information Society. Examples of the activities relevant to this Action Line include:

In **Spain**, the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and the Information Society ([www.setsi.mcyt.es](http://www.setsi.mcyt.es)) and the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce ([www.mityc.es](http://www.mityc.es)) have launched a “Regional Actions Project in Telecommunications for SMEs” that aims to help SMEs integrate into the Information Society with cofinancing of projects in e-commerce with support from the European Fund for Regional Development (FEDER) to satisfy the needs of Spanish SMEs for an enabling environment.

The **European Commission’s** “i2010- Information Society 2010 Programme” ([http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/europe/i2010/index\\_e.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/i2010/index_e.htm)) aims to: create a competitive single market for ICTs and media services within the EU; increase EU investment in ICT research; and promote an inclusive Information Society. Key initiatives include: “European Spectrum Management Policy” (2005); “Revised Rules for Audio-Visual Media Services” (2005); a regulatory framework for electronic communications (2006); a strategy for a secure Information Society (2006); interoperable digital rights management (2006/7); an Action Plan on e-government (2006); and a European initiative on e-inclusion (2008) to overcome the digital divide.

**UNCTAD** ([www.unctad.org/e-commerce](http://www.unctad.org/e-commerce)) has launched the “E-Commerce and Law Reform Project” to build capacity in the legal aspects of e-commerce and to support the adaptation of legal and regulatory frameworks to accommodate e-commerce based on international model laws.

The **UN Economic Commission for Africa** (<http://www.uneca.org>) participated in the **African Regional Plan of Action for the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)** adopted in September 2005 by African ICT Ministers under the auspices of the African Union to harmonise national e-strategies and create a roadmap for Africa's development in ICTs to 2015.



## 7. ICT Applications: benefits in all aspects of life (C7)

The **Tunis Commitment** recognises the importance of creative content and applications in overcoming the digital divide.

### 7.1 E-Government

In **Hungary**, the Ministry of Informatics and Communications set up a “Public Net programme” (<http://en.ihm.gov.hu/programmes>) for electronic communication infrastructure for public institutions and access points. Public Net will use market services to reach 7’300 end points.

**FORMIT Foundation** “One Dollar for Development” ([www.onedollarfordevelopment.org](http://www.onedollarfordevelopment.org)) programme seeks to extend e-Government applications to developing countries at no cost by encouraging North-South and South-South cooperation as an effective means of transferring good practices and technologies.

UNDP, RBAS, ICT for Development in the Arab Region (ICTDAR) ([www.ictdar.org](http://www.ictdar.org)) and the Jordanian Government have launched a **Regional E-Government Institute (REGI)** to provide advisory, training and technical support services to Arab countries. The Institute will exchange information on e-government and aims to help governments and the private sector with e-governance-related issues. ICTDAR also launched e-gov@ASP, an e-Government Arab portal offering online sharing of information, experience and best practices within the Arab region.

“E-Government for Development” (EG4D) is an initiative of the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs** ([www.unpan.org](http://www.unpan.org)) and the **Government of Italy** ([www.innovazione.gov.it](http://www.innovazione.gov.it)) to provide technical and advisory services to developing countries in e-Government, including the digitalisation and integration of public accounting systems, tax-revenue procedures, customs systems, and public procurement procedures. The work plan aims to support administrative reform and e-Government capacity-building in beneficiary countries.

### 7.2 E-business

In **Latvia**, the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia ([www.em.gov.lv](http://www.em.gov.lv)) is implementing two projects to boost economic development through ICTs. The “Twinning Light” project aims to promote e-commerce and share experiences in Information Society services with an expert team from Germany to develop an e-commerce strategy.

In **Lithuania**, the Vilnius City Municipal Government ([www.vilnius.lt](http://www.vilnius.lt)) launched an electronic ticketing and information system in July 2005 for the public transport system in the three largest cities. This will create a coordinated system of management and electronic payment, reduce costs and increase efficiency ([www.vilnius.lt/ebilietai.zip](http://www.vilnius.lt/ebilietai.zip)).

**TICAD Exchange Network** ([www.ticad.net](http://www.ticad.net), [www.ticadexchange.org/](http://www.ticadexchange.org/)) launched by UNDP ([www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)) provides online information exchange on trade and investment to promote new business opportunities. It gives economic indicators, production data, trade and investment policies, laws and regulations for eight African countries, with plans to extend to the rest of Africa, Asian markets and investors.



The **World Bank International Finance Corporation** ([www.worldbank.org/ict](http://www.worldbank.org/ict)) provides loans, guarantees, equity and mezzanine financing to private companies in the ICT sector in emerging markets. It works with infrastructure service providers, media, manufacturing and IT companies to: extend access to telecom services to underserved areas; support advanced services; promote market deregulation and competition by working with alternative operators; and support manufacturing in developing countries. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) promotes FDI by providing political risk guarantees to investors and lenders, helping emerging economies to attract investment ([www.miga.org/sitelevel2/level2.cfm?id=1074www.worldbank.org/ict](http://www.miga.org/sitelevel2/level2.cfm?id=1074www.worldbank.org/ict)).

### 7.3 E-Learning

In **Brunei Darussalam**, the Ministry of Education ([www.moe.edu.bn](http://www.moe.edu.bn)) has launched an “Internet for Schools” project which aims to: provide all government schools and Ministry of Education offices with Internet; to connect libraries and staffrooms; to provide security management systems and LAN/WAN network connectivity, as well as network management system, antivirus, proxy, firewall, DNS, SAN facilities.

The **Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands** and **ITU** have launched the Palestinian Education Initiative (PEI). PEI aims to improve education through pedagogical techniques using technology, to boost the use of ICTs in the Palestinian educational system and pave the way for a knowledge-based Palestinian economy through public/private partnership.

In **Spain**, the Ministry of Education and Science ([www.cnice.mec.es](http://www.cnice.mec.es)) has set up a National Centre for Educative Information and Communication, which seeks to exchange materials, strategies and technologies over the Internet based on the Aula Mentor de España system ([www.mentor.mec.es](http://www.mentor.mec.es)).

**Development Gateway Foundation's** "Web Portal for Open Educational Resources for Developing Countries" ([www.developmentgateway.org/aboutus/openeducation.doc](http://www.developmentgateway.org/aboutus/openeducation.doc)) aims to improve access to education and life chances for people in developing countries. The portal provides free web-based educational materials for educators, students and self-learners for teaching, learning and research purposes. It was launched at the Tunis Phase, thanks to the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

**Microsoft** ([www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)) has pledged to extend ICT capacity-building efforts to 250 million people over five years. The Digital Inclusion Programme, launched in 2005, empowers researchers worldwide in partnership with NGOs to tackle technological challenges to improve healthcare, education and the socio-economic environment. Microsoft's "Inspire" Programme, launched in autumn 2005, supports research communities in developing countries. Microsoft is a signatory of the "Connect the World" Programme.

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## 7.4 E-health

**UNITAR** ([www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org)) will launch training in "IT for risk management, public safety and healthcare". The Action Plan for 2006 has 2 projects: the "information Systems for Management of Industrial Risk, Public Safety and ealth" project, focusing on health and epidemics and information systems for public safety; and the "IT for Port Logistics in the Yangtze River Delta, China", which aims to install an information system for sustainable development in port logistics.

The "Global Observatory for eHealth" (GOe) was launched in 2005 by the **World Health Organisation** ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)) to improve health by providing information on effective practices, policies and standards in eHealth. It aims to: provide information to help governments improve policy, practice and management of eHealth services; raise awareness and commitment to invest in eHealth; improve eHealth knowledge; and disseminate research findings through publication of the GOe Annual Report and global survey on the status of eHealth worldwide.

## 7.5 E-employment

In the **Philippines**, "JobNet" ([www.ble.dole.gov.ph](http://www.ble.dole.gov.ph)) is an Internet-based recruitment network launched by the Bureau of Local Employment to match employers and applicants and fast track jobseekers in their search for jobs. Phil-JobNet is free for jobseekers and employers, helping to correct job market imperfections.

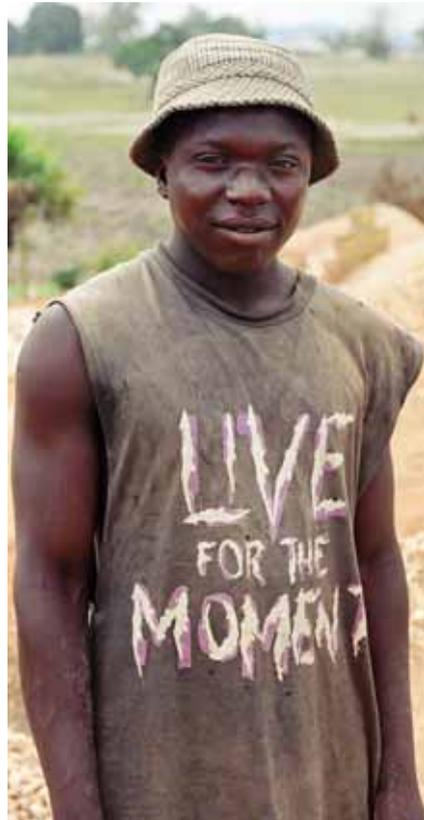
## 7.6 E-Environment

The **Arab Urban Development Institute** (AUDI) ([www.araburban.org](http://www.araburban.org)) has launched an “Arab City ICT Strategy (CICTS)” to raise awareness, analyse ICT status and use ICTs to address the challenges and problems of urbanisation, including the environment, infrastructure, traffic congestion, solid waste disposal, delivery of services, etc. It will do this by organising conferences and workshops focusing on CICTS and working with the private sector to develop CICTS in the major Arab cities.

The **United Nations University** (UNU) ([www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu)) will work with Mesoamerican Network of Biotic Resources (REDMESO, a network of 25 public universities throughout Central and Latin America) on an “E-Learning for Biodiversity Conservation project” ([www.onlinelearning.unu.edu/ayuquila/main.html](http://www.onlinelearning.unu.edu/ayuquila/main.html)) to develop e-learning materials related to biological conservation.

Many agencies are involved in early warning systems and forecasting, including MIT, Millennium Institute, Rand Corporation, Takeshy Utsumi, IIASA, GLObal Systems Analysis and Simulation Association in the U.S.A, and others. The **Sustainable Development Information Society Forum, Poland** ([www.psl.org.pl/kte](http://www.psl.org.pl/kte)) has committed to the development of a worldwide “Sustainable Development Information System” for monitoring, forecasting and evaluation of the impact of policy.

**“An Information Society (means) one in which human capacity is expanded, built up, nourished and liberated, by giving people access to the tools and technologies they need, with the education and training to use them effectively”.** Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the opening ceremony of the Tunis Phase of WSIS, 16 November 2005



## 7.7 E-Agriculture

The **Digital Empowerment Foundation** ([www.defindia.net](http://www.defindia.net)) seeks to connect rural Indian villages to the Internet to empower people with information, enable them to produce content and sell their goods. It plans to start an e-commerce website; provide information to villagers; encourage local language-based content and indigenous knowledge; and to connect urban Indian society with their rural counterpart, which risks being forgotten through the trend towards urbanisation.

## 7.8 E-Science

The “Information Commons for Science” is a multi-stakeholder initiative with scientific institutions, OECD and UNESCO launched by **CODATA, Committee on Data for Science and Technology** (<http://www.codata.org>) in 2005. It aims to: increase awareness of the benefits of accessibility to public scientific data; promote open access models and the sharing of research tools and materials; and coordinate stakeholders.

**European Commission** launched “GÉANT 2” ([http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/)), a multi-gigabit pan-European backbone research network connecting 3'500 research and education institutions in 34 countries through 30 research and education networks. “GÉANT 2” offers the highest capacity and greatest geographic coverage of any network of its kind in the world, allowing researchers to use advanced network applications to research networking technologies and services and to reduce the digital divide through networking and direct support to developing areas.

In **Colombia**, the Ministry of Communication committed to develop a national academic network, RENATA. This new generation network will provide the necessary infrastructure for fast electronic communication between universities and research centers in Columbia, giving access to other regional and international high speed networks like CLEAR Network or GEANT. RENATA is an initiative of Colombian regional networks, such as RUANA, RUAV, RUMBA, COURSE, RUP and UNIREN, to which the main institutions of superior education and research centers from different regions are connected.



## 8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content (C8)

In the **Tunis Commitment**, stakeholders pledged to continue their efforts to protect and promote cultural diversity, as well as cultural identities. In the **Tunis Agenda**, stakeholders committed to work earnestly towards multilingualisation of the Internet. Examples include:

A new “Network For a Multilingual Cyberspace with the Participation of All in the Information and Shared Knowledge Society” was announced during the Tunis Phase. It brings together the **African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)** ([www.acalan.org](http://www.acalan.org)) with the E-Africa Commission of NEPAD, UNESCO, AIF, ITU, the Latin Union, the University of Pennsylvania, SIL International, FUNREDES, the Multilingual Internet Names Consortium, Casa de les Llengües of Catalunya, the Language Observatory Project, Unicode IDN in Africa, ICVolunteers and the African Union to create a new network to promote linguistic diversity in a multilingual cyberspace.

In **Bangladesh**, E-Content.Org ([www.e-content.org](http://www.e-content.org)) has initiated a “World Summit Award” (WSA) to select and promote the best e-Content worldwide. It involves representatives from many countries and aims to bridge the digital divide and narrow the content gap. The WSA prioritises cultural diversity and identity, the creation of varied information content and the digitalisation of educational, scientific and cultural heritage.

In **Australia**, the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas at Griffith University ([www.griffith.edu.au/centre/cpci/](http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/cpci/)) in collaboration with UNESCO has created a web portal “Intersections: Environment Through Art” to promote indigenous knowledge, Australian Aboriginal heritage, cultural identity and nature, and culturally diverse interpretations of the Australian landscape.

The **ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector** ([www.itu.int/ITU-T/](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/)) with UNESCO will organise a Global Symposium in Geneva from 9-11 May 2006 on “Promoting the Multilingual Internet”. It will explore options for advancing multilingualism, programmes and cooperation between bodies in the development of technical standards. It will review technical solutions and experiences, identify issues and discuss a roadmap for further promotion of the Multilingual Internet.

In **Nigeria**, a Virtual Library is being created as a repository of indigenous and global knowledge, with the support of the President of Nigeria ([www.nigeriafirst.com](http://www.nigeriafirst.com)), UNESCO and other interested parties. The Virtual Library will be managed by a consortium of stakeholder institutions ([http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=2648&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2648&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)).

**“We have shared the vision of an Information Society that is people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented... A society where anyone, anywhere has an opportunity to participate and no one is excluded.”**

Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of the WSIS, at the opening ceremony of the Tunis Phase of WSIS, 16 November 2005

## 9. Media (C9)

In the **Tunis Agenda**, stakeholders committed to working towards the WSIS targets by reaffirming the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media. Examples of this include:

The **Asia-Pacific and Europe Media Dialogue** ([www.aibd.org.my](http://www.aibd.org.my)) is committed to creating dialogues among broadcasters from different continents and cultures. One dialogue between broadcasters from the Asia-Pacific and Europe will be held in Paris on 11-13 September 2006 in which issues of freedom of expression, cultural diversity, human rights, and new media and ICTs will be debated, with another planned for September 2007 in Bonne, Germany.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the African Centre for Cultural Exchange (CAFEC) ([www.cedesurk.refer.org/php/group08/reprontic](http://www.cedesurk.refer.org/php/group08/reprontic)) is working with UNDP to promote citizenship through the media by involving the media in broadcasts about forthcoming elections, especially in large towns that are often the focus of political tensions. It also aims to promote the activities of the National Network of NGOs for the Promotion of ICTs (REPRONTIC) through the media in rural areas to raise awareness of electoral issues. It plans to establish a website and network of Internet access centres in the capitals of different regions.



**Ciudadanos2005.net** ([www.ciudadanos2005.net](http://www.ciudadanos2005.net)) uses the Internet to create a public forum for political representatives and civil society to debate and resolve their interests to promote good citizenship and improved civic responsibility. The “Ciudadanos2005.net” Project is based on the European eEurope2005 programme and promotes the participation of citizens in local government and in the Information Society throughout Europe.

**“The Information Society’s very life blood is freedom... Without openness, without the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, the information revolution will stall”.** Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the opening ceremony of the Tunis Phase of WSIS, 16 November 2005

## 10. Ethics (C10)

In the **Tunis Agenda for the Information Society**, stakeholders reiterated their commitments to the positive uses of the Internet and other ICTs and to taking affirmative action and preventive measures against abusive uses.

The **Holy See** ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)) proposes to establish an international committee promoting moral and ethical Internet content for young people. If established, this Committee would give moral and ethical guidelines on Internet content, particularly for the education of young people. Websites would carry a symbol or logo of approval guaranteeing its conformity to these guidelines, which could help reassure parents and teachers of the contents.

The **Islamic Organisation for Education, Sciences and Culture** ([www.isesco.org.ma](http://www.isesco.org.ma)), in collaboration with UNESCO, ALESCO, AIF and other partners, seeks to promote the enhancement of the ethical dimension of ICT content and communications in all spheres, and in particular in the spheres of culture and knowledge, and thus contribute to the creation of an equitable and tolerant Information Society.

**Sonovista Austria** ([www.sonovista.com](http://www.sonovista.com)) has launched the “Intercultural Communication Management” (ICM) Project to improve intercultural communications, especially those of NGOs through experience-sharing to overcome the barriers of intercultural communication, i.e. different languages and cultures. ICM offers interactive multimedia Management-by-Media tools (intranet, webstream, DVD, audio CD, online platforms) for intercultural communication to promote intercultural understanding and dialogue, and peaceful sharing of the world’s resources.

## 11. International and regional cooperation (C11)

The **Tunis Agenda for the Information Society** recognises that international cooperation among stakeholders is indispensable to capacity-building and WSIS implementation. Examples of cooperation include:

The world **Digital Solidarity Agency** ([www.dsa-asn.org](http://www.dsa-asn.org)) is implementing an “**Agenda for Digital Solidarity**” that aims to translate strategies into action through multi-stakeholder partnerships. In collaboration with UNITAR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France and academia, the DSA aims to assist local authorities and provide them with information and tools to help in decision-making.

**IT for Change** (India) ([www.ITforChange.net](http://www.ITforChange.net)) and **The Third World Institute of Uruguay** ([www.ITeM.org.uy](http://www.ITeM.org.uy)) launched the “**Information Society for the South**” (ISS) project which aims to develop an Information Society framework suited to the development needs of the South and develop the research and advocacy capacities in the South on Information Society issues.

The “**Pan African e-Network Project**” seeks to connect the 53 nations of the African Union through a satellite/fibre optical network with VSATs for tele-education, tele-medicine and VVIP Connectivity in every country. This network will connect five universities to 53 learning centres in tele-education, and ten speciality hospitals to 53 remote hospitals in tele-medicine. Consultations with Indian specialists will be made possible by linking the Earth Station of the Pan African e-Network with India and leasing bandwidth in existing submarine cable links. This project has been entirely sponsored by India, as a key example of South-South cooperation.

The “**SMART Region/GUAM Region International Collaboration Programme**”



seeks to promote business opportunities. Using infrastructure developed by Omni Communications, Inc. ([www.omni-inc.net](http://www.omni-inc.net)), a virtual highway for tele-education, tele-medicine, e-commerce, e-government, e-science, and e-law has been established as a joint venture between the U.S. SMART Region (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) and GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine,



Azerbaijan, and Moldova) as the gateway to Central Asia.

The **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)** ([www.unido.org/wsiv](http://www.unido.org/wsiv)) has committed to providing ICT support to Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries. UNIDO promotes sustainable industri-

al development in member countries with ICT solutions for partnership development for the long-term benefits of its national, regional and international partners, including MSMEs and related intermediary institutions from the public and private sector.

#### Box 6: Connect the World

In June 2005, ITU launched the “Connect the World” initiative to bring access to ICTs to an estimated one billion people worldwide for whom making a simple telephone call remains out of reach. “Connect the World” is a multi-stakeholder platform established to promote existing projects and encourage new partnerships to bridge the digital divide and “connect the unconnected by 2015.”

“Connect the World” has 40 partners from government, business, international organisations and civil society. It has three key Building Blocks — Enabling Environment, Infrastructure & Readiness, and Applications & Services. All “Connect the World” founding partners have development projects in one or more of these areas. They will be encouraged to develop new partnerships and initiatives, while additional partners will be actively sought in areas not adequately covered to ensure underserved communities get what they need (<http://www.itu.int/partners/projects.html>).



## IV. WSIS Follow-up

In response to paragraph 28a of the **WSIS Plan of Action**, **ITU** and the **Ministry of Information and Communication of Korea** agreed to develop a “Digital Opportunity Platform” in February 2006 and to further develop the Digital Opportunity Index (DOI) ([www.itu.int/osg/spu/statistics/DOI/index.phtml](http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/statistics/DOI/index.phtml)) in collaboration with UNCTAD and the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity (KADO) to evaluate follow-up, measure the magnitude of the digital divide and track progress in the use of ICTs for development. As noted in paragraph 115 of the **Tunis Agenda**, the DOI is part of an agreed methodology for monitoring progress in bridging the digital divide. The DOI will contribute to the improvement of ICT data collection and analysis. The results of the analysis will be presented in the “World Information Society Report” to be published in June 2006 that will chart the growth and development of the Information Society worldwide.

In **Russia**, the Institute of the Information Society ([www.iis.ru](http://www.iis.ru)) has launched a “Multi-Stakeholder Monitor” Initiative (MuSt) ([www.wsis-msp.org/msmi\\_wsis/](http://www.wsis-msp.org/msmi_wsis/)) that aims to design a framework for the design and assessment of participatory practices for the policies and strategies that will be implemented after WSIS for WSIS follow-up to build a people-centred and inclusive Information Society.

The **International Telecommunication Academy** (ITA) in Russia ([www.ita.org.ru](http://www.ita.org.ru)) will monitor the worldwide digital and economic divide and publish its annual *Digital and Economic Divide* Report to analyse trends in the digital divide.

The **Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development** (comprising ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UN ICT Task Force, the World Bank, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, Eurostat, see <http://measuring-ict.unctad.org>) published a report on **Measuring ICT: The Global Status of ICT Indicators**. This report presents the results of a stocktaking exercise on ICT indicators carried out by the Partnership through a questionnaire sent out to Statistical Offices in 170 developing countries by the UN Regional Commissions and UNCTAD. The report provides an overview of the availability of Information Society indicators.

The Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development (PNC on ISAD) of **South Africa** ([www.pnc.gov.za](http://www.pnc.gov.za)) is leading a collaborative effort for an “e-Readiness Barometer to develop ICT indicators” to measure South Africa’s e-readiness and the impact of ICT on people’s lives and follow its progress in the Information Society.

The “Spanish Observatory of Telecommunications and the Information Society” (<http://observatorio.red.es/>) is a collective endeavour under the incumbent Red.es to analyse the telecom sector and Information Society in **Spain**, including telecom services, firms and public administration. The Observatory will undertake studies to collect and analyse indicators and offer an information and news service to improve policy-making and follow-up.

This **Golden Book** has highlighted some of the new ideas and valuable work being undertaken to promote ICTs around the world. It is hoped that the **Golden Book** will remain an enduring legacy of WSIS, and serve as a milestone for tracking progress in building the future Information Society.

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# WSIS Golden Book

This Golden Book seeks to promote new commitments contributing to an enriched and more inclusive Information Society, as announced by stakeholders during the proceedings of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005. It is hoped that the new initiatives pledged in this Golden Book will complement those already undertaken.



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