Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development

First WSIS+10 Review Event

25-27 February 2013, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

by UNESCO, ITU, UNDP, UNCTAD

The Event Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development, hosted by UNESCO and co-organized with ITU, UNDP and UNCTAD in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013, marks a significant step in the WSIS+10 Review process.

Convened in the framework of the overall review process of the World Summit on the Information Society, 10 years after its holding in Geneva, and subsequently in Tunis, this Event contributed to the on-going review of the outcomes of major UN Conferences. It addressed in synergy all dimensions of the WSIS achievements, debated related challenges and issues at stake for the future, and outlined common views about the post 2015 arrangements and sustainable development targets in which ICTs should be adequately recognized as enabler of inclusive development and peace.

Access to ICTs has increased tremendously in a decade. Mobile phones now reach into almost every corner of the world, bringing connectivity to many people including in poor and remote communities. The Internet has brought unprecedented information access to a third of the world’s population, affecting almost every aspect of society. New interactive services have become available, increasing opportunities for free expression and social networking. More importantly, information and knowledge societies lead to new approaches to re-affirm the freedom of expression in cyberspace and in the new media landscape generated by ICT, including the Internet. Broadband infrastructure and cloud computing will further influence business development and the delivery of public services in developing countries. ICTs also contribute to the objective of enhancing human diversity in all its forms, including cultural and linguistic diversity, both tangible and intangible.

This transformation in information and communication has empowered individuals, enabled economic growth and contributed towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Access to information and knowledge is, however, far from being universal and equitable. Many people are still excluded from the benefits of the information revolution because of existing challenges in access to affordable ICTs as well as a lack of appropriate policies and skills. Recognising the potential of broadband to accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, there is still an urgent need to bridge the gap between the richest and poorest countries and to address disparities of human capacities and of access to content. Important divides also prevail within countries. Overcoming these challenges will help humanity reap full value from the opportunities that lie before us.

The emergence of the Information Society has raised many hopes. However, information and knowledge are not only forces for social transformation. They are also essential for achieving the promise of sustainable development, mutual understanding and peace. Knowledge Societies build on the sum of human ingenuity, technical innovation and the power of information and knowledge. They have the potential to achieve lasting, positive impacts on education, economic prosperity, social inclusion and environmental protection, taking humanity forward to a
new era of peace and sustainable development. Taking advantage of these opportunities should be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda and the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Urgent action is needed by the WSIS Stakeholders, Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society and International Organizations to ensure that everyone has the skills and capabilities to participate in the Knowledge Societies, facilitated by accessible and affordable ICTs. Participants in the Paris Review Event pledged themselves to build on the achievements made since the WSIS and to work together in this common endeavour for a better world as delineated in the recommendations assembled out of the debates during this gathering.

UNESCO would like to thank Finland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, EURid, Google, The Disney Company, Verisign and Verizon for their contribution to and support for this event.
Introduction

Ten years ago, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005 for the first and second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society adopted a common vision of the Information Society, identified its key principles and outlined the main challenges towards an Information Society for All based on shared Knowledge.

The decade since WSIS has seen very considerable progress towards the people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. The multi-stakeholder approach and implementation at the international level proved to be a considerable asset in taking forward the WSIS themes and Action Lines. Still, major challenges lay ahead for counteracting the wide disparities in development and enabling entire groups and countries to benefit from universal access to information and knowledge.

Therefore, we participants in the First WSIS+10 Review event, assembled in Paris, France, from 25 to 27 February 2013,

**Committed** to the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments,

**Recalling** that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms, “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfill in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

**Convinced** that the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) contributes to peace and sustainable development,

**State the following:**

- Multistakeholder processes have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing issues affecting the knowledge and information societies.

- The key to empowering people for sustainable development and peace is education - education that reaches out to all members of society, education that provides genuine lifelong learning opportunities for all.

- In the context of the constant expansion of the Internet and the potential of the emerging ICTs to facilitate interaction and to generate and acquire knowledge, it is important to protect and promote freedom of expression.

- Indigenous and traditional knowledge are fundamental in building pathways to develop innovative processes and strategies for locally-appropriate sustainable development. This knowledge is integral to a cultural complex that also encompasses language, systems of classification, resource use practices, social interactions, ritual and spirituality. These unique ways of knowing are important facets of the world’s cultural diversity, and provide a foundation for comprehensive knowledge societies.

- Scientific knowledge is a key factor in the innovation process and in finding pathways to sustainable development which are respectful of the environment. Science is acknowledged as a common or public good that is to be shared universally.

- Knowledge societies should seek to ensure full respect for cultural diversity, and that everyone has the right to express themselves, to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice.

- Global ICT connectivity and affordability are experiencing positive trends, although two thirds of the world’s population still lack access to Internet. Accessibility, though, remains an important challenge.
The rapid diffusion of mobile communication, establishment of Internet exchange points (IXPs), the increased availability of multilingual content and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), and the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, mobile transactions, e-Government, e-education, e-business and developmental services, which offer great potential for the development of the knowledge societies.

Broadband related infrastructure and access is one of the key aspects in achieving the information and knowledge societies, bringing social and economic benefits.

Significant efforts have been made in order to strengthen the establishment of the national ICT and Broadband strategies and policies.

The participants also invite all Stakeholders to:

- Respect freedom of expression, as defined in the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to education, science and technology and artistic and cultural expressions remain essential for progress towards inclusive knowledge societies, and enhanced cultural diversity. Freedom of expression off-line applies on-line.
- Further promote universal access to information and knowledge with due respect for free flow of information.
- Pursue the goal of universal access to, and preservation of, information in order to build sustainable knowledge societies. In the quest for universal access to information and knowledge attention should be paid to infrastructure, accessibility to quality multilingual content and to application of knowledge, public access and building capacities of people to leverage information for sustainable development.
- Harness the potential of ICTs to help in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
- Participants are also invited to recognize the importance of maintaining an open Internet based on open standards development processes, as key enablers for an inclusive knowledge and information societies.
- Promote and ensure the safety of online journalists, bloggers and human right activists.
- Protect privacy and foster dignity to which everyone is entitled in cyberspace.
- Acknowledge the importance of and renew their commitment to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
- Respect human diversity in all its forms, including cultural and linguistic diversity. The preservation of the richness and diversity of the universal heritage are concepts that are enshrined in many international normative texts and national constitutions and legislations.
- Develop measures and policies to safeguard endangered languages and promote multilingualism.
- Fully integrate gender equality perspectives in WSIS related strategies and facilitate their implementation. Efforts should go beyond techno-centric solutions towards advancing women’s innovative and meaningful use of ICTs for their empowerment and development.
- Enhance the participation of youth, and their access to the benefits of the information revolution as key priorities.
- Continue focusing on the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples and people with disabilities, to solve the problem of inaccessibility.
- Encourage international and interdisciplinary reflection and debate on the ethical challenges of emerging technologies and the information society.
- Support e-learning through a) the skills to effectively handle information that are reflective, creative and adept at problem solving to generate knowledge, b) transformative mechanisms that enable citizens to fully participate in knowledge societies and influence the decisions which affect their lives, c) the development of inclusive and open pedagogies and practices.
- Promote information and media literacy as indispensable individual skills to people in the increasing information flow.
- Facilitate the open access to scientific information in all parts of the world, especially in least developed countries.
- Encourage research and facilitate frameworks to favour open access to information and knowledge while respecting intellectual property rights.
- Continue exploring how the practices and philosophy of the Free Software and Open Source movements can be applied to other challenges of knowledge societies besides software.
Take a holistic approach when fostering the information and knowledge societies. This will require attention to both the use and production of the variety of ICT goods and services. The ICT-producing sector should contribute to job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship as well as help to sustain ICT use throughout society. It is therefore important to create an enabling environment for the local ICT sector to grow and to attract investment.

Make efforts to address the challenges in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband, in order to reduce the digital divide and possible risks of exclusion from the information society.

Coordinate and cooperate in a multi-stakeholder and inclusive manner at regional and international level in order to ensure that the appropriate enabling environment is created for the further development the ICT ecosystem.

Contribute to the upcoming work of the working group of the Chair of CSTD on enhanced cooperation. Prendre des mesures supplémentaires pour améliorer la disponibilité des données relatives à la mesure des 10 cibles du SMSI.

Take further steps to improve the availability of data related to measuring the 10 WSIS targets.

Ensure that the lessons learned during the WSIS review processes inform, as appropriate, the formulation of development goals post 2015.

Report on the WSIS implementation within the framework of the WSIS process, facilitating elaboration of the vision beyond 2015, to be based on up-to-date information, and identified achievements, gaps and challenges.

The Event offered a unique opportunity for all WSIS stakeholders to review progress made and lessons learned. The outcome of this Review Meeting will serve as an input into the discussions during the WSIS Forum 2013 in Geneva in May as well as inform the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the designated system-wide focal point for follow up to the WSIS outcomes, when it meets at its 16th Session.

Inspired by the vibrant debate at this review meeting, and the strong support of the diverse participants, we pledge our renewed commitment to realising the full potential of knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development.
Report on the first WSIS+10 Review Event:
Towards Knowledge Societies, for Peace and Sustainable development (25-27 February 2013)

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development was the first international multistakeholder event in the WSIS+10 review – the ten-year review of outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2003 and in Tunis, Tunisia in November 2005.

Organised by UNESCO in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013, in partnership with ITU, UNCTAD and UNDP, the event brought together some 1450 participants from governments, the private sector, civil society and international organisations to review the progress towards Information and Knowledge Societies which has been achieved since WSIS, consider ways of addressing continuing challenges in access and use of ICTs for development, and build new partnerships to ensure that present and future generations benefit fully from the transformative potential of new technologies.

The review meeting fulfilled a mandate set out in resolution 56 adopted by UNESCO’s General Conference at its 36th session in November 2011, which required the Director-General to implement ‘a high-level WSIS event in the lead-up to the overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015.’ This resolution built upon UNESCO’s longstanding commitment to Knowledge Societies, in which people have the capabilities not just to acquire information but to transform it into knowledge and understanding, which empowers them to enhance their livelihoods and contribute to the social and economic development of their societies.
The event focused attention on these objectives. It built on a decade of dedicated and collaborative work by the organizing partners and other United Nations agencies, through the UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), and through partnerships with other stakeholders in the WSIS Forum, the Internet Governance Forum and in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines. High-level dialogues and plenary discussions on critical issues, including education, took place alongside 83 events, workshops and thematic fora covering 11 themes of crucial importance to building inclusive Knowledge Societies for peace and sustainable development. Outcomes and insights from these varied and enthusiastic discussions are presented in this Report.

The Final Statement, which was adopted by consensus by participants at the close of the event, sets out an expanded vision and renewed commitment to Information and Knowledge for All, reflecting achievements to date and challenges to come. The Statement calls for all stakeholders to ‘further promote universal access to information and knowledge with due respect for free flow of information.’ It provides a substantive contribution for the on-going WSIS+10 review, which will conclude at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

A decade of achievement – and continuing challenges

The decade since WSIS has seen considerable progress towards the people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society envisaged by participants at the Summit. Achievements have included high rates of growth in access to mobile telecommunications, and to fixed and mobile Internet. The number of mobile subscriptions worldwide has risen from less than 1.5 billion in 2003 to more than 6 billion in 2013, while the number of estimated users of the Internet has risen from some 500 million to around 2.5 billion. The growth of broadband networks, innovations such as social networking and cloud computing, and increased linguistic diversity on the Internet have extended the range of services and applications available to citizens, not least in areas such as education and health, and the capacity for ICTs to contribute to social and economic development. Media institutions have expanded both their sources and audiences through the adoption of ICTs. These developments have made a powerful contribution towards fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. R.K. Pachauri, Nobel Peace Prize 2007 laureate, former Chair of IG Panel on Climate Change, High-Level Roundtable sustainable development beyond 2015

All stakeholders have played a crucial part in enabling these achievements. Governments and intergovernmental and international organisations have worked towards establishing enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for information and communications. Innovation by the technical and professional community and investment by the public and private sectors have driven the development, adoption and use of new services and applications, making information access and communications more widely available and affordable. Civil society has fostered participation and engagement by citizens and consumers in the evolving Information and Knowledge Societies.

Nevertheless, major challenges remain in establishing a comprehensive people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. While there has been tremendous growth in networks and services, access to ICTs and their potential for empowerment remains unavailable or unaffordable to many people, particularly in developing countries. The gap between developed and developing countries in the deployment of broadband infrastructure, an essential foundation in leveraging ICTs for development and empowerment, is still growing. More needs to be done to enable and stimulate multilingual and culturally diverse content, to build digital literacy, and to ensure inclusive participation. While opportunities for freedom of expression have increased as a result of new media, online freedom of expression is under increasing pressure in some countries. It will require continued cooperation among all stakeholders to overcome these barriers.
Building inclusive Knowledge Societies

Stakeholders are increasingly committed to building inclusive Knowledge Societies, in which everyone has the opportunity to gather and share information, to create and share knowledge in order to enhance their capabilities, and to participate fully in the social, economic, political and cultural life of their communities. Knowledge Societies cannot be constructed on ICTs or on information alone. They are achievements of human development, built upon a conjunction of human values, technology and innovation, in which fundamental roles are played by freedom of expression, quality education for all, linguistic and cultural diversity, and universal access to information, health, enterprise and community participation. These are central pillars of societies that meet the three goals of sustainable development – economic prosperity, inclusive social welfare and environmental protection.

Freedom of expression, media freedom, and freedom of information are essential to democratic, open and empowered societies. They should be available and exercised equally online as they are offline, allowing ideas and opinions to be shared to the benefit of the entire world community. To be legitimate, any limitations applied to freedom of expression on the Internet should meet the same international standards as in the offline environment: they should be exceptional, transparent, proportionate, necessary and within the circumscribed purposes set out in the international rights regime.

The Internet and new media, such as social networks and other Web 2.0 applications, have enabled communities to be more informed, enriched public discourse, and enabled more extensive participation by citizens in developing the policies and services that affect their lives. Internet freedoms, including freedom to use the Internet, online freedom of expression and freedom to innovate online – have been important drivers of its rapid growth.

Education and learning, both formal and informal, have a central part to play in developing Knowledge Societies. ICTs, including the Internet, have opened up new possibilities for everyone, whether in school or lifelong learning, to access information, ideas, curricula and tools that previously were unavailable to them. Distance learning can bring higher standards of education to remote and underserved communities. ICTs can put learners themselves at the centre of the educational experience, developing their own knowledge and skills with the support of teachers and others in their networks and communities. Their ability to develop information into knowledge, and knowledge into activity and innovation, will be critical to the potential for Knowledge Societies to enable prosperity, inclusiveness and sustainability.

Access to information and knowledge is also critical. The value of open access to information in empowering citizens, stimulating entrepreneurship and fostering innovation has been demonstrated around the world. New ways need to be found, in building Knowledge Societies, of balancing the interests of content authors and developers with the public interest in maximising the value of information, knowledge and creativity. Creative collaboration between public, private and non-profit sectors, leveraging the potential of new technology, should be encouraged and facilitated by governments and other stakeholders.

Linguistic and cultural diversity are essential if ICTs and the Internet are to benefit people from all communities throughout the world. ICTs and the Internet belong to the entire world community, and should reflect the diversity of experience and multiplicity of languages found in that community. Access to information in minority languages is crucial if new media and new resources are to enhance inclusiveness and participation. Recent developments in Internet governance, including the introduction of internationalised domain names, represent progress towards multilingualism. Online content is also becoming more diverse, though it continues to be dominated by a small number of languages, restricting access to those unable to read them. Continued action is needed to increase diversity online.
The WSIS+10 review

Knowledge Societies that are open and inclusive, which generate prosperity and inclusive social welfare, will be better equipped to address the social, economic and political challenges that face every society, helping to build peace and cooperation within and between nations. They will be better equipped, too, to address the critical challenge of enhancing economic prosperity, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability, meeting the international community’s commitment to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The continuing development of Knowledge Societies will be central to the WSIS+10 review, leading to discussion at the UN General Assembly in 2015. The outcomes and insights from the first WSIS+10 event will also make an invaluable contribution to the establishment by the United Nations General Assembly of post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

THEMATIC REVIEW SECTION

The WSIS+10 review event, Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development, which was organised by UNESCO in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013 in conjunction with ITU, UNCTAD and UNDP, was a rich forum of insight and discussion into achievements since the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and into continuing challenges faced by all stakeholders concerned with the development of Information and Knowledge Societies.

The event, which had the status of a UNESCO international expert conference, was attended by 1450 participants, from 130 countries, of whom 40.2% were women, with a further 800 remote participants. All regions and stakeholder groups were strongly represented, including intergovernmental and international organisations, governments, private sector businesses, media, the academic, technical and professional communities, and civil society organisations. The largest groups of participants came from civil society, with 450 representatives, and governments, with over 300 delegates.

The Final Statement of the event, Information and Knowledge for All: an expanded vision and a renewed commitment, was developed through open multistakeholder drafting sessions with strong participation from all stakeholder communities, emphasising the rich and innovative multistakeholder character of WSIS follow-up arrangements. The statement, which represents the consensus of participants at the event, although not legally binding on any participant or organisation, is an important contribution to the continuing WSIS+10 review which will culminate at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.
In addition to plenary and workshop discussions, participants benefited from a number of studies which were presented during the event.

A report on Technology, Broadband and Education: Advancing the Education for All Agenda, prepared by UNESCO, was published at the event by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development.

A wide-ranging review of experience since WSIS and challenges for the future, entitled Renewing the Knowledge Societies Vision: towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development, was presented by Professor Robin Mansell of the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Professor Gaétan Tremblay of the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Six other studies commissioned and published for the event addressed the following themes:

- **Conceptual Relationship of Information Literacy and Media Literacy** by Alice Lee, Jesus Lau, Toni Carbo and Natalia Gendina
- **Review and Strategic Directions for Building Inclusive Knowledge Societies for People with Disabilities**, edited by Axel Leblois
- **Indigenous Peoples, WSIS and Emerging Uses of ICTs**, by Roberto Borrero
- **Exploring the Evolving Mediascape: towards updating strategies to face challenges and seize opportunities**, by Divina Frau-Meigs
- **Literacy and Competencies Required to Participate in Knowledge Societies**, by Alice Lee
- **Ethical and Societal Challenges of the Information Society**, by Sondip Mukherjee.

The reports of commissioned studies are available on the website for the event.

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A total of 83 sessions were held during the course of the WSIS+10 review event. In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, these included:

- two plenary sessions
- two simultaneous thematic fora covering a wide range of topics
- two UNESCO Special Events, comprising a number of sessions, concerned with Internet-related topics and with UNESCO’s Information for All Programme;
- a UNESCO Future Forum, concerned with enhancing the dynamics of Knowledge Societies;
- a high-level meeting and roundtable on the role of e-science in strengthening the science, policy, society interface;
- an academic roundtable; and
- more than 60 other workshops and discussion fora sessions, organised around 11 core themes.

In addition to the four United Nations agencies within the organising partnership, many workshops were organised by other stakeholders, including other United Nations agencies, international communications entities (including the Internet Society (ISOC) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) ), private sector businesses and business associations, media, universities and civil society organisations.

Recommendations from these diverse sessions are included elsewhere in this report, while more substantial summaries of discussions are available on UNESCO’s website.

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2. www.unesco.org/wsis2013
The event was opened by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, who described it as an opportunity for the international community, and all stakeholders, to renew their commitment to the principles and guidelines which had been established at WSIS, recognising the profound changes which have taken place in ICTs since 2003 and building a shared understanding of the society to which all stakeholders aspire. The Director-General emphasised that Knowledge Societies for sustainable development are built not by technology alone but by the application of technology to human needs. Such Knowledge Societies should be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

Ms Katalin Bogyay, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, representing governments, also addressed the opening ceremony. She reaffirmed the universality and interdependence of human rights, and the enduring force and relevance of the concept of Knowledge Societies built on the pillars of freedom of expression, universal access, quality education and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.

Opening addresses were also made by the Secretaries-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of ITU, outlined the technological evolution of communications during the past ten years and described the continuing work of ITU and other United Nations agencies to implement WSIS outcomes. This work includes the annual WSIS Forum, the WSIS Stocktaking Database, and preliminary steps, including regional preparatory meetings which are underway for a high-level review of WSIS outcomes to take place alongside the ITU’s World Telecommunication Development Conference that will be held in Egypt in 2014.

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, welcomed the opportunity which the event provided to review experience since WSIS and develop constructive ideas that would inform deliberations at the WSIS Forum, the annual meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and subsequent
deliberations of the General Assembly. He stressed the value of ICTs in addressing challenges of economic development, and the importance of addressing digital divides, particularly the growing broadband divide.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by Mr. Tibor Thot, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), who focused on the value of cooperation and adaptation in using ICTs to support peace and sustainable development.

Speaking on behalf of the private sector, Mr. Jean-Guy Carrier, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), stressed the importance of broadband investment and the need for greater cooperation between government and the private sector. Speaking on behalf of civil society, Ms Grace Githaiga of the Kenya ICT Network (KICTANet) emphasised the importance of universal access, freedom of information and the protection of rights. Both speakers commended the positive experience of multistakeholder participation in the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

**Plenary sessions**

The opening plenary session of the event included a keynote address by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute and Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals.

In his address, Professor Sachs stressed the importance of governments and other stakeholders embracing ICTs as fundamental tools for achieving sustainable development. He applauded the achievements which have been realised since WSIS, in particular the rapid expansion in the availability of connectivity and the adoption and use of mobile telecommunications, which have been driven by private sector investment. He stressed the importance of further investment in broadband infrastructure that will provide the information backbone essential for mobilising ICTs in international efforts to end poverty and achieve sustainable growth, and he commended the work in this context of the Broadband Commission which has been established with leadership from UNESCO and ITU. Professor Sachs also emphasised the importance of ICTs and Knowledge Societies to the international community's renewed determination to combat poverty, with a commitment to broader social inclusion and environmental sustainability. He stressed the need to ensure that the review of WSIS outcomes contributes to the work of the United Nations to build upon the Millennium Development Goals and establish new Goals for Sustainable Development.

Two further plenary sessions and two thematic fora completed the programme for the first day of the event.

**A ‘Future Debate on Broadband Education’** focused on the newly-published report of the Broadband Commission’s Working Group on Education, Technology, Broadband and Education: advancing the education for all agenda. Speakers emphasised the critical role of education in enabling employment, innovation and enterprise, facilitating social inclusion, and thereby advancing sustainable development. Technology can play an important part in addressing critical educational challenges, including continued efforts to achieve universal primary education, to overcome teacher shortages, and empower women and girls. The Broadband Commission’s report, prepared by UNESCO, emphasises the importance of enabling access to ICTs in schools, incorporating technology into curricula for teachers and students, in school and in continuing education, and promoting content development, mobile learning and the availability of open educational resources.

**A High-Level Debate, ‘Toward Knowledge Societies for Sustainable Development’,** was addressed by a wide range of speakers from all stakeholder groups, who described their visions for the future. Critical themes addressed during the debate included the role of ICTs and Knowledge Societies in achieving intra-generational and inter-generational equity, combating the challenge of climate change, stimulating innovation and enterprise, enabling freedom of expression and empowering citizens. Among critical challenges raised during the debate were the need to sustain and increase investment in infrastructure and services, governance arrangements in the rapidly evolving context for ICTs, and the relationship between technology, good governance and human rights.

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3 unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002196/219687e.pdf
A thematic forum, held at the end of the first day, focused on the theme ‘From Digital to Knowledge Divide’. Speakers in this session focused on the opportunities and challenges of the evolving Information and Knowledge Societies, from infrastructure to content and applications. The rapid development of communications technology and markets carries with it the risk that inequalities in access to networks and services will result in inequalities of access to information and knowledge. Investment needs to be made in infrastructure, in rural and urban areas, in services, particularly for disadvantaged groups, and in content, particularly in minority languages, in order to overcome these risks.

A second thematic forum was concerned with ‘Freedom, Rights and Ethics’. Panellists affirmed the importance of universal human rights, as recognised in international standards and agreements, to debates concerning Internet governance and regulation. They recognised the recent affirmation by the UN Human Rights Council that the same rights that are applied offline world should also be applied online. Speakers urged that Internet governance decisions should be based on democratic principles, including transparency, openness, economic growth, inclusiveness, equal participation and empowerment of all sectors of society. Support was expressed for the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and for the case for net neutrality. Non-state actors, including Internet intermediaries, were encouraged to apply international human rights standards, particularly those concerning freedom of expression, in their commercial and economic decision-making. Panelists called on UNESCO and other UN agencies to play a central part in debates on the importance of ICTs for sustainable development, and on the protection of human rights, during the WSIS+10 review and in the post-2015 development agenda.

Workshop themes and sessions

A total of 83 workshop and thematic sessions, including Special Events, were held during the remaining two days of the event. These were organised by 33 different organisations including United Nations agencies, governments, private sector and civil society associations. Many of these workshops took place within 11 broad themes:

- eight workshops and events were concerned with issues of access;
- nine focused on the Internet, as well as a UNESCO Special Internet Event comprising four further sessions;
- two sessions were concerned with e-business;
- six sessions focused on education and e-learning;
- four were concerned with ethics, including human rights and freedom of expression;
- three were concerned with cybersecurity;
- three were concerned with cultural and linguistic diversity;
- one focused on environmental issues, particularly e-waste;
- nine were concerned with freedom of expression and aspects of media freedom, pluralism and independence;
- two looked at the relationship between ICTs and gender;
- five were concerned with the relationship between ICTs and youth; while
- seven focused on WSIS initiatives and processes.

UNESCO hosted three Special Events: a UNESCO Internet Forum, a Special Event on the work of its Information for All Programme (IFAP), and a Future Forum on the theme Exploring the Dynamics of Knowledge Societies using the future to shape transformative policies. A high-level meeting and roundtable explored the use of e-science to strengthen the interface between science, policy and society. An academic roundtable discussed Stakeholder Accountability in Sustainable Knowledge Societies, focusing on a report prepared for the event by Robin Mansell and Gaëtan Tremblay.
These plenary sessions and workshops provided a rich and diverse forum in which participants from all stakeholder groups and regions were able to exchange views, share experiences, develop ideas and look towards the future development of Knowledge Societies. Cross-cutting aspects concerned:

(1) assessing progress towards achieving WSIS targets and broad Information Society outcomes since the World Summit in 2003/2005, welcoming achievements that have taken place but also seeking to understand why, in some cases, expectations at the Summit are yet to be fulfilled;

(2) exploring issues and opportunities that have arisen since the Summit, including the rapid development of mobile Internet, online social networking and new freedom of expression and privacy issues, their implications for inclusiveness and the new potential which they afford for the development of Knowledge Societies; and

(3) looking to the future development of ICTs, in particular to ways in which progress towards inclusive Knowledge Societies can be fostered by improvements in governance and coordination, infrastructure development, services and applications.

Workshops concerned with access covered a wide range of themes. Some reviewed achievements since WSIS, particularly the very rapid growth in mobile access and in access to and use of the Internet, including the recent advent of mobile Internet. The potential developmental value of mobile networks and innovative mobile applications was widely welcomed. At the same time, participants recognised that many people, particularly in developing countries, still lack effective access to communications because of the inadequacy of networks, problems of affordability, the limited availability of relevant content, including content in local languages, and restrictions on freedom of expression. The importance of broadband in enabling access to the full range of opportunities afforded by ICTs was emphasised, and concern was expressed about the need for investment to overcome the growing gap in broadband provision between industrial and developing countries. Other workshops in this theme focused on the need for action by all stakeholders to address the access needs of particular groups within society, including those with disabilities, the continuing role of public access facilities, and the need to reach beyond network access to address competencies, such as functional and digital illiteracy, which are essential if people are to benefit fully from Knowledge Societies. Finally, workshops within this theme addressed issues concerned with open access and licensing of information and knowledge, including scientific research, as well as freedom of expression and the media’s digital transition.

A Special Internet Event, hosted by UNESCO during the conference, addressed a diverse range of issues, including cultural and linguistic diversity, local content, the relationship between freedom of expression and privacy on the Internet, and the safety of digital journalists. The Event also saw the launch of a World Report on the Deployment of Internationalised Domain Names by UNESCO and the .eu registry EURID. Other sessions concerned with the Internet also explored a range of issues. Some were concerned with the experience of internationalised domain names, while others focused on intellectual property enforcement on the Internet, Internet governance arrangements, including enhanced cooperation in public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, Internet rights and principles, and visions of the Internet’s future development from the perspective of civil society. The experience of multistakeholder participation in Internet governance was a recurring theme in these discussions. In tandem with the Internet-related sessions, UNESCO invited comment on the concept of ‘Internet universality’ as a potential framework encompassing the Organisation’s Internet-related work in education, culture, science, information and communications.

Sessions concerned with e-business reviewed experience since WSIS in the use of ICTs to stimulate innovation, enterprise and employment, and looked
forward towards new ways in which businesses can benefit from the evolving information ecology. New opportunities are constantly arising for business and e-business development from innovations including online social networking, mobile Internet and cloud computing. Particular attention was paid to the potential value of these to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and to local ICT sectors, including local software development. The need for more data on the experience of e-business and IT-enabled business was emphasised, particularly in developing countries.

Education and e-learning received much attention in both plenary and workshop sessions. There is now a great deal of experience of innovation in the use of ICTs within education, from non-formal learning to classroom teaching and administration, which was reflected in workshops during the event. Participants were particularly concerned to identify ways in which information technologies can address some of the critical challenges faced by teachers and learners in disadvantaged communities, whether geographical or social, particularly by women and girls. The potential of ICTs for distance education and for lifelong learning were widely recognised. Some workshops focused explicitly on the potential of mobile devices for enhancing learning, both in school and later life, on ways in which ICTs can be embedded in the school experience, and on the role of open technologies and systems in higher education.

Current and emerging challenges concerned with ethics in the Information Society, including the promotion and protection of freedom of expression, were explored throughout the event, in both plenary and workshop sessions. Particular emphasis was placed on ways in which mobile communications and the Internet have expanded opportunities for citizens to access information, both nationally and globally, to express opinions and to associate and collaborate in many different ways. The increased ability of people to exercise rights of expression and association was seen as empowering and democratising, though concerns were also raised about restrictions placed on freedom of expression, whether online or offline, in some countries. Participants noted the resolution by the UN Human Rights Council which affirmed that “the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression….” The balance between Internet privacy and freedom of expression was also explored in discussion of UNESCO’s 2012 Global Survey on this theme.

The term cybersecurity has been understood to include a wide variety of issues, from the security of the Internet against spam, malware and other cyber-attacks, through concerns about child protection and the protection of Internet users against fraud, to issues such as commercial espionage, terrorism, organised crime and the threat of cyberwarfare. The search for a common understanding of the term, and of appropriate responses to security threats on the Internet, was therefore an important theme of discussions during the event. The ITU also led sessions concerned with identifying emerging trends in threats posed to cybersecurity and responses to these by governments and other stakeholders.

Cultural and linguistic diversity, one of the central pillars of UNESCO’s work, was recognised as an important challenge at WSIS, and has been a preoccupation of the international community as ICTs and the Internet have developed. The years since WSIS have seen increased linguistic diversity on the Internet, and the introduction of internationalised domain names using non-Roman scripts. Nevertheless, the large majority of content on the Internet still derives from a small minority of languages, while very little content is available in many languages, limiting the scope of access to information for many of the world’s people. An important workshop during the event reviewed national and international policies and measures to promote linguistic diversity, and ways in which these could be enhanced. A second workshop paid particular attention to indigenous people’s access to and use of the Internet, including innovative practice emerging from experience in different countries. Pluralism in media, with particular reference to the importance of community media, was underlined in several sessions.

4  www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/19/64/51/6999c512.pdf
Sustainable development was a core theme of the event, underpinning much of the discussion in plenary sessions about the role which ICTs and Knowledge Societies can play in achieving balanced and sustainable economic prosperity, social inclusion and environmental protection. Science Technology and Innovation (STI) are key for inclusive Knowledge Societies. In keeping with the outcomes of the Rio+20 Summit, the WSIS+10 Review also reinforced the role of STI in ensuring sustainable development. It highlighted an important connection between STI and ICTs, as science informs the development of ICTs and ICTs through e-science facilitate the advances of science. Additionally, e-science improves the science, policy and society interface by serving as a medium through which science can better serve societies, enhance science and policy connections, social transformation, as well as improve the delivery of and access to services. It was recognised that the third United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held during 2012, demonstrated the continuing central importance of sustainable development and it was proposed that the General Assembly agree Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. ICTs and Knowledge Societies should play a crucial part in these, critical issues including the impact of ICTs on greenhouse gas emissions, in mitigating and adapting to climate change, sustainable life-cycle management for ICT equipment, and approaches to e-waste.

A significant number of workshops focused specifically on the media, including both the impact of new technology on traditional print and broadcast media, and the emergence of new forms of media, such as citizen journalism through online social networks. These discussions analysed how new technology has had profound effects on many traditional media outlets, enabling them to collect information from a wider range of sources and to reach new audiences online, but also undermining the viability of existing business models and raising questions about professional standards. There was particular interest in the significance of citizen journalism and community media, and in the relationship between the media, citizens and the state, particularly in the Arab region. Across sessions, media and information literacy were recognised as fundamental for empowering individuals in the Knowledge Society, from enabling them to express opinion to developing a critical attitude toward information and protecting Internet privacy.

Many discussions concerning media development were closely linked to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The importance of a free, independent and pluralistic media was emphasised in both traditional and new media contexts. Concern was expressed about the safety of digital journalists, bloggers and human rights actors, which was considered of fundamental importance to freedom of expression online. Attention was drawn to the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Two important sessions during the event were devoted to reviewing gender equality and women’s empowerment in Knowledge Societies, with the aim of setting an agenda for WSIS+10. Concerns were expressed about the need for better understanding of the ownership and use of different communications technologies and services by men and women, in order to inform measures that could reduce inequalities in access and outcomes. Women are not merely consumers or beneficiaries of ICTs, but should be equal producers, innovators and decision-makers in Knowledge Societies. Policymakers were therefore encouraged to establish women’s equality in access to ICTs, taking into account differences in opportunities and participation between men and women, and between boys and girls, to integrate gender analysis and principles into the development of national ICT strategies, and to adopt effective monitoring and accountability frameworks for commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment. Action is needed to promote awareness and build the capabilities of women and girls, so that they are as equipped as men and boys to engage in decision-making concerning ICTs, to work within the ICT sector, and to take full advantage of the opportunities that Knowledge Societies will offer.

Particular attention was also given to youth, including the African Youth Charter which was endorsed by the African Union in 2006. Policymakers were encouraged to pay more attention to the views and concerns of young people, and to foster initiatives that encourage them to make use of new technology to achieve social, educational and cultural goals. Finally, a number of workshops and other sessions focused explicitly
on WSIS initiatives and processes, including the WSIS+10 review. The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development led discussions concerning the measurement of WSIS outcome statistics, and on the importance of developing a quantitative understanding of progress towards achieving WSIS goals. Data collection is currently underway to provide the statistical foundation for the General Assembly’s review of WSIS outcomes in 2015. Other sessions explored the experience of multistakeholder participation which has characterised the WSIS Forum, Internet Governance Forum and other WSIS follow-up activities, and considered the process towards enhanced cooperation in public policy issues pertaining to the Internet which will be considered during 2014 by a working group initiated, at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General, by the chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Further sessions considered the agenda for the WSIS Forum to be held in 2013, and the WSIS prize and stocktaking processes.

Closing session

The closing plenary session of the event gave all participants the opportunity to review what had been achieved and to look forward to the ongoing work of the WSIS+10 review.

Participants endorsed by consensus the Final Statement, on Information and Knowledge for All: an expanded vision and a renewed commitment, which had been drawn up through an open, multistakeholder process during the course of the event, and was presented to the plenary session by Mr Jānis Kārkliņš, Assistant Director-General for Information and Communication of UNESCO. He emphasised that the shared sense of progress and shared vision encapsulated in the Final Statement provides a foundation for subsequent stages of the WSIS+10 review and will contribute to the UN General Assembly’s consideration of Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

The closing ceremony was addressed by representatives of governments from different world regions:

▶ Dr Ashwin Sasango, Director-General of the Ministry of Communication and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia

▶ Mr Benedicto Fonseca Filho, Director of the Department of Scientific and Technological Affairs of the National Ministry of External Relations, Brazil

▶ Mr Majed Almazyed, Director of Technical Standards and Type Approval Communications and Information Technology Commission, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stated that the views expressed in some of the workshops do not represent necessarily the views of all stakeholders and conveyed his reservations with regards to the outcome documents of this event, wondering particularly how they would be used in the overall WSIS review by the UNGA. ADG/Ci, Mr Jānis Kārkliņš, clarified that the outcome of this review Event will enrich and enlighten the ongoing WSIS Review process and that it will be up to Member States to decide on the use of these documents during the WSIS review at the UNGA in 2015.

The ceremony was also addressed by representatives of other stakeholder groups:

▶ Mr Fadi Chehadé, President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), spoke on behalf of the Internet technical and professional community.

▶ Ms Anita Gurumurthy of IT4Change, India, spoke on behalf of civil society participants.

▶ Mr William Echikson, Head of Free Expression, External Relations, Communications and Public Affairs (Europe, Middle East and Africa), Google, spoke from a private sector point of view.

Finally, the closing ceremony was addressed by speakers from UNESCO and its partner organisers within the United Nations system.
Mr Jānis Kārkliņš spoke on behalf of UNESCO.

Ms Anne Miroux spoke on behalf of UNCTAD and of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

Ms Minerva Novero-Belec spoke on behalf of UNDP.

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder spoke on behalf of ITU.

Thanks were expressed to UNESCO for organising and hosting the event and initiating the WSIS+10 review process on behalf of the international community and all stakeholders.
You will find below a list with the titles of meetings held, some of which filled several session slots, during the first WSIS+10 Review.

For more information on the event, including **25 pages of recommendations**, **session reports** provided by the session organizers, and also background papers produced for the conference, please consult: www.unesco.org/wsis2013.

### Academic Round Table: Stakeholder Accountability in Sustainable Knowledge Societies

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### World Summit Award

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### Cybersecurity

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### E-learning

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<td>IFIP</td>
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**UNESCO**

25. Indigenous Peoples - Innovative and Emerging uses of ICTs

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**High Level Meeting**

UNESCO

24. a) Using E-Science to Strengthen the Interface between Science, Policy and Society: Technical Working Group

24. b) Using E-Science to Strengthen the Interface between Science, Policy and Society: High Level Roundtable

**High-level Debate**

Towards Knowledge Societies, for Sustainable Development

**Internet**

ESCWA

61. Opportunities and Challenges of Domain Names Industry in the Arab World and updates on the Arab IGF (AIGF) process

Center for Internet Society

4. WGIG + 8: Stock-Taking, Mapping, and Going Forward

Global Partners for Best Bits

45. “The web we want”: What can WSIS plus 10 deliver - a view from civil society

IAMCR

2. Contested Governance: Exploring the Evolving Policy-making Environment and Considering Collaborative Solutions from the Netroots

ICANN

62. International Domain Names - Present and Future

ICANN and Apnic

50. Enhanced cooperation and the Internet addressing organizations

Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition

51. Rights-Based Principles and the Internet: Taking Stock and Moving Forward
1. Public and industry regulatory initiatives in the field of intellectual property enforcement.

35. Internet Governance Principles: Towards a Multistakeholder and Universal Framework of Commitments

Media

55. Bridging the gap between the state and the media community - Engaging in constructive dialogue in Africa

FPU

57. Spring Dance

GFMD

58. Digital Cappuccino

Indiana State University

27. Developing World and Civil Society origins and concerns as they relate to the WSIS agenda and its future

28. Exploring the Evolving Mediascape: towards updating strategies to face challenges and seize opportunities

29. Regional Session: Promoting Freedom of Expression and Media Development in Arab States

30. Citizen Journalism

31. Community media: Enabling policies, legislative environments and sustainable measures

WAN-IFRA

56. The role of traditional media in new media landscape

Parallel Session 2

- Gender-sensitivity in media self-regulatory bodies, journalists associations/union and broadcasting association/union

Plenary

- Plenary, recommendations, closing

Plenary Session 1

UNESCO

- Global status of women in media and technology

Special Event

IFAP (Information for All Programme)

UNESCO Future Forum “Exploring the Dynamics of Knowledge Societies: Using the Future to Shape Transformative Policies”

Special Event IFAP (Information for All Programme)

IFAP

Special Session

UNESCO

- High level government representatives reports on actions taken to achieve Strategic Objective J.1 and J.2. of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - paragraphs 239 and 243 (selected cases from each region)

Thematic Forum I

UNESCO

- From Digital to Knowledge Divide

Thematic Forum II

UNESCO

- Freedom Rights and Ethics

UNESCO Special Internet Event

UNESCO

- Cultural and linguistic diversity: Exploring economic and educational aspects of local content

5. Promoting Freedom of Expression and Privacy on the Internet

53. Digital Safety of Journalists
UNESCO Special Internet Event

UNESCO


WSIS Initiative & Process

ICC BASIS

13. Multistakeholder Principles

ISOC

48. Enhanced Cooperation: from deadlock to dialogue. Reflections on what needs to be done.

ITU

42. WSIS Prize and Stocktaking Process

46. WSIS Forum 2013: Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015

The Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development

43. Measurement of the WSIS targets within UNESCO’s fields of competence: The role of statistics in building inclusive knowledge-based societies through ICT

Youth

UNESCO

39. The African Youth Charter: mobilization of young women and men

WSYA

60. Youth 4 Action: Using Internet and mobile for peace and development

IGF Secretariat

- IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting
- IGF Open Consultation

OTHERS

- Future debate: Broadband Education
- UNGIS High-Level meeting (8:45 - 9:30)
- World Summit Awards Gala & Reception