DRAFT – 8 June 2007

Second Consultation meeting on Facilitation of WSIS Action Line C10
"**Ethical dimensions of the Information Society**"

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

1. In accordance with the decision of the first consultation meeting on Action Line C10, convened by UNESCO on 17 October 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, which designated UNESCO as the facilitator of Action Line C10 of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) on the "**Ethical dimensions of the Information Society**", a second consultation meeting on this Action Line was held on 25 May 2007 at ITU Headquarters, in Geneva.

2. An invitation by the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO was addressed to all WSIS stakeholders including Member States, IGOs, private sector and civil society as well as NGOs in official relationship with UNESCO. Around 45 participants, representing governments, IGOs and NGOs attended the meeting.

3. The meeting was opened by Mr Mogens Schmidt, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information and Director of the Division for Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace (Communication and Information Sector) and then chaired by Mr Boyan Radoykov, Programme Specialist, Information Society Division (Communication and Information Sector) of UNESCO.

4. This second consultation meeting aimed at sharing information on initiatives and activities related to the C10 Action Line that were launched by the stakeholders since the last meeting in October, as well as at discussing possible new initiatives. In addition, during the meeting, a presentation was made of the WSIS Stocktaking Exercise by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder (ITU) and another one was made by Ms Misako Ito (UNESCO) of the online platforms that UNESCO will launch for each of the Action Lines. Then a discussion took place on the principles that would govern the moderation and administration of the specific to Action Line C10 platform.

5. The following documents were prepared by UNESCO and made available to the participants prior and during the meeting:
*   Provisional Agenda of the Meeting;
*   Outline of UNESCO's online platform in support of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines;
*   Summary Report of the first Consultation on Facilitation of WSIS Action Line C10.

6. Mr Mogens Schmidt opened the session by greeting the participants and by expressing his appreciation for their interest in attending this second consultation meeting on Action Line C10. He also briefly introduced the context and the purpose of the meeting and presented some of the activities undertaken by UNESCO in this field since the first meeting in October 2006.

7. In the introduction of the meeting made by the Chairperson, an emphasis was put on the fact that prior to the meeting, despite the several reminders sent to the stakeholders' team members, only two detailed responses have been received by the facilitator - from the Trinity College (University College in South Wales, UK) and from the Indigenous ICT Taskforce. This lack of responsiveness to the messages of UNESCO was underscored as a serious issue that deserved to be addressed, since the functioning of the team and the follow-up implementation process of Action Line C10 obviously very much depends on the active participation in, and contribution to, this process by the members of the team.

8. After the adoption of the Provisional Agenda, the floor was the open for presentations by the participants. Some of them presented the activities of their respective organizations in the field of ethics, and others expressed their view regarding the ethical principles that should be reemphasized.

9. One participant spoke about the importance of organizing training sessions in ICT and ethics and underlined the need to work more actively with the Universities in order to develop pedagogical materials and adapted methodologies for the training in this important field. Another suggestion concerned the necessity to associate more actively youth to the debate on ethics and to further protect children from harmful content. The observation was also made that all publications in this field should be planned at least in French and English and not only in one of the working languages.

10. The representative of the French National Commission for UNESCO informed the participants in the meeting about the organization, together with UNESCO and the Council of Europe, of a first regional conference for the European region on the issues of ethics and human rights in the information society in Strasbourg, in September 2007. Another meeting on ethics of the information society will take place in June 2007 at the University Robert Schuman in Strasbourg.

11. The representative of the International Center for Information Ethics spoke at length about the first African Conference on Information Ethics (www.africainfoethics.org) held in Pretoria, in February 2007, and expressed an interest in the conceptual as well as substantial contribution by UNESCO to the implementation of the various follow-up activities including training meetings, professional support for establishing in Africa a community of scholars and professionals in the field of information ethics, the translation and publication of studies in this field etc.

12. Other observations and proposals made on the occasion of this meeting did not relate directly to the Action Line C10 implementation process but nevertheless were stressed as having a significance for the participants, and namely: strengthening open access by using LINUX and ensuring a balance with open source software, working towards a gender neutral Internet, the creation of a digital library for Africa and the cultural promotion of Africa in general, the importance of addressing the digital identity management and the one of working

for independent and pluralistic media, the promotion of ICT ethics for conflict prevention and culture of peace, etc..

13. The Chairperson concluded the session by thanking the participants for their active and constructive participation and contribution to the debate, and for enabling the meeting to cover all relevant questions it was expected to address. It was agreed in the end that members of the team will take some more time for studying the proposal for the online platform in support of the implementation of the C10 Action Line, before possibly committing as moderators or fixing the respective responsibilities for stakeholders accepting to take a role in this process.

14. As a concrete next step, UNESCO will launch the above-mentioned online platform in order to enhancing the cooperation on the defined during the first consultation meeting ethical areas. UNESCO will also prepare for the members of the team some proposals for cooperation, based on the discussion during this meeting, which could strengthen their collaboration for the implementation of this Action Line.

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