



CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE ZERO-DRAFT FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 15TH AND 16TH

New York, Tuesday October 20th-23rd 2015

DAY 1. PLENARY SESSION

GENERAL STATEMENT ON THE ZERO-DRAFT DOCUMENT

1. On behalf of the government of the Dominican Republic, we wish to congratulate the co-facilitators of the reviewing process of 10 years of implementation of the WSIS process, which has conveyed, in such a short amount of time, to Zero-draft; and the organization of this second preparatory meeting for the review that the General Assembly will make on the results of the World Summit on the Information Society in December this year.
2. We associate ourselves to the thanks already expressed on the inter-consultative debate from yesterday, very good reflections and contributions from the organizations of the civil society involved that will surely serve as inputs for our work.
3. We consider that draft-zero in general, is a well-balanced document. It is structured so that the central issues which have been working during these 10 years of implementation of the WSIS outcomes are made visible, including achievements as part of the concerns and challenges that we are facing after 2015 as well as and emerging issues.
4. We notice positively the work done by ITU, UNDP, UNESCO and the CSTD in the annual forums and other meetings on WSIS, which have allowed both the Geneva Plan of Action, and the Tunis Commitment and its agenda which have been disclosed and made known by the countries. This helps governments and other stakeholders to get sensitized on the need to implement public policies for the information society. And we understand that the best practices of these processes must generate a plan of actions for the coming years.
5. The development of IMPLEMENTING WSIS OUTCOMES report deserves special recognition: A TEN-YEAR REVIEW, discussed and analyzed at the 18th Annual Meeting, and provided the basis for this process of general revision of the objectives of the WSIS. It should culminate in the high-level dialogue organized by the General Assembly to be held on December 15th and 16th, 2015, in New York. The report reflects the entire trajectory of the WSIS, its achievements and



challenges beyond 2015 and focuses how ICT will affect the achievement of the objectives of sustainable development.

6. We believe that in these 10 years the thinking process of the information society itself has evolved from different actors and sectors as diverse as our society is. As an achievement of the last 10 years, we can mention that ICT is part of the public agenda in many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, inspired by the vision that rely on the Tunis Commitment and reaffirmed in paragraph 4 of the Zero-Draft "build information society people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented."
7. We understand that in coming years this vision will carry much more importance for the work and plans of action that our countries must put in place in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) recently adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015.
8. This vision must be preserved because it has allowed delve deeper into the digital and social inclusion of ICT as a principle in our countries. We can now see, the progress of the number of people connected worldwide; and this is an achievement, although admittedly, we still have a significant gap to close between countries within the same region, between regions and within countries. We also see as very positive the greater involvement of governments, especially in smaller digital plans and strategies, improving information tools to the population through more informative, more open Web pages to contact and engage people every day through online services and other mechanisms. We see as very positive the development of ICT projects that are helping to improve the quality of life of people. Also how it is growing the South presence in international forums and discussions on WSIS, although not to the extent desired yet
9. We recognize the importance that the document provides to the work approach of multiple interested parties and reaffirm that this way of working should be strengthened in the follow up and monitoring mechanisms of the WSIS post 2015. We also support the extension of the mandate of VAT for achieving an open space, plural involving diverse communities. The interested parties model has provided valuable information, good practices and many technical knowledge and understanding that it should be replicated at national levels.
10. We backup the so-called paragraph 54 to reinforce the work with the regional commissions in the process of consultation and follow-up of the WSIS. During the summits from 2003 to 2005 regional committees were very positive, and allowed agglutination process of priorities and greater role for regional and



national discussion spaces on the information society. Such is the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, where the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations (ECLAC) has played a catalytic role in the promotion of ICTs development in the region. At this date ECLAC has promoted five ministerial conferences on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean, and five regional plans have been developed for the so-called Information Society eLAC, platform constituting a mechanism for political dialogue, which has began in 2005, strengthening the regional integration process in digital art.

11. We agree with the approach of ICT for development in the document, but we draw attention to the following points that we understand must be reinforced in the document:
 - a. Regarding access and connectivity, the Zero-Draft should strengthen the challenge involved for most of our countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; ensure the deployment of broadband networks in our countries, regarding financial resources, especially. There are large asymmetries that must be addressed. And this access gap still is a pending issue. We want to provide in paragraph 8 that the geographical gap between urban and rural areas is also recognized, as well as between the richest and poorest social groups, for whom access to broadband is critical. We must promote more public-private partnerships to achieve the universal broadband quality; indispensable to reach the 17 ODS approved.
 - b. The need for the Zero-Draft to emphasize the necessity and time appropriate factor to influence, so the ICTs would appear as a “transverse axis” within the 17 goals. Having a higher incidence of the Governments with the United Nations so that it would be achieved globally and would be down into national agendas that are being prepared to align the goals of sustainable development.
 - c. It must be emphasized the centrality of ICT in sectorial policies for the social, economic and cultural development at national levels.
 - d. Regarding the approach of the digital divide we would like that section 20 refers to the digital divide in general and in particular of gender, it is dynamic, with several dimensions, to not only access gap, also of skills and knowledge and advanced usages; each of which has its own challenges if what we want is a society truly inclusive information.



- e. Regarding women we would like to say that we're not a sector, we are not only an age cycle or a specific disability, we represent half of the population and therefore must be taken into account as such, as half of the population and we need spaces in the decision-making processes.
- f. The relationship with UNICEF and UNESCO and UN Women is crucial, since many of the digital gaps of women are related to stereotypes within educational programs, with the lack of access to vocational guidance, stereotypes in the media. We must close gaps breaking stereotypes, security issues in call centers, call centers women friendly, sexist stereotypes in school.
- g. A more proactive role of universities and technological centers so that more women become interested and enter careers studying this area and support a majority of girls and women in the information society.

Finally we support the inclusion of human rights as part of the online rights for people and we believe this should be an axis of work in the action plan post 2015 as part of the emerging challenges.

Thank you very much and later we will make our contributions in interactive dialogues.

DAY 2: INTERACTIVE DEBATE ON ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

How ICTs can be exploited for sustainable development? What ideas of the past 10 years should be highlighted for review?

ICTs can be exploited for sustainable development in the following areas:

- Inserting ICT as a central focus for all Sustainable Development Objectives (ODS)
- Raising the level of Incidence of UN and all other international organizations ICT related, with national governments to make ICTs transversal to the pillars of their National Strategies
- Inserting ICTs in national sectorial policies for the social, economic and cultural development.
- Continue developing national and local digital agenda, it has proven to be an effective instrument to keep push forward the digital development by implementing concrete programs, public-private partnerships and civil society; and resource mobilization.
- Highlight the role played by the Regional Strategy for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC) as a political dialogue mechanism,



initiated in 2005, which has strengthened the process of regional integration in digital art.

- Highlight the national connectivity programs in schools that have been successful in some of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which have become good practices for the region. It should be taken into account that through regional cooperation can be taken into account region of countries that are still lagging behind when it comes to that concern.
- Development of e-health strategies supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), which are allowing to expand coverage and quality of health for the population in some countries of the LAC region.
- Highlight the contributions made by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and UNESCO in the annual forums on the WSIS, which has allowed both the Geneva Plan of Action, as well as the agreements of the Tunis Commitment and its Agenda. They have been disclosed and known by all countries, helping governments raising awareness about the need to implement public policies for the information society.

What concrete measures can help reduce the digital divide, including between and within countries, and between women and men?

- Encourage greater professionalism for teachers in pedagogical strategies for the use of ICTs and support to the development of open digital resources that support school curricula in order to facilitate the transforming power of ICTs.
- Financial digital inclusion programs aimed at small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the countryside and the city as a concrete tool to support their administrative work.
- Promote infrastructure initiatives that contribute to lower costs of interconnection as the IXP at national levels.
- Encourage national legal frameworks to facilitate teleworking especially for people with disabilities, allowing capacity building, infrastructure development, and applications and content accessible to all disabilities.
- Work on concrete measures to ensure affordability, for example infrastructure sharing issues, taxation, among others.
- Establish close relations with UNICEF, UNESCO and UN Women to help overcome the digital divide since many of the digital divide of women are related to stereotypes within educational programs, lack of access to vocational guidance, stereotypes in the media. We must close gaps breaking stereotypes, security issues in call centers, women friendly call centers, sexist stereotypes in school.
- Promoting programs of science, technology, and math clubs to girls in schools, in basic and intermediate levels, as a motivation for them to get closer to ICTs careers.



- A more proactive role of universities and technological centers so that more girls and women be interested in pursuing careers and entering the area.
- Working hand in hand with NGOs, universities and government to develop concrete applications to solve people's lives. This makes us more effective in achieving that ICTs become affordable for people. Multiple interested parties approach should be concrete with designing policies and plans, but also with appropriation mechanisms.

What has been proven and promising ways for funding ICTs benefit ¿sustainable development?

- Reinforce programs of Universal Access Fund as a mechanism to ensure universal access and use of ICTs without discrimination.
- Create alliances with the public and private sectors, especially for the deployment of broadband networks band and capillarization programs to reach remote and rural communities.
- Look for the concrete way to operationalize the Digital Solidarity Fund as set out in Tunis.

What would be the proper relationship between the WSIS, the Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Financing for Development for 2030?

- Incorporating as a part of the consignment document of the WSIS + 10 that ICTs are part of the Mechanism of Technology Facilitation (TFM) proposed in the Agenda of Actions Addis Ababa in paragraph 123.
- Keep on strengthening the WSIS-SDG matrix presented during the Forum of the WSIS 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland, where it links every objectives of sustainable development with action lines of the Geneva Plan and the international and regional organizations responsible for the implementation of these lines.
- That the WSIS-SDG matrix developed for the WSIS Forum 2015 become a socialized and disseminated instrument for all agencies of the UN system; particularly within the United Nations Program for the worldwide Development, with regional programs, in order to ensure at national levels that ICTs cooperation programs are made visible and are taken into account.
- Strengthen tracking and monitoring reports of the World Association for the Measurement of the Information Society.



DAY 2. INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

What are the main objectives of Internet governance today and in the future?

- Keep on strengthening the ecosystem of governance to achieve an information society based on people, inclusive and providing opportunities for all. Work issues of governance are numerous and include Internet governance regarding critical resources, as well as public policy issues related to access and use of Internet, the digital divide, accessibility issues, Internet human rights, cyber-security. Neutrality is essential to have an open Internet, and a development vision people-oriented and open. It is one of the aspects of the ecosystem of governance.
- We believe that the concerned parties model has made a significant contribution in the governance development, providing valuable information, good practices and technical knowledge, but also proposals for better implementation of public policies with inclusion. The concerned parties community, especially the IGF, has also helped to discuss emerging issues in the development of the information society.

What are the respective functions of governments and non-governmental interested parties? What about their compliance over the last 10 years?

The concerned parties model, as defined in the Commitment and the Agenda of Tunis, sets out the nature, scope and the roles that each concerned party must fulfill in governance. It is necessary to reinforce that each interested party has set roles and responsibilities and that these are, in many cases, interdependent. As governments we are called upon sharing responsibilities with other interested parties, in order to tackle governance issues within our responsibilities and duties to secure the welfare and the best interest of our people and citizens.

DAY 2. INTERACTIVE DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY IN THE USE OF ICTs.

- We support the G77 + China proposal to include the issue of Internet Human Rights in the preamble, but we also do consider that the question of rights should be included in ICT development section, so that the development of the information society meets with a commitment of equality and equity, to ensure the full participation of girls, women, disabled, elderly and for all people in general. ICTs should not become a deeper than the social gaps that afflict our countries and developing countries.
- We see very positively that offline rights should prevail and be recognized online and become part of the final document, as well as the recognition of the right of



privacy and the freedom of expression, including the protection of human rights of the defenders and social activists in the cyberspace.

- We value the contributions of the High Level Dialogue, held in Geneva Switzerland in 2014, to focus on human rights in the Information Society, as well as the contributions of the UNESCO regarding the access to information and knowledge as a right, and as its focus on the freedom of expression, privacy and ethics in the cyberspace. We do suggest that those texts should be inputs to the Zero-Draft document.
- In paragraphs 46 and 50 on the one hand, it thanks the governments and institutions for the work they have achieved on cyber-security issues including UNCPCJ and UNODC and on the other, it mentions the creation of an international convention against cyber crime, but does not mentioned the work achieved with the Council of Europe in the Convention on Cybercrime (or Budapest Convention).
- We would like to point out that there is one on cyber crime risk: the legal frameworks developed at a regional level could jeopardize the efforts to promote interoperability and harmonization of practices on an international level. There are some examples of projects that were launched by international organizations in the Caribbean promoting the development of legal frameworks on cyber crime issues, that went beyond many legal issues and laws, which ended up being approved, but not being effective internationally.
- An endless number of countries, including the Dominican Republic, over 10 years have been promoting in their international agenda the adoption of the Budapest Convention over the past 10 years, in order to face the challenge of cyber crime. As the only binding international instrument on this matter, it serves not only as a model for the development of a comprehensive national legislation against cybercrime, but also provides an effective framework for an international cooperation in this area.
- In that sense, we would like to draw attention to create "an international convention against cyber crime", mentioned in paragraph 50, which does not mention the Budapest Convention. We must start from what exists and take the success stories we have between our regions into account and learn from them, rather than start new processes.