

Where has the international communities succeeded?

I think the international communities have achieved great success to demonstrate the importance of ICTs as a human centered tool, to contribute the development of nations. The opportunities to access to information via Internet, to improve knowledge and capabilities, share free educational programs, and also the trends of a new wave of electronic services such as e-government, e-commerce, e-collaboration promote innovation, bancarization, and change in our societies.

We are seeing improvements in mobile devices, enabling people to access wirelessly Internet, allowing people communicate, interact, use available and learn from contents, or even produce it or work remotely is amazing. I think the goals to have everyone connected are rights, and we see it coming.

I think also the engagement of all governments, to improve and embrace public policies to enable a socioeconomic environment focused on improve business facilities; and to reduce the digital gap, not only for people with economic restrictions, but also to the youth, women and minorities within their countries, and people affected with impaired capabilities. Providing ways for them to feel included and improving their participation.

Where it has failed?

I think more efforts are needed from governments and international communities, to improve our quality of lives in their respective nations. I mean, we need more openness and willing to accept help from their own citizens. As we all know the civil society is composed by educated people, who know their rights; they want to contribute to improve changes in their lives, they want to be part of new opportunities, so governments are required to bridge also this gap.

It is true that public policies require political priorities and financing, but to work in a step-by-step process, in incremental ways, on a long term implementation strategy of society may benefit all.

More access is needed, for people to connect; but also for them nurture from local digital content, to allow people to access information in their own language; about themselves, and with local government services to reduce the distance and resources gaps to receive them in a faster way.

The collaboration between public and private sectors, needs improvements. I agree governments are needed to fill the gap, specially where private investments do not reach everyone. Or create ways in which investments be stimulated to contribute reduce the gap.

Where less progress has been made as far as the implementation of WSIS outcomes (in your field of expertise) is concerned?

We all know that people fear change, because of the uncertainty it creates. But we all are willing to accept change if it improves our quality of life, provides us new knowledge, new productive tools, new experiences. ICTs have the potential to promote growth and efficiencies, but they are tools, that needs knowledge, this is not a plug and play process.

We need more local contents. People who access and demand that content. Civil Society needs more participation to collaborate in this process. We have seen social innovations and actions from civil societies to reduce waste, to redistribute food, to improve health, to create useful contents, with common actions, with impressive results, most of the time to show that we can change with collaboration; employing volunteers willing to help.

Also academies and the business sector are there, willing contribute innovation and to invest on new business models. For e-government, e-commerce and other emerging tools to succeed, you need citizens and customers to consume your services.

It is important to mention that economic limitations of different countries, prefer to see ICT as a luxury; specially when they face challenges on mitigation of poverty, nutrition, health, education. There is need to improve solidarity, to help them finance those programs, that will improve the quality of life of people, that may use the ICT skills to find new jobs, increase their opportunities.

Which should be the priorities for future implementation?

Access, Contents, Governance o collaboration, ICT capabilities, Financing development.

The cost from public sector to improve education may be reduced using electronic content, using clean energy as solar; also new innovation on wireless technologies to improve reach. As less printed resources are needed. But not only focusing on students, also on the teaching skills of teachers, creating a learning to learn culture.

Politicians and governments are the natural leaders to need to embrace this vision, to leverage their plans using ICT to improve their opportunities to face the challenges. To embrace a long term strategic plan, to create a virtual cycle, with the collaboration of academia, civil society, business sectors.

To finance this goals, we need more commitment and collaboration from governments to improve the business environments, to improve their business sectors, to improve the infrastructures, to assure change is oriented to the creation of wealth. I mean if we need change, think the funding will be available if they embrace a vision of collaboration and business.

How can we assure the coherence between WSIS and the SDGs, and how can WSIS assist in the attainment of the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals?

I think it is important to assure that civil society, academy, business sectors are part of the equation. I mean, they are the support of society. If governments lead the process, they are the followers, who will benefit from improvements, and also will pay back with recognition, support, and a collaboration spirit.

How should all these be reflected in the outcome document?

(In this context, you may also comment briefly the ICT for development part of the current zero draft document for the outcome document, available at

<http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN95383.pdf>)

I agree with the spirit of the Zero Draft, but more we need to inspire the change of the state of minds. I mean, we have to respect sovereignty, local laws, local culture and custome. But we need to embrace the vision that we are all part of the equation, not only governments. The concept of governance, collaboration, human rights, democracy they are all based on principles, that promote change in people. ICT can improve change, academy, civil society, business sectors can contribute but they need to be included in ways that make sense for all.

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