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Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting
(PrepCom-2 of the Tunis phase)

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

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I Introduction

1 In its Resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly of the United Nations welcomed the resolution of the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in which the Council endorsed the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union for the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society in two phases, a first phase in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 and a second phase in Tunisia. The General Assembly also invited the International Telecommunication Union to assume the leading managerial role in the Executive Secretariat of the Summit and its preparatory process, in cooperation with other interested organizations and partners.

2 The General Assembly further recommended that preparations for the Summit take place through an open-ended intergovernmental Preparatory Committee that would define the agenda of the Summit, finalize both the draft declaration and the draft plan of action, and decide on the modalities of the participation of other stakeholders in the Summit.

3 The first PrepCom of the Tunis phase of the Summit was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 24-26 June 2004. In the document "Decision of PrepCom-1" (Document WSIS-II/PC-1/DOC/5), Governments decided to hold PrepCom-2 in Geneva, for a duration of seven working days, starting on 17 February 2005.

II Organization

A) Opening and duration of the session

4 The Preparatory Committee for the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society held its second session from 17 to 25 February 2005 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Committee held five Plenary meetings and 14 Subcommittee meetings.

5 Opening addresses were held by H.E. Mr. Montasser Ouaili, Minister for Communication Technologies (Tunisia), by H.E. Mr. Moritz Leuenberger, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications and by Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of ITU. The opening addresses can be found on the WSIS website at www.itu.int/wsis/documents.

6 After the Opening Ceremony, the President of the Preparatory Committee, H.E. Ambassador Janis Karklins, opened the first Plenary Meeting.

B) Agenda and organization of work

7 At its first Plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda of the second Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-2 of the Tunis phase), as contained in Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Approval of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Election of the Chairperson of Sub-Committee and of the Rapporteur
3. Accreditation of NGOs, civil society and business sector entities
4. Report of the Secretary-General of ITU on the activities after PrepCom-1
5. Presentation of reports on activities directly related to WSIS
 - a. Interim report on Stocktaking of WSIS
 - b. Report of the Group of Friends of the President of the Preparatory Committee
 - c. Report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms

- d. Preliminary report of the Working Group on Internet Governance
 - e. Reports on regional conferences
 - f. Reports on thematic meetings
6. Consideration of the following items of the final document(s):
 - a. Text of Political Chapeau
 - b. Text of Operational Part*
 - c. Any other questions related to the final document(s)
 7. Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit
 8. Organization of work of the Tunis phase of the Summit
 9. Arrangements for the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis phase
 10. Adoption of the report of the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis phase
 11. Other business

*Including: Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international level. Consideration of the report of Task Force on Financial Mechanisms and appropriate action: Modalities of follow-up to the WSIS-process.

8 The President of the PrepCom informed participants about the Annotated Agenda (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/ADM/7) and the Draft Time Management Plan (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/ADM/2).

C) Election of the Chairperson of Sub-Committee and of the Rapporteur

9 At its first Plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected H.E. Ambassador Ileana di Giovan (Argentina) as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee and Dr. George Papadatos (Greece) as the Rapporteur of the second Preparatory Committee of the Tunis phase of WSIS, by acclamation.

D) Accreditation

10 At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved the lists of entities from civil society and private sector having requested accreditation between PrepCom-1 and PrepCom-2, as contained in Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/10.

E) Report of the ITU Secretary-General on activities leading to the second Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom-2 of the Tunis phase)

11 At the same meeting, the Secretary-General presented a written report on activities undertaken by ITU and the UN system to prepare for the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/2). In his presentation, the Secretary-General noted that preparations for the Tunis Summit were proceeding well. He updated his written report by announcing that a number of new financial contributions to support preparatory activities of the Tunis phase had been confirmed, bringing the total raised to over CHF 2.7 million, or 55 per cent of the amount required (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/2(add.1)). A number of delegations took the floor to announce additional contributions.

F) Presentation of reports on activities directly related to WSIS

12 The Preparatory Committee heard the following reports:

- a. Interim report on Stocktaking (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/6). The Interim Report was presented at the first Plenary meeting by Dr. Tim Kelly, ITU/WSIS-ES.
- b. Report of the Group of the Friends of the President of the Preparatory Committee (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3). The President of the Preparatory Committee introduced this Report and its two annexes. He explained that the two annexes are the outcome of several meetings of the Group of Friends of the Chair (including meetings open to all stakeholders). The Preparatory Committee accepted the two annexes as the basis of negotiations under Agenda item 6.
- c. Report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/7). This Report was presented at the second Plenary meeting by Mr. Shoji Nishimoto, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Development Policies of the UNDP. The presentation was followed by a general debate on the report. During the last 45 minutes of the second Plenary meeting, Observers were given the floor.
- d. Preliminary Report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/5). At the third Plenary meeting, the Executive Secretary of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) presented the Preliminary report of the WGIG on behalf of the Chairman, Mr. Nitin Desai. The presentation was followed by a general debate on the Preliminary Report. During the last 45 minutes of the third Plenary meeting, Observers were given the floor.
- e. Reports on regional conferences and thematic meetings. The Preparatory Committee heard reports on the following conferences and meetings:

Regional Conferences

Western Asia Regional Conference, 22-23 November 2004, Damascus, Syria, presented by ESCWA;

African Regional Conference, 2-4 February 2005, Accra, Ghana, 2-4 February 2005, presented by ECA;

Second Bishkek-Moscow Regional Conference on the Information Society, 16-18 November 2004, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, presented by the Russian Federation.

Thematic Meetings

WSIS Thematic Meeting on Spam, 7-9 July 2004, Geneva, Switzerland, presented by ITU;

Information Technologies and Law (Government of the Republic of Belarus / UNESCO / UN / UNDP Office), 28-29 October 2004, Minsk, Republic of Belarus, presented by the Republic of Belarus;

Role and Place of Media in the Information Society in Africa and the Arab States (Government of Morocco / Orbicom), 22-24 November 2004, Marrakesh, Morocco, presented by UNESCO;

WSIS Session (Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council for Science), 10 November 2004, Berlin, Germany, presented by CODATA;

Global ICT Conference 2004, "Digital Divide and Knowledge Economy: Problems and Solutions" (The Government of Azerbaijan / World Summit Award /UNDP), Baku, Azerbaijan, 25-28 November 2004, presented by Azerbaijan;

Economic and Social Implications of ICT (ILO / ITC / OECD / UNCTAD), Antigua, Guatemala, 17-19 January 2005, presented by Guatemala;

Bishkek Conference on Information Society and Regional Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies for Development (Government of the Kyrgyz Republic / UNECE / UNESCAP / UNDP / UN ICT Task Force), 16-18 November 2004, Bishkek, presented by the Kyrgyz Republic;

ICT Applications in Natural Disaster Reduction, 21 January 2005, Kobe, Japan, presented by WMO;

International Conference on Freedom of Expression in Cyberspace, 3-4 February 2005, Paris, France, presented by UNESCO;

Measuring the Information Society (UNCTAD / OECD / ITU / UIS / UN Regional Commissions / UN ICT Task Force / World Bank), 7-9 February 2005, Geneva, Switzerland, presented by Finland;

‘ITC’s 2004 e-Business Forum for South America’ (ITC / Camara Brasileira de Comércio Eletrônico / Government of Brazil), November 2004, Sao Paulo, Brazil, presented by ITC;

Nicaragua on behalf of GRULAC also made a presentation on the upcoming WSIS Regional Conference, 8-10 June 2005, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

G) Attendance

13 In accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 56/183 and rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee, the second session of the Preparatory Committee of Phase II was open to the full participation of all States that were members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies.

14 The following 149 States were represented: Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Andorra; Angola; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belarus; Belgium; Benin; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Comoros; Congo (Rep. of); Costa Rica; Côte d’Ivoire; Croatia; Cuba; Czech Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eritrea; Estonia; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Gabon; Gambia; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Guatemala; Guinea; Haiti; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Korea (Republic of); Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Libya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Micronesia; Moldova; Monaco; Mongolia; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar, Namibia; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russia; Rwanda; Samoa; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia and Montenegro; Singapore; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Syria; Tanzania; Thailand; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States of America; Uruguay; Uzbekistan; Vatican; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

15 The European Community was represented, conforming with the Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee.

16 Palestine, having received a standing invitation from the United Nations General Assembly, was represented.

17 The following United Nations bodies were represented: International Trade Centre (ITC); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); United Nations (UN); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); United Nations ICT Task Force (UN ICT); the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UNNGLS) and United Nations University (UNU).

18 The following specialized agencies of the United Nations and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Labour Organization (ILO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Universal Postal Union (UPU); The World Bank; World Health Organization (WHO); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

19 The following invited intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Telecommunications Union; African Union; The Arab League Educational, Cultural & Scientific Organization (ALECSO); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT); Caribbean Community (CARICOM); The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP); Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO); Council of Europe; Council of the European Union; European Space Agency (ESA); Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); Islamic Development Bank (IDB); Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), International Organization for Migration (IOM); League of Arab States (LAS); Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF); Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Organization of the Islamic Conference; Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; Pan-African Postal Union; Red de Información Tecnológica Latinamericana (RITLA); Secretaría de Cooperación Iberoamericana (SECIB); Sovereign Military Order of Malta; Union Latine.

20 A large number of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities, including ITU Sector Members, attended the session.

H) Documentation

21 The second session of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase of the WSIS had before it the following official documents:

- Draft agenda (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/1)
- Report of the ITU Secretary-General on activities leading to the Preparatory Meeting (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/2)
- Report of the Group of the Friends of the Chair (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3)
- Proposed format of the Tunis phase of the Summit (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/4)
- Preliminary Report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/5)
- Interim report on stocktaking (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/6)
- Report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/7)
- Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/8)

- Draft agenda of the Tunis phase of the Summit (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/9)
- Accreditation of NGOs, civil society and business sector entities to the WSIS (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/10)

22 At the first Meeting of the Subcommittee, the President of the PrepCom presented the document “Addendum 1 to the Report on the Work of the Group of Friends of the Chair (GFC)” (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3 (Add.1)). A number of Temporary Documents were produced in Subcommittee.

23 These documents can be found on the WSIS website at the following address:
<http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents>.

III Consideration of the following items of the final document(s):

a) Text of Political Chapeau

b) Text of Operational Part*

c) Any other questions related to the final document

*Including: Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international level. Consideration of the report of Task Force on Financial Mechanisms and appropriate action: Modalities of follow-up to the WSIS-process.

24 The Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Ileana di Giovan (Argentina), met 14 times, in full session and as a drafting group, to discuss the draft texts of the Final Document(s) of the Tunis phase. The draft texts were based on the report of the Group of Friends of the Chair (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3). Observers’ statements were heard at the beginning of each morning session of the Sub-Committee on 18, 21, 22 and 23 February for a period of forty-five minutes.

25 On the basis of interventions and written contributions from delegations and stakeholders, the Chair produced, with the assistance of the WSIS-ES, a compilation of proposals on the Political Chapeau (DT/4), Chapter Four (the way ahead) of the Operational Part (DT-5) and Chapter One (Implementation mechanisms) of the Operational Part (DT-2 (Rev.1)). In addition, the Chair invited the ITU Secretary-General to submit proposals on a possible implementation mechanism (DT-3(Rev.1)).

26 Compilations of proposals were prepared by the Chair with the assistance of WSIS ES on Chapter Two of the Operational Part (financial mechanisms) (DT-1 (Parts 1 and 2)), as well as a new draft of the rolling text (Rev.1 to Addendum 1 of WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3).

27 Four Working Groups, open to all States and observers, were established to work on specific paragraphs of Chapter Two of the Operational Part. The results of these discussions are included in the report of the Sub-Committee.

28 The Report of the Sub-Committee (Document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/11) is annexed to this Report (Annex 1) and all other working documents noted above are available on the WSIS website at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/preparatory2/pc2/index.html>.

29 At the fifth and final Plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the Report of the Sub-Committee.

30 At the same meeting and under the same Agenda item, Switzerland submitted a “Proposal of the Swiss Delegation for a Paper on the Implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action” (Annex 2). Several delegations asked for further clarification of the proposal. The Secretary-General of ITU made also a statement. The President of the Preparatory Committee proposed, due to lack of time to study the proposal and to get further clarification from Switzerland,

to refer this document to the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and to mandate the Bureau to take appropriate decision after receiving additional details from Switzerland and holding consultations with regional groups. The PrepCom accepted the President's proposal.

IV) Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit

31 At the fifth and final Plenary meeting, The Preparatory Committee approved the Proposal of the Bureau contained in document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/8, titled "Draft amendment of rule 7 of the Rule of Procedures of the World Summit on the Information Society." Therefore, based on the recommendation of PrepCom-2, it will be proposed to the Summit, at its Organizational meeting, to increase the number of Vice-President in rule 7 of the Summit Rules of Procedure to thirty (30).

V) Organization of work for the Tunis Phase of the Summit

32 At the fifth and final Plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved the document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/4, titled "Draft Proposed Format of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society" (Annex 4). Therefore, based on the recommendation of PrepCom-2, this Format and its annexes will be proposed to the Summit, at its Organizational meeting, for final approval.

VI) Arrangements for the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase

33 At the fifth and final Plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved the document WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/13(Rev.1) titled "Decision of PrepCom-2" (Annex 3).

34 At the same meeting, and under the same Agenda item, PrepCom-2 decided to hold PrepCom-3 from 19-30 September 2005 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

VII) Other business

35 No items were raised under "other business".

VIII) Adoption of the Report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase

36 The draft Report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis Phase was adopted during the fifth and final Plenary meeting on 25 February 2005. The Rapporteur was tasked with the finalization of the Report, with the support of the Executive Secretariat.

IX Annexes

Annex 1: Report of Subcommittee (including its Annex)

Annex 2: Proposal of the Swiss Delegation for a Paper on the Implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action

Annex 3: Decision of PrepCom-2

Annex 4: Proposed Format of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (including its Annexes 1, 2 and 3)

ANNEX 1

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. The Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Ileana di Giovan (Argentina), met 14 times, in full session and as a drafting group, to discuss the draft texts of the Final Document(s) of the Tunis phase, based on the report of the Group of Friends of the Chair (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3). Observers' statements were heard at the beginning of each morning session of the Sub-Committee for a period of around forty-five minutes.
2. On 18 February 2005, the Sub-Committee completed a first reading of Chapter Two of the Operational Part (financial mechanisms), based on the text submitted as Addendum 1, which was the result of further consultations following the completion of the Group of Friend's work, and following the African Regional Conference. On the basis of interventions and written contributions from delegations and stakeholders, the Chair produced, with the assistance of the WSIS-ES, a compilation of proposals (WSIS-II/PC-2/DT-1 (Parts 1 and 2)), and a new draft of the rolling text (Rev 1 to Addendum 1 of WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/3), which were submitted to the Sub-Committee for a second reading on 22 February.
3. On 21 February, the Sub-Committee completed a first reading of Chapter One of the Operational Part (implementation mechanisms). A compilation of proposals is available (WSIS-II/PC-2/DT-2(Rev.1)). In addition, the Chair invited the ITU Secretary-General to submit proposals on a possible implementation mechanism (WSIS-II/PC-2/DT-3(Rev.1)).
4. On 23 February, the Sub-Committee (under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Janis Karklins) completed a first reading of the Political Chapeau and Chapter Four (the way ahead) of the Operational Part. Compilation of proposals are available for chapter one (WSIS-II/PC-2/DT-4) and chapter four (WSIS-II/PC-2/DT-5).
5. Four Working Groups, open to all States and observers, were established to work on specific paragraphs of Chapter Two of the Operational Part.
 - El Salvador coordinated work on paragraph 18;
 - South Africa coordinated work on paragraph 23;
 - Barbados coordinated work on paragraphs 14 and 21;
 - Barbados also coordinated work on new sub-paragraph 26A1.
6. On 24 February, the chair of the Sub-Committee presented a new version of the rolling text, incorporating the results of the discussions. This document was further revised and the resulting text is enclosed (Annex 1), following the conclusion of the Sub-Committee's work on 25 February. Although the whole document rests in square brackets, those portions of the text marked "*(Agreed)*" indicate areas where the Sub-Committee was able to reach consensus. It is presented to the Plenary

for appropriate action. All other working documents noted above are available on the WSIS website (www.itu.int/wsis).

7. During the final meeting of the Sub-Committee, it was agreed that further discussion of the issues of skilled labour and software would be deferred until PrepCom-3 for consideration in other parts of the final document(s) of the Tunis Phase.

Annex: Current text on Financial Mechanisms (chapter 2 of the Operational Part).

Annex to ANNEX 1
Revised chapter two of the
operational part (Financial mechanisms)

Financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICT for development

15. We thank the UN Secretary-General for his efforts in creating the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and we commend the members on their report. *(Agreed)*

16. We recall that the mandate of the TFFM was to undertake a thorough review of the adequacy of existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for development. *(Agreed)*

17. The TFFM report sets out the complexity of existing mechanisms, both private and public, which provide financing for ICTs in developing countries. It identifies areas where these could be improved and where ICTs could be given higher priority by developing countries and their development partners. *(Agreed)*

18. Based on the conclusion of the review of the report, **we have considered** the improvements and innovations of financing mechanisms, including the creation of a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration of Principles. *(Agreed)*

19. We recognise the existence of the digital divide and the challenges that this poses for many countries, which are forced to choose between many competing objectives in their development planning and in demands for development funds whilst having limited resources. *(Agreed)*

20. We recognise the scale of the problem in bridging the digital divide, which will require adequate and sustainable investments in ICT infrastructure and services, and capacity building, *[and transfer of technology]* over many years to come.

[Chair's proposed text to replace italicized text in 20 above: We recognize the need to promote an environment conducive to transfer of technology for mutual advantage, on mutually agreed terms, and allow non-discriminatory access to appropriate required technology.]

21. We recognize that the development goals of the Millennium Declaration are fundamental. The Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development is the basis for the pursuit of adequate and appropriate financial mechanisms to promote ICT for development, in accordance with the Digital Solidarity Agenda of the Geneva Plan of Action. *(Agreed)*

22. We recognise and acknowledge the special and specific funding needs of the developing world, as referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles*, which faces numerous challenges in the ICT sector, and that there is strong need to focus on their special financing needs to achieve the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. *(Agreed)*

23. We agree that the financing of ICT for development needs to be placed in the context of the growing importance of the role of ICTs, not only as a medium of communication, but also as a development enabler, and as a tool for the achievement of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. *(Agreed)*

24. In the past, financing of ICT infrastructure in most developing countries has been based on public investment. Lately, a significant influx of investment has taken place where private sector participation has been encouraged, based on a sound regulatory framework, and where public policies aimed at bridging the digital divide have been implemented. *(Agreed)*

25. We are greatly encouraged by the fact that advances in communication technology, and high-speed data networks are continuously increasing the possibilities for developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, to participate in the global market for ICT-enabled services on the basis of their comparative advantage. These emerging opportunities provide a powerful commercial basis for ICT infrastructural investment in these countries. Therefore, Governments should take action, in the framework of national development policies, in order to support an enabling and competitive environment for the necessary investment in ICT infrastructure and for the development of new services. At the same time, countries should pursue policies and measures that would not discourage, impede or prevent the continued participation of these countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services. *(Agreed)*

26. We take note that the challenges for expanding the scope of useful accessible information content in the developing world are numerous, in particular, the issue of financing for various forms of content and applications requires new attention, as this area has often been overlooked by the focus on ICT infrastructure. *(Agreed)*

27. We recognise that attracting investment in ICTs has depended crucially upon an enabling environment, including good governance at all levels, and a supportive, transparent and pro-competitive policy and regulatory framework, reflecting national realities. *(Agreed)*

28. We underline that market forces alone cannot guarantee the full participation of developing countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services. Therefore, **we encourage**

* For reference, Paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles reads as follows:

We continue to pay special attention to the particular needs of people of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, Highly Indebted Poor Countries, countries and territories under occupation, countries recovering from conflict and countries and regions with special needs as well as to conditions that pose severe threats to development, such as natural disasters.

the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially those referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, to develop ICT infrastructure and ICT-enabled services that are viable and competitive at national and international levels. *(Agreed)*

29. We recognize that, in addition to the public sector, financing of ICT infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and South-South co-operation. *(Agreed)*

30. We recognize that, as a result of the growing impact of sustainable private sector investment in infrastructure, multilateral and bilateral public donors are redirecting public resources to other development objectives, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and related Programmes, policy reforms and mainstreaming of ICTs and capacity development. **We encourage** all governments to give appropriate priority to ICTs, including traditional ICTs such as broadcast radio and TV, in their national development strategies. **We also encourage** multilateral institutions as well as bilateral public donors to consider also providing more financial support for regional and large-scale national ICT infrastructure projects and related capacity development. They should consider aligning their aid and partnership strategies with the priorities set by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their national development strategies including their poverty reduction strategies. *(Agreed)*

31. We recognise that public finance plays a crucial role in providing ICT access and services to rural areas and disadvantaged populations including those in Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries. *(Agreed)*

32. We note that ICT-related capacity building needs represent a high priority in all developing countries and the current financing levels have not been adequate to meet the needs, although there are many different funding mechanisms supporting ICTs for Development. *(Agreed)*

33. Alt 1: **[We recognize** that there are a number of areas lacking adequate financing as well as related approaches that are more coherent and consolidated.]

Alt 2: **[We recognize** that there are a number of areas where the current approaches to ICT for development financing have devoted insufficient attention to date.]

These include:

- a. ICT capacity building programmes, materials, tools, educational funding and specialized training initiatives, especially for regulators and other public sector employees and organizations;
- b. Communications access and connectivity for ICT services and applications in remote rural areas, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and other locations presenting unique technological and market challenges;

- c. Regional backbone infrastructure, regional networks, Network Access Points and related regional projects, to link networks across borders and in economically-disadvantaged regions which may require coordinated policies including legal, regulatory and financial frameworks, and seed financing and would benefit from sharing experiences and best practices;
- d. Broadband capacity to facilitate the delivery of a broader range of services and applications, promote investment and provide Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users;
- e. Coordinated assistance, as appropriate, for countries referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, in order to improve effectiveness and to lower transaction costs associated with the delivery of international donor support;
- f. ICT applications and content aimed at the integration of ICTs into the implementation of poverty eradication strategies and in sector programmes, particularly in health, education, agriculture and the environment;

In addition, there is a need to consider the following other issues, which are relevant to ICT for development and which have not received adequate attention:

- g. Sustainability of Information Society related projects, for example the maintenance of ICT infrastructure;
- h. Special needs of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), such as funding requirements;
- i. Local development and manufacturing of ICT applications and technologies by developing countries;
- j. Activities on ICT-related institutional reform and enhanced capacity on legal and regulatory framework;
- k. Improving organisational structures and business process change aimed at optimizing the impact and effectiveness of ICT projects and other projects with significant ICT components;
- l. Local government and initiatives based in local communities that deliver ICT services to communities in the areas such as education, health and livelihood support.

34. Recognizing that the central responsibility for coordination of public financing programmes and public ICT development initiatives rest with governments, **we recommend** that further cross-sectoral and cross-institutional coordination should be undertaken, both on the part of donors and recipients within the national framework. *(Agreed)*

35. Multilateral development banks and institutions should consider adapting their existing mechanisms, and where appropriate designing new ones, to provide for national and regional demands on ICT development. *(Agreed)*

36. **We acknowledge** the following prerequisites for equitable and universal accessibility to and better utilization of financial mechanisms:

- a. Creating policy and regulatory incentives aimed at universal access and the attraction of private sector investment;
- b. Identification and acknowledgement of the key role of ICTs in national development strategies, and their elaboration, when appropriate, in conjunction with e-strategies;
- c. Developing institutional and implementation capacity to support the use of national universal service/access funds, and further study of these mechanisms and those aiming to mobilize domestic resources;
- d. Encouraging the development of locally relevant information, applications and services that will benefit developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- e. Supporting the “scaling-up” of successful ICT-based pilot programmes;
- f. Supporting the use of ICTs in government as a priority and a crucial target area for ICT-based development interventions;
- g. Building human resource and institutional capacity (knowledge) at every level for achieving Information Society objectives, especially in the public sector;
- h. Encouraging business sector entities to help jump-start wider demand for ICT services by supporting creative industries, local producers of cultural content and applications as well as small businesses;
- i. Strengthening capacities to enhance the potential of securitised funds and utilising them effectively. (*Full Para Agreed*).

37. We recommend improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms, including:

- a. Improving financial mechanisms to make financial resources become adequate, more predictable, preferably untied, and sustainable;
- b. Enhancing regional cooperation and creating multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially by creating incentives for building regional backbone infrastructure;
- c. Providing affordable access to ICTs, by the following measures:
 - i. Reducing international Internet costs charged by backbone providers, supporting, *inter alia*, the creation and development of regional ICT backbones and Internet Exchange Points to reduce interconnection cost and broaden network access;
 - ii. Encouraging ITU to continue the study of the question of the International Internet Connectivity (IIC) as an urgent matter to develop appropriate Recommendations;

(*Note: See Annex*)

- d. Coordinating programmes among governments and major financial players to mitigate investment risks and transaction costs for operators entering less attractive rural and low income market segments;
- e. Helping to accelerate the development of domestic financial instruments including by supporting local microfinance instruments, ICT business incubators, public credit

instruments, reverse auction mechanisms, networking initiatives based on local communities, digital solidarity and other innovations;

- f. [Accelerating the pace of financing of ICT infrastructure by promoting North-South flows and South-South cooperation] / [*Improving the ability to access existing financing facilities for ICT infrastructure and services and promoting North-South flows and South-South cooperation*];
- g. [Providing the financial support]/[Establishment of a “virtual” financing facility] to leverage multiple sources in support of programmes oriented to digital inclusion and identified investment objectives in key areas notably broadband, rural and regional projects, and development of local language content, capacity building, [and creative industries;]/[entertainment enterprises, training software, regional Web Portals, media broadcasts based in local communities and motion picture DVDs;]
- h. [Enabling developing countries to be increasingly able to generate funds and new financial instruments including trust funds and seed capital adapted to their economies;]
- i. Urging all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus;
- j. [Development of [a]/[an innovative] “rapid response” policy and regulatory support mechanism to intervene in support of [short-term] ICT sector policy initiatives;]
- k. Encouraging increased voluntary contributions;
- l. Establishing responsibilities relative to universal service: regulatory frameworks must establish the responsibilities for universal service of all national and international telecommunication/ICT services operators[, in a technology-neutral manner];
- m. Making, as appropriate, effective use of debt relief mechanisms as outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action, including *inter alia* debt cancellation and debt swapping, that may be used for financing ICT for development projects, including those within the framework of poverty reduction strategies.

[Alternative proposal for 37g. [*Multilateral, regional and bilateral development organizations should consider the utility of creating a virtual forum for sharing of information by all stakeholders on potential projects and on sources of financing;*]

Alternative proposal for 37j [*Multilateral, regional and bilateral development organizations should consider cooperating to enhance their capacity to provide rapid support to developing countries that request assistance with respect to ICT policies;*]

38. We welcome the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) established in Geneva as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature open to interested stakeholders with the objective of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities for the developing world by focusing mainly on specific and urgent needs at the local level and seeking new voluntary sources of “solidarity” finance. The DSF will complement existing mechanisms for funding the Information Society, which should continue to be fully utilized to fund the growth of new ICT infrastructure and services. (*Agreed*)

Annex (to Annex to ANNEX 1)

During discussions at PrepCom-2, it did not prove possible to reach consensus on the following issue, on which discussion is deferred until PrepCom-3

[Option 1: Proposed by Brazil, Cuba, India and Holy See: Promoting awareness of the positive externalities generated by the development and use of free and open source software].

[Option 2: Promoting awareness of possibilities generated by different software models including proprietary, free and open source software.]

[Option 3: Promoting the development and use of open source and proprietary software with low total cost of ownership and effective interoperability, while improving awareness of all available options.]

[Option 4: Promoting awareness of the possibilities generated by different software models and the competitive impact that free and open software has had on proprietary software systems that has resulted in a wide range of a cost effective solutions for consumers].

ANNEX 2

PROPOSAL OF THE SWISS DELEGATION FOR A PAPER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENEVA DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PLAN OF ACTION

At the first phase of WSIS in Geneva 2003, we agreed on a declaration of principles that defines our common vision of the information society and we also agreed on a plan of action that leads the way to turn this vision into reality.

The second phase of WSIS in Tunis November 2005 will be the phase of concrete action and solutions. At PrepCom-1 in Hammamet in June 2004 we agreed that the focus of the second phase should be:

- "Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, with particular attention to the challenges facing the least Developed Countries;
- Consideration of the report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and appropriate action;
- Internet governance: consideration of the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and appropriate action;"

Furthermore, we decided in Hammamet that the "agreements reached in the Geneva phase should not be reopened" and that "the output of the Tunis Phase should be a final document or documents, comprising a concise political part and an operational part, both of which reflect the areas of focus of the Tunis phase and reaffirm and enhance the commitments undertaken in the Geneva phase."

Considering the work done so far with regard to the first point of the agreed focus of the second phase of WSIS, namely the follow-up and implementation of the Geneva declaration of principles and plan of action, we would like to present the following proposal for discussion.

We think we should avoid trying to rephrase the Geneva plan of action in chapter one of the operational part of the Tunis document(s) because doing so would bring along lengthy negotiations, reopen discussions closed in Geneva and run the risk of resulting in a second plan of action that might even contradict the already existing one in some issues.

Our proposal is to work on a paper on the implementation of the Geneva declaration of principles and plan of action that shows in a tangible way what is going on with regard to this implementation. This paper should help to make WSIS Tunis 2005 an attractive summit and should also show to the broader public (including Heads of States, CEOs, media, etc.) why WSIS is relevant to the citizens of the world.

This paper would go through the existing plan of action point by point and present substantial examples, projects or programs (for instance: a low-cost mobile phone, an education programme, a new concrete financing mechanism etc.) that contribute to implementing the plan of action. This would give substance to the follow up of the Geneva plan of action in a clear and structured way.

Of course, the authors of this paper will have to set priorities - taking into account the special needs of different countries and regions - in the choice of the projects and examples of implementation in order to have an amount of examples that is easy to survey. In order to do so, the authors need to

know what UN organizations, Governments but also private sector and civil society are actually doing in their fields. They can also make use of the information gathered in the stocktaking process.

The paper could also be linked with the possibility proposed by the ITU to create a space for Heads of States and Governments, private sector and civil society leaders and high level officials from International Organizations to announce projects and partnerships at WSIS Tunis 2005 and would thus contribute in attracting world leaders to attend the summit.

Since ITU is willing to play a role in the follow-up of WSIS, ITU and the WSIS executive secretariat could take the lead in writing this paper that would be the start of the substantive follow-up of WSIS. If necessary, the host countries of both WSIS phases and other interested countries could support this work with some human resources.

The paper should be ready in September but important examples and projects could be added until the summit of Tunis 2005.

To conclude, we think such a paper is necessary in order to show some concrete results of WSIS and to show the relevance for every citizen. It could give added value to the second phase of WSIS in Tunis 2005 and set a good ground for the follow-up process after Tunis that will be concretized in chapter 4 of the operational part.

We invite all interested parties to join in elaborating this proposal

Marc Furrer
Head of the Swiss Delegation
Geneva, 24 Feb. 2005

ANNEX 3

DECISION OF PREPCOM-2

PrepCom 2 of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) decides that, during the inter-sessional phase between PrepCom-2 and PrepCom-3:

1. The current text of chapter two of the Operational Part (Financing Mechanisms), as it stands at the conclusion of PrepCom-2, will be forwarded directly to PrepCom-3.
2. The text of the Political Chapeau, as it stands at the conclusion of PrepCom-2, together with a compilation document containing written comments and proposals (Document DT-4), will be forwarded directly to PrepCom-3.
3. The Group of Friends of the Chair (GFC) will continue to draft proposals for chapters one (Implementation Mechanisms) and four (The Way Ahead) of the Operational Part. These new proposals will be in addition to the written comments and proposals presented during the first reading on 21 February, contained in the compilation documents on chapter one (DT-2 Rev. 1) and chapter four (DT-5) respectively. The above-mentioned documents will be forwarded to PrepCom-3, where a decision on use of the new proposals will be taken. All stakeholders are invited to continue making contributions to chapters one and four. The modalities of composition and the methods of work of the Group of Friends of the Chair will be defined by the Bureau, in consultation with the regional groups.
4. The report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) will be presented in mid-July 2005 (most probably on July 18). All governments and other stakeholders are invited to submit written comments and proposals for chapter three (to wsis-contributions@itu.int) by August 15. Thereafter, a compilation of these contributions will be forwarded to PrepCom-3, together with the report of the WGIG.

ANNEX 4

**PROPOSED FORMAT OF THE TUNIS PHASE
OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

1. The Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society will take place at the Parc des Expositions du Kram in Tunis, Tunisia from Wednesday 16 November to Friday 18 November 2005. The Summit will be comprised of an organizational meeting, an opening ceremony, eight plenary meetings, and round tables and high-level panels. The time management plan of the Summit is described in Annex 1.
2. The Tunis phase of the Summit shall start with the organizational meeting on Wednesday morning, which shall be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or any person designated by him for that purpose. The meeting will elect the President of the Summit and the President of the organizational meeting. The meeting will thereafter continue under the chairmanship of the President of the organizational meeting and adopt the Agenda of the Summit, amend Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit, elect the members of the Bureau, take note of the organization of work, set up the Credentials Committee and hear the report of the Preparatory Committee.
3. The organizational meeting shall be followed by the opening ceremony of the Summit. The Heads of State of the host countries, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of ITU, the President of the Preparatory Committee, and one top-level representative from civil society (including NGOs) as well as one top-level representative from a business sector entity (including ITU Sector Members), identified through their self-organizing mechanisms, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Summit, will be invited to make opening remarks.
4. Immediately after the opening ceremony, the first plenary meeting shall start with general debate. General debate will continue until the eighth plenary meeting on Friday afternoon. The last fifteen minutes of general debate of the first plenary meeting, the last half hour of general debate of the second, third, fifth and sixth plenary meeting and the last hour of general debate of the fourth and seventh plenary meeting will be set aside for statements from representatives of organizations and entities attending the Summit as observers.
5. The list of speakers of States for the General Debate will be established by a drawing of lots, in accordance with the customary UN protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by Ministers and other Heads of Delegation. Statements will be limited to 5 minutes. Only one statement per government delegation will be permitted. Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate.
6. During the time reserved for observers, speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. All speakers should represent the top-level of their organizations or entities. With regard to accredited civil society entities (including NGOs) and business sector entities (including ITU Sector Members), the spokespersons shall be identified through their self-organizing mechanisms, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Summit. With regard to intergovernmental organizations, in principle, High Level Summit Organizing Committee members, represented at the top-level, may make statements.

7. The last 15 minutes of the fifth plenary meeting and approximately one hour of the eighth plenary meeting, upon completion of the general debate, shall hear reports from Multi-stakeholder Events that have been held in conjunction with the Summit. The list of events reporting to the plenary meetings will be established by the Secretary-General of the Summit, in consultation with the High Level Summit Organizing Committee, and self-organizing mechanisms of civil society (including NGOs) and business sector entities (including ITU Sector Members). Priority will be given to events which provide positive inputs to the objectives of the Summit as outlined in the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action as well as the final document(s) to be adopted at the Tunis Phase of the Summit or events which are linked to creation of sustainable multi-stakeholder partnership projects.
8. On late Friday afternoon, after hearing a report from the Credentials Committee, the last plenary meeting will adopt the final document(s) and adopt the report of the Tunis Phase of the Summit. It will then hear closing remarks by the Heads of State of the host countries and the Secretary-General of the Summit.
9. Round tables and high-level panels will take place during the Summit, in parallel with plenary meetings, at the official Summit venue. The organization of the round tables and high-level panels is described in Annex 2 and Annex 3 respectively. The modalities of the round tables and high-level panels will be further elaborated by the Secretary-General of the Summit, in consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and Regional groups.
10. Observers will have direct access to the official Summit venue. Due to space constraints, a limited number of participants from accredited civil society entities (including NGOs) and business sector entities (including ITU Sector Members) will be allowed to attend the plenary meetings. Once the Summit program is finalized, the Executive Secretariat will inform the observers of these arrangements.

Annex 1 to ANNEX 4 - Time Management Plan of the Tunis Phase of the Summit

Wednesday 16 November	Thursday 17 November	Friday 18 November
<p>0830 to 0915 hours Organizational Meeting Agenda items 1-7(a) & 8 Break</p> <p>1000 to 1100 hours Opening Ceremony of the Tunis Phase of the Summit</p> <p>1100 to 1300 hours First Plenary Meeting 9. General debate*</p> <p><i>15 minutes Observers</i></p> <p>1300 to 1500 hours Break</p> <p>1500 to 1800 hours Second Plenary Meeting 9. General debate*</p> <p><i>30 minutes Observers</i></p> <p>1800 to 2000 hours Third Plenary Meeting 9. General debate*</p> <p><i>30 minutes Observers</i></p>	<p>0900 to 1300 hours Fourth Plenary Meeting 9. General debate*</p> <p><i>1 hour Observers</i></p> <p>1300 to 1400 hours Break</p> <p>1400 to 1700 hours Fifth Plenary Meeting 9. General debate*</p> <p><i>30 minutes Observers</i></p> <p>11. Report from Multi-stakeholder Events (15 min.)</p> <p>1700 to 2000 hours Sixth Plenary Meeting 9. General debate*</p> <p><i>30 minutes Observers</i></p>	<p>0900 to 1300 hours Seventh Plenary Meeting 9. General debate*</p> <p><i>1 hour Observers</i></p> <p>1300 to 1400 hours Break</p> <p>1400 to 1900 hours Eighth Plenary Meeting 9. General debate</p> <p>11. Report from Multi-stakeholder Events 7(b). Report of the Credential Committee 12. Adoption of the final document(s) 13. Adoption of the Report of the Tunis phase of the Summit 14. Closing of the Summit</p>
<p><i>30 minutes Observers</i></p>	<p><i>30 minutes Observers</i></p>	<p><i>30 minutes Observers</i></p>

* Heads of State or Government will speak first, followed by Ministers and then by other Heads of delegation. The last fifteen minutes of the first plenary; the last half hour of the second, third, fifth and sixth plenary and the last hour of the fourth and seventh plenary will be used for statements from representatives of intergovernmental organizations and from civil society and business sector entities.

Round tables and high-level panels (agenda item 10) will be organized in parallel with plenary meetings.

Annex 2 to ANNEX 4

Organization of Round Tables*

1. Round tables will be organized to provide Heads of State or Government the opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion on the future of the Information Society with leaders from organizations and entities attending the Summit as observers.
2. Each round table will have a maximum of 20 participants. Half of the participants will come from States and half from organizations and entities attending the Summit as observers.
3. Heads of State or Government will be invited by the Secretary-General of the Summit to participate in one of the round tables. Ministers will be invited when required to ensure a regional balance of participants from States. If required, Regional coordinators of States will be consulted to help ensure that each round table is regionally balanced.
4. The number and the schedule of the round tables will be determined by the Secretary-General of the Summit.
5. The round tables will be organized around one broad and inclusive overarching theme identified by the Secretary-General of the Summit.
6. Each round table will be moderated by an eminent personality nominated by the Secretary-General of the Summit.
7. Participants from organizations and entities attending the Summit as observers will be nominated by the Secretary-General of the Summit, in consultation with the High Level Summit Organizing Committee, and self-organizing mechanisms of civil society (including NGOs) and business sector entities (including ITU Sector Members).
8. The round tables will be held in a room where access is limited to only participants and their advisors. The proceedings of the round tables will be broadcast simultaneously through the Internet.
9. The report of round tables will be annexed to the final report of the Summit.

* The modalities of the round tables will be further elaborated by the Secretary-General of the Summit, in consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and Regional groups.

Annex 3 to ANNEX 4

Organization of High-Level Panels*

1. High-level panels will be organized to provide Summit participants, including observers, with a dynamic forum for discussion and debate on the future of the Information Society.
2. Each panel will be comprised of up to five eminent personalities with expertise in the topic of the panel.
3. Panelists will be nominated by the Secretary-General of the Summit, in consultation with Regional coordinators of States, the High Level Summit Organizing Committee, and self-organizing mechanisms of civil society (including NGOs) and business sector entities (including ITU Sector Members).
4. The number, schedule and themes of the panels will be identified by the Secretary-General of the Summit.
5. Each panel will be moderated by an eminent personality nominated by the Secretary-General of the Summit. The moderators will keep the discussions dynamic and interactive and will invite questions and comments from the audience.
6. The panels will be held in a room where the audience can observe and participate in the proceedings. The proceedings of the panels will be broadcast simultaneously through the Internet.
7. The reports of the panels will be annexed to the final report of the Summit.

* The modalities of the high-level panels will be further elaborated by the Secretary-General of the Summit, in consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and Regional groups.
