



Udvalget for Videnskab og Teknologi
(2. samling) UVT alm. del - Bilag 107
Offentligt

Bilag 1

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Kære Pia Mortensen

Folketingets Udvalg for Videnskab og Teknologi har udtalt ønske om parlamentariker deltagelse i den danske delegation til FN's Verdenstopmøde om Informationssamfundet (WSIS). Første del af topmødet blev holdt i Geneve 10.-12. december 2003, og anden del holdes i Tunis 16.-18. november 2005.

Såfremt Folketinget ønsker at deltage i Verdenstopmødet om informationssamfundet med en parlamentarikerdelegation, vil Udenrigsministeriet, som det har været tilfældet ved andre topmøder og i forbindelse med FN's generalforsamling, tilbyde orienteringsmøder om topmødets emner og den praktiske forberedelse ved embedsmænd i Udenrigsministeriet og Videnskabsministeriet, som ligeledes deltager i forberedelsen af den danske deltagelse i topmødet.

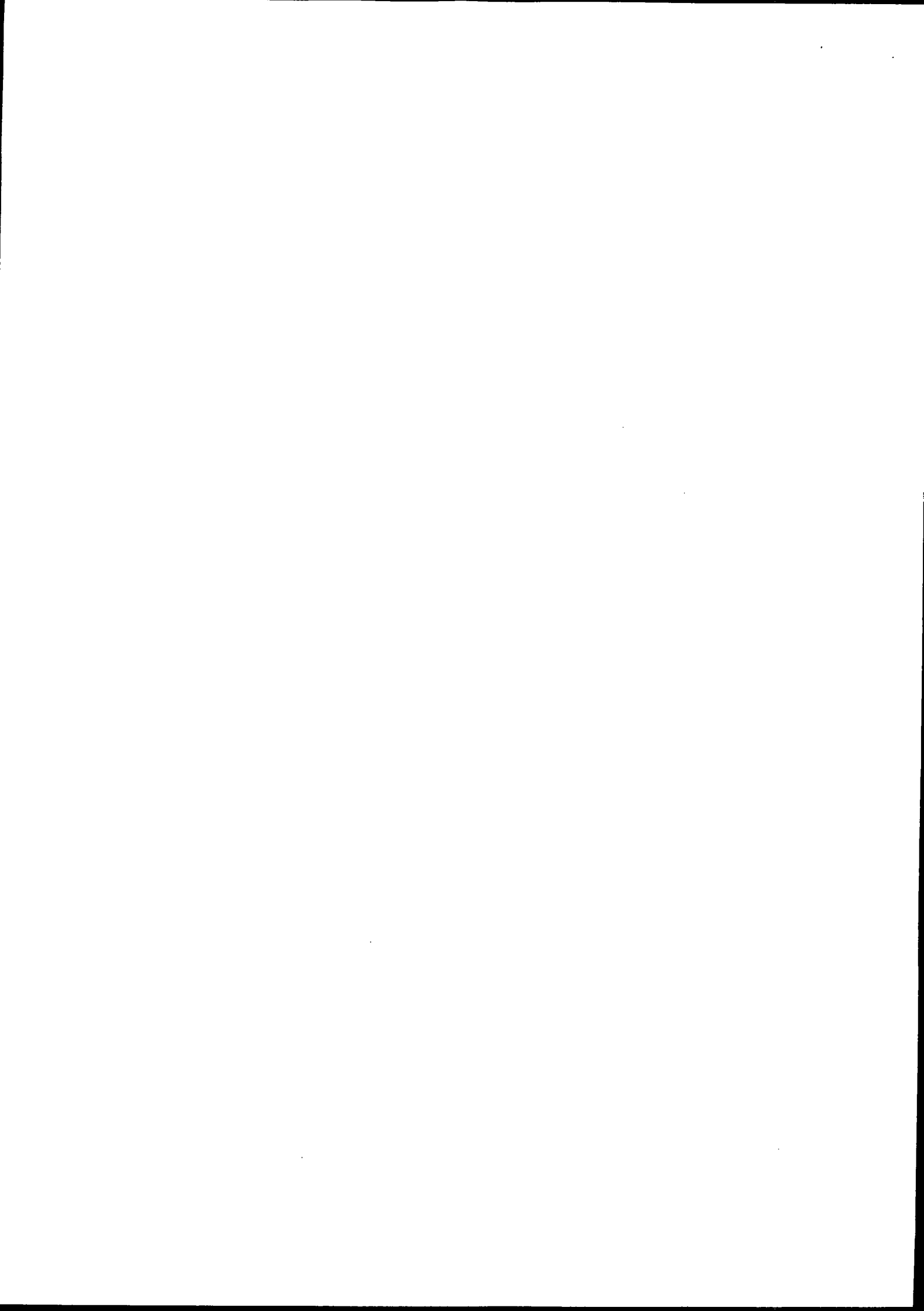
Den praktiske organisering af parlamentarikerdelegationens ophold samt finansieringen af deltagelsen påhviler Folketinget.

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WSIS holdes med baggrund i FN's Generalforsamlings resolution 56/183 fra 21. december 2001. Resolutionen gav Den Internationale Telekommunikation Union (ITU) til opgave at forberede topmødet i samarbejde med de to værtslande, Schweiz og Tunesien.

I resolutionen peges blandt andet på behovet for at udnytte det store videnskabsmæssige og teknologiske potentiale til at fremme de mål, som blev fastsat i sluterklæringen fra FN's Millennium-topmøde i New York i 2000. Såvel mellemstatslige organisationer og regeringer som det civile sam-

Sekretariatschef Pia Mortensen
Folketingets Sekretariat
Christiansborg



fund, NGO'er og den private sektor m.v. blev opfordret til at deltage aktivt i forberedelsesprocessen.

Til topmødets første del i Geneve var der omkring 11.000 deltagere fra 176 stater samt fra internationale organisationer, det civile samfund og den private sektor.

Verdenstopmødet vedtog en principerklæring og en handlingsplan. Disse dokumenter udgør nu et fælles grundlag blandt FN's medlemsstater for forståelse af informationssamfundet og visionerne for den videre udvikling heraf.

- ./ Udenrigsministeriet og Videnskabsministeriet har i fællesskab udarbejdet en beretning til Folketinget om første del af Verdenstopmødet om Informationssamfundet. Beretningen med bilag (herunder principerklæring og handlingsplan) vedlægges.

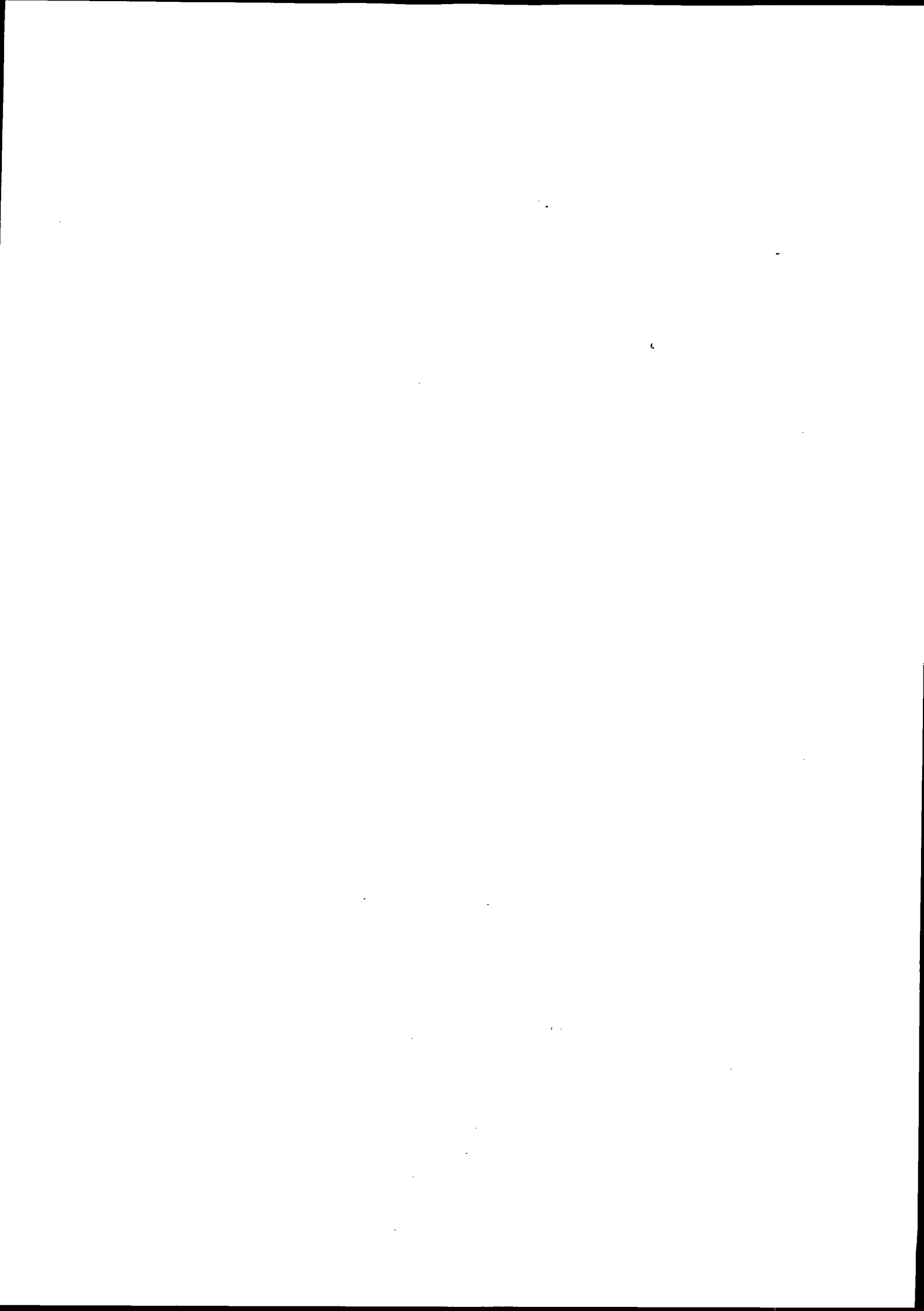
Geneve-topmødet efterlod to vigtige områder, hvor det ikke lykkedes at opnå enighed.

Det drejer sig for det første om udviklingslandenes behov for finansieringsbistand til at opfylde deres bestræbelser på at blive fuldgældige aktører i informationssamfundet, herunder eventuelle særlige finansielle mekanismer for at mindske den digitale kløft (Digital Divide).

Det andet område omhandler en række komplekse problemstillinger af såvel teknisk som politisk karakter vedrørende forvaltningen af internettet (Internet Governance).

FN's Generalsekretær blev derfor på Geneve-topmødet anmodet om at nedsætte *Working Group on Internet Governance* (WGIG) og *Task Force on Financial Mechanisms* (TFFM). De to grupper skal som forberedelse til forhandlingerne under anden fase af WSIS søge at afklare en række spørgsmål vedrørende de to emner.

Der har været afholdt to forberedelseskonferencer med henblik på forberedelse af topmødets anden fase, og der er planlagt yderligere en forberedelseskonference forud for anden del af WSIS. PrepCom III vil blive holdt i Geneve 19.-30. september 2005. Såfremt der ikke opnås enighed om alle udestående punkter på dette møde, må der forventes yderligere mødeaktivitet i oktober 2005 og eventuelt i dagene umiddelbart før topmødet i november.

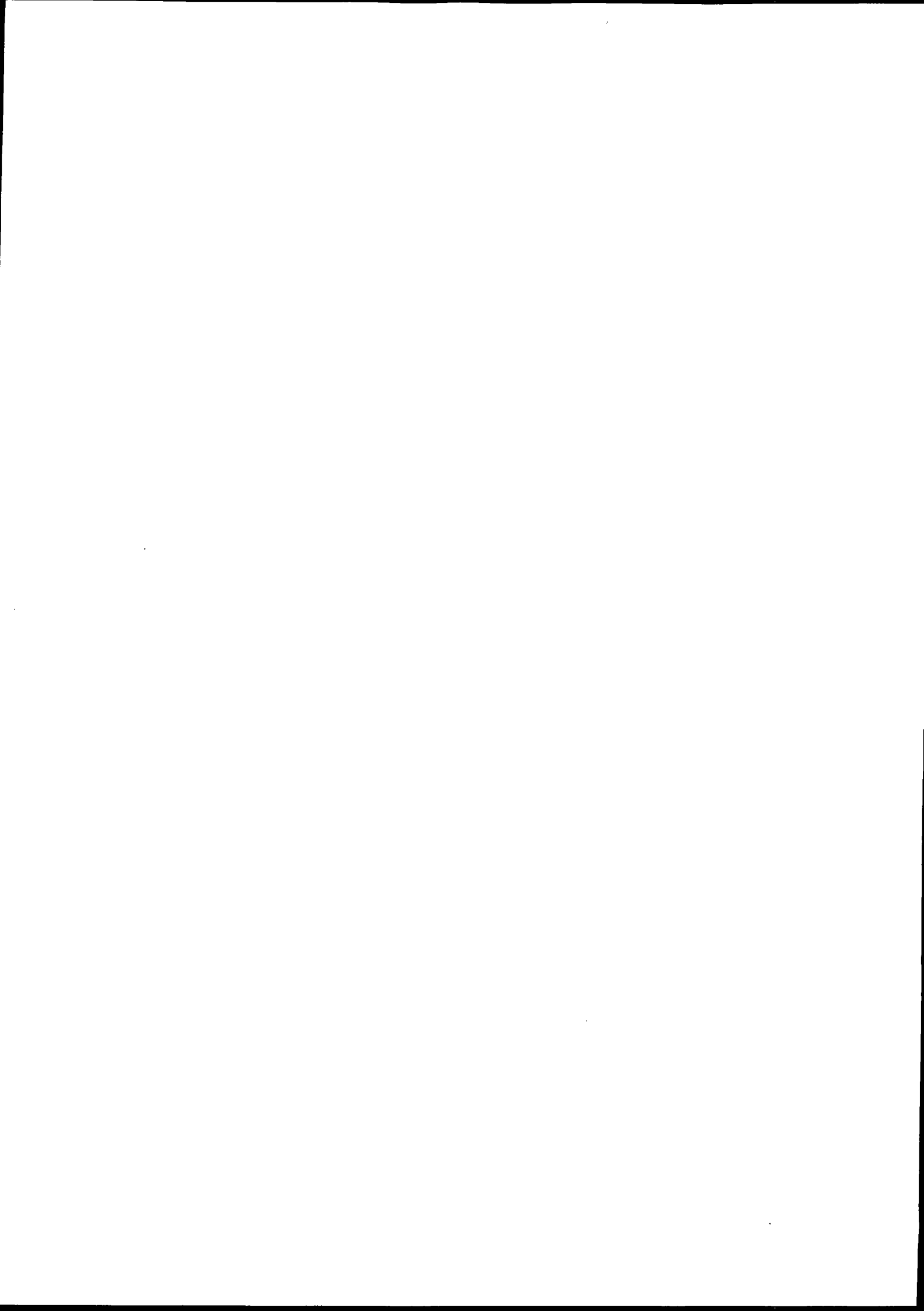


Jeg ser frem til at høre, om Folketinget ønsker at deltage i topmødet med en parlamentarikerdelegation.

Med venlig hilsen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finn Jønck', written in a cursive style.

Finn Jønck
Kontorchef



Beretning
om
FN's Verdenstopmøde om informationsamfundet
Den 10.-12. december 2003
I Genève, Schweiz

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET
OG
MINISTERIET FOR VIDENSKAB, TEKNOLOGI OG UDVIKLING

Indhold:

Beretning om FN's Verdenstopmøde om informationssamfundet den 10.-12. december 2003 i Genève, Schweiz

- Bilag 1 Liste over deltagere i den danske delegation
- Bilag 2 Declaration of Principles: Building the Information Society: A global challenge in the new Millennium
- Bilag 3 Plan of Action
- Bilag 4 Note by the Secretary-General of the Summit: Arrangements for the Tunis Phase of the Summit
- Bilag 5 Statement by H.E. Ulla Tørnæs, Minister of Education, at the World Summit on the Information Society on 11 December 2003
- Bilag 6 Statement by the Minister for Innovation and Technologies of the Government of Italy, H.E. Lucio Stanca on behalf of the European Union
- Bilag 7 Civil Society Declaration to the World Summit on the Information Society: Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs

Beretning
om
FN's Verdenstopmøde om informationssamfundet
Den 10.-12. december 2003
I Genève, Schweiz

Baggrund

FN's generalforsamling gav den 21. december 2001 med resolution 56/183 Den Internationale Telekommunikation Union (ITU) til opgave at forberede et verdenstopmøde om informationssamfundet (World Summit on the Information Society – WSIS).

Resolutionen peger blandt andet på behovet for at udnytte det store videnskabelige og teknologiske potentiale til at fremme de mål, som blev fastsat i sluterklæringen fra FN's Millenium-topmøde i New York i 2000. I resolutionen opfordres såvel regeringer, civilsamfund og den private sektor til at deltage aktivt i forberedelsesprocessen.

WSIS er planlagt til at finde sted i to faser, den første fase med topmødet i Genève, som fandt sted den 10.-12. december 2003 og den anden fase i Tunis den 16.-18. november 2005.

Forberedelserne til topmødet i Genève blev gennemført på regionalt og globalt niveau, ligesom der i mange lande er gennemført en national forberedelsesproces med relevante aktører indenfor området. Der har på globalt niveau været afholdt tre forberedelseskonferencer i Genève. Den sidste indledtes i september 2003 og afsluttedes med et to-dages møde den 5.-6. december lige inden topmødet. Forberedelseskonferencerne har haft til opgave at forberede udkast til en principerklæring og en handlingsplan, som blev vedtaget under selve topmødet.

EU afgav skriftlige bidrag til forberedelsesprocessen forud for de afholdte forberedelseskonferencer. Den løbende EU-koordinering fandt sted i Genève. Topmødeforberedelsen var endvidere løbende på dagsordenen for it- og teleministrenes møder i Rådet, senest drøftet på Rådsmødet (transport, telekommunikation og energi) den 20. november 2003. EU-kommissionen har i lighed med praksis i forbindelse med andre verdenstopmøder den 19. maj 2003 vedtaget en meddelelse om WSIS til Rådet, Europa-Parlamentet, Det Europæiske Økonomiske og Sociale Udvalg og Regionsudvalget.¹

Udenrigsministeriet og Videnskabsministeriet var ansvarlige for de danske forberedelser til topmødet. Udenrigsministeriet og Videnskabsministeriet har i fællesskab holdt åbne debatmøder om WSIS den 13. september 2002, den 22. januar 2003 og den 26. august 2003 med henblik på at modtage input fra og skabe dialog med civilsamfundet, erhvervslivet, interesseorganisationer, forskningsverdenen, mediekredse og enkeltpersoner om topmødets emner.

¹ "Towards a Global Partnership in the Information Society: EU Perspective in the context of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)", COM(2003) 271 final

Forberedelsesprocessen

Forberedelsesprocessen gennemførtes under ledelse af den tidligere undervisningsminister i Mali Adama Sammasssekou. Det lykkedes ikke under den tredje forberedelseskonference (Prep-Com III) i september 2003 at nå til enighed om en tekst til principerklæring og handlingsplan til fremlæggelse på verdensstopmødet i december samme år. I lyset heraf blev det besluttet, at suspendere mødet med henblik på at genindkalde forberedelseskomiteen på ny den 10.-14. november 2003. Ej heller under dette møde opnåedes der enighed, hvorfor det blev nødvendigt at indkalde forberedelseskomiteen endnu engang den 5.-6. december 2003 umiddelbart inden topmødet.

Forhandlingerne den 5.-6. december fandt sted på grundlag af nye tekstforslag til erklæring og handlingsplan udarbejdet af det schweiziske værtskab på grundlag af intensive uformelle konsultationer. Det lykkedes at nå til enighed om samtlige udestående spørgsmål i erklæring og handlingsplan under forhandlingerne den 5.-6. december på nær spørgsmålet om finansiering og forberedelse af Tunis-fasen, som blev løst i endnu et møde i forberedelseskomiteen den 9. december 2003.

De spørgsmål, som det viste sig vanskeligst at nå til enighed om, var følgende:

- menneskerettigheder, herunder i særdeleshed ytringsfrihed, fri adgang til information og viden samt privatlivets fred.
- finansielle spørgsmål, herunder udviklingslandenes ønske om oprettelse af en særlig fond (Digital Solidarity Fund) til finansiering af udviklingslandenes deltagelse i informationssamfundet.
- "Internet Governance", herunder om modaliteterne for international aftale/regulering (ansvarsfordeling mellem offentlige myndigheder, internationale organisationer og den private sektor).
- mediernes rolle.
- netværks- og informationssikkerhed, hvor spørgsmålet om ytringsfriheden og andre menneskerettighedsspørgsmål også skilte vandene.
- ophavsret, hvor EU og USA m.fl. ønsker at fastholde respekten for de eksisterende aftaler på området, idet disse vurderes at indeholde en fair balance mellem behovet for viddeling og behovet for at beskytte rettighedshaverne.

Den generelle debat

FN's Generalsekretær, Kofi Annan, anførte i sit indledende indlæg, at teknologiudviklingen havde produceret informationsalderen, og at det var nu op til alle at bygge informationssamfundet. Muligheden for at forbedre levestandarden for millioner af mennesker eksisterede, og redskaberne til at opfylde 2015-målene var tilstede. Den såkaldte digitale kløft var i realiteten både teknologisk, kønsspecifik og kommerciel. Der var ligeledes klare sociale og økonomiske uligheder som indvirkede på et lands muligheder for at drage nytte af de digitale muligheder.

Et åbent og inklusivt informationssamfund, som kom alle til gode ville være afhængig af politisk vilje og investeringer. Generalsekretæren opfordrede det private erhvervsliv, civilsamfundet og medierne om også at bidrage.

Det italienske EU-formandskab repræsenteret ved den italienske minister for udvikling og teknologi, Lucio Stanca, anførte i et indlæg på vegne af EU, at informations- og kommunikationssamfundets styrke lå i evnen til at fjerne hindringer og åbne for alle menneskers frie, økonomiske og sociale udvikling. Den vigtigste udfordring var at opnå enighed om et værdi- og regelsæt, hvorpå det fremtidige informationssamfund kunne baseres. EU fandt, at de grundlæggende værdier, baseret på menneskerettigheder og de fundamentale friheder var informationssamfundets grundpiller. Fri adgang til information, frihed til at kommunikere og deltage og principperne om gennemsigtighed og god regeringsførelse var informationssamfundets fundamentale principper.

EU understregede i relation til topmødet i Tunis i 2005, at det var vigtigt først og fremmest at vurdere erfaringerne fra første fase, sikre omkostningseffektivitet og fokusere på gennemførelsen af handlingsplanen. Det var EU's holdning, at et succesrigt Tunis topmøde ville afhænge af fuld og hel inddragelse af civilsamfund og privatsektor i de forberedende aktiviteter og drøftelser.

Undervisningsminister Ulla Tørnæs understregede i sit indlæg, at visionen om informationssamfundet tabte sin betydning, hvis ikke den bidrog til at lade udviklingen vinde over fattigdommen, frihed vinde over censur og viden vinde over uvidenhed. Fattigdom måtte bekæmpes gennem bæredygtig økonomisk vækst, social udvikling og øget markedsadgang. Her kunne informationsteknologierne spille en afgørende rolle, men der var behov for en yderligere indsats for at give alle adgang til informationsteknologi. Det var afgørende, at udviklingslandene begyndte at integrere nationale e-strategier i deres nationale fattigdomsstrategier. Informationssamfundet måtte være inkluderende.

En rettighedsbaseret tilgang til informationsteknologi og udvikling var en måde at bringe de internationale menneskerettighedsstandarder og udvikling af informationsteknologien sammen. Fokus på digital forvaltning, e-læring, e-business og e-sundhed i årlige handlingsplaner for informationsteknologi kunne bidrage til at skabe det fulde udbytte af informationsteknologien og bane vejen til et ægte informationssamfund. Det var endvidere opgaven at sikre forsat udvikling af internettet til fordel for borgere og erhvervsliv - i overensstemmelse med fælles grundlæggende principper og til fordel for alle samfund.

Erklæring og handlingsplan

Hele forberedelsesprocessen var præget af meget polariserede drøftelser af selve fundamentet for informationssamfundet, hvor de vestlige lande (EU, USA, Canada m.fl.) og Latinamerika stod fast på, at menneskerettighedserklæringen måtte være selve grundlaget og derfor krævede reference til erklæringens centrale artikel 19 om ytringsfrihed. Heroverfor stod især Kina og Egypten støttet af en række andre arabiske lande. Der var på tidspunkter i forberedelsesprocessen bekymring for, at erklæringen kunne komme til at repræsentere et reelt tilbageskridt på menneskerettighedsområdet. Dette blev dog ikke tilfældet. Et stærkt EU pres på især Kina og advarsel om, at EU og ligesindede lande ikke ville acceptere en erklæring, som repræsenterede

tilbageskridt førte til enighed om den indledende artikel i principerklæringen, som tegner visionen for informationssamfundet "...a people-centred, inclusive and development oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge..." og som fastslår, at denne vision fuldt og helt baseres på og respekterer FN's Menneskerettighedserklæring. Ikke mindst på baggrund af pres fra EU lykkedes det at sikre referencer til Menneskerettighedserklæringens centrale artikel 19 vedrørende ytringsfrihed i erklæringen. Det lykkedes ligeledes at sikre reference til menneskerettigheder i handlingsplanen.

Verdenstopmødet viste en markant international anerkendelse af internettets betydning for det globale samfund og det forhold, at vi i stadig stigende grad anvender det globale internet til at få adgang til information og viden, til at kommunikere og til mangeartede kommercielle og kulturelle aktiviteter. Drøftelserne på verdenstopmødet afspejlede, at internettets fremmarch har rejst en række nye problemstillinger, som kræver global dialog. For eksempel spam, hacking, virusangreb, ulovligt indhold samt overvågning og andre trusler mod privatlivets fred er problemstillinger, som ikke udelukkende løses på nationalt plan. Internettet er globalt, og der er behov for globale tiltag for at håndtere problemerne. Temaet "Internet Governance" var derfor et af topmødets mest komplekse emner.

Erklæringens artikel 48-50 og handlingsplanens punkt 13, litra b-d fastslår, at der under det overordnede ansvar af FN's generalsekretær skal igangsættes globale drøftelser om den fremtidige forvaltning af internettet. Forhandlingerne skal involvere såvel regeringer som erhvervslivet og civilsamfundet. Disse drøftelser vil blandt andet dreje sig om at få fastlagt en anvendelig definition af Internet Governance og at få identificeret de områder, hvor der er offentlige interesser. Drøftelserne vil derfor komme til at omfatte en række tekniske aspekter i forhold til administrationen af internettet og en lang række spørgsmål af stor betydning for borgere og virksomheders anvendelse af internettet.

Der blev ligeledes fundet acceptable formuleringer om netværks- og informationssikkerhed (artiklerne 32-34 i erklæringen) efter langvarige forhandlinger, hvor Kina (til tider støttet af Rusland) arbejdede ihærdigt for, at alle henvisninger til behovet for samarbejde på dette område skulle ske med fuld respekt for national lovgivning, således at den nationale kontrol ikke antastedes.

Spørgsmålet om ophavsret (artikel 42) gav også anledning til uenighed mellem udviklingslandene (blandt andet Barbados, Brasilien, Indien og Irak) og den vestlige verden (primært EU og USA). Uenigheden vedrørte balanceforholdet i de gældende aftaler på ophavsretsområdet mellem på den ene side behovet for at beskytte indehavere af intellektuelle ejendomsrettigheder og på den anden side udviklingslandenes behov for at få adgang til viden. Det lykkedes under det afsluttende møde i PrepCom III at få formuleret en tekst til erklæringens artikel 42, som var acceptabel for alle parter. Tidligere i processen var det ligeledes lykkedes at finde en tilfredsstillende tekst til erklæringens artikel 27 vedrørende behovet for at fremme viden om fordele og ulemper ved de forskellige forretningsmodeller på softwareområdet (herunder open source og proprietære modeller) uden at fremhæve én model frem for en anden.

Spørgsmålet om finansiering omtalt i erklæringens artikel 58 var under hele forberedelsesprocessen genstand for meget langvarige og vanskelige forhandlinger. Der blev under skiftende ledelse (Sydafrika, Sverige, Canada og Schweiz) ført uformelle forhandlinger med den afrikanske gruppe, EU og Japan som hovedaktører. Den senegalesiske præsident, Abdoulaye Wade, lancerede på PrepCom III et forslag om etablering af en "Digital Solidaritetsfond", som skulle finansiere udviklingslandenes inddragelse i informationssamfundet og dermed slå bro over den såkaldte digitale kløft. EU og Japan med flere havde – under henvisning til forpligtelserne afgivet på Monterrey konferencen om udviklingsfinansiering - fra starten gjort klart, at der ikke ville blive tale om additionelle bistandsmidler til dette formål.

Den schweiziske formand lagde et overordentligt stærkt pres på den afrikanske gruppe, og der opnåedes, som nævnt ovenfor, enighed om følgende kompromistekst: *"We recognize the will expressed on the one hand by some to create an international voluntary "Digital Solidarity Fund", and by others to undertake studies concerning existing mechanisms and the efficiency and feasibility of such fund"*.

Som en kuriositet skal nævnes, at den schweiziske borgmester for byen Genève på topmødets sidste dag meddelte, at byerne Genève og Lyon sammen med den senegalesiske præsident havde etableret en "Digital Solidarity Fund", og at fonden allerede havde modtaget donationer på over 1 mio. euro.

Erklæring og handlingsplan er vedlagt som bilag 2 og 3.

Anden fase – topmøde i Tunis den 16.-18. november 2005

Under topmødet i Genève blev det besluttet at afholde et forberedende møde i første halvdel af 2004 med henblik på at gennemgå de spørgsmål vedrørende informationssamfundet, som vil være fokus for Tunis-fasen. Det forberedende møde vil endvidere skulle tage beslutning om strukturen for forberedelsen af anden fase (antallet af forberedende møder etc.). Danmark og EU finder, at Tunis-fasen bør koncentreres om opfølgning på handlingsplanen, som blev vedtaget i Genève, samt at forberedelsesprocessen bør være så strømlinet som muligt. Den nødvendige finansiering af Tunis-fasen er endnu ikke tilvejebragt. Vedtagelsen er vedlagt som bilag 4.

Den danske stand

Danmark deltog med en stand på den åbne platform ICT4D (ICT for Development) i forbindelse med Verdenstopmødet i Genève. Danmark var bredt repræsenteret på standen med 19 danske organisationer, virksomheder, universiteter og institutioner. Endvidere var repræsentanter fra de danske samarbejdspartnere Ghana, Bolivia, Nicaragua og Bangladesh blandt deltagerne på den danske stand. Undervisningsminister Ulla Tørnæs var vært ved standens åbningsreception, hvori deltog repræsentanter fra den danske delegation, pressen, EU samt en lang række udenlandske organisationer – herunder formanden for FN's ICT Task Force, den tidligere costaricanske præsident José Figueres Olsen.

Platformen var arrangeret af SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) og GKP (Global Knowledge Partnership) og blev åbnet af den schweiziske udenrigsminister, Micheline Calmy-Rey. Titlen på platformen var "Connecting people for a better life".

ICT4D, også kaldet Informationssamfundets "Globale landsby", tiltrak 38.000 besøgende gæster i løbet af de fem dage, som arrangementet varede. 265 oplægsholdere fra 80 lande debatterede og belyste informations- og kommunikationsteknologiernes (IKT) udviklingsperspektiver gennem hundredvis af rundbordsdiskussioner, konferencer og foredrag.

Det danske civilsamfund var også repræsenteret på ICT4D. Civilsamfundets deltagelse var koordineret af FN-forbundet i Danmark i samarbejde med den internationale sammenslutning af FN-forbund (WFUNA). FN-forbundet havde endvidere med økonomisk støtte fra den danske stat inviteret samarbejdspartnere fra civilsamfundet i syv udviklingslande til at repræsentere deres lande på ICT4D.

Pressedækning og formidling

I forbindelse med den danske stand deltog endvidere fem journalister fra danske medier.

Som del af de danske forberedelser til ICT4D blev der oprettet en hjemmeside (www.ict4d.dk), hvor information om Verdenstopmødet og den tilknyttede platform blev formidlet til de danske deltagere. Samtidig fungerede hjemmesiden som kommunikationsredskab mellem deltagerne i perioden frem mod topmødet. Under selve afviklingen af topmødet og ICT4D-platformen var hjemmesiden kernen til formidling og overblik. Hjemmesiden vil efter topmødet forblive tilgængelig på internettet i 6 måneder.

Den danske delegation

Undervisningsminister Ulla Tørnæs ledede under sin deltagelse i topmødet den 10.-12. december 2003 den danske delegation og afgav det danske indlæg. Delegationen omfattede tillige repræsentanter fra Udenrigsministeriet, Ministeriet for Videnskab, Teknologi og Udvikling og Kulturministeriet og det danske civilsamfund. Delegationslisten er vedlagt som bilag 1.

Civilsamfundets erklæring til WSIS-topmødet

Civilsamfundet vedtog en erklæring ved civilsamfundets parallelle konference med titlen "Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs". Erklæringen lægger vægt på

1. social retfærdighed og bæredygtig udvikling med mennesket i centrum,
2. menneskerettigheder som en grundpille i informationssamfundet,
3. sikring af kultur, viden og det offentlige domæne, og
4. udvikling af politiske, uddannelsesmæssige, finansielle og tekniske rammer for informationssamfundet.

Erklæringen er vedlagt som bilag 7.

The delegation of Denmark for the World Summit on the Information Society, 10-12 December 2003:

Head of Delegation:

Ulla Toernaes, Danish Minister of Education

Alternate representatives:

Leo Bjoernskov, Permanent Secretary, Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

Ole Moesby, Ambassador, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Henrik Rée Iversen, Ambassador, Danish Mission to the UN in Geneva

Advisors:

Ib Petersen, Head of Department, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sidse Aegidius, Head of International ICT Policy, Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

Ole Neustrup, Counsellor, Danish Mission to the UN in Geneva

Eva Egesborg Hansen, Head of Section, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Soeren Orlof Frandsen, Personal Secretary to the Minister, Danish Ministry of Education

Vibeke G. Petersen, Special Adviser, Danish Ministry of Culture

Henrik Kjaer, Head of Section, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

Ulla Hauer, Head of ICT section, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rikke Frank Joergensen, Senior Advisor, Danish Institute of Human Rights

Jane Finnerup Johnsen, Head of Section, Danish UN Association

Mr. Tobias Oestergaard-Hansen, Assistant Attaché, Danish Mission to the UN in Geneva

Declaration of Principles

Building the Information Society: a global challenge in the new Millennium

A. Our Common Vision of the Information Society

1. **We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society**, declare our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. **Our challenge** is to harness the potential of information and communication technology to promote the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, namely the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; achievement of universal primary education; promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; reduction of child mortality; improvement of maternal health; to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and development of global partnerships for development for the attainment of a more peaceful, just and prosperous world. We also reiterate our commitment to the achievement of sustainable development and agreed development goals, as contained in the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus, and other outcomes of relevant UN Summits.

3. **We reaffirm** the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration. We also reaffirm that democracy, sustainable development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as good governance at all levels are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. We further resolve to strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs.

4. **We reaffirm**, as an essential foundation of the Information Society, and as outlined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. Communication is a fundamental social process, a basic human need and the foundation of all social organization. It is central to the Information Society. Everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate and no one should be excluded from the benefits the Information Society offers.

5. **We further reaffirm** our commitment to the provisions of Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of their personality is possible, and that, in the exercise of their rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the

purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. In this way, we shall promote an Information Society where human dignity is respected.

6. In keeping with the spirit of this declaration, **we rededicate ourselves** to upholding the principle of the sovereign equality of all States.

7. **We recognize that science** has a central role in the development of the Information Society. Many of the building blocks of the Information Society are the result of scientific and technical advances made possible by the sharing of research results.

8. **We recognize** that education, knowledge, information and communication are at the core of human progress, endeavour and well-being. Further, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have an immense impact on virtually all aspects of our lives. The rapid progress of these technologies opens completely new opportunities to attain higher levels of development. The capacity of these technologies to reduce many traditional obstacles, especially those of time and distance, for the first time in history makes it possible to use the potential of these technologies for the benefit of millions of people in all corners of the world.

9. **We are aware** that ICTs should be regarded as tools and not as an end in themselves. Under favourable conditions, these technologies can be a powerful instrument, increasing productivity, generating economic growth, job creation and employability and improving the quality of life of all. They can also promote dialogue among people, nations and civilizations.

10. **We are also fully aware** that the benefits of the information technology revolution are today unevenly distributed between the developed and developing countries and within societies. We are fully committed to turning this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized.

11. **We are committed** to realising our common vision of the Information Society for ourselves and for future generations. We recognize that young people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and well-being.

12. **We affirm** that development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society. We are committed to ensuring that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis on equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. To this end, we should mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end.

13. In building the Information Society, **we shall pay particular attention** to the special needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups of society, including migrants, internally displaced persons and

refugees, unemployed and under-privileged people, minorities and nomadic people. We shall also recognize the special needs of older persons and persons with disabilities.

14. **We are resolute** to empower the poor, particularly those living in remote, rural and marginalized urban areas, to access information and to use ICTs as a tool to support their efforts to lift themselves out of poverty.

15. In the evolution of the Information Society, particular attention must be given to the special situation of indigenous peoples, as well as to the preservation of their heritage and their cultural legacy.

16. **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.

17. **We recognize** that building an inclusive Information Society requires new forms of solidarity, partnership and cooperation among governments and other stakeholders, i.e. the private sector, civil society and international organizations. Realizing that the ambitious goal of this Declaration - bridging the digital divide and ensuring harmonious, fair and equitable development for all - will require strong commitment by all stakeholders, we call for digital solidarity, both at national and international levels.

18. Nothing in this declaration shall be construed as impairing, contradicting, restricting or derogating from the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, any other international instrument or national laws adopted in furtherance of these instruments.

B. An information Society for all: key principles

19. **We are resolute** in our quest to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer. We agree that to meet these challenges, all stakeholders should work together to: improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to information and knowledge; build capacity; increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs; create an enabling environment at all levels; develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media; address the ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and encourage international and regional cooperation. We agree that these are the key principles for building an inclusive Information Society.

1) The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

20. Governments, as well as private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations have an important role and responsibility in the development of the Information Society and, as appropriate, in decision-making processes. Building a people-centred Information Society is a joint effort which requires cooperation and partnership among all stakeholders.

2) Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive information society

21. Connectivity is a central enabling agent in building the Information Society. Universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICT infrastructure and services, constitutes one of the challenges of the Information Society and should be an objective of all stakeholders involved in building it. Connectivity also involves access to energy and postal services, which should be assured in conformity with the domestic legislation of each country.

22. A well-developed information and communication network infrastructure and applications, adapted to regional, national and local conditions, easily-accessible and affordable, and making greater use of broadband and other innovative technologies where possible, can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples.

23. Policies that create a favourable climate for stability, predictability and fair competition at all levels should be developed and implemented in a manner that not only attracts more private investment for ICT infrastructure development but also enables universal service obligations to be met in areas where traditional market conditions fail to work. In disadvantaged areas, the establishment of ICT public access points in places such as post offices, schools, libraries and archives, can provide effective means for ensuring universal access to the infrastructure and services of the Information Society.

3) Access to information and knowledge

24. The ability for all to access and contribute information, ideas and knowledge is essential in an inclusive Information Society.

25. The sharing and strengthening of global knowledge for development can be enhanced by removing barriers to equitable access to information for economic, social, political, health, cultural, educational, and scientific activities and by facilitating access to public domain information, including by universal design and the use of assistive technologies.

26. A rich public domain is an essential element for the growth of the Information Society, creating multiple benefits such as an educated public, new jobs, innovation, business opportunities, and the advancement of sciences. Information in the public domain should be easily accessible to support the Information Society, and protected from misappropriation. Public institutions such as libraries and archives, museums, cultural collections and other community-based access points should be strengthened so as to promote the preservation of documentary records and free and equitable access to information.

27. Access to information and knowledge can be promoted by increasing awareness among all stakeholders of the possibilities offered by different software models, including proprietary, open-source and free software, in order to increase competition, access by users, diversity of choice, and to enable all users to develop solutions which best meet their requirements. Affordable access to software should be considered as an important component of a truly inclusive Information Society.

28. We strive to promote universal access with equal opportunities for all to scientific knowledge and the creation and dissemination of scientific and technical information, including open access initiatives for scientific publishing.

4) Capacity building

29. Each person should have the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in order to understand, participate actively in, and benefit fully from, the Information Society and the knowledge economy. Literacy and universal primary education are key factors for building a fully inclusive information society, paying particular attention to the special needs of girls and women. Given the wide range of ICT and information specialists required at all levels, building institutional capacity deserves special attention.

30. The use of ICTs in all stages of education, training and human resource development should be promoted, taking into account the special needs of persons with disabilities and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

31. Continuous and adult education, re-training, life-long learning, distance-learning and other special services, such as telemedicine, can make an essential contribution to employability and help people benefit from the new opportunities offered by ICTs for traditional jobs, self-employment and new professions. Awareness and literacy in ICTs are an essential foundation in this regard.

32. Content creators, publishers, and producers, as well as teachers, trainers, archivists, librarians and learners, should play an active role in promoting the Information Society, particularly in the Least Developed Countries.

33. To achieve a sustainable development of the Information Society, national capability in ICT research and development should be enhanced. Furthermore, partnerships, in particular between and among developed and developing countries, including countries with economies in transition, in research and development, technology transfer, manufacturing and utilisation of ICT products and services are crucial for promoting capacity building and global participation in the Information Society. The manufacture of ICTs presents a significant opportunity for creation of wealth.

34. The attainment of our shared aspirations, in particular for developing countries, including countries with economies in transition, to become fully-fledged members of the Information Society, and their positive integration into the knowledge economy, depends largely on increased capacity building in the areas of education, technology know-how and access to information, which are major factors in determining development and competitiveness.

5) Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

35. Strengthening the trust framework, including information security and network security, authentication, privacy and consumer protection, is a prerequisite for the development of the Information Society and for building confidence among users of ICTs. A global culture of cyber-security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in co-operation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies. These efforts should be supported by increased international co-operation. Within this global culture of cyber-security, it is important to enhance security and to ensure the protection of data and privacy, while enhancing access and trade. In addition, it must

take into account the level of social and economic development of each country and respect the development-oriented aspects of the Information Society.

36. While recognizing the principles of universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations, we support the activities of the United Nations to prevent the potential use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their security. It is necessary to prevent the use of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights.

37. Spam is a significant and growing problem for users, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cyber-security should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels.

6) Enabling environment

38. An enabling environment at national and international levels is essential for the Information Society. ICTs should be used as an important tool for good governance.

39. The rule of law, accompanied by a supportive, transparent, pro-competitive, technologically neutral and predictable policy and regulatory framework reflecting national realities, is essential for building a people-centred Information Society. Governments should intervene, as appropriate, to correct market failures, to maintain fair competition, to attract investment, to enhance the development of the ICT infrastructure and applications, to maximize economic and social benefits, and to serve national priorities.

40. A dynamic and enabling international environment, supportive of foreign direct investment, transfer of technology, and international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, debt and trade, as well as full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making, are vital complements to national development efforts related to ICTs. Improving global affordable connectivity would contribute significantly to the effectiveness of these development efforts.

41. ICTs are an important enabler of growth through efficiency gains and increased productivity, in particular by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). In this regard, the development of the Information Society is important for broadly-based economic growth in both developed and developing economies. ICT-supported productivity gains and applied innovations across economic sectors should be fostered. Equitable distribution of the benefits contributes to poverty eradication and social development. Policies that foster productive investment and enable firms, notably SMEs, to make the changes needed to seize the benefits from ICTs, are likely to be the most beneficial.

42. Intellectual Property protection is important to encourage innovation and creativity in the information society; similarly, the wide dissemination, diffusion, and sharing of knowledge is important to encourage innovation and creativity. Facilitating meaningful participation by all in intellectual property issues and knowledge sharing through full awareness and capacity building is a fundamental part of an inclusive Information Society.

43. Sustainable development can best be advanced in the Information Society when ICT-related efforts and programmes are fully integrated in national and regional development strategies. We welcome the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and encourage the international

community to support the ICT-related measures of this initiative as well as those belonging to similar efforts in other regions. Distribution of the benefits of ICT-driven growth contributes to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

44. Standardization is one of the essential building blocks of the Information Society. There should be particular emphasis on the development and adoption of international standards. The development and use of open, interoperable, non-discriminatory and demand-driven standards that take into account needs of users and consumers is a basic element for the development and greater diffusion of ICTs and more affordable access to them, particularly in developing countries. International standards aim to create an environment where consumers can access services worldwide regardless of underlying technology.

45. The radio frequency spectrum should be managed in the public interest and in accordance with principle of legality, with full observance of national laws and regulation as well as relevant international agreements.

46. In building the Information Society, States are strongly urged to take steps with a view to the avoidance of, and refrain from, any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, and that hinders the well-being of their population.

47. Recognizing that ICTs are progressively changing our working practices, the creation of a secure, safe and healthy working environment, appropriate to the utilisation of ICTs, respecting all relevant international norms, is fundamental.

48. The Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.

49. The management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. In this respect it is recognized that:

- a) policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues;
- b) the private sector has had and should continue to have an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields;
- c) civil society has also played an important role on Internet matters, especially at community level, and should continue to play such a role;

- d) intergovernmental organizations have had and should continue to have a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues;
- e) international organizations have also had and should continue to have an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies.

50. International Internet governance issues should be addressed in a coordinated manner. We ask the Secretary-General of the United Nations to set up a working group on Internet governance, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums, to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005.

7) ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life

51. The usage and deployment of ICTs should seek to create benefits in all aspects of our daily life. ICT applications are potentially important in government operations and services, health care and health information, education and training, employment, job creation, business, agriculture, transport, protection of environment and management of natural resources, disaster prevention, and culture, and to promote eradication of poverty and other agreed development goals. ICTs should also contribute to sustainable production and consumption patterns and reduce traditional barriers, providing an opportunity for all to access local and global markets in a more equitable manner. Applications should be user-friendly, accessible to all, affordable, adapted to local needs in languages and cultures, and support sustainable development. To this effect, local authorities should play a major role in the provision of ICT services for the benefit of their populations.

8) Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

52. Cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind. The Information Society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions, and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations. The promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents including UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, will further enrich the Information Society.

53. The creation, dissemination and preservation of content in diverse languages and formats must be accorded high priority in building an inclusive Information Society, paying particular attention to the diversity of supply of creative work and due recognition of the rights of authors and artists. It is essential to promote the production of and accessibility to all content—educational, scientific, cultural or recreational – in diverse languages and formats. The development of local content suited to domestic or regional needs will encourage social and economic development and will stimulate participation of all stakeholders, including people living in rural, remote and marginal areas.

54. The preservation of cultural heritage is a crucial component of identity and self-understanding of individuals that links a community to its past. The Information Society should harness and preserve cultural heritage for the future by all appropriate methods, including digitisation.

9) Media

55. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of media, which are essential to the Information Society. Freedom to seek, receive, impart and use information for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge are important to the Information Society. We call for the responsible use and treatment of information by the media in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards. Traditional media in all their forms have an important role in the Information Society and ICTs should play a supportive role in this regard. Diversity of media ownership should be encouraged, in conformity with national law, and taking into account relevant international conventions. We reaffirm the necessity of reducing international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills.

10) Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

56. The Information Society should respect peace and uphold the fundamental values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, shared responsibility, and respect for nature.

57. We acknowledge the importance of ethics for the Information Society, which should foster justice, and the dignity and worth of the human person. The widest possible protection should be accorded to the family and to enable it to play its crucial role in society.

58. The use of ICTs and content creation should respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of others, including personal privacy, and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion in conformity with relevant international instruments.

59. All actors in the Information Society should take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of ICTs, such as illegal and other acts motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, hatred, violence, all forms of child abuse, including paedophilia and child pornography, and trafficking in, and exploitation of, human beings.

11) International and regional cooperation

60. We aim at making full use of the opportunities offered by ICTs in our efforts to reach the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to uphold the key principles set forth in this Declaration. The Information Society is intrinsically global in nature and national efforts need to be supported by effective international and regional co-operation among governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including the international financial institutions.

61. In order to build an inclusive global Information Society, we will seek and effectively implement concrete international approaches and mechanisms, including financial and technical assistance. Therefore, while appreciating ongoing ICT cooperation through various mechanisms, we invite all stakeholders to commit to the "Digital Solidarity Agenda" set forth in the Plan of Action. We are convinced that the worldwide agreed objective is to contribute to bridge the digital divide,

promote access to ICTs, create digital opportunities, and benefit from the potential offered by ICTs for development. We recognize the will expressed on the one hand by some to create an international voluntary "Digital Solidarity Fund", and by others to undertake studies concerning existing mechanisms and the efficiency and feasibility of such a Fund.

62. Regional integration contributes to the development of the global Information Society and makes strong cooperation within and among regions indispensable. Regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity building and to the alignment of national strategies with the goals of this Declaration of Principles in a compatible way, while respecting national and regional particularities. In this context, we welcome and encourage the international community to support the ICT-related measures of such initiatives.

63. We resolve to assist developing countries, LDCs and countries with economies in transition through the mobilization from all sources of financing, the provision of financial and technical assistance and by creating an environment conducive to technology transfer, consistent with the purposes of this Declaration and the Plan of Action.

64. The core competences of ITU in the fields of ICTs – assistance in bridging the digital divide, international and regional cooperation, radio spectrum management, standards development and the dissemination of information – are of crucial importance for building the Information Society.

C. Towards an Information Society for all based on shared knowledge

65. **We commit ourselves** to strengthening cooperation to seek common responses to the challenges and to the implementation of the Plan of Action, which will realize the vision of an inclusive Information Society based on the Key Principles incorporated in this Declaration.

66. **We further commit ourselves** to evaluate and follow-up progress in bridging the digital divide, taking into account different levels of development, so as to reach internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to assess the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the Information Society.

67. **We are firmly convinced** that we are collectively entering a new era of enormous potential, that of the Information Society and expanded human communication. In this emerging society, information and knowledge can be produced, exchanged, shared and communicated through all the networks of the world. All individuals can soon, if we take the necessary actions, together build a new Information Society based on shared knowledge and founded on global solidarity and a better mutual understanding between peoples and nations. We trust that these measures will open the way to the future development of a true knowledge society.

Plan of Action

A. Introduction

1. The common vision and guiding principles of the Declaration are translated in this Plan of Action into concrete action lines to advance the achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, by promoting the use of ICT-based products, networks, services and applications, and to help countries overcome the digital divide. The Information Society envisaged in the Declaration of Principles will be realized in cooperation and solidarity by governments and all other stakeholders.

2. The Information Society is an evolving concept that has reached different levels across the world, reflecting the different stages of development. Technological and other change is rapidly transforming the environment in which the Information Society is developed. The Plan of Action is thus an evolving platform to promote the Information Society at the national, regional and international levels. The unique two-phase structure of the WSIS provides an opportunity to take this evolution into account.

3. All stakeholders have an important role to play in the Information Society, especially through partnerships:

a) Governments have a leading role in developing and implementing comprehensive, forward looking and sustainable national e-strategies. The private sector and civil society, in dialogue with governments, have an important consultative role to play in devising national e-strategies.

b) The commitment of the private sector is important in developing and diffusing information and communication technologies (ICTs), for infrastructure, content and applications. The private sector is not only a market player but also plays a role in a wider sustainable development context.

c) The commitment and involvement of civil society is equally important in creating an equitable Information Society, and in implementing ICT-related initiatives for development.

d) International and regional institutions, including international financial institutions, have a key role in integrating the use of ICTs in the development process and making available necessary resources for building the Information Society and for the evaluation of the progress made.

B. Objectives, goals and targets

4. The objectives of the Plan of Action are to build an inclusive Information Society; to put the potential of knowledge and ICTs at the service of development; to promote the use of information and knowledge for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; and to address new challenges of the Information Society, at the national, regional and international levels. Opportunity shall be taken in phase two of the WSIS to evaluate and assess progress made towards bridging the digital divide.

5. Specific targets for the Information Society will be established as appropriate, at the national level in the framework of national e-strategies and in accordance with national development policies, taking into account the different national circumstances. Such targets can serve as useful benchmarks for actions and for the evaluation of the progress made towards the attainment of the overall objectives of the Information Society.

6. Based on internationally agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration, which are premised on international cooperation, indicative targets may serve as global references for improving connectivity and access in the use of ICTs in promoting the objectives of the Plan of Action, to be achieved by 2015. These targets may be taken into account in the establishment of the national targets, considering the different national circumstances:

- a) to connect villages with ICTs and establish community access points;
- b) to connect universities, colleges, secondary schools and primary schools with ICTs;
- c) to connect scientific and research centres with ICTs;
- d) to connect public libraries, cultural centres, museums, post offices and archives with ICTs;
- e) to connect health centres and hospitals with ICTs;
- f) to connect all local and central government departments and establish websites and email addresses;
- g) to adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the Information Society, taking into account national circumstances;
- h) to ensure that all of the world's population have access to television and radio services;
- i) to encourage the development of content and to put in place technical conditions in order to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the Internet;
- j) to ensure that more than half the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach.

7. In giving effect to these objectives, goals and targets, special attention will be paid to the needs of developing countries, and in particular to countries, peoples and groups cited in paragraphs 11-16 of the Declaration of Principles.

C) Action Lines

C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

8. The effective participation of governments and all stakeholders is vital in developing the Information Society requiring cooperation and partnerships among all of them.

- a) Development of national e-strategies, including the necessary human capacity building, should be encouraged by all countries by 2005, taking into account different national circumstances.
- b) Initiate at the national level a structured dialogue involving all relevant stakeholders, including through public/private partnerships, in devising e-strategies for the Information Society and for the exchange of best practices.
- c) In developing and implementing national e-strategies, stakeholders should take into consideration local, regional and national needs and concerns. To maximize the benefits of initiatives undertaken, these should include the concept of sustainability. The private sector should be engaged in concrete projects to develop the Information Society at local, regional and national levels.
- d) Each country is encouraged to establish at least one functioning Public/Private Partnership (PPP) or Multi-Sector Partnership (MSP), by 2005 as a showcase for future action.
- e) Identify mechanisms, at the national, regional and international levels, for the initiation and promotion of partnerships among stakeholders of the Information Society.
- f) Explore the viability of establishing multi-stakeholder portals for indigenous peoples at the national level.
- g) By 2005, relevant international organizations and financial institutions should develop their own strategies for the use of ICTs for sustainable development, including sustainable production and consumption patterns and as an effective instrument to help achieve the goals expressed in the UN Millennium Declaration.
- h) International organisations should publish, in their areas of competence, including on their website, reliable information submitted by relevant stakeholders on successful experiences of mainstreaming ICTs.
- i) Encourage a series of related measures, including, among other things: incubator schemes, venture capital investments (national and international), government investment funds (including micro-finance for Small, Medium-sized and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), investment promotion strategies, software export support activities (trade counseling), support of research and development networks and software parks.

C2. Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the information society

9. Infrastructure is central in achieving the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs by all, taking into account relevant solutions already in place in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to provide sustainable connectivity and access to remote and marginalized areas at national and regional levels.

- a) 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.

b) In the context of national e-strategies, devise appropriate universal access policies and strategies, and their means of implementation, in line with the indicative targets, and develop ICT connectivity indicators.

c) In the context of national e-strategies, provide and improve ICT connectivity for all schools, universities, health institutions, libraries, post offices, community centres, museums and other institutions accessible to the public, in line with the indicative targets.

d) Develop and strengthen national, regional and international broadband network infrastructure, including delivery by satellite and other systems, to help in providing the capacity to match the needs of countries and their citizens and for the delivery of new ICT-based services. Support technical, regulatory and operational studies by ITU and, as appropriate, other relevant international organizations in order to:

- i) broaden access to orbital resources, global frequency harmonization and global systems standardization;
- ii) encourage public/private partnership;
- iii) promote the provision of global high-speed satellite services for underserved areas such as remote and sparsely populated areas;
- iv) explore other systems that can provide high-speed connectivity.

e) In the context of national e-strategies, address the special requirements of older people, persons with disabilities, children, especially marginalized children and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including by appropriate educational administrative and legislative measures to ensure their full inclusion in the Information Society.

f) Encourage the design and production of ICT equipment and services so that everyone, has easy and affordable access to them including older people, persons with disabilities, children, especially marginalized children, and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and promote the development of technologies, applications, and content suited to their needs, guided by the Universal Design Principle and further enhanced by the use of assistive technologies.

g) In order to alleviate the challenges of illiteracy, develop affordable technologies and non-text based computer interfaces to facilitate people's access to ICT,

h) Undertake international research and development efforts aimed at making available adequate and affordable ICT equipment for end users.

i) Encourage the use of unused wireless capacity, including satellite in developed countries, in particular by developing countries, to provide access in remote areas, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to improve low-cost connectivity in developing countries. Special concern should be given to the LDCs in their efforts in establishing telecommunication infrastructure.

j) Optimize connectivity among major information networks by encouraging the creation and development of regional ICT Backbones and Internet Exchange Points, to reduce interconnection costs and broaden network access.

k) Develop strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity, thereby facilitating improved access. Commercially negotiated Internet transit and interconnection costs should be oriented towards objective, transparent and non-discriminatory parameters, taking into account ongoing work on this subject.

l) Encourage and promote joint use of traditional media and new technologies.

C3. Access to information and knowledge

10. ICTs allow people, anywhere in the world, to access information and knowledge almost instantaneously. Individuals, organizations and communities should benefit from access to knowledge and information.

a) Develop policy guidelines for the development and promotion of public domain information as an important international instrument promoting public access to information.

b) Governments are encouraged to provide adequate access through various communication resources, notably the Internet, to public official information. Establishing legislation on access to information and the preservation of public data, notably in the area of the new technologies, is encouraged.

c) Promote research and development to facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all, including disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups.

d) Governments, and other stakeholders, should establish sustainable multi-purpose community public access points, providing affordable or free-of-charge access for their citizens to the various communication resources, notably the Internet. These access points should, to the extent possible, have sufficient capacity to provide assistance to users, in libraries, educational institutions, public administrations, post offices or other public places, with special emphasis on rural and underserved areas, while respecting intellectual property rights (IPRs) and encouraging the use of information and sharing of knowledge.

e) Encourage research and promote awareness among all stakeholders of the possibilities offered by different software models, and the means of their creation, including proprietary, open-source and free software, in order to increase competition, freedom of choice and affordability, and to enable all stakeholders to evaluate which solution best meets their requirements.

f) Governments should actively promote the use of ICTs as a fundamental working tool by their citizens and local authorities. In this respect, the international community and other stakeholders should support capacity building for local authorities in the widespread use of ICTs as a means of improving local governance.

g) Encourage research on the Information Society, including on innovative forms of networking, adaptation of ICT infrastructure, tools and applications that facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all, and disadvantaged groups in particular.

h) Support the creation and development of a digital public library and archive services, adapted to the Information Society, including reviewing national library strategies and legislation, developing a global understanding of the need for "hybrid libraries", and fostering worldwide co-operation between libraries.

i) Encourage initiatives to facilitate access, including free and affordable access to open access journals and books, and open archives for scientific information.

j) Support research and development of the design of useful instruments for all stakeholders to foster increased awareness, assessment, and evaluation of different software models and licences, so as to ensure an optimal choice of appropriate software that will best contribute to achieving development goals within local conditions.

C4. Capacity building

11. Everyone should have the necessary skills to benefit fully from the Information Society. Therefore capacity building and ICT literacy are essential. ICTs can contribute to achieving universal education worldwide, through delivery of education and training of teachers, and offering improved conditions for lifelong learning, encompassing people that are outside the formal education process, and improving professional skills.

a) Develop domestic policies to ensure that ICTs are fully integrated in education and training at all levels, including in curriculum development, teacher training, institutional administration and management, and in support of the concept of lifelong learning.

b) Develop and promote programmes to eradicate illiteracy using ICTs at national, regional and international levels.

c) Promote e-literacy skills for all, for example by designing and offering courses for public administration, taking advantage of existing facilities such as libraries, multipurpose community centres, public access points and by establishing local ICT training centres with the cooperation of all stakeholders. Special attention should be paid to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

d) In the context of national educational policies, and taking into account the need to eradicate adult illiteracy, ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use ICTs, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways, share their expertise and participate fully in the Information Society.

e) Governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders, should create programmes for capacity building with an emphasis on creating a critical mass of qualified and skilled ICT professionals and experts.

f) Develop pilot projects to demonstrate the impact of ICT-based alternative educational delivery systems, notably for achieving Education for All targets, including basic literacy targets.

g) Work on removing the gender barriers to ICT education and training and promoting equal training opportunities in ICT-related fields for women and girls. Early intervention programmes in science and technology should target young girls with the aim of increasing the number of women in ICT careers. Promote the exchange of best practices on the integration of gender perspectives in ICT education.

h) Empower local communities, especially those in rural and underserved areas, in ICT use and promote the production of useful and socially meaningful content for the benefit of all.

i) Launch education and training programmes, where possible using information networks of traditional nomadic and indigenous peoples, which provide opportunities to fully participate in the Information Society.

j) Design and implement regional and international cooperation activities to enhance the capacity, notably, of leaders and operational staff in developing countries and LDCs, to apply ICTs effectively in the whole range of educational activities. This should include delivery of education outside the educational structure, such as the workplace and at home.

k) Design specific training programmes in the use of ICTs in order to meet the educational needs of information professionals, such as archivists, librarians, museum professionals, scientists, teachers, journalists, postal workers and other relevant professional groups. Training of information professionals should focus not only on new methods and techniques for the development and provision of information and communication services, but also on relevant management skills to ensure the best use of technologies. Training of teachers should focus on the technical aspects of ICTs, on development of content, and on the potential possibilities and challenges of ICTs.

l) Develop distance learning, training and other forms of education and training as part of capacity building programmes. Give special attention to developing countries and especially LDCs in different levels of human resources development.

m) Promote international and regional cooperation in the field of capacity building, including country programmes developed by the UN and its Specialized Agencies

n) Launch pilot projects to design new forms of ICT-based networking, linking education, training and research institutions between and among developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

o) Volunteering, if conducted in harmony with national policies and local cultures, can be a valuable asset for raising human capacity to make productive use of ICT tools and build a more inclusive Information Society. Activate volunteer programmes to provide capacity building on ICT for development, particularly in developing countries.

p) Design programmes to train users to develop self-learning and self-development capacities.

C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

12. Confidence and security are among the main pillars of the Information Society.

- a) Promote cooperation among the governments at the UN and with all stakeholders at other appropriate fora to enhance user confidence, build trust, and protect both data and network integrity; consider existing and potential threats to ICTs; and address other information security and network security issues.
- b) Governments, in cooperation with the private sector, should prevent, detect and respond to cyber-crime and misuse of ICTs by: developing guidelines that take into account ongoing efforts in these areas; considering legislation that allows for effective investigation and prosecution of misuse; promoting effective mutual assistance efforts; strengthening institutional support at the international level for preventing, detecting and recovering from such incidents; and encouraging education and raising awareness.
- c) Governments, and other stakeholders, should actively promote user education and awareness about online privacy and the means of protecting privacy.
- d) Take appropriate action on spam at national and international levels.
- e) Encourage the domestic assessment of national law with a view to overcoming any obstacles to the effective use of electronic documents and transactions including electronic means of authentication.
- f) Further strengthen the trust and security framework with complementary and mutually reinforcing initiatives in the fields of security in the use of ICTs, with initiatives or guidelines with respect to rights to privacy, data and consumer protection.
- g) Share good practices in the field of information security and network security and encourage their use by all parties concerned.
- h) Invite interested countries to set up focal points for real-time incident handling and response, and develop a cooperative network between these focal points for sharing information and technologies on incident response.
- i) Encourage further development of secure and reliable applications to facilitate online transactions.
- j) Encourage interested countries to contribute actively to the ongoing UN activities to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

C6. Enabling environment

13. To maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of the Information Society, governments need to create a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. Actions include:

- a) Governments should foster a supportive, transparent, pro-competitive and predictable policy, legal and regulatory framework, which provides the appropriate incentives to investment and community development in the Information Society.

b) We ask the Secretary General of the United Nations to set up a working group on Internet governance, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums, to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005. The group should, *inter alia*:

- i) develop a working definition of Internet governance;
- ii) identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance;
- iii) develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing intergovernmental and international organisations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries;
- iv) prepare a report on the results of this activity to be presented for consideration and appropriate action for the second phase of WSIS in Tunis in 2005.

c) Governments are invited to:

- i) facilitate the establishment of national and regional Internet Exchange Centres;
- ii) manage or supervise, as appropriate, their respective country code top-level domain name (ccTLD);
- iii) promote awareness of the Internet.

d) In cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, promote regional root servers and the use of internationalised domain names in order to overcome barriers to access.

e) Governments should continue to update their domestic consumer protection laws to respond to the new requirements of the Information Society.

f) Promote effective participation by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international ICT forums and create opportunities for exchange of experience.

g) Governments need to formulate national strategies, which include e-government strategies, to make public administration more transparent, efficient and democratic.

h) Develop a framework for the secure storage and archival of documents and other electronic records of information.

i) Governments and stakeholders should actively promote user education and awareness about online privacy and the means of protecting privacy.

j) Invite stakeholders to ensure that practices designed to facilitate electronic commerce also permit consumers to have a choice as to whether or not to use electronic communication.

- k) Encourage the ongoing work in the area of effective dispute settlement systems, notably alternative dispute resolution (ADR), which can promote settlement of disputes.
- l) Governments, in collaboration with stakeholders, are encouraged to formulate conducive ICT policies that foster entrepreneurship, innovation and investment, and with particular reference to the promotion of participation by women.
- m) Recognising the economic potential of ICTs for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), they should be assisted in increasing their competitiveness by streamlining administrative procedures, facilitating their access to capital and enhancing their capacity to participate in ICT-related projects.
- n) Governments should act as model users and early adopters of e-commerce in accordance with their level of socio-economic development.
- o) Governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders, should raise awareness of the importance of international interoperability standards for global e-commerce.
- p) Governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders, should promote the development and use of open, interoperable, non-discriminatory and demand-driven standards.
- q) ITU, pursuant to its treaty capacity, coordinates and allocates frequencies with the goal of facilitating ubiquitous and affordable access.
- r) Additional steps should be taken in ITU and other regional organisations to ensure rational, efficient and economical use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements.

C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life

14. ICT applications can support sustainable development, in the fields of public administration, business, education and training, health, employment, environment, agriculture and science within the framework of national e-strategies. This would include actions within the following sectors:

15. E-government

- a) Implement e-government strategies focusing on applications aimed at innovating and promoting transparency in public administrations and democratic processes, improving efficiency and strengthening relations with citizens.
- b) Develop national e-government initiatives and services, at all levels, adapted to the needs of citizens and business, to achieve a more efficient allocation of resources and public goods.
- c) Support international co-operation initiatives in the field of e-government, in order to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency at all levels of government.

16. E-business

- a) Governments, international organizations and the private sector, are encouraged to promote the benefits of international trade and the use of e-business, and promote the use of e-business models in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- b) Through the adoption of an enabling environment, and based on widely available Internet access, governments should seek to stimulate private sector investment, foster new applications, content development and public/private partnerships.
- c) Government policies should favour assistance to, and growth of SMMEs, in the ICT industry, as well as their entry into e-business, to stimulate economic growth and job creation as an element of a strategy for poverty reduction through wealth creation.

17. E-learning (see section C4)

18. E-health

- a) Promote collaborative efforts of governments, planners, health professionals, and other agencies along with the participation of international organizations for creating a reliable, timely, high quality and affordable health care and health information systems and for promoting continuous medical training, education, and research through the use of ICTs, while respecting and protecting citizen rights to privacy.
- b) Facilitate access to the world's medical knowledge and locally-relevant content resources for strengthening public health research and prevention programmes and promoting women's and men's health, such as content on sexual and reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections, and for diseases that attract full attention of the world including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
- c) Alert, monitor and control the spread of communicable diseases, through the improvement of common information systems.
- d) Promote the development of international standards for the exchange of health data, taking due account of privacy concerns.
- e) Encourage the adoption of ICTs to improve and extend health care and health information system to remote and underserved areas and vulnerable populations, recognising women's roles as health providers in their families and communities.
- f) Strengthen and expand ICT-based initiatives for providing medical and humanitarian assistance in disasters and emergencies.

19. E-employment

- a) Encourage the development of best practices for e-workers and e-employers built, at the national level, on principles of fairness and gender equality, respecting all relevant international norms.

b) Promote new ways of organizing work and business with the aim of raising productivity, growth and well-being through investment in ICTs and human resources.

c) Promote teleworking to allow citizens, particularly in the developing countries, LDCs, and small economies, to live in their societies and work anywhere, and to increase employment opportunities for women, and for those with disabilities. In promoting teleworking, special attention should be given to strategies promoting job creation and the retention of the skilled working force.

d) Promote early intervention programmes in science and technology that should target young girls to increase the number of women in ICT carriers.

20. E-environment

a) Governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders are encouraged to use and promote ICTs as an instrument for environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources.

b) Government, civil society and the private sector are encouraged to initiate actions and implement projects and programmes for sustainable production and consumption and the environmentally safe disposal and recycling of discarded hardware and components used in ICTs.

c) Establish monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries, LDCs and small economies.

21. E-agriculture

a) Ensure the systematic dissemination of information using ICTs on agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and food, in order to provide ready access to comprehensive, up-to-date and detailed knowledge and information, particularly in rural areas.

b) Public-private partnerships should seek to maximise the use of ICTs as an instrument to improve production (quantity and quality).

22. E-science

a) Promote affordable and reliable high-speed Internet connection for all universities and research institutions to support their critical role in information and knowledge production, education and training, and to support the establishment of partnerships, cooperation and networking between these institutions.

b) Promote electronic publishing, differential pricing and open access initiatives to make scientific information affordable and accessible in all countries on an equitable basis.

c) Promote the use of peer-to-peer technology to share scientific knowledge and pre-prints and reprints written by scientific authors who have waived their right to payment.

d) Promote the long-term systematic and efficient collection, dissemination and preservation of essential scientific digital data e.g., population and meteorological data in all countries.

e) Promote principles and metadata standards to facilitate cooperation and effective use of collected scientific information and data as appropriate to conduct scientific research.

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

23. Cultural and linguistic diversity, while stimulating respect for cultural identity, traditions and religions, is essential to the development of an Information Society based on the dialogue among cultures and regional and international co-operation. It is an important factor for sustainable development.

a) Create policies that support the respect, preservation, promotion and enhancement of cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage within the Information Society, as reflected in relevant agreed UN documents, including UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. This includes encouraging governments to design cultural policies to promote the production of cultural, educational and scientific content and the development of local cultural industries suited to the linguistic and cultural context of the users.

b) Develop national policies and laws to ensure that libraries, archives, museums and other cultural institutions can play their full role of content—including traditional knowledge—providers in the Information Society, more particularly by providing continued access to recorded information.

c) Support efforts to develop and use ICTs for the preservation of natural and, cultural heritage, keeping it accessible as a living part of today's culture. This includes developing systems for ensuring continued access to archived digital information and multimedia content in digital repositories, and support archives, cultural collections and libraries as the memory of humankind.

d) Develop and implement policies that preserve, affirm, respect and promote diversity of cultural expression and indigenous knowledge and traditions through the creation of varied information content and the use of different methods, including the digitisation of the educational, scientific and cultural heritage.

e) Support local content development, translation and adaptation, digital archives, and diverse forms of digital and traditional media by local authorities. These activities can also strengthen local and indigenous communities.

f) Provide content that is relevant to the cultures and languages of individuals in the Information Society, through access to traditional and digital media services.

g) Through public/private partnerships, foster the creation of varied local and national content, including that available in the language of users, and give recognition and support to ICT-based work in all artistic fields.

h) Strengthen programmes focused on gender-sensitive curricula in formal and non-formal education for all and enhancing communication and media literacy for women with a view to building the capacity of girls and women to understand and to develop ICT content.

i) Nurture the local capacity for the creation and distribution of software in local languages, as well as content that is relevant to different segments of population, including non-literate, persons with disabilities, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

j) Give support to media based in local communities and support projects combining the use of traditional media and new technologies for their role in facilitating the use of local languages, for documenting and preserving local heritage, including landscape and biological diversity, and as a means to reach rural and isolated and nomadic communities.

k) Enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples to develop content in their own languages.

l) Cooperate with indigenous peoples and traditional communities to enable them to more effectively use and benefit from the use of their traditional knowledge in the Information Society.

m) Exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices on policies and tools designed to promote cultural and linguistic diversity at regional and sub-regional levels. This can be achieved by establishing regional, and sub-regional working groups on specific issues of this plan of action to foster integration efforts.

n) Assess at the regional level the contribution of ICT to cultural exchange and interaction, and based on the outcome of this assessment, design relevant programmes.

o) Governments, through public/private partnerships, should promote technologies and R&D programmes in such areas as translation, iconographies, voice-assisted services and the development of necessary hardware and a variety of software models, including proprietary, open source software and free software, such as standard character sets, language codes, electronic dictionaries, terminology and thesauri, multilingual search engines, machine translation tools, internationalised domain names, content referencing as well as general and application software.

C9. Media

24. The media—in their various forms and with a diversity of ownership—as an actor, have an essential role in the development of the Information Society and are recognized as an important contributor to freedom of expression and plurality of information.

a) Encourage the media—print and broadcast as well as new media—to continue to play an important role in the Information Society.

b) Encourage the development of domestic legislation that guarantees the independence and plurality of the media.

c) Take appropriate measures—consistent with freedom of expression—to combat illegal and harmful content in media content.

d) Encourage media professionals in developed countries to establish partnerships and networks with the media in developing ones, especially in the field of training.

- e) Promote balanced and diverse portrayals of women and men by the media.
- f) Reduce international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills, taking full advantage of ICT tools in this regard.
- g) Encourage traditional media to bridge the knowledge divide and to facilitate the flow of cultural content, particularly in rural areas.

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

25. The Information Society should be subject to universally held values and promote the common good and to prevent abusive uses of ICTs.

- a) Take steps to promote respect for peace and to uphold the fundamental values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, shared responsibility, and respect for nature.
- b) All stakeholders should increase their awareness of the ethical dimension of their use of ICTs.
- c) All actors in the Information Society should promote the common good, protect privacy and personal data and take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of ICTs such as illegal and other acts motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, hatred, violence, all forms of child abuse, including paedophilia and child pornography, and trafficking in, and exploitation of, human beings.
- d) Invite relevant stakeholders, especially the academia, to continue research on ethical dimensions of ICTs.

C11. International and regional cooperation

26. International cooperation among all stakeholders is vital in implementation of this plan of action and needs to be strengthened with a view to promoting universal access and bridging the digital divide, *inter alia*, by provision of means of implementation.

- a) Governments of developing countries should raise the relative priority of ICT projects in requests for international cooperation and assistance on infrastructure development projects from developed countries and international financial organizations.
- b) Within the context of the UN's Global Compact and building upon the UN Millennium Declaration, build on and accelerate public-private partnerships, focusing on the use of ICT in development.
- c) Invite international and regional organizations to mainstream ICTs in their work programmes and to assist all levels of developing countries, to be involved in the preparation and implementation of national action plans to support the fulfilment of the goals indicated in the declaration of principles and in this plan of action, taking into account the importance of regional initiatives.

D. Digital Solidarity Agenda

27. The Digital Solidarity Agenda aims at putting in place the conditions for mobilizing human, financial and technological resources for inclusion of all men and women in the emerging Information Society. Close national, regional and international cooperation among all stakeholders in the implementation of this Agenda is vital. To overcome the digital divide, we need to use more efficiently existing approaches and mechanisms and fully explore new ones, in order to provide financing for the development of infrastructure, equipment, capacity building and content, which are essential for participation in the Information Society.

D1. Priorities and strategies

a) National e-strategies should be made an integral part of national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategies.

b) ICTs should be fully mainstreamed into strategies for Official Development Assistance (ODA) through more effective donor information-sharing and co-ordination, and through analysis and sharing of best practices and lessons learned from experience with ICT-for-development programmes.

D2. Mobilizing resources

a) All countries and international organisations should act to create conditions conducive to increasing the availability and effective mobilisation of resources for financing development as elaborated in the Monterrey Consensus.

b) Developed countries should make concrete efforts to fulfil their international commitments to financing development including the Monterrey Consensus, in which developed countries that have not done so are urged to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries.

c) For those developing countries facing unsustainable debt burdens, we welcome initiatives that have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness and invite further national and international measures in that regard, including, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other arrangements. Particular attention should be given to enhancing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. These initiatives would release more resources that may be used for financing ICT for development projects.

d) Recognising the potential of ICT for development we furthermore advocate:

- i) developing countries to increase their efforts to attract major private national and foreign investments for ICTs through the creation of a transparent, stable and predictable enabling investment environment;
- ii) developed countries and international financial organisations to be responsive to the strategies and priorities of ICTs for development, mainstream ICTs in their work

programmes, and assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prepare and implement their national e-strategies. Based on the priorities of national development plans and implementation of the above commitments, developed countries should increase their efforts to provide more financial resources to developing countries in harnessing ICTs for development;

iii) the private sector to contribute to the implementation of this Digital Solidarity Agenda.

e) In our efforts to bridge the digital divide, we should promote, within our development cooperation, technical and financial assistance directed towards national and regional capacity building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, cooperation in R&D programmes and exchange of know-how.

f) While all existing financial mechanisms should be fully exploited, a thorough review of their adequacy in meeting the challenges of ICT for development should be completed by the end of December 2004. This review shall be conducted by a Task Force under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and submitted for consideration to the second phase of this summit. Based on the conclusion of the review, improvements and innovations of financing mechanisms will be considered including the effectiveness, the feasibility and the creation of a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, as mentioned in the Declaration of Principles.

g) Countries should consider establishing national mechanisms to achieve universal access in both underserved rural and urban areas, in order to bridge the digital divide.

E) Follow-up and evaluation

28. A realistic international performance evaluation and benchmarking (both qualitative and quantitative), through comparable statistical indicators and research results, should be developed to follow up the implementation of the objectives, goals and targets in the action plan, taking into account different national circumstances.

a) In cooperation with each country concerned, develop and launch a composite ICT Development (Digital Opportunity) Index. It could be published annually, or every two years, in an ICT Development Report. The index could show the statistics while the report would present analytical work on policies and their implementation, depending on national circumstances, including gender analysis.

b) Appropriate indicators and benchmarking, including community connectivity indicators, should clarify the magnitude of the digital divide, in both its domestic and international dimensions, and keep it under regular assessment, and tracking global progress in the use of ICTs to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration.

c) International and regional organizations should assess and report regularly on universal accessibility of nations to ICTs, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of ICT sectors of developing countries.

d) Gender-specific indicators on ICT use and needs should be developed, and measurable performance indicators should be identified to assess the impact of funded ICT projects on the lives of women and girls.

e) Develop and launch a website on best practices and success stories, based on a compilation of contributions from all stakeholders, in a concise, accessible and compelling format, following the internationally-recognised web accessibility standards. The website could be periodically updated and turned into a permanent experience-sharing exercise.

f) All countries and regions should develop tools so as to provide statistical information on the Information Society, with basic indicators and analysis of its key dimensions. Priority should be given to setting up coherent and internationally comparable indicator systems, taking into account different levels of development.

F) Towards WSIS phase 2 (Tunis)

29. Recalling General Assembly Resolution 56/183 and taking into account the outcome of the Geneva phase of the WSIS, a preparatory meeting will be held in the first half of 2004 to review those issues of the Information Society which should form the focus of the Tunis phase of the WSIS and to agree on the structure of the preparatory process for the second phase. In line with the decision of this Summit concerning its Tunis phase, the second phase of the WSIS should consider, *inter alia*:

a) Elaboration of final appropriate documents based on the outcome of the Geneva phase of the WSIS with a view to consolidating the process of building a global Information Society, and reducing the Digital Divide and transforming it into digital opportunities.

b) Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action at national, regional and international levels, including the UN system, as part of an integrated and coordinated approach, calling upon the participation of all relevant stakeholders. This should take place, *inter alia*, through partnerships among stakeholders.

Note by the Secretary-General of the Summit

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TUNIS PHASE OF THE SUMMIT

At its resumed third session, on 14 November 2003, the Preparatory Committee took note of the following proposal concerning the Tunis phase which would be submitted to the World Summit on Information Society in December for decision:

Arrangements for the Tunis phase of the Summit

We decide to hold a preparatory meeting in the first half of 2004 to review those issues of the information society which should form the focus of the Tunis phase of the WSIS and to agree on the structure of the process for the second phase on the basis of contributions from delegations. The Bureau of the Tunis phase of the WSIS under the leadership of its Chairman should commence preparation of this preparatory meeting.

Bilag 5

Check against delivery

Speech by

Ms. Ulla Tørnæs, Minister of Education, DENMARK,

at the World Summit on the Information Society
December 11, 2003

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

The Information Society – this great vision – means nothing unless it means the triumph of development over poverty, of freedom over censorship and of knowledge over ignorance. If we fail one, we will not fulfil the others.

This Summit is a unique opportunity to bring these three elements together. The time to act is now. Those who choose to lock doors today will find that there is no key to opening them tomorrow. It would be a monumental failure first and foremost for the people who would be denied the potentials of modern ICTs.

We must eradicate poverty through sustainable economic growth, social development and increased market access. Here information technologies can play a crucial role, but we will need to work closely to bring ICTs to everyone.

At the same time we must take a clear stance against poverty. Only by focusing our efforts directly on the poor can we mobilise the energy, ambition and inspiration needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in areas such as education.

Lack of education is the bitter black oil that covers the sea of ignorance. Its sinister shadow holds captive a vastness of suffering. Denmark has therefore launched five new education programmes with special focus on Africa. Here the use of ICTs in creating knowledge sharing and learning will be important in making the next generation able to benefit from the unprecedented access to information and knowledge.

Already today ICT is playing an increasing role in many developing countries. It is therefore crucial that developing countries begin to integrate national e-strategies into their national poverty reduction strategies.

We must make the information society all-inclusive.

The fight for freedom of expression has raged with each technological leap. The genius of Gutenberg was promptly matched by the cohorts of censorship. And today the next major battlefield is forming around the Internet.

In too many countries, there is a fear of the power of free imagery and free words. Still, censorship cannot hide that limiting access to information is limiting equality and equity. That restricting freedom of expression is restricting connections and communication. And that oppressing the opinion of others is oppressing human rights and human dignity

Some ask how far we should go in ensuring freedom of expression when hundreds of millions do not have access to even basic ICTs? Taking a rights-based approach to ICT and development is one way of bringing together the standards of international human rights and ICT developments efforts.

An example could be working towards good governance through accountability by making relevant information accessible through the Internet. Another could be ensuring that national ICT policies take into account the needs of the rural poor. These examples show the close relationship between development and individual rights.

Maybe it would be better to view access to technology as a question of the power of people. To go from ICT to focussing on Information and Communication *Networks* – the links and interactions between people that create knowledge sharing and learning.

Each nation must put the development of the information society high on its national agenda.

Comprehensive and forward-looking e-Strategies are needed both in developing and developed countries. Denmark's future depends on our ability to create and use knowledge and technology. We have introduced a comprehensive knowledge Strategy for the Danish society.

Focussing on eGovernment, eLearning, eBusiness, eHealth and eInclusion in annual ICT action plans help us reap the full benefit of ICTs and paves the way to the true knowledge society.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This Summit is a unique opportunity for discussing issues of global importance. One such issue is the network and information security.

International co-ordination and co-operation should be strengthened in order to avoid massive cyber attacks and other security incidents. But still with respect for the free flow of information and the freedom of expression.

Another important issue is the Internet governance. Here it is our task to ensure that the Internet will continue to develop:

- a development that benefits our citizens and businesses;

- a development in accordance with the fundamental principles we all adhere;
- a development that helps to progress our societies.

This requires a balanced framework – a framework in which governments, the private sector and civil society all play important roles. We must therefore continue the international dialogue on Internet Governance with the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Danish stand at the ICT4D Exhibition presents both Denmark and our development partners ICT-efforts. From Copenhagen over new ICT enterprises in Africa to the collections at the Royal Library in Bhutan.

Let us today lay the foundation of the future Information Society through international co-operation and a genuine partnership between the public and the private sector as well as with civil society.

Thank you.

INTERVENTION OF
THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY,
LUCIO STANCA,
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. INTRODUCTION

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are here today to underline the **great opportunities** that are offered to the world by the development of information and communication technologies.

The European Union and the acceding countries believe these opportunities should be **available to all people in all countries** throughout the world.

The power of information and communication technologies lie in their **capability to remove all barriers and borders**, thus opening up unprecedented opportunities for the free economic and social development of all human beings.

2. VALUES

Such un-precedent opportunities carry with them **new and important challenges**. The most important being the identification of an agreed set of values and rules on which to base the future development of the Information Society.

The European Union firmly believes that basic values based on the Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the founding stones of an Information Society for all. **Freedom to access information, freedom of communication and participation, the principles of transparency and of good governance** are the fundamental in the Information Society. Human Rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are among the guiding principles of the Information society.

Moreover, access to information and protection of privacy are also central in an inclusive Information Society.

This is why the European Union has insisted throughout all the phases of the preparatory discussions for this Summit on how vital these principles and rights are. **Without their recognition and daily pursuit the concept of an information society for all will not be achieved.**

We express our satisfaction for the way in which these values have been **clearly and unmistakably expressed in the Declaration of Principle** we will be adopting at the end of this Summit.

3. RULES

Another important challenge is **the identification of a common set of rules**.

These rules should determine how key elements of the information society, as the issue of **intellectual property rights** or the **governance of the Internet** are organised.

An **adequate balance** between different interests and needs must be found on the sensitive issue of intellectual property rights.

On the Internet Governance the European Union has a clear position. Governments must be **involved** when **public policy issues** are at stake, **but it is not the role of governments to manage the Internet** or to **interfere** in its free development.

4. DUTIES

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, in working for the development of an information society for all we must focus not only on values and rules, but also on our **duties**.

First and foremost the responsibility to bridge all forms of digital divide, **both** within our countries and at the international level.

The European Union is **one of the major contributors** in the world for ICT for development projects and is **fully committed to work with developing countries** in order to bridge the international digital divide.

We will vigorously pursue the objectives and actions set forth in the **Digital Solidarity Agenda** contained in the Plan of Action.

Bridging the digital divide requires that **developing countries** adopt concrete measures aimed at creating a conducive enabling environment with a free ICT market, thus attracting the necessary internal and foreign investments needed to develop their ICT infrastructure. **Developed countries** on their part need to assist with technology transfer, technical assistance and training.

Financial support is therefore only one aspect of a wider range of measures that are needed.

European Union countries are strongly committed to providing the necessary assistance on **specific projects**, based on **agreed objectives** and that see a **central role of the beneficiary country** in their implementation.

I myself am directly responsible for a programme launched by the Government of Italy in the framework of the G8 Digital Opportunity Task Force process, the **eGovernment for Development Initiative**.

In this initiative we have partnered with the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank through the Development Gateway Foundation. We are developing and launching in 13 different countries around the world eGovernment applications aimed at improving the efficiency and transparency of their Public Administrations.

I believe that such concrete programmes are the kind of engagement that is needed from developed countries.

5. THE ROAD TO TUNIS

I will conclude my remarks on behalf of the European Union thanking the Swiss Government for their support and commitment in making possible the organisation and the successful conclusion of this Summit.

We will in the next few months be considering how to move forward to the next phase of this Summit in Tunis in 2005.

We will need first of all to **consider the lessons learned** during the organisation of this first phase of the Summit and guarantee **cost-effectiveness** and **focus on the implementation of the Action Plan**.

Finally, the European Union believes that a successful outcome of the Tunis Summit will be assured **only** if two key players in the information society, **the civil society** and **the private sector**, will be **fully and deeply involved** in the preparatory activities and discussions.

The European Union has actively contributed to the positive outcome of this Summit in Geneva. We are equally committed to make the Tunis Summit a success.

Thank you for your attention!

"Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs"

Civil Society Declaration to the World Summit on the Information Society

Unanimously Adopted by the WSIS Civil Society Plenary on 8 December 2003

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"Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs"

Civil Society Declaration to the World Summit on the Information Society

We, women and men from different continents, cultural backgrounds, perspectives, experience and expertise, acting as members of different constituencies of an emerging global civil society, considering civil society participation as fundamental to the first ever held UN Summit on Information and Communication issues, the World Summit on the Information Society, have been working for two years inside the process, devoting our efforts to shaping people-centred, inclusive and equitable concept of information and communication societies.²

Working together both on-line and off-line as civil society entities, practising an inclusive and participatory use of information and communication technologies, has allowed us to share views and shape common positions, and to collectively develop a vision of information and communication societies.

At this step of the process, the first phase of the Summit, Geneva, December 2003, our voices and the general interest we collectively expressed are not adequately reflected in the Summit documents. We propose this document as part of the official outcomes of the Summit. Convinced that this vision can become reality through the actions and lives of women and men, communities and people, we hereby present our own vision to all, as an invitation to participate in this ongoing dialogue and to join forces in shaping our common future.

1. A VISIONARY SOCIETY

At the heart of our vision of information and communications societies is the human being. The dignity and rights of all peoples and each person must be promoted, respected, protected and affirmed. Redressing the inexcusable gulf between levels of development and between opulence and extreme poverty must therefore be our prime concern.

We are committed to building information and communication societies that are people-centred, inclusive and equitable. Societies in which everyone can freely create, access, utilise, share and disseminate information and knowledge, so that individuals, communities and peoples are empowered to improve their quality of life and to achieve their full potential. Societies founded on the principles of social, political, and economic justice, and peoples' full participation and empowerment, and thus societies that truly address the key development challenges facing the world today. Societies that pursue the objectives of sustainable development, democracy, and gender equality, for the attainment of a more peaceful, just, egalitarian and thus sustainable world, premised on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

² There is no single information, communication or knowledge society: there are, at the local, national and global levels, possible future societies: moreover, considering communication is a critical aspect of any information society, we use in this document the phrase "information and communication societies." For consistency with previous WSIS language, we retain the use of the phrase "Information Society" when directly referencing WSIS.

We aspire to build information and communication societies where development is framed by fundamental human rights and oriented to achieving a more equitable distribution of resources, leading to the elimination of poverty in a way that is non-exploitative and environmentally sustainable. To this end we believe technologies can be engaged as fundamental means, rather than becoming ends in themselves, thus recognising that bridging the Digital Divide is only one step on the road to achieving development for all. We recognise the tremendous potential of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in overcoming the devastation of famine, natural catastrophes, new pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, as well as the proliferation of arms.

We reaffirm that communication is a fundamental social process, a basic human need and a foundation of all social organisations. Everyone, everywhere, at any time should have the opportunity to participate in communication processes and no one should be excluded from their benefits. This implies that every person must have access to the means of communication and must be able to exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the right to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. Similarly, the right to privacy, the right to access public information and the public domain of knowledge, and many other universal human rights of specific relevance to information and communication processes, must also be upheld. Together with access, all these communication rights and freedoms must be actively guaranteed for all in clearly written national laws and enforced with adequate technical requirements.

Building such societies implies involving individuals in their capacity as citizens, as well as their organisations and communities, as participants and decision-makers in shaping frameworks, policies and governing mechanisms. This means creating an enabling environment for the engagement and commitment of all generations, both women and men, and ensuring the involvement of diverse social and linguistic groups, cultures and peoples, rural and urban populations without exclusion. In addition, governments should maintain and promote public services where required by citizens and establish accountability to citizens as a pillar of public policy, in order to ensure that models of information and communication societies are open to continuing correction and improvement.

We recognise that no technology is neutral with respect to its social impacts and, therefore, the possibility of having so-called "technology-neutral" decision-making processes is a fallacy. It is critical to make careful social and technical choices concerning the introduction of new technologies from the inception of their design through to their deployment and operational phases. Negative social and technical impacts of information and communications systems that are discovered late in the design process are usually extremely difficult to correct and, therefore, can cause lasting harm. We envision an information and communication society in which technologies are designed in a participatory manner with and by their end-users so as to prevent or minimise their negative impacts.

We envision societies where human knowledge, creativity, cooperation and solidarity are considered core elements; where not only individual creativity, but also collective innovation, based on cooperative work are promoted. Societies where knowledge, information and communication resources are recognised and protected as the common heritage of humankind; societies that guarantee and foster cultural and linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue, in environments that are free from discrimination, violence and hatred.

We are conscious that information, knowledge and the means of communication are available on a magnitude that humankind has never dreamt of in the past; but we are also aware that exclusion from access to the means of communication, from information and from the skills that are needed to participate in the public sphere, is still a major constraint, especially in developing countries. At the same time information and knowledge are increasingly being transformed into private resources which can be controlled, sold and bought, as if they were simple commodities and not the founding elements of social organisation and development. Thus, as one of the main challenges of information and communication societies, we recognise the urgency of seeking solutions to these contradictions.

We are convinced that with the sufficient political will to mobilise this wealth of human knowledge and the appropriate resources, humanity could certainly achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration, and even surpass them. As civil society organisations, we accept our part of responsibility in making this goal and our vision a reality.

2. CORE PRINCIPLES AND CHALLENGES

In accordance with this vision, it is essential that the development of information and communication societies be grounded in core principles that reflect a full awareness of the challenges to be met and the responsibility of different stakeholders. This includes the full recognition of the need to address gender concerns and to make a fundamental commitment to gender equality, non-discrimination and women's empowerment, and recognise these as non-negotiable and essential prerequisites to an equitable and people-centred development within information and communication societies. Such a commitment means consciously redressing the effects of the intersection of unequal power relations in the social, economic and political spheres, which manifests in differential access, choice, opportunity, participation, status and control over resources between women and men as well as communities in terms of class, ethnicity, age, religion, race, geographical location and development status.

We have identified the following as key areas of concern. We recognise and uphold the following principles; and we have identified certain priority areas for action by the international community.

2.1 Social Justice and People-Centred Sustainable Development

Within a social justice framework, human development implies cultural, social, economic, political and environmental living conditions that fulfill and empower individuals and communities. Despite the enormous advancements in knowledge and technology achieved by humanity, a majority of people continue to live in appalling conditions.

Social justice in the information and communication societies can only be pursued by taking into account geo-political and historical injustices along economic, social, political and cultural lines. Current global dynamics are characterised by tensions resulting from the inter-linkages of global economic liberalisation, cultural globalisation, increased militarism, rising fundamentalisms, racism and the suspension and violation of basic human rights.

The unequal distribution of ICTs and the lack of information access for a large majority of the world's population, often referred to as the digital divide, is in fact a mapping of new asymmetries

onto the existing grid of social divides. These include the divide between the North and South, rich and poor, men and women, urban and rural populations, those with access to information and those without. Such disparities are found not only between different cultures, but also within national borders. The international community must exercise its collective power to ensure action on the part of individual states in order to bridge domestic digital divides.

Redressing all forms of discrimination, exclusion and isolation that different marginalised and vulnerable groups and communities experience will require more than the deployment of technology alone. Their full participation in information and communication societies requires us to reject at a fundamental level, the solely profit-motivated and market-propelled promotion of ICTs for development. Conscious and purposeful actions need to be taken in order to ensure that new ICTs are not deployed to further perpetuate existing negative trends of economic globalisation and market monopolisation. Instead, ICT development and applications should be oriented to advance the social, economic and cultural progress of the world's peoples and contribute to transforming the development paradigm.

Technological decisions should be taken with the goal of meeting the life-critical needs of people, not with goal of enriching companies or enabling undemocratic control by governments. Therefore, fundamental decisions concerning the design and use of technologies must be made in cooperation with Civil Society, including individual end-users, engineers, and scientists. In particular, where community-based technologies are concerned the study and practice of community informatics must be applied in order to respond adequately to the particular characteristics and needs of communities in design processes.

2.1.1 Poverty Eradication

Poverty Eradication must be a key priority on the WSIS agenda. Without challenging existing inequalities, no sustainable development embracing the new ICTs can be achieved. People living in extreme poverty must be enabled to contribute their experiences and knowledge in a dialogue involving all parties. Challenging poverty requires more than setting 'development agendas'. It requires a fundamental commitment to examine the current frameworks, to improve local access to information that is of relevance for the specific context, to improve training in ICT-related skills, and to allocate significant financial and other resources. Also, because volunteers are working at the grassroots level, they play an important role in social inclusion.

Financial resources, linked with social and digital solidarity, need to be channelled through existing and new financial mechanisms that are managed transparently and inclusively by all sectors of society. Among the frameworks that need to be examined in terms of their potentially adverse effects on equitable development are the current arrangements for recognition and governance of monopolised knowledge and information, including the work of WIPO and the functioning of the TRIPS agreement.

2.1.2 Global Citizenship

Information and communication societies have the potential to catalyse and help release the enormous financial, technical, human and moral resources required for sustainable development. These resources will only be freed up as the peoples of the world develop a profound sense of responsibility for the fate of the planet and the well-being of the entire human family. In this regard, there is a need for the development in the individual and in communities, as well as governments, of a global consciousness, and a sense of world citizenship. Since the body of

humankind is one and indivisible, each member of the human race is born into the world as a trust of the whole and is best served by ensuring the equal importance of each member through the proactive exercise and application of international human rights standards.

2.1.3 Gender Justice

Equitable, open and inclusive information and communication societies must be based on gender justice and be particularly guided by the interpretation of principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and women's empowerment as contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Fifth World Conference on Women) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Actions must demonstrate not only a strong commitment but also a high level of consciousness to an intersectional approach to redressing discrimination resulting from unequal power relations at all levels of society. Proactive policies and programmes across all sectors must be developed for women as active and primary agents of change in owning, designing, using and adapting ICT. To empower girls and women throughout their life cycle, as shapers and leaders of society, gender responsive educational programs and appropriate learning environments need to be promoted. Gender analysis and the development of both quantitative and qualitative indicators in measuring gender equality through an extensive and integrated national system of monitoring and evaluation are "musts."

2.1.4 Importance of Youth

We recognise also that young people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by information and communication societies. In particular, we must seek to assist and empower youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially young people in developing countries. Equality of opportunity for girls and young women must be integral to our efforts, and we must create a greater awareness of their specific needs and potential in the field of ICT. Issues facing young workers in ICT industries, such as low pay, poor working conditions, and a lack of job stability and collective representation, must also be addressed. As main users of ICTs, young people are most affected and vulnerable to the health risks exposed by their use. Therefore we commit to develop and use only those ICTs that ensure the well-being, protection, and harmonious development of all children.

2.1.5 Access to Information and the Means of Communication

Access to information and the means of communication as a public and global commons should be participatory, universal, inclusive and democratic. Inequalities in access must be addressed in terms of the North/South divide as well as in terms of enduring inequalities within developed and less developed nations. Barriers that need to be overcome are of an economic, educational, technical, political, social, ethnic, and age nature, and inequitable gender relations are embedded into all of these and need to be specifically addressed.

Universal access to information that is essential for human development must be ensured. Infrastructure and the most appropriate forms of information and communication technologies must be accessible for all in their different social context, and the social appropriation of these technologies must be encouraged. This implies addressing diverse realities experienced by distinct social groups such as indigenous peoples, diasporas and migrants, and privileging local or targeted solutions. Traditional media and community-based information and communication initiatives have a vital role to play in these respects, and so does the effective use of the new ICTs. The regulatory

and legal framework in all information and communication societies must be strengthened to support broad-based sharing of technologies, information, and knowledge, and to foster community control, respectful of human rights and freedoms.

Specific needs and requirements of all stakeholders, including those with disabilities, must be considered in ICT development. Accessibility and inclusiveness of ICTs is best done at an early stage of design, development and production, so that the information and communication society becomes the society for all, at minimum cost.

The need to access, send and receive information represents a particularly vital challenge to vulnerable people such as refugees, those displaced by war, and asylum seekers who often do not know their rights, which are frequently violated. Access to means of communication for these groups is necessary for the defence and promotion of their rights, in order to make legitimate claims in conformity with international law.

2.1.6 Access to Health Information

The delivery of life-critical mental and physical health information can be facilitated and improved through ICT-based solutions. Lack of access to information and communication has been identified as a critical factor in the public mental and physical health crises around the world. Experts have suggested that providing citizens of developing countries with community level points of access to mental and physical health information would be a critical starting point for addressing the mental and physical health care crises. However, such access points should support more than one-way flows of information (for example, from expert to community or patient). Communities must be allowed to participate in the selection and creation of communication flows that they find useful and necessary to address the prevention, treatment, and promotion of mental and physical health care for all people. Open access to medical information is absolutely essential so that all known data are available to medical doctors and practitioners.

2.1.7 Basic Literacy

Literacy and free universal access to education is a key principle. Knowledge societies require an informed and educated citizenry. Capacity-building needs to include skills to use ICTs, media and information literacy, and the skills needed for active citizenship including the ability to find, appraise, use and create information and technology. Approaches that are local, horizontal, gender-responsive and socially driven and mediated should be prioritised. A combination of traditional and new media as well as open access to knowledge and information should be encouraged. Libraries – both real and virtual – have an important role to play to ensure access to knowledge and information available to everyone. At the international and multilateral level, the public domain of knowledge and culture needs to be protected. People-centred information technologies can foster eradication of illnesses and epidemics, can help give everyone food, shelter, freedom and peace.

Literacy, education and research are fundamental components of information, communication and knowledge societies. Knowledge creation and acquisition should be nurtured as a participatory and collective process and not considered a one-way flow or confined to one section of capacity building. Education (formal, informal, and lifelong) builds democracy both by creating a literate citizenry and a skilled workforce. But only an informed and educated citizenry with access to the means and outputs of pluralistic research can fully participate in and effectively contribute to knowledge societies.

Urgent attention should be paid to the potential positive and negative impacts of ICTs on the issues of illiteracy in regional, national and international languages of the great majority of the world's peoples. Literacy, education, and research efforts in the information and communication societies must include a focus on the needs of people who have physical impairments and all means of transcending those impairments (for example, voice recognition, e-learning, and open university training) must be promoted.

2.1.8 Development of Sustainable and Community-based ICT Solutions

In order that communities and individuals may fully enjoy the benefits of the information and communication society, ICTs must be designed and manufactured according to environmentally sustainable principles. Technological solutions must also be sustainable in the sense that communities are able to support their use and evolution.

Equipment recycling must meet environmental standards. The production of technologies must not consume an unsustainable amount of energy or natural resources.

It is essential to develop concrete proposals and policies to improve resource efficiency and develop renewable energy resources. This involves 'dematerialising' (for example, using less paper) and reducing ICT-related waste; increasing the useful life of hardware; improving recycling conditions; ensuring safe disposal of discarded ICT hardware and parts; and encouraging the development of alternatives to toxic ICT components. This also implies giving the highest priority to creating and using renewable energy resources to address the basic needs of populations living in developing countries. Renewable energy resources should be used for ICT-based dissemination of information and communications, including radio and television. Africa can particularly benefit from solar power due to its high level of exposure to direct solar radiation. By mobilising regional synergies, complemented by the necessary technical and financial cooperation, Africa could play a leading role in this strategic domain in the next decade.

Communities must have the ability to participate directly in the development and maintenance of ICT-based solutions to their own problems. In order that communities may create and sustain their own solutions using ICTs, they must be empowered to develop their own productive forces and control the means of production within information societies. This must include the right to participate fully in the development and sustenance of ICT-based projects through democratic processes, including decision making with respect to economic, cultural, environmental, and other issues. ICTs should be used as an instrument for the creation of genuine and sustainable sources of work, thus providing new labour opportunities.

In order that communities and individuals may create economically and technically sustainable solutions, they must have the right to use Free Software. This makes software more affordable, and, allows people to participate in its development and maintenance³. ICT-based innovation should adhere to the use of international technical standards for hardware, software, and processes, which

³ In this document, we use the term "Free Software" to refer to the specific concept defined by the Free Software Foundation. Free Software is software that is licensed in such a way that people have the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve it. Free Software implies access to source code as does "open source software"; however, open source software as the term is popularly used is not necessarily Free Software in our definition. Some organisations release open source software without permitting all of these actions. See <http://www.fsf.org> and <http://www.fsf.europa.org> for in-depth discussions of this concept.

are open, freely implementable, publicly documented, interoperable, non-discriminatory and demand-driven.

It is important to support community-based communications using both traditional and new media and communication technologies. There is a need for the development and nurturing of the discipline of community informatics, which focuses on the particular characteristics and needs of communities, in relation to design, development, deployment, and operation of ICTs, as well as local content production.

2.1.9 - Conflict Situations

We recognise that the use of media can be both positive and negative in conflict situations, including post-conflict peace building. We therefore insist that the rights of journalists and of all people to gather and communicate information, using any media, be especially respected during conflicts. These rights should be inviolate at all times but are crucial during war, violent conflict, and non-violent protest.

We are particularly concerned about the deployment of "information warfare" technologies and techniques, including the purposeful jamming, blocking, or destruction of civilian communication systems during conflict situations; the use of 'embedded' journalists coupled with the targeting of non-embedded journalists; the use of media and communication systems to promote hatred and genocide; by military, police, or other security forces, be they governmental, privately owned, or non-state actors, during conflict situations both international and domestic.

Information intervention in conflict situations should be bound by international law, and the WSIS should encourage work on a future convention against information warfare to address these concerns. At the same time, the WSIS should not only limit information warfare and the control of media in conflict situations, but also actively promote media and communications for peace. To that end, we encourage governments to decrease public subsidy for military communications technology, and instead spend money directly on developing peaceful communications tools and applications.

2.2 Centrality of Human Rights

An information and communication society should be based on human rights and human dignity. With the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its foundation, it must embody the universality, indivisibility, interrelation and interdependence of all human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural – including the right to development and linguistic rights. This implies the full integration, concrete application and enforcement of all rights and the recognition of their centrality to democracy and sustainable development. Information and communication societies must be inclusive, so that all people, without distinction of any kind, can achieve their full potential. The principles of non-discrimination and diversity must be mainstreamed in all ICT regulation, policies, and programmes.

2.2.1 Freedom of Expression

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is of fundamental and specific importance, since it forms an essential condition for human rights-based information and communication societies. Article 19 requires that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and

the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, through any media and regardless of frontiers. This implies free circulation of ideas, pluralism of the sources of information and the media, press freedom, and availability of the tools to access information and share knowledge. Freedom of expression on the Internet must be protected by the rule of law rather than through self-regulation and codes of conduct. There must be no prior censorship, arbitrary control of, or constraints on, participants in the communication process or on the content, transmission and dissemination of information. Pluralism of the sources of information and the media must be safeguarded and promoted.

2.2.2 Right to Privacy

The right to privacy, enshrined in Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is essential for self-determined human development in regard to civic, political, social, economic and cultural activities. The right to privacy faces new challenges in information and communication societies, and must be protected in public spaces, online, offline, at home and in the workplace. Every person must have the right to decide freely whether and in what manner he or she wants to receive information and communicate with others. The possibility of communicating anonymously must be ensured for everyone. The power of the private sector and of governments over personal data increases the risk of abuse, including monitoring and surveillance. Such activities must be kept to a legally legitimised minimum in a democratic society, and must remain accountable. The collection, retention, processing, use and disclosure of personal data, no matter by whom, should remain under the control of and determined by the individual concerned.

2.2.3 Right to Participate in Public Affairs

Good government administration and justice in a democratic society implies openness, transparency, accountability, participation and compliance with the rule of law. Respect for these principles is needed to enforce the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs. Public access to information produced or maintained by governments should be enforced, ensuring that the information is timely, complete and accessible in a format and language the public can understand. This further applies to access to documents of corporations relating to their activities affecting the public interest, especially in situations where the government has not made such information public.

2.2.4 Workers' Rights

ICTs are progressively changing our way of working. The creation of fair, secure, safe and healthy working conditions, in the manufacture of equipment and software, and in the utilisation of ICTs in the workplace in general, which respect international labour standards, for instance through tripartite social dialogue, is fundamental. ICTs should be used to promote awareness of, respect for and enforcement of human rights standards and international labour standards. Human rights, such as privacy, freedom of expression, linguistic rights, the right for on-line workers to form and join trade unions and the right of trade unions to function freely, including communicating with employees, must be respected in the workplace.

2.2.5 Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The evolution of information and communication societies must be founded on the respect and promotion of the recognition of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and their distinctiveness as outlined in international conventions. Indigenous Peoples have fundamental rights to protect, preserve and strengthen their own language, culture and identity. ICT's should be used to support and promote diversity and the rights and means of Indigenous Peoples to benefit fully and with priority from their cultural, intellectual and so-called natural resources.

2.2.6 Women's Rights

In order to realise women's rights in the information and communication societies, as spelled out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Fifth World Conference on Women), it is crucial to acknowledge and address the differences, disparities and disadvantages that women experience. This means taking into account the ways in which women are different from men, and how these differences translate into differential levels of access, opportunity, participation and use of ICTs. It must be ensured that policy or legal interventions and programmes consciously address these differences. To ensure effective equality of women, and thereby enabling women's full ability to claim and exercise their human rights, it is necessary to adopt a substantive equality approach in the analysis, which informs the content of ICT policy and programmes. This approach implies that actions to promote women's rights must transform the unequal power relation between women and men. Women need not only equality of opportunity, but also equality of access to opportunities and the ability to fully participate in availing such opportunities.

2.2.7 Rights of the Child

Information and communication societies must respect and promote the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Every child is entitled to a happy childhood and to enjoy the rights and freedoms available to all persons under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All persons, civil society, private sector and governments should commit to uphold the Rights of the Child in information and communication societies.

2.2.8 Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In inclusive information and communication societies, the rights of persons with disabilities to have full and equal access to information and communications including ICTs, regardless of types and degree of disabilities, must be ensured by public policies, laws and regulations at all levels. In order to achieve this goal, a Universal Design principle and the use of assistive technologies must be seriously promoted and supported throughout the whole process of building and nurturing information and communication societies in which persons with disabilities and their organisations must be allowed to participate fully and on equal terms with non-disabled people.

2.2.9 Regulation and the Rule of Law

National regulation should be in full compliance with international human rights standards, adhering to the rule of law. Information and communication societies must not result in any discrimination or deprivation of human rights resulting from the acts or omission of governments or of non-state actors under their jurisdictions. Any restriction on the use of ICTs must pursue a legitimate aim under international law, be prescribed by law, be strictly proportionate to such an aim, and be necessary in a democratic society.

2.3 Culture, Knowledge and the Public Domain

Information and communication societies are enriched by their diversity of cultures and languages, retained and passed on through oral tradition or recorded and transmitted through a variety of media, and together contributing to the sum of human knowledge. Human knowledge is the heritage of all humankind and the reservoir from which all new knowledge is created. The preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity, the freedom of the media and the defence and extension of the

public domain of global knowledge are as essential, for information and communication societies, as the diversity of our natural environment.

2.3.1 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Cultural and linguistic diversity is an essential dimension of people-centred information and communication societies. Every culture has dignity and value that must be respected and preserved. Cultural and linguistic diversity is based, among other things, on the freedom of information and expression and the right of everyone to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, at local, national and international levels. This participation includes activities both as users and producers of cultural content. ICTs including traditional communications media have a particularly important role to play in sustaining and developing the world's cultures and languages.

2.3.1.1 Capacity Building and Education

Cultural and linguistic diversity should not only be preserved; it needs to be fostered. This implies capacity to express oneself, in one's own language, at any time, by any means, including traditional media and new ICTs. In order to become a contributor and a creator in the information and communication societies, not only technical skills are needed, but critical and creative competence. Media education in the sense of the UNESCO Grunwald Declaration must be given specific attention in education and training programs. Cultural and linguistic diversity also implies equal access to the means of expression and of dissemination of cultural goods and services. Priority should be given to community-driven initiatives.

2.3.1.2 Language

Plurality of languages is at the core of vibrant information and communication societies. ICTs can be applied to bridge cultural and linguistic divides, given the right priorities. In the past, ICT development has too often reinforced inequalities, such as dominance of roman letter based languages (especially English) and marginalization of local, regional and minority languages. Priority should be given in ICT research and development to overcoming barriers and addressing inequalities between languages and cultures.

2.3.1.3 International Law and Regulation

International law and regulation should strengthen cultural, linguistic and media diversity, in accordance with existing international declarations and covenants, in particular Article 19 and Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Articles 19 and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and Articles 5 and 6 of the Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity adopted by UNESCO in 2001. International trade agreements should treat culture, including audio-visual content and services, not simply as a commodity, but should take account of the need for cultural, linguistic and media diversity. The establishment of an International Convention on Cultural Diversity should be accelerated, with a view to achieving an effective and binding international agreement. Existing international copyright regulation instruments including TRIPS and WIPO should be reviewed to ensure that they promote cultural, linguistic and media diversity and contribute to the development of human knowledge.

2.3.2 Media

2.3.2.1 The Role of the Media

Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media are central to any conception of information and communication societies. The media is an integral enabling mechanism for a global communications vision. Its role in producing, gathering and distributing diverse content in which all citizens are included and can actively participate, is vital. Especially for the developing countries, broadcast radio and television will continue to be the most effective ways to deliver high-quality information. All forms of media can make crucial contributions to social cohesion and development in the digital era.

Article 19 is the foundation for five regional declarations on media freedom and plurality that must continue to frame the role of the media in all its means of delivery. These texts⁴ have been unanimously endorsed by the member states of UNESCO.

Security and other considerations should not be allowed to compromise freedom of expression and media freedom. Media pluralism and diversity should be guaranteed through appropriate laws to avoid excessive media concentration.

Editorial independence of media professionals and creators must be protected and the formulation of professional and ethical standards in journalism and other media production must be the responsibility of media workers themselves. Online authors, journalists and editors should have the same contractual rights and social protections as other media workers.

Public service broadcasting has a specific and crucial role to play in ensuring the participation of all in the information and communication societies. State-controlled media should be transformed into editorially independent public service organisations.

2.3.2.2 Community Media

Community media, that is media which are independent, community-driven and civil society-based, have a particular role to play in enabling access to and participation for all in information and communication societies, especially the poorest and most marginalized communities. Community media can be vital enablers of information, voice and capacities for dialogue. Legal and regulatory frameworks that protect and enhance community media are especially critical for ensuring vulnerable groups access to information and communication.

Governments should ensure that legal frameworks for community media are non-discriminatory and provide for equitable allocation of frequencies through transparent and accountable mechanisms. Targets should be established for the opening up of broadcast licenses to allow for the operation of community broadcasting where this is not currently permitted. Spectrum planning and regulation should ensure sufficient spectrum and channel capacity, and appropriate technical standards, for community media to develop in both the analogue and the digital environment.

A Community Media Fund should be established through a donor civil society partnership to invest in and support community-driven media, information and communication initiatives using traditional media and new ICTs including projects that make provision for the poorest communities,

⁴ The Windhoek Declaration on the Promotion of Free and Pluralistic African Press, 1991; the Declaration of Alma Ata on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media, 1992; the Declaration of Sana'a on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media, 1994; the Sofia Declaration on Promoting European Pluralistic and Independent Media, 1997 (adopted in 95 and 97)

for cultural and linguistic diversity and for the equal participation of women and girls. Community-based media and communication centres should be encouraged and assisted to combine traditional media technologies, including radio and television, with access to new ICTs.

2.3.3 The Public Domain of Global Knowledge

A rich public domain of knowledge available to all is essential to sustainable information societies, to bridge the digital divide and to provide the grounds for a positive development of intellectual creativity, technological innovation and effective use of that technology. In information societies, new digital forms of storing information mean that this can be copied and transmitted in innovative ways that challenge existing customs and laws. The increasing privatisation of knowledge production threatens to restrict the availability of research results. Attempts have been made to commercially exploit traditional indigenous knowledge without consulting the communities, who are the owners of that knowledge.

2.3.3.1 Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge

Indigenous peoples are the guardians of their traditional knowledge and have the right to protect and control that knowledge. Existing intellectual property regimes are insufficient for the protection of indigenous people's cultural and intellectual property rights.

Traditional knowledge should be protected from any attempt at patenting. Indigenous peoples should freely decide whether their heritage should become part of the public domain or not. They should decide whether or not it should be exploited commercially and in what way.

We should give particular attention to measures to maintain knowledge diversity and to protect the cultural, intellectual and so-called natural resources of indigenous peoples, especially botanical and agricultural knowledge, from commercial exploitation and appropriation.

We urge the United Nations to establish specific legal frameworks, in accordance with Article 26.4 of the Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit, to recognise indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination and ancestral territories, as a necessary prerequisite to ensure the protection, preservation and development of their traditional knowledge in information and communication societies.

2.3.3.2 Copyright, Patents and Trademarks

Limited intellectual monopolies, also known as intellectual property rights, are granted only for the benefit of society, most notably to encourage creativity and innovation. The benchmark against which they must be reviewed and adjusted regularly is how well they fulfill this purpose. Today, the vast majority of humankind has no access to the public domain of global knowledge, a situation that is contributing to the growth of inequality and exploitation of the poorest peoples and communities. Yet instead of extending and strengthening the global domain, recent developments are restricting information more and more to private hands. Patents are being extended to software (and even to ideas), with the consequent effect of limiting innovation and reinforcing monopolies. Drugs that could save millions of lives are denied to disease sufferers because pharmaceutical companies that hold the patents resist making them available to those countries that can not pay high prices. Copyright periods have been extended again and again, making them practically indefinite and defeating their original purpose.

2.3.3.3 Software

Software provides the medium and regulatory framework for digital information, and access to software determines who may participate. Equal access to software is fundamental for inclusive and empowering digital information and communication societies, and a diversity of platforms is essential to this.

We must recognise the political and regulatory impact of software on digital societies and build, through public policy and specific programs, awareness of the effects and benefits of different software models. In particular, Free Software, with its freedoms of use for any purpose, study, modification and redistribution should be promoted for its unique social, educational, scientific, political and economic benefits and opportunities. Its special advantages for developing countries, such as low cost, empowerment and the stimulation of sustainable local and regional economies, easier adaptation to local cultures and creation of local language versions, greater security, capacity building, etc, need to be recognised, publicised and taken advantage of. Governments should promote the use of Free Software in schools and higher education and in public administration.

The UN should carry out a fundamental review of the impact on poverty and human rights of current arrangements for recognition and governance of monopolised knowledge and information, including the work of WIPO and the functioning of the TRIPS agreement. Efforts should be made to ensure that limited intellectual monopolies stimulate innovation and reward initiative, rather than keeping knowledge in private hands until it is of little use to society.

2.3.3.4 Research

Increasing private sector participation in scientific research is leading to patents and scientific knowledge being held in private hands instead of being available in the public domain, and increasing competition among scientists and scientific teams sometimes results in poor scientific practices, secrecy and the patenting of discoveries that would previously have been available to all. Research should continue to be based on cooperation, openness and transparency.

Public bodies such as libraries, scientific research centres, universities, should be able to contribute to enrich the common good of culture and knowledge, by putting into the public domain the results of their publicly funded activities. The public domain of global knowledge should be defended and extended through public policy, awareness-building and investments in programmes. These should ensure that any work funded by public or philanthropic bodies enters the public domain and should increase accessibility of information in online and offline media by means of Free Documentation, public libraries and other initiatives to disseminate information, such as Open Access journals and Open Archives giving access to scientific and other public domain information. All scientific data, such as genomes of living beings, should be freely accessible to all in Open Access databases.

2.4 Enabling environment

2.4.1 Ethical Dimensions

Information and communication societies are about how our societies create, share and utilise the information, cultural production and knowledge, which in turn shape the evolution of those societies. The value-base of the information society must be founded on the principles contained in the ensemble of internationally agreed-upon conventions, declarations, and charters.

More specifically, equal, fair and open access to knowledge and information resources, – whatever the technical means used to store and transmit them – must be established as fundamental principles of such societies. Technological, financial and regulatory considerations must conform to these principles.

Transparent and accountable governance, ethical business and accounting practices in communications sector firms and ethical media practice are of particular relevance in this context. Codes of ethics and standards should be adopted in these cases and mechanisms should be established to monitor their application as well as appropriate sanctions for their violation. Formulation of ethics and standards in journalism and other media production should be the responsibility of media workers themselves.

Respect for diversity must be a central criterion in establishing the principles and mechanisms for resolving conflicts that arise in information societies. Such societies, if they are built on values such as cooperation, equity, honesty, integrity, respect and solidarity, can have a significant impact on the quality of interaction between cultures and the promotion of meaningful dialogue among civilisations, and thus contribute to bringing about world peace.

2.4.2 Democratic and Accountable Governance

National and international regulations for information and communication societies should be in full compliance with international human rights standards. Openness, transparency, accountability and the rule of law should be the guiding principles for the democratic governance of societies at all levels, from the local to the national and international. Inclusive, participatory and peaceful information and communication societies rest on the responsiveness of governing bodies as well as on the commitment of all actors involved in governance, both of governmental and non governmental nature, to progressively implement greater political, social and economic equity.

A democratic perspective on information and communication societies, in which information is crucial for citizens, is necessary in order to make choices grounded on the awareness of alternatives and opportunities. Information and communication are the foundation for transparency, debate and decision-making. They can contribute to a culture and a practice of cooperation, basis for a renewal of democracy. Information and communication technologies offer potential benefits to the world's communities that will only be exploited if there is a political will to do so.

In this spirit, the aim of WSIS “to develop a common vision and understanding of the Information Society”, and the methods to achieve such a vision, requires shared communication values and mechanisms including the right to communicate, respect for freedom of opinion and expression in all of its dimensions, and a commitment to transparency, accountability, and democracy.

2.4.3 Infrastructure and Access

The dramatic lack of a reliable infrastructure is the main physical obstacle for ICT-based services to be offered to populations living in Africa. Here, the fragmented and incomplete structure and the unreliability of the existing infrastructure and access networks constitute the underlying structure of the so-called Digital Divide.

(Tele) communications infrastructure is essential for disseminating ICT-based services and is central in achieving the goal of universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to and usage

of these technologies and services by all. Furthermore, energy is a prerequisite for infrastructure and access.

Most voice, data and Internet traffic between African countries is currently routed outside of the continent because of the lack of an efficient African backbone network, increasing the cost of this traffic. Increased cost always limits access. Existing efforts to build an African network infrastructure must be supported and expanded (e.g. Internet exchange points).

The implementation and roll-out of (tele)communications infrastructure and access in DCs will require financial investments consistent with the huge needs in this area. In order to reduce the amount of financial resources needed, investments should be optimised by consolidating projects nationally or (sub) regionally, and by technological (re-) designing and updating. Furthermore, synergy between different sectors should be systematically exploited from the project phase, particular attention being paid to the energy and transport sectors that show very close links. Finally, the particularly strong synergy and technological similarity between ICT and Radio-TV networks should lead governments and planning authorities to deploy and use a common infrastructure for both their services to be transported and disseminated.

Community telecentres (public access centres) have become spaces for the effective access and strategic use of information and communication technologies with emphasis on the democratisation of communications. Governments should guarantee policies for the development of telecentres, among others, to provide equitable and affordable access to infrastructure and ICTs; to encourage digital inclusion policies for the population, independently of gender, ethnic aspects, language, culture and geographical situation. This would promote the discussion and active participation of communities in public policy processes related to the implementation and role of telecentres for local development.

Orbital satellite paths should be recognised as a public resource and should be allocated to benefit the public interest through transparent and accountable frameworks. Moreover, spectrum planning and regulation should ensure equitable access among a plurality of media including sufficient satellite capacity reserved for community media. A fixed percentage of orbital resources, satellite capacity and radio frequency spectrum should be reserved for educational, humanitarian, community and other non-commercial use.

The expansion of the global information infrastructure should be based on principles of equality and partnership and guided by rules of fair competition and regulation at both national and international levels.

The integration of access, infrastructure and training of the citizenry and the generation of local content, in a framework of social networks and clear public or private policies, is a key basis for the development of egalitarian and inclusive information societies.

2.4.4 Financing and Infrastructure

Existing and new financing measures should be envisaged and appraised. The "Digital Solidarity Fund" has been proposed by Africa. Such a fund could be a real hope for African peoples if it clearly states its goals, is transparently managed, and aims to foster primarily public services, especially for populations living in underserved and isolated areas. In addition, we stress the

significant role that diaspora populations from all the world's regions can play in financing ICT programmes and projects.

In order to optimise scarce financial resources, appropriate cost-effective technological options should be used, while avoiding duplication of infrastructure. Additionally, synergies between different sectors and networks can be exploited to this end, with particular attention to the energy and transport sectors, given their close links with the telecommunications sector.

A Community Media Fund should be established through a donor civil society partnership to invest in and support community-driven and community-based media, and information and communication initiatives using both traditional media and new ITC's. Effort should be made to eliminate the duplication of infrastructures and to consolidate projects in a national or regional frame to encourage investment funding. Where possible, ICT and radio/TV networks should use common infrastructure for dissemination.

2.4.5 Human Development — Education and Training

Literacy, education and research are fundamental and interrelated components of the information exchanges necessary to build knowledge societies. Knowledge creation and acquisition should be nurtured as a participatory and collective process; it should not be considered a one-way flow or confined to one section of capacity building. Education, in its different components - formal, informal, and lifelong - is fundamental to building democratic societies both by creating a literate citizenry and a skilled workforce.

To utilise the full potential of e-learning and long-distance education, they must be complemented by traditional educational resources and methods, in a local context of media pluralism and linguistic diversity.

Only informed and educated citizens with access to empowering education, a plurality of means of information, and the outputs of research efforts can fully participate in and effectively contribute to knowledge societies. Therefore it is also essential to recognise the right to education as stated both in the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Capacity building initiatives designed to empower individuals and communities in the information society must include, in addition to basic literacy and ICT skills, media and information literacy, the ability to find, appraise, use and create information and technology. In particular, educators, students and researchers must be able to use and develop Free Software, which allows the unfettered ability to study, change, copy, distribute, and run software. Finally, capacity building initiatives should be designed to stimulate the desire for general learning and respond to specific as well as special needs: those of young and elderly people, of women, of people with impairments, of indigenous peoples, of migrant communities, of refugees and returnees in post-conflict situations, in a life-long perspective. Volunteers can help transmit knowledge and enhance capacity, in particular of marginalized groups not reached by government training institutions.

Capacity building in the information and communication societies requires people who are competent in teaching media and communication literacy. Therefore training of trainers and training of educators in every level is equal important in order to reach out to people at the limits of the information society.

Libraries are an important tool to fight digital divide and to ensure continuous, out-of-market-ruled access to information, by freeing the results of research funded by public support, by sharing content and educational materials to promote literacy, build capacities and bring autonomy to learners of all kinds, world wide. This also entails convincing content producers to be active participants in the open access paradigm of knowledge.

Global barriers to knowledge and education must be transparently evaluated by looking beyond technological obstacles at legal and institutional gridlocks (like Intellectual Property Laws and International standards) and promoting a new balance of intellectual properties as a common ground for creators to protect their works and for civil society to benefit from their contributions.

Civil society sees the need for alternative models for the production and exchange of knowledge and information. To secure and finance the global knowledge commons, civil society actors support new open and self-organised publishing models in science and software production and community-based communications, with in-built maintenance programs and upgrading capacities.

2.4.6 Information Generation and Knowledge Development

Research must be promoted in all fields related to the information and communication societies, and its development must be sensitive to the social uses of ICTs. In particular, research on community informatics must be supported⁵. This would include the development of a research agenda among practitioners, scholars, and communities; the cataloguing of community informatics projects and identification of both factors for failure and success; and support for research projects and systems trials. Fundamental research should be strengthened by expanding open access to primary scientific data and publications. Public bodies such as libraries, scientific research centres, universities should foster independent investigation, build a pluralistic body of knowledge and promote the results of activities which have been funded by public money. This body of knowledge should be made available in all public spaces, or spaces with public access (community centres, universities, schools, museums, libraries, media centres, and other dedicated entities), through appropriate and plural modes of access, avoiding the risk of high dependency on digital technology alone.

2.4.7 Global Governance of ICT and Communications

International "rules of the game" play an increasingly central role in the global information economy. In recent years, governments have liberalised traditional international regulatory regimes for telecommunications, radio frequency spectrum, and satellite services, and have created new multilateral arrangements for international trade in services, intellectual property, "information security," and electronic commerce. At the same time, business groups have established a variety of "self-regulatory" arrangements concerning Internet identifiers (names and numbers), infrastructure, and content.

It is not acceptable for these and related global governance frameworks to be designed by and for small groups of powerful governments and companies and then exported to the world as *faits accomplis*. Instead, they must reflect the diverse views and interests of the international community as a whole. This overarching principle has both procedural and substantive dimensions.

⁵ Community informatics refers here to the interdisciplinary study and practice of the design, implementation, and management of information and communication technologies developed by communities to solve their own problems. This field takes into account social science research about the social impacts of ICTs -- also known as social informatics -- as well as information and communication systems analysis and design techniques.

Procedurally, decision-making processes must be based on such values as inclusive participation, transparency, and democratic accountability. In particular, institutional reforms are needed to facilitate the full and effective participation of marginalized stakeholders like developing and transitional countries, global civil society organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, and individual users.

Substantively, global governance frameworks must promote a more equitable distribution of benefits across nations and social groups. To do so, they must strike a better balance between commercial considerations and other legitimate social objectives. For example, existing international arrangements should be reformed to promote: efficient management of network interconnections and traffic revenue distribution, subject to the mutual agreement of corresponding operators; equitable allocations of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbital slots that fully support developmental and non-commercial applications; fair trade in electronic goods and services, taking into account the developing countries' need for special and differential treatment; an open public domain of information resources and ideas; and the protection of human rights, consumer safety, and personal privacy. In parallel, new diverse international arrangements are needed to promote: financial support for sustainable e-development, especially but not only in less affluent nations; linguistic, cultural, and informational diversity; and the curtailment of concentrated market power in ICT and mass media industries.

In light of the relevant controversies in the WSIS process, special attention must be given to improving the global coordination of the Internet's underlying resources. It must be remembered that the Internet is not a singular communications "platform" akin to a public telephone network; it is instead a highly distributed set of protocols, processes, and voluntarily self-associating networks. Accordingly, the Internet cannot be governed effectively by any one organisation or set of interests. An exclusionary intergovernmental model would be especially ill suited to its unique characteristics; only a truly open, multistakeholder, and flexible approach can ensure the Internet's continued growth and transition into a multilingual medium. In parallel, when the conditions for system stability and sound management can be guaranteed, authority over inherently global resources like the root servers should be transferred to a global, multistakeholder entity.

The international community must have full and easy access to knowledge and information about ICT global governance decision making. This is a baseline prerequisite for implementation of the principles mentioned above, and indeed for the success of the WSIS process itself. We need public-interest oriented monitoring and analysis of the relevant activities of both intergovernmental and "self-governance" bodies including, inter alia, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Conference on International Trade Law, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Hague Conference on International Private Law, the of Europe, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and Wassenaar Arrangement.

As a viable first step in this direction, we recommend the establishment of an independent and truly multistakeholder observatory committee to: (1) map and track the most pressing current developments in ICT global governance decision-making; (2) assess and solicit stakeholder input on the conformity of such decision-making with the stated objectives of the WSIS agenda; and (3) report to all stakeholders in the WSIS process on a periodic basis until 2005, at which time a decision could be made on whether to continue or terminate the activity.

3. CONCLUSION

It is people who primarily form and shape societies, and information and communication societies are no exception. Civil society actors have been key innovators and shapers of the technology, culture and content of information and communication societies, and will continue to be in the future.

Human rights stand at the centre of our vision of the information and communication society⁶. From this standpoint, action plans, implementation, financing mechanisms and governance must all be shaped by and evaluated on the basis of their ability to meet life-critical human needs.

Host countries and institutions contributing to and participating in the post-Geneva WSIS process should fully respect the principles enunciated in the Declaration adopted at the Geneva Summit, including those relating to human rights that are fundamental to the information and communications society. These include, but are not limited to the freedoms of expression, association and information.

Toward this end, and in preparation for the second phase of WSIS, an independent commission should be established to review national and international ICT regulations and practices and their compliance with international human rights standards. This commission should also address the potential applications of ICTs to the realization of human rights, such as the right to development, the right to education and the right to a standard of living adequate for the mental and physical health and well-being of the individual and his or her family, including food, housing and medical care.

The full realisation of a just information society requires the full participation of civil society in its conception, implementation, and operation. To this end, we call on all governments involved in the preparatory processes of WSIS to work in good faith with non-governmental and civil society organisations and fully honour the recommendations of Resolution 56/183 of the United Nations General Assembly. In particular, participating governments must honour civil society's right to participate fully in the remaining intergovernmental preparatory processes leading to the second phase of WSIS.

We commit ourselves – independent of the modalities of participation granted to us by governments – to pursuing by all just and honourable means necessary the realization of the vision of the information society presented herein. To this end, civil society organisations will continue to cooperate with one another to develop a Plan of Action for the second phase of WSIS. We call upon the world's leaders to urgently assume the heavy responsibilities they face, in partnership with civil society, to make this vision a reality.

Endorsements of this declaration are being compiled at ct-endorse@wsis-cs.org and archived on <http://www.wsis-cs.org>.

⁶ Nothing in this declaration may be interpreted as implying that civil society wishes to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth in the International Bill of Rights and other human rights treaties.

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V. Danmark, FN og Verden

En lang række af internationale begivenheder de seneste år bør give anledning til eftertanke i Danmark og i det internationale samfund. Vi må gøre os klart, at det internationale trusselsbillede er ændret. Og vi må overveje, hvilke konsekvenser dette skal have for FN, for folkeretten og for reglerne om magtanvendelse.

Det er ikke alene Irak, som har givet anledning til vanskelige overvejelser. Også i en række andre tilfælde har det internationale samfund de seneste år været stillet over for svære valg for eller imod militær indsats. I Kosovo valgte NATO at skride til handling, da FN's Sikkerhedsråd var blokeret og ikke levede op til sit ansvar for at standse massive krænkelser af menneskerettigheder og deportationer, der udgjorde en trussel mod fred og stabilitet i regionen. I Rwanda skred det internationale samfund derimod ikke ind på trods af, at der blev gennemført et regulært folkemord. Og i Irak stillede USA sig i 1991 og 1998 som bekendt i spidsen for en international militær aktion for at gennemtvinge Sikkerhedsrådets resolutioner. Hertil kommer de massive udfordringer, som det internationale samfund står overfor i kampen mod terror - særligt efter angrebet på USA den 11. september 2001.

Det er enkelt at konstatere, at det internationale trusselsbillede har ændret sig voldsomt over de senere år. Det er langt vanskeligere at vurdere, hvilke konsekvenser det bør have for udbygningen af den internationale retsorden og reglerne for magtanvendelse.

Spørgsmålet er, om vi i en tidsalder, hvor truslerne fra terrorisme og masseødelæggelsesvåben ikke er til at ignorere, kan tillade os at afvente sikre beviser, før vi griber ind?

Venstre er stærk tilhænger af en international retsorden, hvor alle lande - store som små - følger et sæt fælles spilleregler. Militære skridt skal have hjemmel i FN-pagten. Men i international politik er man også nødt til at tage sit udgangspunkt i, at det ikke er en ideel tilstand. Her kan man blandt andet pege på, at FN-systemet rummer regimer og regenter, der ikke er båret af demokrati. Men vi kan ikke være tilhængere af en retsorden, hvor den enkelte bare tager sig til rette. Der må være tale om at bygge internationale koalitioner op, der gør det nødvendige. Men der er behov for at overveje folkeretlige regler, som tager højde for den nye tids trusler.

På samme måde er der behov for mere klare folkeretlige regler i forbindelse med humanitære interventioner. Udviklingen i løbet af 1990'erne viste tydeligt, at massive krænkelser af menneskerettigheder kan udvikle sig til trusler mod international fred og sikkerhed.

Dette oplæg giver et bud på de tiltag, som efter Venstres opfattelse er helt nødvendige for at styrke den internationale retsorden.

1. FN

Ved undertegnelsen af FN-pagten i 1945 troede mange, at et internationalt samfundsperspektiv nu ville få en betydelig øget vægt i verdenspolitikken i forhold til det magtorienterede perspektiv. Sådan kom det ikke umiddelbart til at gå. Den kolde krig kom til at betyde, at magtperspektivet på mange områder forblev det dominerende, men som en understrøm voksede det internationale samfundsperspektiv sig alligevel stærkere. Tendensen til styrkelse af det internationale samfund har

været særlig mærkbar efter ophøret af den kolde krig. Eksempelvis er vetoet blevet brugt 301 gange fra 1946 til og med efteråret 2004. Men perioden 1991 til august 2004 - det vil sige efter ophøret af den kolde krig - mønstrer kun 17 vetoer. Resten ligger forud for 1991. Tilsvarende kan man se på antallet af vedtagne resolutioner, at der fra 1946 til 1991 i gennemsnit blev vedtaget ca. 15 resolutioner pr. år. Efter 1991 er tallet oppe på 60 resolutioner pr. år¹.

Igennem FN's levetid er der endvidere blevet mere opmærksomhed på individets stilling i forhold til staten. Det bedste eksempel er den øgede betoning af menneskerettighederne.

FN blev dannet som en mellemstatslig organisation. Det vil sige, at der ikke er nogen parlamentarisk dimension, der svarer til f.eks. Europarådets Parlamentariske Forsamling. Men på det seneste har Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) fået status som konsultativt organ i FN, hvilket med tiden måske kan blive tilløbet til en parlamentarisk dimension. IPU har dog det problem, modsat Europarådet, at mange af verdens stater desværre ikke kan anses for at være demokratiske. Det betyder, at de parlamentariske repræsentanter, som staterne udsender, måske ikke er demokratisk valgte. Dette reducerer dog ikke IPU's legitimitet i forhold til FN. Tværtimod må udfordringen være, at IPU kommer til at spille en ikke uvæsentlig rolle i bestræbelserne for at få demokratiseret alle FN's medlemslande.

Man kan diskutere om FN burde have en form for A- og B-medlemsskab. I Europarådet er det sådan, at hvis ikke man overholder menneskerettighederne, så risikerer man at blive smidt ud. FN er en universel organisation. Derfor kommer udsmidning aldrig på tale. Men man kunne forestille sig, at der følger flere rettigheder med for stater, der overholder menneskerettighederne. Det kan modvirke at FN, delvist bygget på udemokratiske regimer, ikke kommer til at udgøre det legitime fundament for et globalt retssamfund, som vi alle ønsker.

Ved dannelsen af FN var det en forudsætning, at mange konflikter burde løses på regionalt plan. I Europa er det efter 2. verdenskrig sket gennem Europarådet, EU samt OSCE. Det nye afrikanske partnerskab NEPAD² er et eksempel på et længe tiltrængt fremskridt, som - hvis det kommer til at virke - på sigt kan komme til at udfylde en konfliktforebyggende rolle og fungere som regional fredsmægler i denne del af verden.

Kofi Annan har igangsat mange reformer. Men en forenkling af de mange organisationer ville være en fordel. Det betyder, at der er brug for en væsentlig sanering og en videre effektivisering af FN's arbejde på det enkelte indsatsområde.

a. Målsætninger i dansk FN-politik

Venstres klare målsætninger for en fremtidig FN-politik baserer sig på følgende prioriteter:

- en konsekvent gennemførelse af FN's 2015-målsætning med særlig vægt på Afrika,
- at styrke det danske bidrag til FN's udviklingsarbejde,
- at gøre en aktiv indsats for at sikre, at FN's økonomiske fundament opretholdes, og at medlemslandene overholder de økonomiske forpligtelser,

¹ David Malone: UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21st Century

² Læs mere om NEPAD på <http://www.nepad.org/en.html>

- at fortsætte den aktive indsats for, at reformprocessen i FN styrkes bl.a. ved at tage initiativer, der kan være med til at klarlægge Sikkerhedsrådets fremtid i forhold til dets sammensætning, åbenhed og i forhold til spørgsmålet om vetoret,
- at fremme sammenhængen mellem politiske, militære, humanitære og bistandsmæssige indsatser i konfliktområder og styrke generalsekretærens kapacitet til konfliktforebyggelse, og
- at arbejde for at fremme demokrati og menneskerettigheder indenfor en international retsorden.

Venstre lægger vægt på, at Danmark er en engageret deltager i FN's arbejde og er med til at gå foran og præge dette med danske synspunkter og interesser.

FN's fire verdenskvindekonferencer og den særlige generalforsamling i 2000 Beijing +5 har spillet en stor rolle i det nationale og internationale arbejde for kvinder og for ligestilling. Venstre mener, at de fremskridt, der blev opnået under Beijing +5 - på områderne vold mod kvinder, herunder kvindelig omskæring og handel med kvinder og børn, samt monitorering og indikatorer - bør fastholdes og udbygges.

I overensstemmelse med FN's Sikkerhedsråds resolution 1325³ bør Danmark herudover arbejde på, at der sættes fokus på kvinders rolle i konfliktforebyggelse og fredsskabelse. Det er et vigtigt element i den nuværende udviklingspolitiske indsats, og det virker som en logisk forlængelse, at Danmark medvirker til, at den globale udviklings konsekvenser for kvinder tages i betragtning i FN-regi.

b. Danmarks plads i Sikkerhedsrådet 2005-2006

Danmark har haft sæde i Sikkerhedsrådet i perioderne 1953-54, 1967-68 og senest i 1985-86 i slutfasen af den kolde krig. Siden da har Sikkerhedsrådets arbejdsvilkår ændret sig mærkbart. Med Danmarks plads i FN's Sikkerhedsråd for perioden 2005-2006 tegner der sig en meget spændende tid og udfordring for dansk udenrigs- og sikkerhedspolitik.

Danmarks plads i Sikkerhedsrådet er en naturlig forlængelse af dansk udenrigspolitik. Danmark ønsker aktivt og engageret at sætte sit præg på den internationale dagsorden - også i denne sammenhæng. Styrkelsen af Sikkerhedsrådets rolle på den internationale scene over de senere år har gjort en plads i Sikkerhedsrådet særlig attraktiv.

Den politiske platform for det danske kandidatur vil tage udgangspunkt i Danmarks placering og profil og i Danmarks bidrag til det internationale samarbejde i bred forstand. Danmark har udvist stort engagement i FN, hvor bistandsområdet og den aktive deltagelse i krisestyrings- og fredsbevarende operationer særligt kan fremhæves. Men også Danmarks profil på miljø- og menneskerettighedsområdet - herunder kvinders rolle i udviklingsprocessen samt det brede engagement i forhold til konfliktløsning og humanitære indsatser - vil indgå.

³ <http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/720/18/PDF/N0072018.pdf?OpenElement>

2. Reformen af FN-systemet

a. Sikkerhedsrådet

FN's Sikkerhedsråd er en afgørende nødvendighed for at forpligte og engagere de store lande i det internationale samarbejde. En af grundene til at mellemkrigstidens forløber for FN, det såkaldte Folkeforbund blev en fiasko, var blandt andet mangelen af et Sikkerhedsråd.

Sikkerhedsrådet har ifølge FN-pagten hovedansvaret for opretholdelse af international fred og sikkerhed. På grund af sin sammensætning og sine beføjelser er Sikkerhedsrådet verdensorganisationens mest magtfulde organ. FN's Sikkerhedsråd har - som det eneste organ i verden - beføjelse til at træffe bindende sikkerhedspolitiske beslutninger med global rækkevidde.

Disse vidtrækkende udenrigspolitiske beføjelser er tildelt en snæver kreds af lande - nemlig de 15 sikkerhedsrådsmedlemmer. Når medlemmerne er enige, kan Sikkerhedsrådet udgøre en virkelig magtfaktor i fredshåndhævelsen. Denne position styrkes selvsagt, når der tillige er politisk vilje hos konfliktens parter til at virke i overensstemmelse med Sikkerhedsrådets vedtagelser. Omvendt kan splittelse i Sikkerhedsrådet udnyttes af parterne i en konflikt og vanskeliggøre en fredelig løsning.

Venstre mener ikke, at FN skal udvikle sig til en eller anden form for verdensregering. Det ville være en både urealistisk og uønskelig udvikling. FN er ikke desto mindre en umådelig vigtig organisation, fordi FN er det eneste globale forum, som vi har i dag.

Sikkerhedsrådets funktion og position er fortsat vigtig og kan styrkes ved en forbedret repræsentativ fordeling af lande. FN's Sikkerhedsråd blev skabt af sejrherrene efter Den Anden Verdenskrig og afspejler derfor magtforholdene i midten af forrige århundrede. Men det er en magtbalance, som for længst er forsvundet.

FN's Sikkerhedsråd skal afspejle den aktuelle sikkerhedspolitiske situation, hvor de magtfulde stater har sæde. Det er ikke tilfældet, sådan som FN's Sikkerhedsråd er sammensat i dag. Konkret mener vi derfor, at kredsen af faste medlemmer skal udvides. Efter vores opfattelse giver det ingen mening, at Europa er repræsenteret med både Frankrig og Storbritannien som permanente medlemmer, når hverken Afrika, Sydamerika eller Oceanien er repræsenteret. Denne situation er ikke holdbar. Det vil være rimeligt at tildele f.eks. Brasilien, Indien, Indonesien, Japan, Sydafrika og Australien faste pladser i FN's Sikkerhedsråd⁴.

Brasilien bør få status af fast medlem af Sikkerhedsrådet, fordi landet klart er det største og mest folkerige land i Sydamerika. Brasilien har formået at ryste skyggen af mange års militærstyre af sig og har gennemgået en positiv økonomisk og social udvikling, således at Brasilien i dag er en regional stormagt og Sydamerikas førende økonomiske magt.

Med over en milliard indbyggere bør Indien være selvskrevet til en fast plads ved bordet i FN's Sikkerhedsråd. Indien er en regional stormagt og samtidig et af verdens største demokratier.

Indonesien er med sine over 200 millioner indbyggere verdens største muslimske land og ligeledes en regional stormagt.

⁴ Se også FN's 58. Generalforsamling 2003 - *Instruktion for den danske delegation*, Udenrigsministeriet 25. august 2003 (<http://www.um.dk/udenrigspolitik/fn/InstruktionenGA58.pdf>)

Japan har stor betydning for den internationale økonomi. Tillige er Japan en regional stormagt i Fjernøsten. Ved at inkludere Japan i kredsen af faste medlemmer i FN's Sikkerhedsråd vil vi på en god måde signalere, at sårene efter Den Anden Verdenskrig nu er helet. Det er på høje tid at inkludere Fjernøstens økonomiske lokomotiv i hjertet af den internationale beslutningsproces.

Australien er den regionale stormagt i Oceanien og har, på trods af den store geografiske afstand til verdens traditionelle brændpunkter, altid vist vilje til at bidrage til bilæggelse af stridigheder og konflikter.

På sigt er det oplagt, at Sydafrika - eller et andet afrikansk land - repræsenteres med en permanent plads i FN's Sikkerhedsråd for på denne måde få en stemme, der kan tale på kontinentets vegne i globale spørgsmål.

b. Vetoretten

I et nyt og udvidet Sikkerhedsråd vil det være naturligt enten helt at fjerne, eller i hvert fald kraftigt begrænse, mulighederne for at bruge vetoretten. Den tid må være ovre, hvor enkelte lande med vetoretten i lommen kan "sylte" og forhindre, at der gives mandat til at håndhæve FN's resolutioner.

Afgørelser i FN's Sikkerhedsråd bør ske med en form for kvalificeret flertal. Hvis FN's Sikkerhedsråd udvides til at omfatte ni faste medlemmer, bør et kvalificeret flertal udgøres af seks faste medlemmer. Det vil betyde, at der fremover skal tre faste medlemmer til at skabe et veto i FN's Sikkerhedsråd.

c. Målrettede sanktioner

Venstre holdninger til sanktioner er:

- ✓ Målrettede sanktioner bør anvendes mod lande og magthavere, hvor menneskerettighederne systematisk krænkes.
- ✓ Der skal opstilles klare og præcise mål i Sikkerhedsrådet mht. sanktionernes formål - højere grad af resultatorientering.
- ✓ Der skal udarbejdes vurderinger af de humanitære omkostninger før indførelsen af sanktioner.
- ✓ Sikkerhedsrådet skal løbende vurdere og evaluere, om sanktionerne opfylder deres formål.
- ✓ DIIS bør udarbejde en rapport, som følger op på erfaringer og resultater fra brug af FN-sanktioner - herunder bør DIIS give en vurdering af udviklingen af alternative sanktionsvåben under betegnelsen smarte/målrettede sanktioner.

Ifølge FN-pagtens kapitel 7 kan FN's Sikkerhedsråd vedtage sanktioner for at bibeholde international fred og sikkerhed. I det forrige århundrede blev der gennemført over hundrede sanktioner mod forskellige lande, men der var meget langt mellem succeserne. I 1990'erne blev den brede vifte af sanktioner indført over for eksempelvis Irak, det tidligere Jugoslavien, Libyen, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia, UNITA-bevægelsen i Angola, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Eritrea og

Etiopien. Omfanget af disse sanktioner har inkluderet økonomiske og handelssanktioner og/eller specifikke tiltag, såsom våbenembargo, udrejseforbud og finansielle eller diplomatiske sanktioner.

Erfaringerne med disse meget vidtfavnende og lammende sanktioner har imidlertid afsløret en række problemer. De mest alvorlige er uønskede humanitære effekter for civilbefolkningen i det sanktionsramte land og uønskede økonomiske effekter på eventuelle tredjelande.

Hovedmålsætningen med såkaldte "smart sanctions" eller "targeted sanctions" er at begrænse omfanget af sanktionerne i og med det forsøges at målrette regeringer og/eller regerende eliter, ikke-statslige aktører eller specifikke individer. Til forskel for de i dag meget vidtfavnende sanktioner kan målrettede sanktioner f.eks. være indefrysning af magthaveres bankkonti i udlandet, som det skete for militærjuntaen i Haiti i begyndelsen af 1990'erne eller isolation af styret i form af indrejseforbud, som det gælder i EU for militærjuntaen i Burma og Mugabes styre i Zimbabwe.

Samtidig adskiller målrettede sanktioner sig ved i højere grad at minimere den skadelige indvirkning på civilbefolkningen. Målrettede sanktioner kræver imidlertid to ting. For det første skal der i højere grad følges op med overvågning af sanktionerne i forhold til, hvorvidt de rent faktisk har den ønskede effekt. For det andet skal en justering af sanktionerne ske meget hurtigt, såfremt disse skulle vise sig at ramme de forkerte.

Stockholmsprocessen⁵, afsluttet i 2003, er det tredje led i et internationalt forsøg på at forbedre FN's sanktioner. Det første initiativ blev taget af Schweiz - Interlaken-processen - som fokuserede på de finansielle sanktioner. Tyskland fortsatte herefter med studier af våbenembargoer og restriktioner under Bonn-Berlinprocessen. Sveriges bidrag under Stockholmsprocessen var at komme med forslag til, hvorledes målrettede sanktioner kan gennemføres i praksis. Denne proces skal fortsætte.

3. Fredsbevarende operationer

Venstres holdning til fredsbevarende operationer er:

- ✓ at Danmark kraftigt skal støtte intensiveringen af FN's bestræbelser på at styrke udviklingen af en afrikansk fredsbevarende kapacitet.
- ✓ at Danmark bør arbejde for et udvidet samarbejde mellem FN og regionale organisationer.

For Danmark er det en prioritet at medvirke til en fortsat styrkelse af FN's kapacitet til håndtering af de stadig mere komplicerede internationale konflikter.

Generalsekretærens panel vedr. fredsoperationer afgav i august 2000 en rapport om styrkelse af FN's indsats vedrørende fredsbevarende operationer - Brahimi-rapporten⁶. Rapporten har været behandlet i forskellige fora. Det er lykkedes at få skabt enighed om en meget stor del af rapportens anbefalinger og dermed om rammerne for en markant forbedring af FN's kapacitet til planlægning og gennemførelse af fredsbevarende operationer.

⁵ The Stockholm Process - on the Implementation of Targeted Sanctions (<http://www.smartsanctions.se/>)

⁶ Læs mere på FN's hjemmeside (http://www.un.org/peace/reports/peace_operations/report.htm)

Samarbejdet mellem Sikkerhedsrådet, troppebidragydere og FN-sekretariatet er blevet forbedret efter igangsættelsen af implementeringen af Brahimi-rapportens anbefalinger. Samarbejdet bør dog løbende vurderes for at sikre den bedst mulige balance mellem troppebidragydernes ønske om øget indflydelse på udformningen af mandater og Sikkerhedsrådets muligheder for at varetage sine opgaver som fastlagt i FN-pagten.

Venstre betragter det som væsentligt, at troppebidragydere inddrages, inden Sikkerhedsrådet træffer beslutninger, der væsentligt ændrer rammerne for eksisterende operationer. Der bør derfor etableres en procedure, hvor Sikkerhedsrådet inddrager troppebidragyderne, inden der træffes beslutning om ændring af mandat eller operativt koncept.

Danmark bør arbejde for, at planlægning og gennemførelse af FN's fredsoperationer indgår i en større helhed, således at FN's indsatser på det humanitære, det fredsbevarende og det udviklingspolitiske område så vidt muligt samtænkes og koordineres. Det er den sammenhængende indsats, vi ønsker for det danske forsvar i det 21. århundrede, og denne holdning bør indgå i de sikkerhedsfora, hvor Danmark deltager. Forudsætningen for dette er bl.a., at der tages højde for helheden, når mandatet for den konkrete indsats udformes. Mandaterne skal så at sige afspejle virkeligheden. FN skal ikke havne i situationer, hvor mandatet er utilstrækkeligt, og vi er vidner til overgreb mod civilbefolkningen i det pågældende land, uden at FN er i stand til at gribe ind. Endvidere forudsættes et effektivt samarbejde mellem de relevante aktører internt i FN-systemet og mellem FN og de eksterne aktører.

Mulighederne for at afværge eller inddæmme konflikter beror ofte på en hurtig og effektiv FN tilstedeværelse, såvel med militære styrker som med civile eksperter, herunder politi. Der skal arbejdes for, at der etableres effektive beredskabslistes for militært og civilt personale, så FN med kort varsel vil være i stand til at bemane nøglefunktioner i en ny fredsbevarende operation med velkvalificeret personale.

4. FN og kampen mod terror og masseødelæggelsesvåben

Venstres mener, at FN's aktiviteter bør støtte de globale bestræbelser på at:

- bruge demokratiske midler til at afskaffe en regering. Terrorisme kan aldrig bruges som middel.
- forhindre grupper eller individer i at anskaffe midler til at udføre terroraktioner.
- opretholde det bredest mulige internationale samarbejde i kampen mod terrorisme.

I forlængelse af ovennævnte konklusioner foreslår Venstre

- ✓ at der bliver oprettet en arbejdsgruppe under FN's afdeling for nedrustning (Department for Disarmament Affairs), som hvert andet år udgiver en offentlig rapport vedr. trusselsbilledet i forbindelse med terror og masseødelæggelsesvåben på globalt plan. Rapporten kan virke som et globalt termometer for terrorrisikoen.
- ✓ at lade relevante FN-afdelinger udarbejde forslag, som skal forbedre og forstærke de etiske standarder og etablere et adfærdskodeks for forskere, som opererer inden for undervisnings- eller udviklingsområder relateret til våbenteknologier.

Terrorangrebet i USA den 11. september 2001 har præget FN i betydelig grad, og terrorbekæmpelse må fortsat forventes at få en fremtrædende plads i FN's virke. 11. september gav os en ny erfaring, som igen stiller nye krav til folkeretten og den politiske vilje. Blandt de mest dramatiske aktuelle trusler er terrorismen en trussel, der er specielt skræmmende i evt. kombination med anvendelsen af masseødelæggelsesvåben. Det er kendetegnende for disse nye typer af trusler, at de er mindre bundet af geografi, samt at de er dynamiske og uforudsigelige. I forskellige kombinationer kan de både realiseres som direkte angreb og bruges til afpresning.

Muligheden for at masseødelæggelsesvåben kan bringes i anvendelse i vestlige lande, og dvs. også i Danmark, når vi mindst venter det, giver FN et nyt ansvar. FN skal ikke blot have ansvar for at sikre grupper eller enkeltpersoner mod, at de bliver ofre for folkemord eller andre forbrydelser. FN og dets medlemslande har et tilsvarende ansvar for at sikre, at mennesker ikke bliver ofre for terrorisme og sikre, at terrorister, eller regeringer som måtte samarbejde med dem, ikke får mulighed for at anvende masseødelæggelsesvåben.

Denne opgave bliver vanskeliggjort af, at spredningen af masseødelæggelsesvåben i sagens natur er en kompleks og hemmelig proces, som foregår i et samarbejde mellem stater, terrorgrupper og mellemænd. Verden fik et glimt af, hvad der foregår med afsløringen af den pakistanske fysikers handel med atomteknologi.

En effektiv indsats mod den internationale terrorisme kræver en indsats i flere spor og anvendelse af alle egnede instrumenter. FN udgør her en central aktør. Det gælder Sikkerhedsrådets involvering bl.a. gennem Rådets Anti-Terrorisme Komité (CTC), der har til opgave at sikre efterlevelse af Sikkerhedsrådsresolution 1373⁷, den resolution der, mere end noget andet, fremstår som det internationale samfunds svar på den 11. september.

Med formandskabet for CTC har Danmark nu fået mulighed for at sætte sig solide fingeraftryk på bekæmpelse af internationale terrorisme. Det kan gøres på mange måder, men vigtigt for Danmarks arbejde er, at det tager sit udgangspunkt i resolution 1373.

Resolution 1373 pålægger bl.a. medlemslandene bindende forpligtelser med det sigte at bekæmpe terrorisme i alle former og afskygninger. Det drejer sig bl.a. om, at medlemmer af FN skal afstå fra at give økonomisk støtte til terrororganisationer, at medlemmer skal afstå fra at give husly til terrorister eller terrororganisationer, og at medlemmerne skal dele informationer med andre regeringer vedr. potentielle terroraktioner m.m.

FN skal fastholde en rolle med en multilateral tilgang til terrorismebekæmpelsen på tværs af medlemslandenes tilhørsforhold mv. med henblik på at fastholde og udbygge den internationale koalition og udbrede tilslutningen til FN's globale regelsæt mod terrorisme. Det regelsæt består i dag af 12 FN-konventioner, som Danmark alle har ratificeret.

I oktober 2001 blev der oprettet en arbejdsgruppe under FN's Generalsekretær, hvis formål var at identificere langsigtede implikationer af terrorisme for FN. Arbejdsgruppen skulle formulere anbefalinger til hvilke tiltag, FN kunne foretage i forbindelse med bekæmpelsen af terror og truslen fra masseødelæggelsesvåben. Blandt konklusionerne var, at FN skal opretholde og forstærke det

⁷ <http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/557/43/PDF/N0155743.pdf?OpenElement>

internationale samfunds ledende principper og formål, som trues med at blive undermineret af terrorismen. Denne proces støtter Venstre meget varmt.

5. Globalt samarbejde omkring begrænsning af våbenprogrammer

Venstre mener følgende skal overvejes før en eventuel intervention.

For det første skal landet have overhørt FN's henstillinger og demonstreret, at man ikke kan stole på, at det permanent vil stoppe sine våbenprogrammer.

For det andet skal FN's sikkerhedsråd i en årrække - uden held - aktivt have forsøgt at stoppe landets våbenprogrammer.

For det tredje skal de intervererende lande have præsenteret deres sag for verdensoffentligheden og FN.

For det fjerde skal de intervererende regeringer have gjort det land, der intervereres i, klart, hvad konsekvenserne vil være af ikke at stoppe sine våbenprogrammer. Den ansvarlige regering bør vide præcist, hvad der kræves af den, og alle diplomatiske midler skal anvendes, før man skrider til at bruge militær magt.

For det femte skal selve interventionen foregå med mindst mulig brug af militær magt

For det sjette skal de intervererende lande sikre, at det regime, som der intervereres overfor, erstattes af en demokratisk valgt regering. FN skal så hurtigt som muligt inddrages i dette arbejde.

Endeligt skal en sikkerhedsintervention så vidt muligt udføres af en organisation eller koalition af lande, således at de enkelte stater kan overvåge hinanden. Endvidere skal repræsentanter for det internationale samfund have mulighed for at overvåge en humanitær intervention.

a. Sikkerhedsinterventioner mod slyngelstater

For at forhindre spredningen af masseødelæggelsesvåben er det vigtigt at have et stærk traktat- og kontrol regime og, at FN's Sikkerhedsråd fortsat pålægger alle regeringer at samarbejde i efterretnings- og politiindsatsen for at stoppe spredningen af våbentechnologi. Men i nogle tilfælde vil en stat være gået så langt og være så upåvirkelig af diplomatiske tiltag, at det kan være nødvendigt at gribe til væbnet magt⁸.

I flere årtier har en lille - men meget målrettet - gruppe af lande forfulgt ambitionerne om en dag at komme i besiddelse af masseødelæggelses våben. Nogle af disse lande handler med hinanden, hvorved der udveksles teknologier og viden.

Dette samarbejde er farligt nok i sig selv, men det bærer også kimen i sig til, at andre følger trop som et modsvar, eller at regimerne tilvejebringer muligheden for, at ikke-statslige aktører opkøber

⁸ Kofi Annan talte den 23. september 2003 til FN's generalforsamling om behovet for at udvikle kriterier for såkaldt tidlig bemyndigelse fra Sikkerhedsrådet til at anvende magt over for denne nye type trusler. I opfølgning af sin tale har generalsekretæren nedsat et høj-niveau panel, som skal komme med forslag til mulige fælles svar på den nye tids trusler. Venstre støtter denne proces.

teknologierne. Hertil kommer de tilfælde, hvor skrøbelige eller sammenbrudte stater i marginen af det internationale samfund tjener som husly for ikke-statslige trusselsaktører.

Folkeretten åbner mulighed for magtanvendelse i tilfælde af en trussel mod freden, et fredsbrud eller en angrebshandling, men det debatteres ivrigt i folkeretslige kredse, hvor overhængende og direkte denne trussel skal være, før disse bestemmelser finder anvendelse. Men den militærteknologiske udvikling har i vidt omfang gjort disse bestemmelser gammeldags. En atombombe er en overhængende fare i hænderne på terrorister, men når den først er i deres hænder, er det meget sent og meget farligt at gøre noget ved det. Det er når bomben bygges, at man har en reel chance for at gribe ind.

I tilfældet Irak har det vist sig, hvor vanskeligt det er at få korrekt information om, hvad der foregår i sådanne lande, men det har også vist sig, at man ikke blot skal se på, hvilke våben et land har udviklet. Det er lige så vigtigt, hvilke våbenprogrammer landet har under udvikling eller vil kunne genoptage, når verdenssamfundets opmærksomhed svækkes. For teknologien, udviklet i disse programmer, kan sælges eller gives videre.

Alle lande bør arbejde for, at FN's Sikkerhedsråd viser det ansvar, som er nødvendigt for at forhindre spredningen af masseødelæggelsesvåben. Men erfaringen fra Irak-krisen viser desværre, at denne ansvarlighed ikke altid er til stede, og at andre dagsordner end den sikkerhedspolitiske trussel ofte kommer til at afgøre udfaldet af Sikkerhedsrådets beslutninger. Selvom om man således bør have et FN-mandat for at gribe ind, så kan der være et ufravigeligt behov for at gribe ind over for lande, som udvikler våbenprogrammer eller producerer masseødelæggelsesvåben og udgør en trussel mod international fred og stabilitet. En sådan handling kan blive nødvendig selv med et begrænset - eller måske slet intet - mandat i ryggen.

b. En pligt til at forebygge? (truslen fra ikke-statslige aktører og verdenssamfundets forpligtelser)

I den globaliserede verden er det sjældnere, at det er selve staten, der er trusselsaktør. De nye trusler må ventes primært at komme fra ikke-statslige aktører, specielt radikaliserede grupper særligt i den muslimske verden. Disse aktører forfølger typisk ikke konkrete territoriale målsætninger men søger at gennemføre attentater mod såvel militære mål som civile mål - ofte med høj symbolværdi.

Dårlig regeringsførelse, korrupsion, magtmisbrug, svage institutioner, mangel på klare ansvarsforhold og civil konflikt undergraver stater indefra. Skrøbelige eller sammenbrudte stater i marginen af det internationale samfund kan tjene som husly for ikke-statslige trusselsaktører. Somalia, Liberia og Afghanistan er de bedst kendte eksempler fra den seneste tid. Staters sammenbrud kan forbindes med indlysende trusler f.eks. organiseret kriminalitet eller terrorisme.

Efter 11. september må verdenssamfundet have den fulde opmærksomhed rettet på, om et despotisk regime eller en regent anskaffer sig masseødelæggelsesvåben. Det stiller krav til en anderledes global strategi, som maksimerer muligheden for en hurtig og nødvendigt global, kollektiv indsats. Det stiller krav til, at alle stater tager deres globale ansvar alvorligt.

I slutningen af 2001 foreslog et internationalt kommissorium af eksperter en ny doktrin kaldet "The Responsibility to Protect"⁹. Dette vidtrækkende princip ville i praksis betyde, at FN-medlemmer

⁹ Læs rapporten her: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/iciss-ciise/report2-en.asp>

skulle påtage sig et reelt ansvar for at beskytte deres borgeres liv, frihed og basale menneskerettigheder. Hvis ikke, så ville det internationale samfund have en forpligtelse til at intervenere.

Venstre foreslår, at man fører princippet "The Responsibility to Protect" over på området for global sikkerhed og indfører princippet: "The Duty to Prevent"¹⁰ - en pligt til at forebygge eller forhindre. Dette kan være det internationale samfunds svar på at opstille nogle krav til ledere og aktører i skrøbelige, sammenbrudte stater eller slyngelstater for at gøre alt i deres magt for at hindre tilstedeværelsen af ikke-statslige aktører.

Pligten til at forebygge eller forhindre bygger på to grundlæggende erkendelser:

- I det 21. århundrede kræver en bevarelse af global fred og stabilitet, at man reagerer proaktivt snarere end reaktivt.
- FN-medlemskab medfører pligter såvel som rettigheder.

Pligten til at forebygge og forhindre hviler på tre centrale elementer: 1) Princippet skal ikke bare kontrollere spredningen af masseødelæggelsesvåben, men også de personer som er i besiddelse af disse våben. 2) Der lægges vægt på forebyggelse. Det pålægger det internationale samfund at handle rettidigt for at kunne bekæmpe truslen effektivt og udvikle en menu af potentielle tiltag rettet mod et specifikt regime - specielt tiltag, som kan foretages inden brug af magt. Og 3) Det er essentielt, at princippet gøres universelt gennem en global organisation såsom FN.

6. Humanitære interventioner

For Venstre er det svært at afgøre, hvornår en humanitær intervention vil være berettiget. Det vil altid afhænge af de konkrete omstændigheder. Imidlertid er der efter Venstres opfattelse en række kriterier, som en humanitær intervention i videst muligt omfang bør opfylde:

For det første skal der være tale om massive overgreb på bestemte befolkningsgrupper. Disse overgreb skal være systematiske, vedvarende eller tilbagevendende. Med andre ord skal det altså være åbenbart, at der er tale om "ond vilje". Retten til humanitær intervention bør først og fremmest omfatte folkemord eller forsøg på folkemord. Det vil sige overgreb, der sigter på at udrydde en bestemt befolkningsgruppe helt eller delvist.

For det andet skal der gøres et helhjertet forsøg på at placere en humanitær intervention under FN's myndighed, inden der gribes ind med militær magt uden et mandat fra FN's Sikkerhedsråd.

For det tredje skal de intervenerende stater eller den intervenerende organisation holde FN's Sikkerhedsråd og FN's Generalsekretær orienteret om de skridt, de tager.

For det fjerde skal alle fredelige midler være forsøgt, inden en koalition griber til militær magtanvendelse. Det bør naturligvis gælde de humanitære såvel som fredsskabende operationer, og uanset om FN's Sikkerhedsråd er i stand til at bemyndige et militært angreb eller ej. Der vil dog altid være grænser for, hvor længe man kan vente på diplomatiet, hvis der foregår et folkemord.

¹⁰ Se også "A Duty to Prevent" af Lee Feinstein og Anne-Marie Slaughter, Foreign Affairs, januar/februar 2004 (<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20040101faessay83113/lee-feinstein-anne-marie-slaughter/a-duty-to-prevent.html>)

For det femte skal de intervenerende stater eller den intervenerende organisation holde sig snævert til det humanitære formål, der retfærdiggør interventionen. Det vil være illegitimt at forfølge andre interesser.

For det sjette skal de intervenerende stater eller den intervenerende organisation forinden gøre det klart, hvilke krav den ansvarlige regering skal leve op til, hvis en militær intervention skal undgås eller indstilles. Den ansvarlige regering skal helt præcist vide, hvad der kræves af den.

For det syvende må en humanitær intervention ikke gøre mere skade end gavn. Som altid skal civile tab søges undgået, og proportionalitetsprincippet - princippet om, at magtanvendelsen skal stå i rimeligt forhold til det mål, man søger at opnå - gælder naturligvis også her.

For det ottende skal en humanitær intervention følges op med relevant genopbygningsbistand og/eller udviklingsbistand.

Endelig skal en humanitær intervention så vidt muligt udføres af en organisation eller koalition af lande, således at de enkelte stater kan overvåge hinanden. Endvidere skal repræsentanter for det internationale samfund have mulighed for at overvåge en humanitær intervention.

Humanitære interventioner er populært sagt et af de sidste værktøjer, som vi hiver op fra vores udenrigs- og sikkerhedspolitiske "værktøjskasse". Det er derfor ikke noget redskab, man skal tage let på. På den anden side skal vi også i fremtiden handle, hvis vi konfronteres med overgreb, som dem vi var vidne til i f.eks. Kosovo og Rwanda.

Vi er desværre ofte vidner til, at FN's indgriben i konflikter sker for sent og for vilkårligt med hensyn til, hvilke konflikter man interverer i - og med manglende konsekvens og engagement. Manglende politisk vilje i de enkelte medlemslande medfører alt for ofte store tab af menneskeliv og andre værdier. Det kan være vanskeligt at nå til enighed i Sikkerhedsrådet om en intervention, eksempelvis vedr. Kosovo, og der kan forekomme tilfælde, hvor et medlem af Sikkerhedsrådet, af hensyn til egne interesser, vil være utilbøjelig til at overgive den nødvendige magt til verdensorganisationen.

En af problemstillingerne er, at hverken FN-pagten eller den øvrige folkeret indeholder en autoritativ definition af begrebet humanitær intervention. DUPI-udredningen fra 1999 definerer humanitær intervention "*som staters tvangsforanstaltninger med væbnet magt mod en anden stat uden dennes billigelse, med eller uden bemyndigelse fra FN's Sikkerhedsråd, med det formål at forhindre eller standse grove og omfattende krænkelse af menneskerettighederne eller den humanitære folkeret.*"¹¹

En af de vigtigste principielle forandringer i FN's levetid er, at konflikter mellem stater i stigende grad er erstattet af interne konflikter, som f.eks. i Rwanda og Sudan. Staterne har samtidig fået vanskeligere ved at hævde, at deres indre anliggender ikke kommer andre ved. Dette er slået igennem i prioriteringen af FN's arbejdsopgaver. Arbejdet med menneskerettigheder er mere markant, og langt flere funktioner på det sikkerhedspolitiske, økonomiske og sociale område er lagt ud i særlige organisationer og sammenslutninger i det internationale samfund. Menneskerettigheder har således fået en central rolle i FN's interventioner i de forløbne tiår. Og det er vigtigt at holde fast i.

¹¹ Humanitær intervention. Retlige og politiske aspekter, København, DUPI, 1999

7. En OSCE-model for den arabiske verden

Den nuværende stagnerende udvikling i navnlig den arabiske verden, med alt for mange mennesker i en håbløs social, politisk og økonomisk situation og den stigende grad af mistillid, fjendskab og endda had til den vestlige verden, peger i retning af, at denne del af verden i fremtiden vil udgøre en af de største udenrigspolitiske udfordringer.

I UNDP's seneste rapport *Arab Human Development Report*¹² beskrives udviklingen i den arabiske region, som en region præget af stor usikkerhed - lande med økonomier, der synes immune over for globaliseringens fordele. Det er regimer, der ignorerer voksende folkeligt og internationalt pres for demokratisering og god regeringsførelse. Og det er mennesker, der i stigende grad vender sig i retning af religiøs og ideologisk ekstrem fundamentalisme og i yderste konsekvens terrorisme, som en sidste udvej. Særligt alarmerende er radikaliseringen af den store unge muslimske befolkning under 30 år. En generation, som vokser op uden job, uden fremtidsudsigter og uden adgang til at udtrykke deres vrede og frustration gennem legitime politiske aktiviteter og kanaler. En usikker og håbløs situation der allerede har ført til en mærkbar radikaliserings af mange unge i den arabiske verden.

Samtidig er vi vidner til en vaklende fredsproces i Mellemøsten, hvor hverken israelerne eller palæstinenserne synes at tage afgørende skridt i retning af at få køreplanen for fred tilbage på det rette spor. Fredsprocessen i Mellemøsten kan imidlertid styrkes, hvis de stridende parter er parate til at tage et kapitel fra europæernes historiske lærebog til sig. Og dermed kan vi måske bane vejen for en positiv udviklingen i den arabiske verden.

Europa har de sidste 30 år været igennem en langsigtet politisk og demokratisk tilnærmelsesproces og det med succes. Igennem 1970'erne og 80'erne blev der etableret en form for dialog mellem Øst og Vest, inklusiv USA, i et større Europa gennem Konferencen om Sikkerhed og Samarbejde i Europa - CSCE¹³. CSCE blev grundlagt i 1975, da 35 europæiske lande samt USA og Canada undertegnede den såkaldte Helsingfors-slutakt, der skulle udgøre grundlaget for øget dialog mellem øst og vest. Man enedes om at samarbejde på tre overordnede områder: Det militære, det økonomiske og det menneskeretlige område.

Organisationens vigtigste opgave er at fastsætte normer for staternes adfærd over for hinanden og over for deres egne borgere. Den oprindelige CSCE-konferences erklæringer om menneskerettigheder og landenes behandling af hinanden og egne borgere tillægges betydning for østblokkens opløsning.

Organisationen for Sikkerhed og Samarbejde i Europa (OSCE) går med sine erfaringer og værdier direkte ind i arbejdet for at skabe en tilsvarende organisation for Middelhavslandene og Mellemøsten. Danmark kan sætte en proces i gang, der kan gøre det samme for regionen, som Helsinki-processen gjorde for Europa. Det gælder om at rykke hele regionen fra den tilstand der er, med ikke-eksisterende frihed og rettigheder, til den tilstand, der bør være med respekt for menneskerettigheder, politisk frihed og demokrati. Det er oplagt, at Danmark kan spille en central rolle.

¹² Se rapporterne på <http://www.undp.org/dpa/publications/regions.html#Arab>

¹³ CSCE skiftede navn til OSCE i 1994.

En Helsinki-proces i Mellemøsten ville være det bedste afsæt for fred og det demokrati, som de fleste lande i regionen aldrig har kendt til. Den europæiske sikkerhedskonference er et eksempel på, hvad en koordineret international indsats kan føre til. Man må engagere landene i Mellemøsten i en tilsvarende proces.

Naturligvis kan vi ikke med sikkerhed vide, at det meget positive resultatet for Europa kan gentage sig i Mellemøsten, men Venstre opfordrer til, at man lader sig påvirke af tidligere tiders resultater. Det vil være yderst fornuftigt at gøre endnu et forsøg på inddrage landene i Mellemøsten i en tilsvarende proces. Den kan organiseres indenfor de samme tre områder: Sikkerhed, økonomisk samarbejde og menneskerettigheder.

Det er naturligt for Danmark at fremme de værdier, som man selv hylder, ikke mindst i det eneste område i verden uden en velfungerende sikkerhedsmekanisme. Der er selvfølgelig mange ubekendte. Men problemerne må ses i forhold til den eksplosive situation i Mellemøsten og den arabiske verden og den trussel, der vokser dag for dag og berører interesser langt uden for regionen.

8. Europarådet

Danmark er medlem af flere forskellige regionale organisationer - herunder NATO, OSCE og Europarådet. Det er vigtigt, at hver organisation samarbejder og tjener deres kerneområder. Lidt forenklet kan man sige, at hvor NATO slår konflikter ned, er OSCE stedet, hvor man vogter freden og sikrer demokratiske valg gennem sin overvågningsinstitution. Men Europarådet skal være den organisation, som internt er vagthund over for *alle* europæiske lande med henblik på at forhindre fremtidige konflikter set i et bredt sikkerhedsperspektiv. Således har Europarådet siden 1949 arbejdet for at fremme demokrati, menneskerettigheder og en vestlig retsstatskultur. Europarådets medlemskreds består i dag af 45 medlemmer som en konsekvens af, at den Europæiske region har udviklet sig demokratisk - ikke mindst efter murens fald. På trods af denne generelt positive udvikling er Europarådets vagthundsrolle ikke blevet mindre relevant.

Vi er vant til at betragte den Europæiske Union som den europæiske organisation. Men Europarådet er *den* europæiske organisation, som i praksis udjævner skillelinierne mellem "det nye" og "det gamle" Europa, fordi medlemmerne både er med i og uden for EU. Denne rolle er unik og helt central indtil den dag - som måske aldrig indtræffer - at alle europæiske lande bliver medlemmer af EU.