WSIS+10 Review

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND TO THE NON-PAPER

What is the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)?

- The WSIS Process was convened by the United Nations beginning in 2003, in order to come out with a roadmap to put the "potential of knowledge and ICTs at the service of development."

- The first phase (2003) in Geneva focussed mostly on development related issues. The second phase (2005) in Tunis pivoted to focus more on internet governance.

- The Tunis Agenda, which was the outcome document of the second phase, set out a definition of internet governance, outlined the roles of different stakeholders, mandated the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and initiated the process towards enhanced cooperation.

- In the 10 years since the adoption of the Tunis Agenda, various UN agencies have been focussed on implementation of various aspects of the outcomes, with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD, a part of ECOSOC) having broad oversight.

What is the WSIS+10 Review?

- Para 111 of the Tunis Agenda calls for the UNGA to conduct an overall review of WSIS outcomes in 2015. To this end, the UNGA adopted resolution 68/302 in July 2014 outlining the modalities for the review, as per which:
  - The overall WSIS review would be conducted as a two-day high-level meeting of the UNGA
  - The purpose would be to "take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the [WSIS] and address potential information and communications technology gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as addressing challenges, including bridging the digital divide, and harnessing information and communications technologies for development."
  - The high-level meeting is to be "preceded by an intergovernmental preparatory process, which also takes into account inputs from all relevant WSIS stakeholders."
  - The process will result "in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document" for adoption by the UNGA.

WSIS+10 Review Roadmap – What's behind us

- **1 June**: Appointment of two co-facilitators (H.E. Mr Janis Maieiks, PR of the Republic of Latvia, and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, PR of the United Arab Emirates) by the President of the UNGA to lead the intergovernmental negotiation process.

- **June 10-11:** General Assembly Co-facilitators' Stocktaking Session - focused on the negotiation process that will lead up to December high-level meeting

- **1 July:** First Preparatory Meeting of the Member States

- **2 July:** Informal Interactive WSIS Stakeholder Consultation

- **31 July:** Deadline for written submissions to form the basis of the non-paper. Over 60 submissions were received, including 5 from India.

- **2/ 9 September:** Release of the non-paper.

WSIS+10 Review Roadmap – What's ahead

- **September 18**: Deadline for comments on the non-paper.

- **Last week September:** Zero Draft Paper

- **15 October:** Deadline for comments on Draft Zero

- **19 October:** Informal Interactive WSIS Stakeholder Consultation

- **October 20-22:** 2nd Preparatory Meeting

- **Last week November:** Second Draft

- **December 15-16:** High-level meeting of the General Assembly on WSIS + 10 review

Government of India inputs leading up to the WSIS+10 Review non-paper

- Review should reaffirm commitment to move from principles to action.

- Priorities should include financial mechanisms, affordability, multilingualism, strengthening the IGF, deepening multistakeholderism, and cybersecurity.

- Internet governance processes should be inclusive, and the objective should be substantive inclusion, and not merely formal inclusion, keeping in mind barriers which may hinder participation in processes that are nominally open to all.

- The High-Level Meeting should be consensus driven and should take into account responses from all stakeholders.

What does the non-paper say?

- **Digital Divide**: Innovations that have taken place in the last decade, but critical digital divides remain between and within countries. Gender divide is particularly important. Access to ICTs and the internet is still key, with particular focus on vulnerable countries. Universal internet access by 2030.

- **ICT for Development**: ICT has great potential to accelerate progress across the economic, social, and environmental pillars of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Human Rights**: Rights that people have offline must also be protected online.

- **Internet Governance**: Reaffirms principles in the Geneva Declaration, and working definition of 'internet governance'. Calls for further internationalization of Internet governance, including greater participation of developing countries and the full implementation of Enhanced Cooperation. Renewal of IGF mandate.

What does the non-paper say?

- **Cyberspace**: Cyber security is an increasing challenge to all stakeholders. Reaffirms Geneva Declaration, which states that: "a global culture of cyber security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies."

- **Follow-up and Review**: PPP, universal access strategies are important. Expresses concern at the lack of progress on the Digital Solidarity Fund. Linguistic diversity important. Priority should be given to implementation of IPv6, deployment of IXPs and the resilience of international ICT networks and resources. Overall coordination required with the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. There should be a review again in 'X' years.

Themes for today's discussion

- Are the structure and the elements covered in the document suitable?

- How they should be treated in the zero-draft?

- Do stakeholder wish to provide specific text proposals?