

24th February 2014

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VIA FACSIMILE AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Your Excellencies,

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as co-facilitators of the General Assembly's open consultations to finalize modalities for the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. We are sure that under your leadership a good conclusion will be reached.

The undersigned represent a broad community of businesses worldwide, collectively employing hundreds of thousands of people and generating hundreds of billions of dollars in annual turnover, contributing to the economies of the majority of the world's countries and territories and in all its regions.

In the decade since the conclusion of the WSIS agreements the networked economy has transformed the social and economic development of the world beyond the dreams of the WSIS negotiators. At the heart of this amazing success is the fact that entrepreneurs, SMEs, governments, civil society, and users have collaborated to solve problems and come up with a multitude of new ways to communicate and trade in the online environment.

The 10-year reviews of WSIS and the MDGs both take place in 2015. This creates a unique opportunity to ensure that the future of both is more synergistic. We envision an overall WSIS review that:

- Renews and revives the international community's commitment to the Geneva principles' vision of a "people-centred, inclusive, development-oriented and non-discriminatory Information Society";
- Is firmly rooted in the international human rights framework and the multi-stakeholder tradition, which is at the heart of the Information Society;
- Considers fully how private enterprise, especially SMEs, can help deliver a networked economy with the greatest benefits at the lowest cost for all, especially those who are in developing and least-developed countries and not yet online;
- Learns from the last 10 years WSIS implementation and ensures future implementation is designed to helping the world deliver on the goals of the post-2015 development agenda.

Governments, as well as private sector, civil society and multilateral institutions have important roles and responsibilities in the development of the Information Society and therefore in decision-making processes. Building a people-centred Information Society is a joint effort that requires cooperation and partnership amongst all stakeholders.

In this context we believe that concrete, measurable targets relating to ICTs and development and a bottom-up-driven review process that ensures national and regional action and experiences in delivering on the WSIS agenda should be at the heart of the review and its outcomes. We also encourage a timeline for the review that fully accounts for that of the MDG review, to ensure that the WSIS goals and accompanying measurable targets are fully connected to the outcomes of the MDG review process.

Thank you very much for your attention. We are at your service if we may help you in any way.

