



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
29 October 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session Second Committee

Agenda item 46

Information and communication technologies for development

Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution

Information and communication technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling also its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and 62/182 of 19 December 2007 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling further the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 20 October 2005,¹

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,² as endorsed by the General Assembly,³ and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,⁴ and endorsed by the General Assembly,⁵

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3-21 October 2005*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*.

² See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

³ See resolution 59/220.

⁴ See A/60/687.

⁵ See resolution 60/252.

⁶ See resolution 60/1.



Recalling further the outcome of the first and second meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens from 30 October to 2 November 2006 and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 12 to 15 November 2007, respectively, and welcoming the convening of the third meeting of the Forum in Hyderabad, India, from 3 to 6 December 2008,

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communication technologies infrastructure across Africa, the launching in Kigali in October 2007 of Connect Africa, an initiative aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment, of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

Taking note of the report of Secretary-General to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,⁷

Welcoming the activities carried out by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as in the next intercessional meeting to be held in Santiago from 12 to 14 November 2008,

Stressing that, for the majority of the poor, the developmental promise of science and technology, including information and communication technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communication technologies, to bridge the digital divide,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communication technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will effectively expedite the integration of all countries in a positive and fair way into the global economy;

2. *Stresses* the important role of Governments in the design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, making effective use of information and communication technologies, on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of access to information and knowledge to fostering local capacity development and innovation and promoting overall sustainable development;

4. *Also recognizes* that information and communication technologies presents new opportunities and challenges, and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards

⁷ A/63/72-E/2008/48.

and flows, and in this regard calls upon the developed countries to provide adequate financial resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries;

5. *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communication technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socio-economic activity, and calls for accelerating the work on the development-related mandate concerning the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights⁸ that would enable the fulfilment of this potential;

6. *Stresses* the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of the new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, are available to all;

7. *Recalls* the creation, within the context of the World Summit on the Information Society, of the Global Digital Solidarity Fund, and in this regard invites voluntary contribution to its financing, in particular through its new financing mechanism, the “1 per cent digital solidarity principle”;

8. *Recognizes* the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to enhancing access to information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, and notes that developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, are lagging behind in their effective use of information and communication technologies for national, social and economic development;

9. *Also recognizes* that South-South cooperation, particularly through triangular cooperation, can be a useful tool to promote the development of information and communication technologies;

10. *Stresses* the need for resources for information and communication technologies activities on a predictable, continuous and reliable basis to enable the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute effectively to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

11. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in that regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its effort to promote the use of information and communication technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009, on the basis of his ongoing consultations with relevant international organizations, recommendations on how the process towards enhanced cooperation, as mandated by the World Summit on the Information Society in article 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,⁴ should be pursued;

⁸ See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the budget proposal for the biennium 2009-2010, to provide for regular funds to support the work of the secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution.
