



Knowledge

Towards Societies

UNESCO and the WSIS Process

Presented by

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Content

- **UNESCO's concept of Knowledge Societies**
- **WSIS Action Plan**
- **Stocktaking**
- **UNESCO's action**
- **WSIS process between Geneva and Tunis**

Knowledge Societies

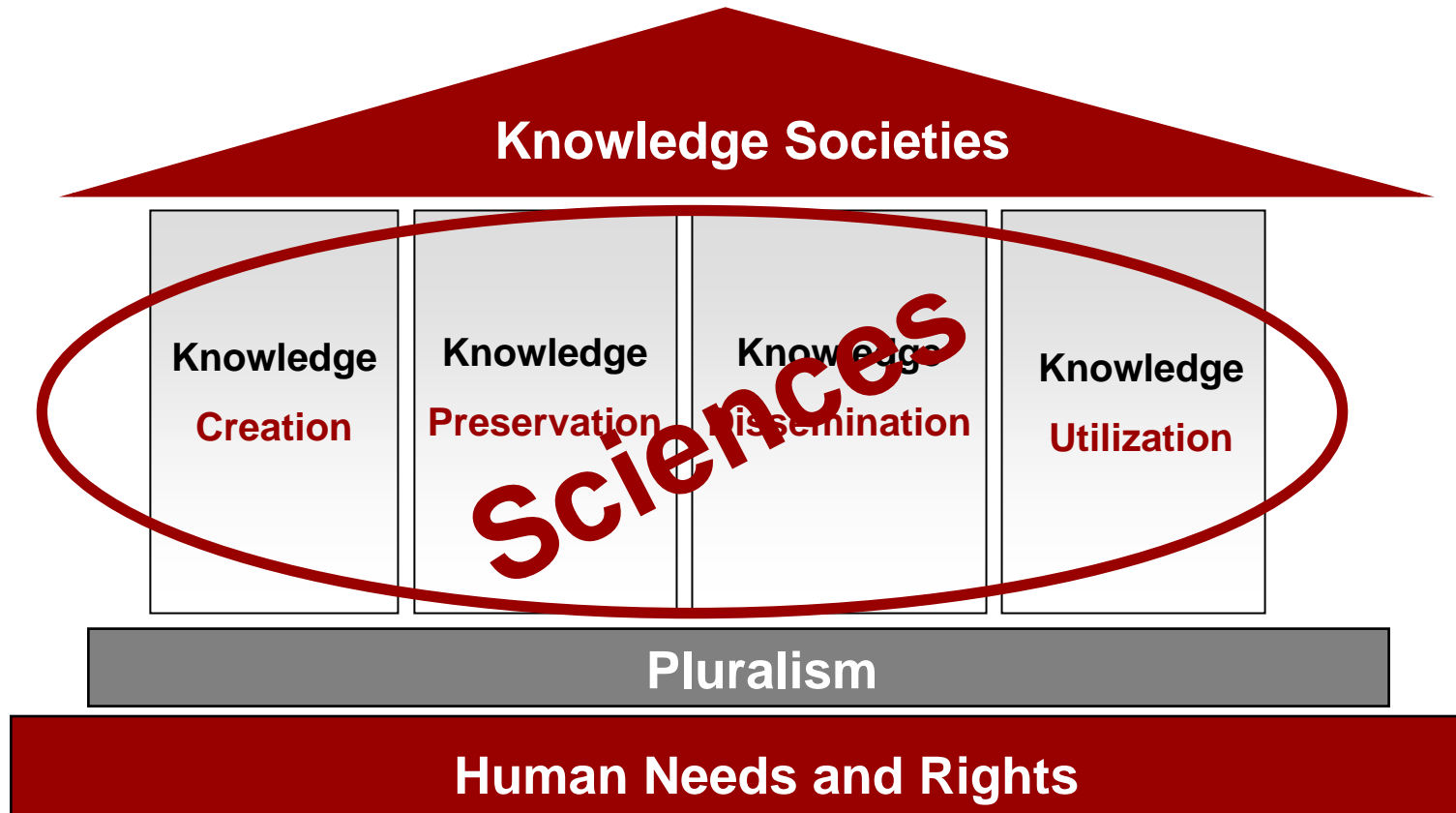
UNESCO's mandata

- “Promote the **free flow** of ideas by word and image”
- “Maintain, increase and spread **knowledge**”

Knowledge Societies

- Enhancing information flows and providing infrastructure is insufficient
- A more **comprehensive** vision and a clearly developmental perspective are needed.
- Rather “**Knowledge Societies**” than “Information Society”

Knowledge Societies



Knowledge Societies

Ministerial Roundtable, UNESCO, October 2003

- Establishes relationship between a country's **scientific capability and its prosperity**
- Stresses science & technology as wellspring for **knowledge creation**
- Calls on public sector/private sector to **invest in science and technology capacities**, including (R&D), science education, and electronic networks for science and research
- Highlights affordable access to **scientific content**, such as publications and databases as a critical development priority
- Stresses need to identify and preserve **traditional knowledge**, to apply ICT to make it available to all, and to establish appropriate links with modern science.

WSIS Geneva: Results

- Process more important than Summit event, as it created unique opportunity for international dialogue on Information Society issues
- **Declaration of Principles** reflects UNESCO's main concerns:
 - Freedom of Expression (Article 19)
 - Universal access to information (Key role of libraries)
 - Capacity-building in ICT and in using information resources
 - Cultural and linguistic diversity
 - Access to education (ICT-enhanced learning)
 - Importance of traditional, free & pluralistic media
 - Sciences' central role in the development of information societies
- **Plan of Action** with many opportunities for UNESCO and its stakeholders

WSIS Action Plan

- Includes ca. 75 actions (*total: 150 actions*) for which UNESCO can claim responsibility as it directly affects its mandate and its areas of expertise
- UNESCO's Biennial Programmes and Budgets (2004-2005 & 2006-2007)
- Operationalizing the concept of knowledge societies
- Five action areas related to "E-science"

WSIS Action Plan

E-science

(paragraph C7. «ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life»)

- Promote high-speed Internet connection for all universities and research institutions
- Promote electronic publishing, differential pricing and open access initiatives
- Promote the use of peer-to-peer technology to share scientific knowledge and pre-prints and reprints
- Promote the long-term systematic and efficient collection, dissemination & preservation of essential scientific digital data
- Promote principles and metadata standards to facilitate cooperation and effective use of collected scientific information

WSIS Action Plan – Stocktaking

Principles

- Use stocktaking exercise for monitoring progress and tracking changes
- Develop a dynamic solution that facilitates identifying and building relationships
- Maintain clear links to the structure of the WSIS Action Plan
- Encourage and record input from all stakeholders (Governments, IGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector)
- Create synergies with other initiatives (e..g. Development Gateway, wsis-online.net)

WSIS Action Plan – Stocktaking

Principles

- Facilitate the development of online communities committed to implementing the WSIS Action Plan
- Take decision on passive, unqualified versus “validated” (criteria based) content contribution
- Use a single online platform of interoperable systems to create a primary repository of information on implementation activities
- Ensure editorial independence and transparency of the stocktaking process

WSIS Action Plan – Stocktaking

UNESCO WSIS Action Directory

- Online tool for taking stock of UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Plan
- Access by :
 - categories of the WSIS Action Plan
 - regions and countries
 - types of actions
 - UNESCO's main fields of competence
 - UNESCO's four principles for Knowledge Societies
- Built on a robust, modular, database driven directory management platform (Gossamer-Threads LinksSQL)

WSIS Action Plan – Stocktaking

UNESCO.ORG | The Organization | Education | Natural Sciences | Social & Human Sciences | Culture | Communication & Information

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO and the World Summit on the Information Society
Towards Knowledge Societies

UNESCO WSIS Action Directory: www.unesco.org/wsisdirectory

français text only

UNESCO WSIS Action Directory

How UNESCO is implementing the WSIS Action Plan

Actions by keyword

Actions by region

Actions by country

Actions by type

Actions by UNESCO theme

WSIS Action Plan Areas

- Information and Communication Infrastructure
- Access to Information and Knowledge
- Capacity Building
- Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs
- Enabling Environment
- ICT Applications
- Cultural and Linguistic Diversity, Local Content
- Media
- Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society
- International and Regional Cooperation
- Role of Governments and All Stakeholders
- Follow-up and Evaluation
- Towards WSIS phase 2 (Tunis)

Actions by Principles of Knowledge Societies

- Freedom of Expression
- Universal access to information
- Equal access to education
- Cultural diversity

Number of UNESCO actions in this directory: 92

UNESCO WSIS Publication Series

Highlighted UNESCO actions

UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Promotion and

New UNESCO actions added

Small Islands' Voice (SIV) Added: 2004-07-26

About the Directory

UNESCO is contributing to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action by a variety of activities that operationalize UNESCO's concept of "Knowledge Societies".

This Directory provides information on these activities.

Features

world summit on the information society Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

wsis-online.net

Photos

Afghanistan: Students in Bamiyan

Ecuador - Woman with microphone

Institute of Technology, training on computers

Surfing the Internet

Access by regions and countries

Access by WSIS Action Plan areas

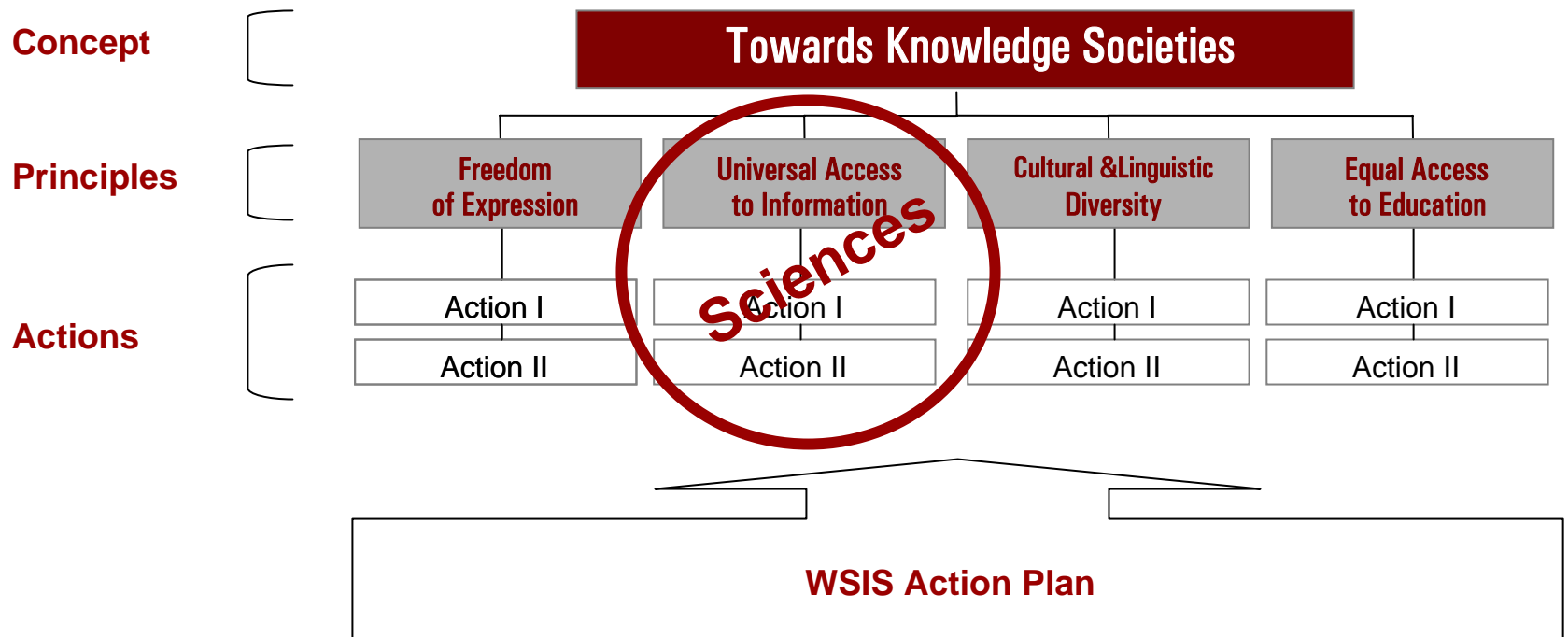
Access by type of activities

Access by UNESCO principles

Access by UNESCO areas

WSIS Action Plan – Stocktaking

Highlighting Knowledge Societies



WSIS Action Plan – Stocktaking

UNESCO.ORG | The Organization | Education | Natural Sciences | Social & Human Sciences | Culture | Communication & Information

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UNESCO and the World Summit on the Information Society

Towards Knowledge Societies

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UNESCO WSIS Action Directory

How UNESCO is implementing the WSIS Action Plan

Search Go the entire Directory only this category [More search options](#)

Home : ICT Applications

Go to the Action Plan Chapter on **ICT Applications** | text only

Categories:

- E-business (2)
- E-government (3) **NEW**
- E-science (15) **NEW****

UNESCO Actions:

Free open source software for information processing and education

Building on UNESCO's Free Software Portal, the main goal of the project "Free open source software for information processing and education" is to promote and encourage use of free open source software in the Organization's fields of competence and to contribute to their development and distribution as "global public goods" serving UNESCO's Member States. A web-based collaborative working environment will catalyse and coordinate the production and dissemination free-of-charge of selected UNESCO open source tools for processing information, communicating knowledge and facilitating education. The whole development is based on the "Open Source Software/Free Software" (OSSFS) development model, thus encouraging international solidarity, collaboration and voluntary community work among institutions, programmers and computer users. **NEW**

(Added: Fri Oct 29 2004 Hits: 7) [Comment It](#) | [Details](#)

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15 actions in e-science

UNESCO actions in ICT for sciences

- **Avicenna Virtual Campus Project**
- **Syrian Higher Education and Research Network**

- **BeeBox Dynamic Content Management System application**
- **UNESCO Virtual Laboratory Toolkit**

- **Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)**
- **Social and Human Sciences Online Periodicals**
- **African repository for electronic publications on oceanographic issues**
- **Support to the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)**
- **Open access initiatives in Sciences (in cooperation with INASP)**

- **OceanPortal Resource Locator**
- **Ocean Data and Information Network for the Central Indian Ocean region**
- **Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa**
- **Ocean Data and Information Network for the Caribbean & South America**
- **Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology and Rescue (GODAR) Project**

WSIS Process

	Deliverables	Modalities	Secretariat
Phase I	<p>Share common views</p> <p>Declaration of Principles</p> <p>Share objectives (what/when)</p> <p>Plan of Action</p>	<p>Regional Meetings → PrepComs → Geneva Summit</p> <p>Bureau</p>	<p>HLSOC</p> <p>ITU</p> <p>WSIS-ES</p>
Phase II	<p>Build concrete mechanisms for actions (who/how)</p> <p>Resolution</p> <p>Review actions</p> <p>Final Document(s)</p>	<p>Follow up</p> <p>Coordination Group (stakeholders) → Tunis Summit</p> <p>Thematic meetings (& Regional meetings) → PrepComs → Tunis Summit</p> <p>WG on Internet Governance</p> <p>TF on Financing Mechanism</p> <p>Group of Friends of the Chair</p> <p>Bureau</p>	<p>HLSOC</p> <p>ITU</p> <p>WSIS-ES</p> <p>Secretariat for Coordination Group</p>

WSIS Process - Internet Governance

Stakeholders

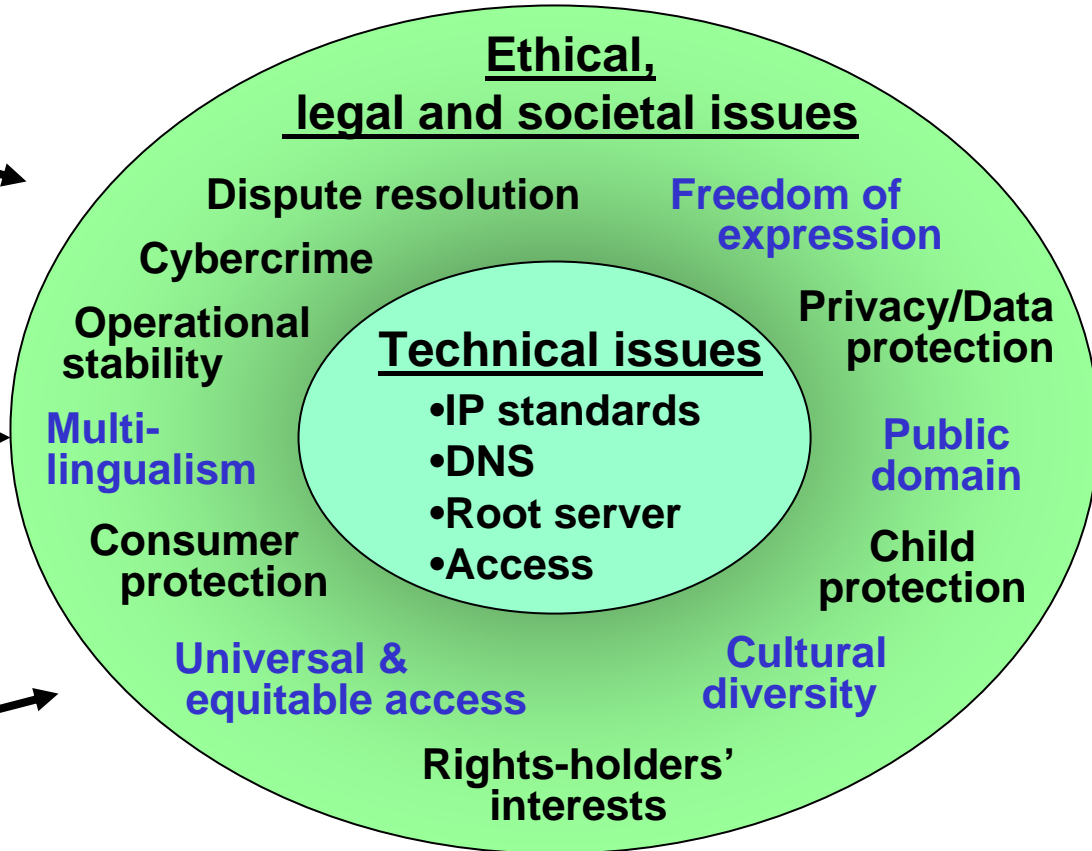
Features

Issues

Users
 Civil society
 Private sector
 Industry
 Standard bodies
 Academia
 National bodies: Governments
 International bodies: IGOs

ICANN?

Autonomy
 Competence
 Transparency
 Participation
 Openness
 Stability



WSIS Process - Financial Mechanisms

- UN Secretary-General established **Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM)**
- UNESCO's position
 - UNESCO neutral on pros/cons of a special Fund
 - Promote an understanding that encompasses the principles for **Knowledge Societies**
 - Ensure inclusion of other than financial aid (e.g. **capacity-building, content provision**)
 - Ensure link to **development agendas**
 - Encourage **improved cooperation** among existing funding and capacity-building mechanisms

WSIS Process - UNESCO

Approach

- Capitalizing on banner headline "**Towards Knowledge Societies**"
- Operationalizing this concept by implementing the Action Plan
- Building on **adopted positions**:
 - Recommendation on the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace"
 - UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity
 - UNESCO Charter for the Preservation of Digital Heritage
 - Ministerial Round Table on Knowledge Societies
- Involving **Member States** (Briefing Sessions for Delegations, etc)
- Involving **professional NGOs** (with official status with UNESCO)

WSIS Process – UNESCO

UNESCO participation

- Preparatory Committee meetings (PrepComs)
- Regional conferences
- Working Group on Internet Governance
- « Group of friends of the President »
- Thematic meetings

WSIS Process - UNESCO

UNESCO thematic meetings

- Contributing to implement the WSIS Action Plan
- Expected results
 - Concrete actions identified
 - Key activities “showcased”
 - Strategic alliances established
- Themes
 - Freedom of Expression in Cyberspace
 - Harnessing the potential of ICTs, including satellites, for capacity building
 - Multilingualism in Cyberspace
 - Cultural Diversity
 - Empowering citizens through knowledge