



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 June 2015

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 June 2015 from the Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), H.E. Mr. Jānis Mažeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia, and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, forwarding a revised roadmap with timeframes for the WSIS review process.

I encourage you to participate actively in the review process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Latvia
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

25 June 2015

Excellency,

We thank you for your input on the Preliminary Roadmap and support expressed at the stocktaking session of the General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held 10-11 June in New York. We are grateful for the efficient, focused start to the General Assembly's work on the WSIS review.

During the stocktaking session, Member and Observer States and Observers proposed a number of adjustments to the Preliminary Roadmap presented by the co-facilitators for the preparatory process.

Please find attached a revised Roadmap, based on the comments received. You will see that the deadline for written comments on the desired content of the outcome document has been moved from mid-July to end-July. Additionally, the deadline for written comments on the Zero Draft has been moved to 15 October, roughly a week before the Second Preparatory Meeting (20-22 October). This shift reflects Member and Observer States and Observers' preference to identify key issues in advance of the meeting to better target our discussions. Lastly, co-facilitators are open if necessary to arrange informal consultations and possibly an additional meeting in autumn following the Second Preparatory Meeting in October.

The next milestone in the review process will be the First Preparatory Meeting on 1 July, followed by an informal interactive WSIS stakeholder consultation on 2 July, organized by the PGA. More information on the First Preparatory Meeting will be sent shortly

We welcome your continued participation in and support of this process. Meanwhile, regular updates will be posted at <http://unpan3.un.org/ws10/>

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

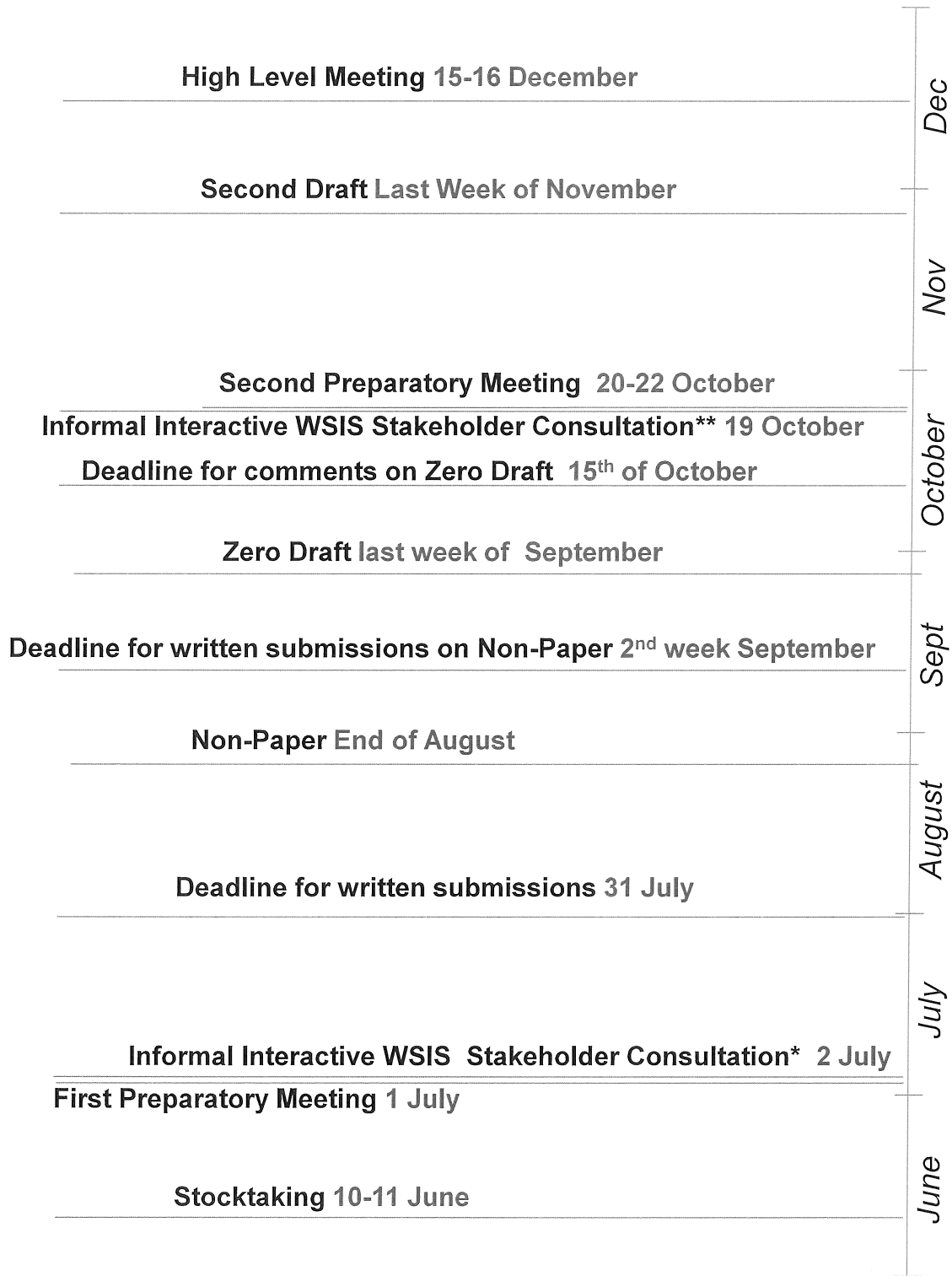
Jānis Māzeiks
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Republic of Latvia

Lana Z. Nusseibeh
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
United Arab Emirates

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

WSIS REVIEW - ROADMAP

Revised with member states – 24 June 2015



* organized by the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly

** organized by the President of the 70th session of the General Assembly, date to be confirmed



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 June 2015

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 June 2015 from the Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), H.E. Mr. Jānis Mažeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia, and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, with details on the first preparatory meeting scheduled for 1 July 2015.

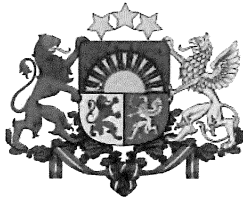
I encourage you to participate actively in the first preparatory meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Sam K. Kutesa

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Latvia
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

25 June 2015

Excellency,

As co-facilitators of the General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), we have the honour of inviting you to the first preparatory meeting of the review process on **Wednesday, 1 July, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, which will take place in the ECOSOC Chamber.


This meeting aims to provide a venue for Member and Observer States, as well as Observers, to share their expectations and provide initial inputs on the elements that will be addressed by the review. Member and Observer States and Observers' statements delivered at the 1 July meeting, together with any written submissions provided to the co-facilitators by 31 July 2015, will be compiled into a non-paper that will serve as a basis for further discussions leading up to the High-Level GA Meeting on 15-16 December 2015. Member and Observer States and Observers will also have the opportunity to interact with representatives of the various stakeholder communities. Kindly find attached a concept note and agenda.

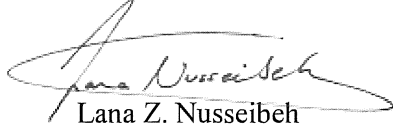
Member and Observer States and Observers are invited to attend an informal interactive stakeholder consultation organized by the President of the General Assembly on 2 July 2015.

Should your office require additional information, Ms. Elina Volkson, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Latvia, (Elina.Volkson@mfa.gov.lv) and Ms. Khaula Ali Khamis Alshamsi, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of UAE, (k.alshamsi@mofa.gov.ae) are available. In addition, regular updates on the overall review will be posted at <http://unpan3.un.org/ws10/>

We encourage your active participation in this important meeting. As co-facilitators, we very much look forward to continued close engagement with Member and Observer States and Observers during the review process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.


Jānis Mažēkls
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Republic of Latvia


Lana Z. Nusseibeh
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
United Arab Emirates

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Preparatory Process for the General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

1st Preparatory Meeting

**1 July 2015, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations, New York**

This note describes the content and agenda of the First Preparatory Meeting for the General Assembly's WSIS review, as well as briefly summarizes WSIS proceedings to date. The primary objective of the meeting is to gather Member and Observer States' as well as Observers' guidance on their expectations for, and desired elements of, the overall WSIS review. These inputs, combined with those from written submissions and WSIS stakeholder consultations, as well as relevant reports by CSTD, ITU and UNESCO, will provide the basis for a non-paper that will be released at the end of August.

Background

In December of 2003, the world came together in Geneva at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) to declare a "common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society", and thereby ushered in an era of harnessing the power of information and communication technology (ICT) to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The resulting Geneva Plan of Action established targets and the eleven action lines, which guide development in specific areas. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognized the results of the Geneva phase in its resolution 59/220¹.

The second phase of WSIS, conducted in Tunis in 2005, built upon the achievements of the Geneva Plan of Action, with the resulting Tunis Agenda addressing additional issues, such as financing for bridging the digital divide and Internet governance. Paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 60/252², requested the General Assembly to undertake the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015. In response, the General Assembly in resolution 68/302³, decided that the overall review will be concluded by a two-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly in December 2015, to be preceded by an intergovernmental process that also takes into account inputs from all relevant WSIS stakeholders. The high-level meeting has been set for 15-16 December 2015.

On 1 June 2015, this process commenced with the appointment of H.E. Mr. Jānis Mažeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations, and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the

¹ <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/59/220>

² <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/60/252>

³ <http://www.un.org/ru/documents/ods.asp?m=A/RES/68/302>

United Nations as Co-Facilitators. The Ambassadors will lead an intergovernmental negotiation process, which will include preparatory meetings, resulting in an outcome document for adoption at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly. The co-facilitators organized the first stocktaking meeting⁴ on 10-11 June 2015 to summarize the history of the WSIS process and to seek input on a preliminary roadmap for the overall review.

The Tunis Agenda gave also the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) responsibility for overseeing the system-wide follow-up of WSIS outcomes. The Council asked the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to assist it in its work. In 2013, ECOSOC requested CSTD to submit its report⁵ on the 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS, through the Council, to the General Assembly.

Meeting Objective

The First Preparatory Meeting provides a venue for Member and Observer States and Observers to share their preliminary inputs on the elements – and the expectations for each of those elements – to be captured in the December meeting outcome document. Member and Observer States and Observers may wish to reference summaries of the proceedings of UNESCO⁶, ITU⁷, and CSTD reviews, which outline elements, opportunities, and challenges that have been raised in the WSIS review to date.

On 1 July, Member States will also have the opportunity to interact with representatives of WSIS stakeholder communities through introductory discussions. These discussions will provide additional context for the review, highlighting the range of views to better inform Member and Observer States and Observers in their considerations. More comprehensive stakeholder perspectives will be facilitated through an informal interactive stakeholder consultation organized by the President of the General Assembly on 2 July 2015.

Some guiding questions for consideration in preparation for the 1 July meeting

1. *To what extent has progress been made on the vision of the people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society in the ten years since the WSIS?*
2. *What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes?*
3. *What should be the priorities in seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends?*

⁴ <http://unpan3.un.org/wsisis10/stocktaking>

⁵ <http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1190>

⁶ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002281/228119e.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.itu.int/net4/wsisis/forum/2015/Content/doc/reports/wsisisstocktaking-report-2015.pdf>

4. *What are general expectations from the WSIS + 10 High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly?*

5. *What shape the outcome document should take?*

Online Written Submissions and Next Steps

In addition to statements delivered during the 1 July meeting, Member and Observer States, Observers and WSIS stakeholders are invited to submit written statements on outcome document expectations via the WSIS review website through 31 July. These submissions, combined with statements from the First Preparatory Meeting and input from WSIS stakeholder consultation, as well as relevant reports by CSTD, ITU and UNESCO, will serve as the basis for the non-paper that will be issued at the end of August.

Draft Programme

Wednesday, 1 July 2015		
10:00-10:15	Opening	Co-Facilitators
10:15-10:30	Introductory Discussion on Progress in the Implementation of WSIS outcomes	Fadi Chehadi (CEO, ICANN TBC) Kathryn Brown (CEO, ISOC)
10:30-13:00	Statements by Member States and Observer States and Observers	Member States and Observer States and Observers
15:00-15:15	Introductory Discussion on the Challenges and Areas for Continued Focus	Carolina Rossini (Vice-President, Public Knowledge TBC) [second panellist TBD]
15:15-17:45	Continuation of Statements by Member States and Observer States and Observers	Member States and Observer States and Observers
17:45-18:00	Closing and Next Steps	Co-Facilitators

1st Preparatory Meeting
1 July 2015, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations, New York

Briefing Note

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in 2003 and 2005, was the first major United Nations event devoted to the potential of information and communications technologies (ICTs), which have had such a marked impact on humanity over the past two decades. Its *Declaration of Principles*, agreed in Geneva in 2003, held out the vision of a 'people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society,' in which people could share knowledge, improve their quality of life, and achieve their full potential, within the framework of sustainable development and human rights. That vision has resonated ever more strongly in all countries, developed and developing, in the subsequent decade. It is even more relevant as Member States finalize their negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

Progress in the Implementation of WSIS outcomes⁸

Major achievements have since occurred in ICTs. The number of mobile phone subscriptions worldwide is now almost equal to the number of people on the planet. As many as four out of 10 people in the world now make use of the Internet, and that number is growing steadily. Governments, business and civil society have used ICTs to improve the quality of service that they offer to citizens and consumers, and to support development objectives. Innovations such as mobile money, environmental monitoring and the use of information technology in health and education have had major impacts on the lives of individuals, communities and whole societies, contributing towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The past decade has also seen new developments in information technology, in new communications media and in the range of services that can be deployed through them. Today's networks and devices are many times more capable than those available at the time of WSIS. Broadband networks, built with private and public finance, have enabled faster transmission of much larger volumes of data, transforming aspects of government and business practice. Social media platforms are used by more than a billion people to interact with and learn from others in their communities and around the world. Cloud computing is facilitating new business models and accelerating big data analysis, which can be used to enhance governance and service delivery. New devices, including smartphones and tablets, are spreading, while the Internet of Things promises another wave of innovation. No one doubts today that ICTs play an increasingly important part in economic, social and cultural development; that their role will continue to grow; and that they have the potential to fulfil the vision set out in the *Geneva Declaration*.

⁸ As also expressed in *Implementing WSIS Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review*, UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2015/3

Challenges and Areas for Continued Focus⁹

Although recognition is to be given on the progress made so far, indisputably there are significant challenges and priorities remaining to be addressed. Bridging the digital divide, whose nature and scope have changed significantly since the Summit, still poses a great challenge. In that context, emerging divides, such as the gender divide in the access and use of ICTs, broadband networks and digital applications calls for immediate attention. Mainstreaming of ICTs towards a wider social and economic development policies and programmes constitutes another challenge, especially when keeping in mind the unpredictability of the changes taking places in ICT technology and services, with new trends and innovation emerging constantly. It is vital that the accelerating opportunities of new technologies do not result in a widening gap between developed, developing and least developed countries, or between rich and poor within societies. Significant rethinking of the ways which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used towards the achievement of SDGs is considered a priority issue.

What is more, the importance of education and capacity building to ensure that ICTs and the Information Society contribute most effectively to development is yet another challenging issue. More effort is needed to facilitate engagement and enhanced participation in the WSIS process, empowering all as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision makers. Mainstreaming a gender equality perspective and use of ICTs as a tool to that end still is an important issue that requires more efforts. Ensuring that multilingual content increases, in particular content in languages that are currently under-represented on the Internet, and that everyone is able to acquire the skills and confidence needed to make full use of the ICTs that are available to them, will assist in better addressing these challenges. Many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled.

⁹ As also expressed in *Implementing WSIS Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review*, UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2015/3