

11th session of the CSTD

Excerpt from some infos kindly provided by CONGO on WSIS mailing lists.

02/27/2008

Find attached the briefing note and **provisional programme of work** of the CSTD circulated during yesterday's briefing. An annotated agenda might be circulated soon. According to this draft PoW, there might be between 2½ or 3 days devoted to WSIS follow up activities. As announced earlier today, it seems the CSTD Secretariat might be open for **comments and suggestions** regarding this timetable and the way the timetable is presented.

Note that some **written contributions** received so far from international organisations and regional commissions are already posted on the CSTD-XI webpage:

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=1942&lang=1&m=15018> (click on "contributions").

Other written contributions, including from CS and other actors, will be added on that page.

I forgot to mention my previous summary that two Rooms will be made available at the Palais des Nations during the CSTD session for **lunchtime side events**. Last year, the Global Information Society Watch 2007 Report was launched during such a side event. This possibility is continuing for the 2008 CSTD session.

03/04/2008

11th session of the CSTD. Some issues have come up:



Format of the session: based on the draft programme of work circulated by the CTSD Secretariat (here attached again), the need to have more guidance on what we expect from each three-hour session (content focus and outcome-oriented) was stressed.

*[This is something that already previously supported. During the informal briefing with the CSTD Secretariat on 26/02, APC proposed having some space for discussion on the WSIS principle of participation. A proposal by the WG on Finance was for an assessment of the progress in terms of financing for the Information Society. It would be good to start brainstorming at this stage **on which issues / themes CS actors would like to propose to focus on during the next CSTD session.**]*



Format of the outcome of the session: It was also requested that all drafts of proposed resolutions be circulated before the meeting, and proposed to also have a more informal kind of outcome, such as a Chairperson's Statement or Summary, containing broader information on the findings of the Commission that would not be appropriate to reflect in a negotiated Resolution-kind text, as well as guidance for the future work of the Commission

Content of the outcome of the session: On the question of where a CSTD action is needed, it was recognised there here is a need of a CTSD resolution on a specific theme when the trend is not going in the right direction.

The issue of ICT impact indicators was proposed as a theme of a resolution.

A critical review of the implementation process by action lines could also take place and the intl organisations serving as Action Line Facilitators could be asked to help in assessing progress on the Action Line actual implementation.







Civil Society participation in the CTSD (academic entities, local authorities, etc.): the issue of the future involvement, after the two transition years, of academic entities, local authorities, research centres etc, included in the Civil Society category during WSIS but which cannot enter in the definition of NGOs as defined by ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, has also been raised. It was proposed to have a solution through the establishment of a list of CS entities accredited to WSIS (and beyond that of CS entities involved in the WSIS implementation process by action lines) but without ECOSOC Consultative Status

yet, which have expressed the wish to participate in the CSTD session. A CSTD decision might be necessary in this regard in May 2008.

*It would be good to have here the **input on this matter from the academic community and local authorities in this list.***

04/15/2008



Some information regarding the preparations towards the up-coming 11th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in charge of the follow up to WSIS. Let me remind you that the two substantive themes are:



-   Relation to WSIS follow up: Development-oriented policies for socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment;
-   Relation to the CSTD traditional mandate: Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research;

The CSTD will also have a general overview on the Follow-up to WSIS.





Agenda and Programme of Work

Find attached the annotated agenda of the next session of the Commission, which contains also a draft time management schedule. Note that the following specific segments so far:

-   **multi-stakeholder panel discussions** will take place on **Tuesday 27 May (10.00-13.00)** on two WSIS follow-up themes: 1) The emerging "broadband divide" and what to do about it; and 2) Cybersecurity. Modalities for participation are expected to be informal and interactive. The first panel will be organised by the CTSD Secretariat, the ITU and the GAID Secretariat, while the second panel is lead by the ITU.

-   **multi-stakeholder country policy review** of two countries on the basis of the two substantive themes of the 11th session of the CSTD on **Thursday 29 May (10.00-13.00)**, which would constitute best practices examples. The two or three countries to be reviewed will be members of the Commission.

In addition to these two multi-stakeholder sessions, note the following:

-   **opening meeting** on Monday 26 May (starting at 10.00), featuring some high level opening speakers. There would be an opportunity to have a CS speaker in this opening segment of the Commission. The name of Daniel Pimienta (from Funredes) has been at this stage suggested to the CTSD Secretariat. As a well known and active participant in the WSIS process and its follow-up, my understanding is that he would enjoy a general support from the members of this group. It would also be important to include here somebody from LAC since this region has been quite underrepresented in the WSIS follow up and implementation process so far. I am looking for any feedback from you at this point.
-   Panel discussion and **interactive dialogue with the UN regional commissions** on Monday 26 May (15.00-18.00).

The rest of the session's schedule is organised around general debates on agenda items, but we are still pushing and exploring how to strengthen a format organised around more issue-focused and targeted interactive dialogues – at least on WSIS follow up matters.

Side events

The **CSTD Secretariat made available two rooms for additional side events** to be organised by NGOs or other stakeholders during the CTSD session. Requests should be addressed to Charles Geiger directly.

Some side events have already been planned during the 11th session, including the three-day **2008 Global Event on Measuring the Information Society (27-29 May 2008)**, organized by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. The Global Event is included in the cluster of WSIS-related events 2008 that will be taking place in and is open to all WSIS stakeholders. More information at http://new.unctad.org/templates/Event___888.aspx.

Note as well the the **Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)** is expected to hold an Open

Consultation in during the CTSD week. Date to be confirmed and more information coming soon on this matter.

Documentation

Some documents related to the WSIS follow up activities at the CSTD have already been issued:



[Report of the Inter-sessional Panel, Kuala Lumpur](#), , 28-30 November 2007 (which was an expert meeting in preparation to the 11th session, with a particular focus on the substantive themes of the upcoming session).



The UN SG substantive report on [Development-oriented policies for a socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and enabling environment](#) (substantive theme of this session).



All stakeholder contributions submitted to the CSTD Secretariat (including reports of international organisation in charge of facilitating MSH implementation and reports of regional commissions) are also posted at <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=4447&lang=1>.

This should be completed by the **UN SG report on the Follow-up to WSIS** as well as the CTSD Secretariat **2008 WSIS Report**, as previously mentioned. These documents are not yet available.

Sponsorship

The list of CS participants to be sponsored for their participation in the CSTD should be circulated shortly.