



GAID SERIES 1

Foundations of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

Edited by
Aliye P. Celik





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United Nations
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I would like to express my gratitude to those who made this publication possible, and I hope this volume proves of interest and use in our vital and ongoing collaborative work. Sarbuland Khan, the Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), has been an enthusiastic supporter of the project and provided guidance and the requisite resources. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the staff of the Secretariat of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, located in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, that provided excellent and equally rapid support in the copy editing and production phases.

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Aliye P. Celik
7 February 2007

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MESSAGE¹

by Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

The challenge for the Global Alliance is charting its strategic course and defining how it will carry out the important role that it has set for itself.

The timing is auspicious. The role of information and communications technologies (ICT) in advancing development is much more widely recognized now than when the Economic and Social Council began exploring the issue in 2000.

Later that year, world leaders agreed, in the Millennium Declaration, to ensure that the benefits of ICT are available to all. That commitment to ICT for development underpinned the work of the United Nations ICT Task Force, which I established in late 2001. In the course of its four-year mandate, the Task Force proved itself to be a very useful forum. It brought together diverse members – governments, policymakers, United Nations organizations, business leaders, civil society – as equal partners in building strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. And it contributed to the success of the World Summit on the Information Society.

We must translate the vision of a truly global information society into reality. Toward this end, as you know, I have convened the Internet Governance Forum, which will focus on what needs to be done to ensure greater participation of all stakeholders in matters of public policy that may arise in the management of the Internet. Another important direction of work towards an open and prosperous information society is, of course, the use of ICT as a tool for advancing development. The ICT Task Force has also helped in this effort. When I called on Silicon Valley to devote more of its energies to meeting the needs of the poor, the Task Force helped the industry respond quickly and creatively. One of the Task Force's successful spin-offs, the Global eSchools and Communities Initiative, continues to create new opportunities for learning and development.

¹ Statement delivered in his capacity as United Nations Secretary-General during the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development on 27 September 2006 in United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Now, the new Global Alliance for ICT and Development will build on these achievements. The Alliance's design draws on lessons learned from the ICT Task Force, the World Summit on the Information Society and other multi-stakeholder processes. But while the Task Force was limited in size, with fixed membership, the Alliance will be bigger and, most important, will have the flexibility to encourage additional organizations and individuals to participate. The idea is to develop a decentralized "network of networks" on a global scale, so that the Alliance can draw in the relevant stakeholders, particularly as new issues emerge.

The success of the Alliance will hinge on several key factors.

First, GAID will have to formulate clear and attainable objectives. The Alliance's Strategy Council has identified four priority areas: health, education, poverty reduction through enterprise creation, and citizens' participation in governance. I am pleased to note how well these complement the United Nations development agenda. I also commend the recognition that the special challenges facing women, youth and marginalized groups, cut across these areas, and therefore must be mainstreamed. Indigenous peoples, for example, see in these technologies a way to preserve and propagate their customs and traditions.

Second, the Alliance will have to work with a much broader group of participants.

Third, the Alliance must continue to operate as it has begun: with transparency and accountability, and always with the interests of the poor and marginalized foremost in mind.

All of these, in turn, will require strong leadership from the Chair and from the members of the Steering Committee, as well as sustained backing on the Global Alliance. The Global Alliance has great potential to promote development while empowering millions of people throughout the world.

PREFACE

*By Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development and
Chairman of the Board, Intel Corporation*

There is strong alignment that information and communication technologies will play a major role in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. This was apparent at last year's United Nations World Summit on Information Society (WSIS). It is now time to turn the spirit of WSIS into action. That is why we are here today.

There have been unprecedented changes in the world's economic structure in the past decade. Information and communication technologies (ICT) have emerged as powerful forces, impacting every aspect of our daily lives. Very simply, ICT has accelerated the ability to access, process and exchange information across the globe, whether that information is related to education, health care or doing business.

Today we are just starting to see the impact of these global changes around the world. And, it is no longer solely in the domain of the developed economies. Because of this, the world of the future holds great promise for its citizens. As I travel around the globe, I see four conditions needed to accelerate this opportunity for nations and their citizens.

First, access to devices must meet localized needs - either via ownership or sharing.

Second, content must be localized and meaningful in their particular cultural context.

Third is connectivity to the Internet – which, in turn, is connectivity to the world. The PC is not a stand-alone tool, it is the access device to the internet.

Fourth, and most importantly, are the skills required to use computers, the Internet, and to solve real problems.

These four conditions increase the opportunity to participate in the global economy. We all have roles in making this opportunity more available. It comes down to investing in people, ideas, and creating an environment for them to succeed. Industry needs to take the challenge of developing technologies, solutions and services that meet the particular cultural,

environmental and economic conditions. These technology solutions become the tools to unleash the potential of the local citizens.

Governments have an important role in creating the right environment. That means providing clear and stable regulatory frameworks to allow for investment, innovation and entrepreneurship. Non-Governmental Organizations are needed for their grassroots experience in serving diverse groups of people. They can amplify the needs of users to governments' and industry's attention.

In addition, the United Nations and other international organizations and development agencies can harness their neutrality and global expertise to facilitate discussions around development issues.

The strength of this Alliance is in its global reach and inclusive participation. I believe it is the mission of the Global Alliance to focus on the key problems which cannot be solved by any of the stakeholders or sub-set of stakeholders alone. I have challenged the Strategy Council of the Global Alliance to identify the key problems areas for us to focus on. I hope the debates and discussions in Kuala Lumpur will contribute to setting us on the right path. I look forward to working with the Alliance to implement the strategies that come out of these meetings.

In closing, I would like to commend the United Nations for this initiative, and I would like to thank the Malaysian government for their generous hosting of the event.

I am proud to be part of this effort, and look forward to working with you. After all, opportunity in today's world is not about physical size, wealth, or geographical location.

It's about people, ideas, and environment. Technology itself is necessary, but not sufficient.

We must collaborate to find the right solutions.

For the benefit of our countries, our future...

Most importantly for the future of our children.

INTRODUCTION

by Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

Development and poverty eradication are the major challenges of our times. And information and communication technologies, if directed to empower the poor and the disadvantaged, can be a key part of our global response to those challenges. The vision and agenda have been defined in major United Nations conferences and summits. The need now is for action and implementation through continuous dialogue and action-oriented partnerships.

The world community must now ensure the effective follow-up to international commitments made during the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Calling for an acceleration of efforts towards sustainable human development and poverty eradication, these conferences provided the blueprint for collective action and coalesced international commitment around a set of internationally-agreed development goals. WSIS, in particular, called for harnessing the emerging Information Society for development and underscored the need for effective and sustainable means to continue and strengthen global policy dialogue that will encourage the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for development and poverty eradication in a multi-stakeholder, open, inclusive and transparent manner.

The need for such an open global platform for policy dialogue had been widely stressed during the WSIS discussions in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005, and also within the United Nations ICT Task Force, an initiative established by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2001, to harness the potential of ICT for economic and social development. Recognizing that ICT can be greatly instrumental to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the valuable network created by the ICT Task Force and its partners and predecessors, former United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan, requested the Chairman of the ICT Task Force to develop detailed proposals on a Global Alliance for ICT and Development that “would pursue innovative approaches in the future” for promoting global policy dialogue and consensus, creating networks and catalyzing partnerships for action.

Responding to this request by the Secretary-General, the ICT Task Force undertook broad consultations on the possible mandate, modalities and functioning of a multi-stakeholder initiative – an open alliance – that would build on the momentum that has gathered in recent years around ICT for development and an inclusive information society. The consultations, intended to gather ideas, views and suggestions from all stakeholders – governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and the academic and scientific communities – were organized both as physical meetings, primarily in conjunction with other events on related issues, and virtually with an online forum on the ICT Task Force’s website.

A consultation was launched following the Seventh meeting of the ICT Task Force in Berlin in November 2004, and open consultations were held on 21 February 2005 (Geneva), on 13 April 2005 (Dublin), and on 31 May 2005 (Shanghai). During its Eighth meeting in Dublin on 15 April 2005, the members of the ICT Task Force also discussed the proposal for a Global Alliance. Comments and inputs were also solicited from all Permanent Missions in New York on 21 March 2005 and 14 June 2005, while broad consultations were also undertaken in Europe and in conjunction with other events such as the meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Chair on 13 June 2005 (Geneva) and the meeting of the Working Group on Internet Governance on 14-17 June 2005 (Geneva). Final round of consultations was organized in conjunction with the WSIS in Tunis at an open meeting on 17 November 2005, and at the ICT Task Force meeting on 18 November 2005.

On March 2006, the United Nations Secretary-General approved the initiative of a Global Alliance for ICT and Development. The United Nations launched the Global Alliance on 19-20 June 2006, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as a principal multi-stakeholder platform for the follow up to WSIS. The Inaugural meeting, hosted by the Government of Malaysia and opened by His Excellency Dato’ Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, United Nations Deputy-Secretary-General, was attended by more than 500 participants, representing governments, businesses, international organizations, civil society, gender and youth. They came together to launch the new initiative with a rich two-day dialogue, debate and exchange of views on the mission, substantive focus and modalities of work of the Alliance.

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development will contribute to transforming the spirit and vision of the WSIS into action and promote the use of ICT for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It will provide an inclusive, multi-stakeholder global forum and platform for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and by promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for action.

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development has gone from approval by the Secretary-General (March 2006) to launch (June 2006) to operation in a very short period thanks to the guidance of its Chairman, Dr. Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation, the executive direction of the Steering Committee, and the support and contribution of the Strategy Council and other partners. Its governing and advisory bodies are fully functioning and its areas of priority have been identified. A business plan has been approved and flagship partnership initiatives are underway. Regional and stakeholder networks are being formed as well as thematic communities of expertise. Its secretariat is already preparing for a full programme of events for 2007.

GAID has succeeded in securing the engagement of many competent and committed organizations – among them the World Bank; the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation; Global Knowledge Partnership; the International Development Research Centre; and the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; and major UN agencies and entities – which are leading the networks and initiatives of the Global Alliance. The secretariat is supporting them to develop work programmes and methods to implement in 2007 as well as to bring other competent individuals and organizations into their networks.

The GAID name and brand is now growing in recognition due to efforts by the Chair and Executive Coordinator to promote it throughout the ICT and ICTD communities and at international conferences, as well as through international press coverage. Its website serves as a repository of information for all stakeholders and members of the public who wish to learn more about the entity and how they can contribute to the Alliance.

Having undertaken this extensive preparation, GAID is now positioned to be a key contributor to the achievement of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, especially by bringing multi-stakeholder input to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is also well-placed to further the United Nations Development Agenda, which includes the Millennium Development Goals, and to make a meaningful contribution to harnessing the technology-driven WSIS process to support the broader UN development goals. To this end, it holds an annual global forum as well as regional thematic events in partnership with relevant organizations and networks. It has already emerged as a spring-board and a major platform for UN system, private sector and civil society partnerships in the strategic areas of education, health, entrepreneurship and governance, serving to advance common goals.

About this book

This book is intended as a valuable resource for anyone interested in the work of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. This book is in three parts.

Part One presents the fundamental documents that have formed the basis for the establishment of the Global Alliance, and which were developed out of the series of consultations and meetings.

Part Two contains the summary, proceedings and outcome of the launch and Inaugural Meeting of the Global Alliance in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Part Three includes the Business Plan of the Global Alliance for 2006-2007, laying out its strategic direction, mission and objectives, and the concrete steps and strategies that it will undertake in the area of ICT for development.

As a compilation of key documents that were thoroughly discussed and agreed upon through a series of consultations, the reader will find many basic elements reaffirmed and restated throughout the book. This is intended to convey the evolutionary stages of the consultation process.

We hope this publication will prove to be a useful resource for understanding the genesis and evolution of the Global Alliance and its modus operandi based on dialogue and action towards harnessing the power of ICT for sustainable human development and poverty eradication.

PART ONE

PRINCIPLES, MODALITIES AND STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT

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I. PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS OF A GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT

Outcome of open consultations and discussions

As a result of open consultations and discussions, a broad consensus emerged that there is a need to continue an open, transparent, multi-stakeholder dialogue on the focused role of ICT in development. A multi-stakeholder, Global Alliance for ICT and Development functioning in a forum format was seen by most participants as the optimal approach.

The mission of the Alliance would be to respond to the need and demand for an inclusive global forum and platform for cross-sectoral policy dialogue, conducted in an open, multi-stakeholder and transparent manner, on the use of ICT for enhancing the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, notably reduction of poverty.

A principal distinguishing feature of the Alliance, and its key value added, will be in providing a multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral platform and forum that will bring together all stakeholders representing relevant constituencies (for example, in governments - development cooperation, foreign policy, finance, social, sectoral (health, education) and regulatory agencies; in the private sector - industry and workers associations, producers and consumers of ICT, the media; in civil society - NGOs, CSOs, foundations, scientific, academic and ICT communities and individuals providing advocacy and oversight on Information Society issues and implementing programs addressing MDGs).

At present, no such cross-sectoral platform or forum exists. Policy debate - even when undertaken in a multi-stakeholder format - is fragmented into multiple, distinct sectoral processes with inadequate cross-fertilization. As a result, while the challenge of harnessing the potential of ICT for development is by definition cross-sectoral, our collective response to this challenge remains fragmented. As noted during the WSIS process, multi-dimensional issues are not effectively addressed within any one extant organization; complementarities, gaps and tensions among diverse existing efforts and initiatives are not always identified and acted upon; comparative, cross-sectoral analysis of experience with a view to promoting best practices is not being adequately performed.

Networks such as the Global Knowledge Partnership are very valuable embodiments of current efforts to provide a multi-stakeholder network on ICT for Development. The Global Alliance will therefore need to collaborate closely with the GKP and other networks to strengthen a joint effort by supporting them with convening power and reach that come with a United Nations affiliation.

The WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, and especially the recently adopted Tunis Agenda for the Information Society attach “great importance to multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level” and encourage “the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels for policy dialogue and building partnerships with a view to the expansion and diffusion of the Internet as a means to support development effort and achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs” (Tunis Agenda, paragraph 80). The proposed Global Alliance, by providing an inclusive multi-stakeholder global platform and forum for policy dialogue on the use of ICT for enhancing the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, will respond directly to this call.

The Alliance will present an innovative, inclusive and interactive channel for multi-stakeholder input to policy debate to be conducted in intergovernmental organs – Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). To this end, the Alliance will, in partnership with CSTD Secretariat, help organize a multi-stakeholder platform as the multi-stakeholder component of the CSTD review of WSIS follow-up and implementation. Similarly, the Global Alliance will also help organize, in partnership with ECOSOC Secretariat, multi-stakeholder roundtables in the context of ECOSOC’s reviews of cross-cutting themes linking the WSIS outcome to the integrated follow-up to and implementation of other UN conferences and summits.

In terms of substance of their respective work, the Alliance and the Internet Governance Forum are envisaged as distinct streams of activities since the IGF will focus on “public policy issues related to key elements of Internet Governance” (Tunis Agenda, paragraph 72), while the Alliance will address a much broader array of issues relevant to the use of ICT for advancing development.

Consultations demonstrated that several guiding principles enjoy multi-stakeholder support and are considered essential features of the Alliance:

- The Alliance should build on the experience of and further advance the work of initiatives such as the DOT Force and the UN ICT Task Force, as well as the experience of the WSIS process, providing a platform and a forum for cross-

sectoral policy and partnership dialogue with the full and equal engagement and collaboration of all stakeholders representing relevant constituencies from all parts of the world.

- The Alliance should make full use of and cooperate with existing institutions and networks² and their forums and collaborate, in a coherent and complementary manner, with other activities related to WSIS follow up, by enhancing multi-stakeholder, cross-cutting and cross-sectoral dialogue on global ICT for Development (ICT4D) and Information Society issues, thus contributing to the effectiveness, visibility and development impact of these entities and initiatives and enhancing their inclusive character.
- The Alliance should significantly expand the circle of participants in policy debate beyond the traditional set of stakeholders, by active outreach aimed at engaging younger champions of ICT4D, non-governmental participants from developing countries, media, academia and other constituencies that currently are not adequately involved.
- The Alliance should help identify and focus attention on priority issues related to ICT4D that are not adequately addressed, or where “intellectual vacuum” persists, with a view to triggering action by relevant stakeholders and fostering problem-solving partnerships.
- The Alliance should be a model of using technology to enhance efficiency of interaction, including by making extensive use of virtual collaborative tools.
- The Alliance should be linked to the United Nations and work under the authority of the Secretary-General and the auspices of the ECOSOC, reporting periodically, through the Secretary-General, to ECOSOC for assessment and guidance. Responding to the call of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (in particular paragraph 80) adopted by the Tunis phase of WSIS, the Global Alliance will provide indispensable multi-stakeholder complement at the international level to the intergovernmental follow-up process led by ECOSOC.

² Including, but not limited to relevant organizations of the United Nations system (ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, WIPO, UNCTAD, the World Bank, Regional Commissions and others), Global Knowledge Partnership, regional development banks, private sector organizations (GBDe, GIIC, ICC, WITSA), civil society, Internet community, media organizations including regional broadcasting unions such as the European Broadcasting Union, and others.

- The Alliance must pursue an active outreach policy to ensure transparency and visibility of its work and results.
- The Alliance will need to build on, sustain and strengthen the global and regional networks created by the ICT Task Force , and should be based on open and participatory principles.
- The Alliance will not create a new United Nations organization but will function as a decentralized multi-stakeholder network and partnership drawing upon and interlinking with existing institutions and forums. The Alliance will not have an operational, policy-making or negotiating function. Its role will be in strengthening the work and activities of existing UN and other organizations, not duplicate them.
- Since the Alliance will be financed by voluntary contributions of its members and partners, it will not have financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. However, in order to ensure full transparency and accountability, it would function in accordance with relevant United Nations financial rules and regulations.

Objectives

The Alliance will seek to contribute to the achievement of the following objectives:

- Mainstreaming of the global ICT agenda into the broader United Nations development agenda;
- Bringing together key organizations involved in ICT4D to enhance their collaboration and effectiveness in the use of ICT for development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals;
- Raising awareness of policy makers on ICT4D policy issues;
- Facilitating identification of technological solutions for specific internationally agreed development goals and promoting pertinent partnerships;
- Creating an enabling environment and innovative business models for pro-poor investment and growth and for empowering people living in poverty;

The Alliance will also act as a “think-tank” on ICT4D-related issues and as an Advisory Group to the Secretary-General.

Functioning modalities

The principal modality of functioning will be that of a decentralized network of forums, institutions and think-tanks, bringing them together into a global forum under the patronage of the Secretary-General and the auspices of ECOSOC.

To achieve the objectives outlined above, the Alliance will promote focused dialogue on ICT4D issues, primarily by virtual means and during related events. It will function as a multi-stakeholder partnership supported by the United Nations³, and should in principle be linked with the broader UN development agenda leading to 2015. Its functioning should be reviewed periodically (every 2-3 years) to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

The Alliance will rely on light and agile structures tailored to specific topics that the Alliance may decide to address. A high-level Advisory Board will provide strategic overall guidance to the work of the Global Alliance, ensure engagement of top-level expertise and leadership, and facilitate effective outreach and influence with leaders of today and tomorrow. The organizational direction will be provided by a small Steering Committee. These mechanisms will be formed on the basis of balanced representation in terms of regions, stakeholders and gender, and allow nomination of representatives by their constituencies (civil society, private sector, academia).

Identification of priorities and themes to be pursued in policy dialogue will be done in open consultation with general membership.

Core organizational and administrative support will be provided by a small secretariat based initially at UN Headquarters in New York, with possible regional - and stakeholder-based nodes.

Participation

As distinct from previous initiatives, the Alliance will be open to participation of all stakeholders, including governments, business, civil society, international organizations, industry groups and professional associations, media, academia, and the broad ICT and development communities. Groups of participants would coalesce around specific topics of mutual interest put forward for discussion.

³ The United Nations supports multi-stakeholder partnerships in a number of areas (sustainable development, water, energy, HIV/AIDS, and others)

Funding arrangements

The Alliance activities will be funded by voluntary contributions, both financial and in-kind (such as providing networking support, hosting meetings, contributing to logistical or staff support, co-producing publications, etc.).

II. MODALITIES FOR ORGANIZING THE WORK OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development is to promote the use of information and communication technologies for enhancing the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals by providing an inclusive global forum and platform for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and by catalyzing the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships to stimulate concrete action, replicate and scale up best practices.

1. Organizing Principles.

- The work of GAID has to be organized in a fashion that respects both the open character and the non-involvement of GAID in funding and executing programs on the ground, yet addresses expectations of important stakeholder groups that the Alliance will trigger significant action in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and of the implementation and follow-up of relevant outcomes of the United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the World Summit on the Information Society. The work of the GAID has also to reflect and foster at all levels and in all its modalities the multi-stakeholder nature of its structure.
- As agreed at the Inaugural meeting of the Alliance in Kuala Lumpur, GAID will focus on harnessing the potential of ICT for advancing four areas: education, health care, entrepreneurship, and e-governance (enhancing citizens' participation and promoting accountability, transparency and efficiency in governance processes).
- The core support activities (including communication, preparation of decisions and monitoring of implementation of decisions made by the governing bodies of the Alliance, event organization, preparation and dissemination of reports and other documentation, organization of outreach, including publications, etc.) will be carried out by the Secretariat of the GAID, hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and located in New York.

- The Alliance will form Regional Networks, which will have a large degree of autonomy in organizing themselves and their work. However, Regional Networks will need to take the four agreed focus areas of the GAID into due consideration in developing their work programmes. These networks will be set up by interested entities in their respective regions in close consultation with the GAID Secretariat and will report regularly to the Strategy Council on their activities. In addition, the stakeholders engaged in the Alliance will be encouraged to form their own stakeholder networks to extend the outreach of the Alliance and promote smooth communication and collaboration. The equal inclusion of all constituencies of stakeholders will be promoted within regional networks and stakeholder networks.
- In addition, specific, well-defined tasks within the four focus areas can be delegated by the Steering Committee to a “Community of Expertise” (see Part 2 below) for implementation.

2. Communities of Expertise

- a. Communities of Expertise have a thematic focus and are established by the Steering Committee to carry out a well-defined, specific task or tasks within one or more of the four focus areas of the Alliance. Many types of tasks can be considered, including, inter alia,
 - initiating analyses and facilitating synergies among experts involved of projects, programmes and practices, with a view to identifying good practices and developing guidelines, standards or templates for subsequent dissemination,
 - initiating and facilitating research studies on cutting-edge, new or emerging issues, identifying a technological and/or organizational solution for advancing development through the use of ICT,
 - identifying opportunities and actors for multi-stakeholder partnerships in ICT4D and facilitating resource mobilization for such partnerships.
- b. A Community of Expertise could be initiated by a group of at least three organizations or entities with recognized expertise in the domain in question. To the extent feasible, a Community of Expertise should bring together various constituencies of stakeholders.
- c. Communities of Expertise can take a number of organizational forms: they may be built upon existing networks and hosted and led by an established organization

within the UN system, by a recognized public body with a development mission (e.g. a bi-lateral donor agency), an academic/research institution, or a private organization, whether non-profit or for-profit, or, they may be launched as a “green field” initiative by partners on mutually agreed terms.

- d. While having a large degree of autonomy in defining their modalities of work, Communities of Expertise are expected to function primarily as web-based networks using collaboration tools with minimal physical meetings. GAID Secretariat, if requested by any Community of Expertise, will help organize the use of basic web-based tools for online collaboration.
- e. Following an open call for proposals to establish Communities of Expertise within the four focus areas published on the GAID website, the Steering Committee will approve the first set of proposals at its meeting of 27 September 2006. Subsequent calls for proposals and resultant inputs will be considered periodically.
- f. A Community of Expertise needs to rely on dedication and demonstrated expertise of its founding members, and its goals need to be consistent with the GAID objectives and the principle of multi-stakeholder participation.
- g. A Community of Expertise will seek to address a significant issue or problem within one of the four focus areas of the Alliance, or a problem cross-cutting several areas.
- h. Communities of Expertise will seek fully to leverage the existing and on-going work within the relevant domain, and will seek to identify and address gaps in existing work rather than duplicate it.
- i. Communities of Expertise are open for participation for any organization, business or individual with a recognized expertise and commitment to work towards the goals defined in the mandate of the Community. The GAID Secretariat is invited to attend the meetings and contribute to the work *ex officio*.
- j. Communities of Expertise will be responsible for their own operational resource mobilization and mode of organization. GAID may provide limited support towards travel costs to ensure effective engagement of developing country participants in relevant meetings and events, including meetings of the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council.

- k. GAID Steering Committee members and the GAID Secretariat will act as advocates for the work of the Communities of Expertise in order to disseminate and scale up the results, and will seek to assist in the resource mobilization, as appropriate.
- l. Communities of Expertise will be invited to report annually to the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council on their progress.
- m. Communities of Expertise will have an opportunity to present prominently their work at the yearly global meetings or other regional/thematic meetings of the GAID. Such opportunities will be used to encourage broader and more inclusive exchange of views on the work and initiatives of Communities of Expertise and mobilize support for them.
- n. The composition, on-going activities, and the results of the work of the Communities of Expertise will be published on the GAID website and via print publications.

3. Regional Networks

- a. The Alliance will build on the experience of the Regional Nodes and Digital Diaspora Networks created by the ICT Task Force and will develop further this approach through the Regional Networks of GAID with a view to ensuring the open, inclusive, participatory and truly global character of the Alliance, and the adequate reflection of regional perspectives and specific needs in the activities of GAID along the four focus areas.
- b. Regional Networks of the Alliance may be set up by a group of interested participants. A proposal to establish a Regional Network, containing a list of sponsoring participants, will need to be presented to the Steering Committee for endorsement. Once established, a Regional Network will be open for participation by any entity interested in contributing to the work of the Network.
- c. The work of a Regional Network may be spearheaded by a Regional Centre of Excellence. Such centres may be set up, upon endorsement by the Steering Committee, by interested participants.
- d. Regional Networks and Regional Centres of Excellence will be responsible for their own operational resource mobilization and mode of organization.

- e. Regional Networks will be invited to report periodically to the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council on their progress.
- f. Regional Networks and Regional Centres of Excellence will be given an opportunity to present reports on their activities in the context of the annual global meetings of the Alliance. Such opportunities will be used to encourage broader and more inclusive exchange of views on the work and initiatives of the Regional Networks and Regional Centres of Excellence.

4. Stakeholder Networks

- a. The key stakeholders engaged or willing to engage with GAID will be encouraged to form their own Stakeholder Networks to maximize participation by all interested entities, extend the outreach of GAID and promote channels for effective communication and collaboration.
- b. The experience gained during WSIS in creating civil society structures and within them - specific youth, gender, disabilities, local authorities and parliamentary networks can be built upon. Other stakeholders such as academic institutions, scientific organizations, and grass-roots and community organizations will be encouraged to form their own networks in order to engage more fully with GAID, contribute to its activities, collaborate with the Communities of Expertise and Regional Networks and help attain the Alliance's objectives.
- c. Stakeholder Networks will be responsible for their own operational resource mobilization and mode of organization.

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III. STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT

As a multi-stakeholder partnership supported by the United Nations, the Alliance will closely link its work to the broader United Nations development agenda, including the internationally agreed development goals and the MDGs, leading to the 2015 goalpost. The Alliance, being a non-operational entity, will promote focused dialogue on ICT for development issues, primarily using virtual means and related events that attract relevant actors. It will organize one annual thematic Global Forum (as a rule, in April-May so that the results of discussions could be presented at the annual substantive session of ECOSOC) plus may hold meetings in conjunction with other major relevant events. The Alliance will function as a decentralized network of forums, institutions and think tanks, bringing them together into a global platform under the patronage of the Secretary-General and the auspices of the ECOSOC. It will rely primarily on on-line collaborative tools that will link communities of experts, regional networks of the Alliance, groups of stakeholders and ad hoc thematic groups set up for preparation of thematic discussions.

The strategic guidance and vision for the Alliance is provided by a **Strategy Council** composed of sixty prominent personalities with balanced representation of all relevant stakeholder groups and with due regard to stakeholder, gender, geographical and institutional balances. The members, among other things, also contribute to the development of an action-oriented policy platform, undertake awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns for ICTD and GAID, and promote multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives with innovative networking and information-sharing approaches.

A **Steering Committee** provides executive direction to and priority setting for the Alliance, as well as oversight and guidance to the secretariat. The Committee endorses the establishment and mandates of thematic Communities of Expertise and Regional Networks and reviews their periodic progress reports. It also identifies and transmits relevant cutting-edge and emerging issues and inputs on ICT for development, and exercises a leadership role in high-level advocacy and policy advice in the field of ICTD. It is composed of a Chairman and several Co-Chairmen representing major constituencies, plus the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat *ex officio*.

For policy and expert advice, the Strategy Council and the Steering Committee may draw upon a **Group of High-level Advisers** who contribute to research and development and help advance relevant theory and/or practice in the field of ICTD in their respective areas of expertise. The **Network of Champions** is a group of practitioners, experts and activists who facilitates the diffusion of knowledge and experience of innovative uses of ICT for the attainment of development goals, provides “bottom-up” flow of information on implementation of ICTD activities on the ground to inform policy discussions at the Global Forum and in the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council and promote the implementation of Alliance’s outreach efforts, as well as foster formation of partnerships.

The Alliance will form **Regional Networks**, which will ensure the open, inclusive, participatory and truly global character of the Alliance, and the adequate reflection of regional perspectives and specific needs in the activities of GAID in the four focus areas. Communities of Expertise are thematic groups established by a mandate from the Steering Committee to carry out a well-defined, specific task or tasks, within one or more focus areas of the Alliance. Stakeholder Networks will maximize participation by all interested entities, extend the outreach of GAID and promote channels for smooth communications and collaboration.

A small **Secretariat** provides substantive analytical support to the Steering Committee in formulating draft strategy and plans for consideration by the Strategy Council, as well as organizational and logistical support for the Alliance, its events and activities.

IV. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

A. Strategy Council

Composition

The first Strategy Council comprises 60 members, including 30 members representing Governments, 10 members from the private/not-for-profit sectors, 10 members from the civil society, and 10 members representing international organizations.

Members of the Council are designated on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with stakeholder networks, bearing in mind the need to ensure stakeholder, gender, geographical and institutional balances. Governments and international organizations that are members of the Alliance identify their representatives in the Council.

The term of office of the Strategy Council shall last until the Council's annual meeting of the second year of its term, when the next Strategy Council shall be formed on the basis of consultations with the outgoing Strategy Council and stakeholder networks, taking into account the criteria of stakeholder, gender, geographical and institutional balances. Members of the outgoing Strategy Council will be eligible for a new term. The procedures for consultations shall be adopted and publicized early enough by the Steering Committee to permit an open, transparent and inclusive process of nominations and selection of members of the Council.

Members of the Steering Committee are ex officio members of the Strategy Council.

Functions

The Strategy Council:

- Provides overall strategic guidance and vision to the Alliance, in particular by identifying priorities and themes to be addressed;

- Contributes to the development of an action-oriented policy platform that promotes the scalability, replicability and sustainability of the activities of the Alliance by providing stakeholder inputs through a consultative process;
- Undertakes and promotes awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns for ICT for development and for the Global Alliance; with the support of GAID Secretariat;
- Helps disseminate the results of policy dialogue and think tank functions of the Alliance to policymakers, practitioners and to wider stakeholder constituencies, with a view to capacity-building and strengthening feedback between policies, planning and programme implementation;
- Contributes to the formulation of advice to the Secretary-General and to the UN system on issues related to ICT for development;
- Promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives with innovative networking and information-sharing approaches, with a view to improving coordination and enhancing impact;
- Promotes fundraising for GAID's core budget, activities, partnerships and events; and
- Reviews the annual report on the activities of the Alliance and the financial report from the Secretariat.

B. Steering Committee

Composition

The Steering Committee is composed of 12 Members, designated, on behalf of the Secretary-General, for a one year renewable term in their personal capacity after consultation with stakeholder networks, and bearing in mind the need to ensure stakeholder, gender, geographical and institutional balances. The Under-Secretary-General, DESA and the Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Alliance are ex officio members of the Committee.

Functions

The Steering Committee:

- Provides executive direction to the work of the Alliance and its Secretariat via approval of the Business Plan for the Alliance on a regular basis;
- Defines the medium and long-term priorities of the Alliance in consultation with the Strategy Council and all relevant stakeholders;
- Endorses the establishment and mandates of thematic Communities of Expertise to carry out well-defined, specific tasks, within one or more focus areas of the Alliance;
- Reviews periodic progress reports from the Communities of Expertise;
- Endorses the establishment of stakeholder networks, Regional Networks and Regional Centres of Excellence;
- Reviews periodic progress reports from the Regional Networks and Regional Centres of Excellence;
- Endorses recommendations of the Secretariat as regards partnerships, sponsorship of events, etc.;
- Spearheads activities to raise funds and in-kind contributions by members, partners and other organizations;
- Identifies and transmits relevant cutting-edge and emerging issues and inputs on ICT for development, including those contributed by the Strategy Council, High-level Advisors and members of the Champions Network, to the Secretary-General;
- Exercises a leadership role in high-level advocacy and policy advice in the field of ICT for development and for the Global Alliance; and
- Liaises, with the assistance of the Secretariat, with other global bodies working in the field of ICT for Development.

C. Group of High-level Advisers

Composition

The Group of High-level Advisers is composed of distinguished practitioners, policy-makers and experts recognized in their respective fields who are able and willing to contribute to and support the mission and objectives of the Global Alliance. Advisers serve in their personal

capacity. High-level Advisers are designated by the Executive Coordinator in consultation with the Chairman of GAID, for a 2-year renewable term.

Functions

The High-level Advisers:

- Bring to the attention of the Alliance relevant developments in theory and/or practice in the field of ICT for development;
- Provide to the Strategy Council and Steering Committee policy and expert advice on areas within the remit of the Global Alliance based upon their research and/or practical experience, including through reports, papers, presentations and participation in virtual and face-to-face dialogue sponsored by the Global Alliance;
- Respond to explicit requests for information and input originating with the Strategy Council and/or Steering Committee;
- Contribute, in the format best suited to their individual areas of expertise, time and other resources to the activities of the Communities of Expertise, Regional Networks and/or Stakeholders Groups of their interest.

D. Network of Champions

Composition

The Network of Champions is composed of practitioners, as well as experts and activists in ICT4D, including at the grass-roots and community levels, who demonstrated commitment to and engagement in ICT4D work and who commit themselves to champion and support the mission and objectives of the Global Alliance through their personal efforts and through networks in which they participate.

Members of the Network of Champions are designated by the Executive Coordinator in consultation with the Chairman of the GAID for a 2-year renewable term.

Functions

The Network of Champions (activists, experts and practitioners):

- Facilitates the diffusion of knowledge and experience in innovative uses of ICT for the attainment of development goals and of relevant GAID's activities and

initiatives by bringing these to bear on the day-to-day involvement of the Network's participants in ICT4D;

- Promotes the implementation of the recommendations/outcomes of the Alliance as well as the lessons learned and best practices identified in GAID's work, as applicable, through their activities in the field and in expert forums at all levels in order to achieve a more coordinated and effective approach to implementing ICT-for-development activities;
- Fosters formation of partnerships by linking willing parties (within and outside of GAID) with complementary skills and resources in the priority areas adopted by the Strategy Council and encouraging their collaboration, including by a) identifying opportunities to coordinate or streamline cooperation among actors and existing initiatives and b) matching unmet development needs with innovative solutions; and
- Provides "bottom-up" flow of information on implementation of GAID activities on the ground to the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council, with particular focus on lessons learned, obstacles and challenges identified and proposals and initiatives for enhancing the impact of the Alliance.
- Responds to specific requests for information and input originating with the Strategy Council and/or Steering Committee.

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PART TWO

SUMMARY AND OUTCOME OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

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I. SUMMARY AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT (KUALA LUMPUR, 19-20 JUNE 2006)

The Inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID) took place on 19-20 June in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Malaysia and organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) of Malaysia and the interim secretariat of the Global Alliance.

More than 500 participants from all regions of the world, representing governments, businesses, international organizations, civil society, gender and youth groups came together to launch the new initiative of the Secretary-General, aimed at harnessing the potential of the information revolution to advance development and promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They engaged in a rich two-day dialogue, debate and exchange of views on the mission, substantive focus and modalities of work of the Alliance.

Inspired by the vision presented to the meeting in addresses by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and the first Chairman of the Alliance, Dr. Craig Barrett of Intel, the participants affirmed their commitment to, and support of, the Alliance. The tremendous global response and unanimity of support, including by major relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the global private sector and key civil society organizations, is a clear indication of the demand and need for such a policy platform under the United Nations umbrella.

The first meeting of the Strategy Council of GAID was held prior to the public inauguration. Parallel to the Inaugural meeting, a showcase exhibiting initiatives by Malaysian and international technology companies and development organizations complemented the subject matter under discussion.

Opening of the Session

The Inaugural meeting was opened by the welcoming statement of H.E. Dr. Jamaludin bin Dato' Mohd Jarjis, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia, followed by a panel on National ICT Strategy for Achieving MDGs and an official visit to the showcase exhibition by H.E. the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi and the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Mark Malloch Brown.

H.E. Dr. Jamaludin bin Dato' Mohd Jarjis, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia reflected upon the importance of the Alliance and its multi-stakeholder approach, and pointed out how such an approach is central to Malaysia's current five-year development plan, in which all sectors - public, private and civil society - take ownership of the process and are expected to fulfill their respective duties.

Malaysia has long recognized the potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve the quality of people's lives, to redefine the way they work and to remodel civilization, and that the country was one of the first to offer the Internet to the public. Governments play an active role in ensuring that opportunities created by ICT can be shared by all citizens.

Minister Jarjis also described Vision 2020, Malaysia's ambition to achieve the status of economically, socially and politically developed country by the year 2020, and how science, technology and innovation are fundamental to achieving that goal. In a connected world, no nation can achieve its own development alone, and governments should operate within a broader, collaborative perspective to ensure that the benefits of ICT are spread among every country and every community. He confirmed Malaysia's strong commitment to forging international alliances and building global partnerships and, therefore, his Government's support to the United Nations agenda and the work of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development.

Minister Jarjis congratulated the United Nations ICT Task Force for admirably carrying out its mandate and for giving birth to the Global Alliance. He reiterated the need at the international level for a global umbrella organization able to outline policies and integrate efforts towards common development, and that GAID, with its link to the United Nations, is the ideal vehicle to provide harmonization, coordination, evaluation and facilitation in this respect. Minister Jarjis urged the efficient tackling of the challenges ahead of the Alliance, including the issues of: funding, securing stakeholder commitment, and devising customized national strategies. He emphasized the need for a systematic funding mechanism, in order to ensure an effective and efficient organization. With reference to stakeholder commitment, Minister Jarjis urged the Alliance to comprehensively define principles, roles and processes

in order to achieve clarity of direction and commitment. He also suggested that a review of the classification of countries into developed and developing blocs would be worthy. The Minister concluded his statement by suggesting that, if these issues are successfully addressed, the Global Alliance will be able to make a real difference for generations to come.

Panel on National ICT Strategies for Achieving the MDGs

The panel was chaired by Ms. **Renate Bloem**, President of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) and was moderated by Mr. **Peter Bruck**, Chairman of the World Summit Award. Panelists were Mr. **Kim Hak-Su**, Executive Secretary of UN/ESCAP; H.E. **Ali Abbasov**, Minister of Communications and Information Technologies of Azerbaijan; Ms. **Anne Cobb**, President, VISA International CEMEA; Dato **Lee Yee Cheong**, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation of the United Nations Millennium Project; and Dato **Suriah Abdul Rahman**, Advisor, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia. The lead discussant of this session was Mr. **Abdul Waheed Khan**, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO.

Ms. Bloem emphasized how the multi-stakeholder approach and synergy of efforts in ICT strategies will help promote the implementation not only of the MDGs but also of the larger development agenda. She suggested focusing the discussion on three “ifs”: What if governments would do more to implement what they committed themselves to? What if the private sector would do more to be socially responsible? And what if civil society would put more effort into being not only the “mobilizer” but also the complementary force in the way forward in development initiatives?

Mr. Kim gave an overview of the MDGs and highlighted the overarching goal of reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015. This relates to the Asian Pacific region where 670 million people are still living in extreme poverty and with great disparities that linger in many sectors, such as health, maternal and child mortality rates and environment. He provided an example of a project implemented by ESCAP in a village in Malaysia, where farmers use the Internet for e-business purposes. Following its success, the Asian Development Bank tasked ESCAP to launch e-community centres in four additional Southeast Asian countries: Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka. Mr. Kim stated that ESCAP is also significantly involved in programmes targeting people with disabilities. One of the most successful programmes is the Thailand-based Mahidol University, where ICT applications are successfully used in programmes for disabled people.

Minister Abbasov underscored that the eradication of poverty has been one of the main goals of Azerbaijan’s national policies for the past ten years and that the Government has been successful in lowering the percentage of the population living in poverty from 60 per

cent to 30 per cent. He presented an example of a large programme implemented with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop the postal system in Azerbaijan. Through this programme, a new information infrastructure has been built and is currently being upgraded with additional services such as banking and financial services. Azerbaijan's goal now is to further upgrade the system with an enhanced network for accessing information, with particular emphasis given to rural areas. The second best practice he presented was an e-government project, also implemented with the support of UNDP and ESCAP. He underscored the importance of this project for his country, since Azerbaijan is an emerging economy that needs to build strong and transparent government and legislative frameworks, to create fair and competitive market conditions and a reliable government structure.

Ms. Cobb presented the perspective of the private sector through two examples at the global and local levels. Her first example focused on the distinction between cash and electronic payment and the need to move into a "cashless society". She stated that cash is an inhibitor to growth and development, since it is expensive and needs to be produced, stored, protected, and transported. She also added that cash supports grey economies because it is not traceable. The second best practice she presented was a programme implemented in Moscow, Russia, to distribute social benefits on payment cards. Following the replacement of discount transportation vouchers for students with the payment card, the number of students eligible for this service was reduced by half. The electronic card proved to be a deterrent to small corruption and unlawful management of the system.

Dato Lee briefly presented the Millennium Project launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, in 2001, and specifically, the Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation. He first described efforts to encourage "developed" developing countries in Asia, Southeast Asia and Asia Pacific to contribute as donors to developing countries. Malaysia is among the new generation of donors. In his second example, Dato Lee emphasized the importance of providing basic physical infrastructure in ICT-for-development projects. He highlighted the importance of a holistic approach, with the full participation of local communities able to support fundamental needs. He gave the example of the ambitious "Millennium Village Project" that Jeffrey Sachs launched in Africa. Through the Millennium Promise Foundation, Jeffrey Sachs was able to raise \$400 million, with the main goal of getting all infrastructure facilities to a village to grow food, to export and set up ICT facilities. A weakness of the Millennium Project, in Dato Lee's view, has been the very scarce attention given to youth; in this respect, he suggested that GAID should address it by bringing on board the younger generation and their knowledge in the use of ICT for wealth creation and economic growth.

Dato Suriah talked about the relevance of political will, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks and funding commitment in the implementation of ICT strategies. For the past ten years, the Malaysian Government had been focusing on strategic programmes in ICT for development, and she gave two examples from the Bridging of the Digital Divide Programme. In presenting the “Connecting all Schools” programme, she highlighted how Malaysia successfully connected 10,000 schools, benefiting about 5,000,000 students from both primary and secondary levels. She described how this project was conceived through ideas that Malaysia acquired from some experiences in Thailand and was then implemented through the Malaysian Multimedia Communication Act. The second best practice that Dato Suriah introduced was the “Rural Internet Centre” programme. This programme connected more than 40 telecentres at post offices throughout the country, through a close collaboration with the postmasters. Substantial funding from the Government enabled the acquisition of five to eight PCs per location and the establishment of Internet connectivity. Training facilities were made available to rural communities and, as an important innovation, these centres were managed by the communities themselves. Dato Suriah stressed that the commitment of the community to boost the initiative was crucial in this endeavor. She also added that Microsoft expressed interest in bringing this initiative to other countries in ASEAN, specifically to Viet Nam and Cambodia.

Several of the speakers expressed the belief that, in order to replicate these initiatives in other countries and include ICT in national strategies, there is a need to share experiences and practices in a more systematic way, and they underlined the benefits and implications of multi-stakeholder partnerships in translating initiatives into successful and sustainable local development. In this respect, Ms. Cobb added that there is a set of requirements that can facilitate the replication of initiatives: common rules, strong technology, and open standards, as well as a sound legal framework; and agile bureaucracy.

Mr. A.W. Khan summarized the panel discussion in two main areas - ICT and poverty reduction, and ICT and education - and highlighted the link between poverty and education and lack of empowerment. He pointed out that the intervention of ICT in poverty reduction needs to be performed through information and knowledge and empowerment. He also stated that the approach to ICT intervention in poverty reduction is mainly through community access and stressed how important it is that there is community ownership and responsibility in all projects and programmes, as well as a holistic integrated approach that takes into account local realities. He also added that without a proper business model, no community access is going to succeed and that projects have to be introduced with the appropriate technology and with sustainable mechanisms.

On education, Mr. A.W. Khan stressed the importance of ICT which can certainly address the issue of access and also has to tackle the issue of quality of education, but the technologies have to be the right ones for the community and the local situation. He pointed out that it is of paramount importance that trainers are involved from the outset and are convinced of the magnitude and meaning of the new mechanisms and resources. He stressed that we do not yet see a lot of intervention in non-formal education, which is important, in order to ensure that most marginalized areas and people are included.

Inaugural session

The Inaugural session was addressed by H.E. Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia; Mr. Mark Malloch-Brown, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General; Minister Jarjis; Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, representing the International Chamber of Commerce; and Ms. Titi Akinsanmi, representing the Global Teenager Project. The Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation and Chairman of the Alliance, Mr. Craig Barrett, addressed the meeting via a video message.

Minister Jarjis thanked both the Prime Minister and the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General for their commitment and support to the event and noted that ICT for development is a top priority for the Malaysian Government, instrumental in transforming the country's economy into one based on knowledge. He highlighted Malaysia's long history of involvement with the community of nations, faith in multilateralism and willingness to assist in troubled times. He also emphasized that technology must be harnessed for the poor and that Malaysia can be a template and benchmark for the world in community-based applications of ICT through collaboration with all stakeholders.

Mr. Mark Malloch-Brown expressed his hope that the launch of the Global Alliance would be an important contribution to improving the world. He reminded participants that information technology does not develop in a vacuum; it should be part of a development strategy that includes people and institutions. ICT should be accompanied by investment, human and financial capital, and a national policy and/or plan. The success of this approach is evident in Malaysia, which has experienced leaps in growth and development. Mr. Malloch-Brown underscored that the Global Alliance is very much rooted in the MDGs, bringing together private and public sectors, as well as civil society, to apply ICT toward the Goals' realization. He reminded the audience that the Asian region enjoys rapid economic growth, but is also home to the majority of the world's poor. The challenge is to ensure that ICT is not just a privilege for the rich, but a tool for the poor. He also emphasized the power of public and private partnerships and that the Global Alliance for ICT and Development provides the platform and network of experiences within which partnerships can be built.

Mr. Barrett opened his video address by declaring that ICT will play a role in meeting the MDGs and said that it is time to turn the spirit of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) into action. There has been unprecedented change in the past decade and ICT are powerful forces in our lives, and not just in developed economies. There is a great promise for the future and he mentioned four areas that are of critical importance with regard to harnessing the power of ICT for development: (1) access and ownership; (2) content and cultural context; (3) connectivity; and (4) skills. In the multi-stakeholder model, each group has responsibilities: industry needs to take the challenge of developing technologies, solutions and services that meet the particular cultural, environmental and economic conditions, which are the tools to unleash the potential of local citizens; governments play an important role in creating an enabling environment by providing clear and stable regulatory frameworks to allow for investment, innovation and entrepreneurship; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) bring grass roots expertise to serving diverse people; and the United Nations, international organizations and development agencies can harness their neutrality and global expertise to facilitate discussions around development issues. Mr. Barrett said that the strength of the Global Alliance is its global reach and inclusive participation. It is important for the Strategy Council of the Global Alliance to identify its areas of focus. He reminded the audience that opportunity is not about physical size, wealth or geographic location; it is about people, ideas, and environment. Technology is necessary but not sufficient. Collaboration is necessary to find the right solutions for the benefit of countries and the future.

Speaking on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) member companies, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh spoke of the power ICT can have in transforming business and society in the developing world. He stated that ICT for development can move swiftly from concept to reality when all stakeholders pull together. Business is willing to share its expertise and experience, and GAID can help to maximize the use of business resources by promoting communication between the private sector and other stakeholders. The dialogue, which will take place within the Global Alliance, will enrich understanding among stakeholders of what is required to enable developing countries to take full advantage of ICT, namely: a strong foundation of legal, policy and regulatory frameworks that promote competition and investment, protect intellectual property and stimulate innovation; and a shared understanding among all peoples in all countries of what policies and programmes are available, and in which situations and environments they can be used effectively. Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated that through this Alliance and other post-WSIS activities, the business community looks forward to working towards greater consensus with other stakeholders. He announced the establishment of the ICC initiative Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS), which is an indication of the commitment of businesses of all sizes, in all sectors, from around the world to build on the important work on the

Information Society that was begun by the United Nations. He pledged the support of the business community to work in concert with the global community to do the utmost together to fulfill the mission of the Global Alliance.

Ms. Akinsanmi raised several questions: How do we ensure that the work of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development will continue until 2015, the deadline for the achievement of the MDGs? How do we avoid reinventing the wheel? She emphasized the need to inspire, inform, and involve people to foster development and to engage all sectors in our pursuit of an open and inclusive Information Society, particularly the youth sector. Efforts like the Global Alliance must continue to engage effectively with government, business and civil society to work across borders, regions, languages and groupings. Ms. Akinsanmi said that the youth sector is committed but needs guidance from other generations.

H.E. Prime Minister Badawi, who is also the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, expressed confidence that the minds gathered at the meeting will be able to provide a clear vision and strong leadership for global ICT and development policy. As the 2015 deadline to meet the MDGs nears, there is increasing urgency to focus resources towards development, using new approaches, and involving new partners, taking into consideration the needs of under-developed and developing communities. Poverty remains the most fundamental challenge to be addressed; ICT and innovation can play a significant role in helping governments and communities to create wealth and spur economic growth. Indeed, knowledge, technology and innovation are replacing land, labor and capital as the key drivers of wealth creation and economic growth today. However, the Prime Minister lamented that those who would enjoy the benefits of ICT the most are more often than not the ones who have the least access to it, and face additional barriers, including lack of relevant content, poor technological support and English language dominance of the Internet. He declared that the digital divide is the new poverty of our era.

The Prime Minister stressed that the key value of the Global Alliance is bringing together multiple stakeholders to address questions and challenges, and to consolidate and coordinate scattered efforts to produce more effective results. Prime Minister Badawi said that, in order to achieve the MDGs, developing countries should look into increasing cooperation among themselves, particularly on programmes to advance ICT and innovation, such as a “cyber peace corps” or a global virtual resource centre. He asked for support for Malaysia’s move to establish and host an international, public-private sector collaborative institution against cyber-terrorism.

Prime Minister Badawi suggested that Malaysia's experience as an early adopter and strong proponent of ICT for development, and its success in meeting all but one of the MDGs can provide important lessons to other developing countries. He shared some of Malaysia's development experiences, particularly in relation to ICT, including the Vision 2020 development agenda, the National Information Technology Agenda and the Multimedia Super Corridor. He urged developing economies to look at research and development and innovation as ways to move economies up the value chain and spread development across societies and suggested that they start by adapting currently available technology to suit specific community needs. The Prime Minister stated that it should be encouraging for all to see that the MDGs can be achieved, and that Malaysia is an example of this possibility. H.E. Badawi invited the participants to the World Congress on Information Technology to be held in Kuala Lumpur on 2008, and he expressed his appreciation to the United Nations for giving Malaysia the honour to host the inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance.

Workshops

Two sets of concurrent workshops were held, on "Common multi-stakeholder frameworks for developing effective policies and sustainable partnerships for mainstreaming ICT in health" (chaired by Dr. Joan Dzenowagis, WHO), "Common multi-stakeholder frameworks for developing effective policies and sustainable partnerships for mainstreaming ICT in education" (chaired by Ms. Astrid Dufborg, Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative), "Entrepreneurship, ICT and poverty eradication" (chaired by Mr. Shoji Nishimoto, United Nations Development Programme), and "Intersectoral governance and ICT strategy for development in countries with economies in transition" (chaired by Mr. Alexei Tikhomirov, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs).

Closing session

Ms. Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Executive Director, Global Knowledge Partnership, chaired the closing session and invited the chairpersons to provide feedback on their respective sessions and on the potential and role of GAID going forward.

Common multi-stakeholder frameworks for developing effective policies and sustainable partnerships for mainstreaming ICT in education

Ms. Astrid Dufborg (Global eSchools and Communities Initiative) discussed the issues raised by the speakers and the audience, noting that conversation was wide-ranging, touching on issues of sustainability, the role of teachers, content, infrastructure, partnerships and affordability. On partnerships, Ms. Dufborg noted with appreciation a positive trend toward greater willingness and interest in forming partnerships. Concerns were raised that French

speakers, particularly francophone Africans, are being left out of a debate largely taking place in English.

Some points of agreement emerged from the discussion: that the education model sits at the heart of any potential technical transformation; that most actors work similarly even if they perform different tasks and/or work in different contexts; that best practices and content should be shared; and that schools have a significant role in communities.

Several next steps were proposed, including establishment of online communities to share best or promising practices, case studies and improving collaboration, which could form a basis for the development of a model for ICT in education; creation of an education forum to deepen the discussion of elements of the model, in particular, professional development of teachers, infrastructure and content, and collaboration between partners. Ms. Dufborg stated that GAID is an excellent platform to identify issues and needs to be taken on by groups of interested partners who can bring in individuals with specialized knowledge to apply their expertise.

Common multi-stakeholder frameworks for developing effective policies and sustainable partnerships for mainstreaming ICT in health

Dr. Joan Dzenowagis (WHO) described the key points raised in the discussion. Health is implicitly multi-stakeholder by nature; it is important to start from health needs; and there is a need for upfront agreement on indicators of success and of clarifying expectations in health ICT initiatives, whether on government or local level, as well as for common standards and tools, particularly open standards for interoperability and scalability.

A proposed model of ICT in health systems was debated by the participants, who provided excellent proposals for refining it further. The premise of the session was that successful multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral collaboration to achieve broad health goals requires not only an understanding of the functions of health systems and how ICT can support them, but it also requires a systematic way to diagnose the ICT gaps – the first step to fixing them.

As an outcome of the session, the model will be tested by participants in their individual settings and further refined in a focused online consultation. The ultimate purpose is to use it as a basis to discuss common, cross-sectoral needs and to plan multi-stakeholder collaborations. A step for the future is for this model to be validated by other sectors as well.

Entrepreneurship, ICT and poverty eradication

Mr. Shoji Nishimoto (United Nations Development Programme) presented the positive relationship between fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and reducing poverty. It was noted that, while ICT can help individuals generate income, it also has positive externalities that benefit communities in their entirety.

Speakers highlighted the role of civil society and media in formulating and implementing strategies to give entrepreneurs access to ICT. On this subject, there was significant discussion on financing, including going beyond microfinancing to encouraging local venture capital markets. Participants discussed several innovative programmes, including one which provides people with the capacity and tools to promote national tourism from within their borders. One concrete suggestion that emerged from the session was to provide business models to entrepreneurial individuals to show them how they can make best use of ICT.

Mr. Nishimoto reported that the meeting's conclusion was open-ended but that the session provided a number of ideas that could be built upon in this respect. He suggested that GAID create an online platform for continued discussion on the issues raised and proposed inviting knowledgeable individuals to take the lead in particular topical clusters and expand it to a global audience, in order to learn from each other and overcome challenges collaboratively.

Intersectoral governance and ICT strategy for development in countries with economies in transition

Mr. Alexei Tikhomirov (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) explained that the purpose of intersectoral governance (ISG) arrangements is to mainstream non-state actors' inputs into the formulation, implementation and monitoring of public programmes like ICT4D programmes.

The major framework for intersectoral governance was analyzed from the viewpoint of different aspects, including institutional and technological. The panel's participants discussed interrelations, roles and functions of government and non-governmental actors, including the private sector, NGOs, CSOs and academia, in the process of formulation and implementation of ICT strategies and programmes for development to achieve internationally agreed development goals in conditions of transition to a market economy. Thus, the panel provided a platform for cross-sectoral policy and partnership dialogue on ICT4D issues with engagement and collaboration of all stakeholders representing relevant sectors (governmental and nongovernmental) from countries with economies in transition and developing countries in condition of transition to market-oriented structures.

The workshop concluded that the mechanism of ISG for ICT programme implementation in these countries is still in the process of formation. The level of development of ISG is

predicated on the varying quality of many factors, including market-oriented reforms and exposure to global economy. Mr. Tikhomirov reported that it is necessary to conceptualize ISG and use it as an effective tool for ICT4D strategies and shared several recommended actions which should be taken to do so.

Panel on National ICT Strategies for Achieving the MDGs

Ms. Renate Bloem (CONGO) talked about development of national e-strategies, and how it needs political commitment from the government, which is responsible to provide a conducive and enabling environment. Roundtables, which include all major actors in the country, are needed for policy discussion to ensure inclusiveness, including the most excluded segments of society. Local ownership of projects is vital. Malaysia served as an excellent case study to examine issues of national and regional scaling up, competition and collaboration among countries. Projects must be altered to meet the cultural and environmental needs and must be demand-driven - not top-down -and sustainable. All stakeholders have a role to move forward ICT-for-development and ICT in development to implement the MDGs by 2015.

Following the presentations by the workshop chairpersons, Ms. Rahim spoke about the Global Knowledge Partnership and how it and the Global Alliance complement one another and draw synergies. She noted particular value in GAID's association with the United Nations.

Mr. S. Khan praised the high level of engagement of all participants and reiterated the value of collaboration across sectors, stakeholders and frontiers. He emphasized the need to build on the work begun at the inaugural session, particularly through establishing communities of expertise to follow up on education, health, entrepreneurship and governance, four thematic areas that had been endorsed by the Strategy Council at their meeting on the morning of 19 June. The objective would be to develop standards and templates with the input of a larger constituency. Mr. Khan also reported on the positive response of the Strategy Council members on the issues of funding and methodology of work. The Steering Committee was to meet to set the roadmap for moving forward.

Minister Jarjis provided some reflections on the Inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development in his closing remarks. He commended the participation of various stakeholders and expressed optimism that the groups will work together for a common purpose under the umbrella of the United Nations. He urged participants of the meeting to build on the consensus and understanding generated during the workshops going forward. He also requested support for the Malaysian proposal to develop a cyber development corps to promote capacity-building through South-South cooperation. The Minister expressed his

country's desire to give back to the global community after having enjoyed its support when it attained its independence.

A statement by the co-organizers was released at the Closing session of the meeting, summarizing some of the highlights of the event, as well as some key elements around which a broad consensus had emerged. Some initiatives proposed at the meeting were also presented, including the establishment of a Cyber Development Corps; resources centres and communities of experts to promote programmes to build human capital and facilitate sharing of best practice, information exchange and discourse for GAID; and thematic and regional networks and working groups to enhance outreach and promote partnership for action.

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II. OUTCOME OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT

Statement by Co-organizers

The Inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development took place on 19-20 June in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was generously hosted by the Government of Malaysia and organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia and the secretariat of the Global Alliance. More than 500 participants from all corners of the world, representing governments, businesses, international organizations, civil society organizations, gender and youth groups, media, the Internet, technical and academic communities came together to launch the new initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, aimed at harnessing the potential of the information revolution to advance development and promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Inspired by the vision presented to the meeting in addresses by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and the first Chairman of the Alliance, Dr. Craig Barrett, the participants affirmed their commitment to and support of the Alliance. They engaged in a rich two-day dialogue, debate and exchange of views on the mission, substantive focus and modalities of work of the Alliance. “We are gathered today for a common course”, said Prime Minister Badawi, “motivated by a vision of a truly united global community brought together through the power of ICT. A vision, where every nation, every society and every individual is a participant in development that is people-centered, people-oriented and people-driven”.

“The Alliance”, said Mr. Malloch Brown, “provides the platform and network of international experiences on which partnerships can be based”. Information technology never developed in a vacuum. It should be part of a strategy involving people and institutions, and should be accompanied by investment, human capital, entrepreneurship and infrastructure. Dr. Barrett stressed that while information technology has become a powerful force in our lives accelerating the ability to access, process and exchange information, technology is necessary but not sufficient.

All the participants agreed that the time has come to translate declarations and commitments made at the WSIS into action that would indeed make a tangible and sustained difference in the lives of billions of people who currently do not share in the benefits of the information revolution. The irony of the present situation is that those who are currently with the least access to technology are precisely the ones who would benefit the most if wonders of modern information and communication technologies become indeed accessible and relevant to all of humanity. The Alliance will strive to overcome the social and digital divides by promoting policies and partnerships that can help create an “arc of digital opportunity”.

Effective integration of ICT into development strategies and programmes can help achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, within the agreed timeline by 2015. For this to happen, however, ICT must not remain a privilege for the rich, but must become a potent tool for empowering the poor. We must pursue approaches that by anchor our policies on the problems and needs of the poor and help devise appropriate technological solutions. We must think big while remaining solidly rooted in the real needs of real people, communities and countries.

In the area of ICT, the best minds of the world are busy solving the problems of the rich. The Alliance will help put the problems and needs of the majority of humanity onto the “radar screens” of thinkers, business executives and government decision makers. To this end, the Alliance will inspire and inform, advocate and catalyze, initiate and support ICT-for-Development activities. The Alliance will foster multi-stakeholder partnerships, help strengthen collaboration among existing initiatives and programmes, and will help scale up and replicate best practices. To be effective in its work, the Alliance must focus and produce results. It must promote end-to-end solutions and develop programmes for early harvesting through multi-stakeholder cooperation involving governments, the private sector including large corporations and small entrepreneurs, development and financial institutions, and other stakeholders.

* * *

The participants in the GAID Kuala Lumpur Inaugural Meeting have recognized the following:

1. The multi-stakeholder approach should be a key principle of GAID and that of all ICT4D programs;
2. The potential of ICT as a transformative development tool was recognized, but the efforts should now be challenged to support effective and rapid implementation;

3. That ICT4D must be placed within a comprehensive development strategy and programmes focused on social development and economic growth using ICT with a systematic transformation process of the socio-economic structure towards the knowledge society and economy;
4. ICT4D programmes should be localized and community-driven and not technology-driven;
5. We need to realign and recalibrate existing policies and strategies for development with a dimension on ICT as a strategic enabler for all development programs nationally and globally;
6. The focus should be on key priorities areas that are considered most impactful:
 - Education;
 - Health;
 - Entrepreneurship; and
 - Participation in policy debate and decision making (governance).
7. We need to "think big" and, to this end, address the issue of sustainability, scalability and replicability upfront;
8. We recognize the different needs and capacities of the target communities in formulating and implementation of ICT4D;
9. A total solutions orientation should be adopted to produce sustained results and impact;
10. Capacity building for ICT as an enabler for development should be addressed in a holistic manner;
11. Content development and applications should be addressed as strategic challenges driven by grass-roots and community-based approaches;
12. To measure, monitor, recognize and promote initiatives among stakeholders participating in GAID towards achieving MDGs;
13. Large private sector companies, small and medium scale enterprises and entrepreneurs should be actively engaged in ICT4D policies and programmes;

14. Major development banks and donor agencies should be encouraged to take an active role in the Alliance;
15. The pivotal role of youth as creators, champions and implementers of ICT-for-Development initiatives and activities needs to be strengthened;
16. Gender mainstreaming is imperative for making ICT4D activities relevant, effective and sustainable.

* * *

The following are some of the initiatives proposed at GAID Kuala Lumpur Inaugural Meeting:

1. To consider establishing a Cyber Development Corps (CyDevCorps) under the umbrella of the UN, based on the multi-stakeholder approach and with the south-south collaborative dimension;
2. To consider promoting the establishment of resource centers to promote programmes to build human capital through multilateral and multi-sectoral cooperation and to facilitate sharing of best practice, information exchange and discourse for GAID;
3. To consider setting up thematic and regional networks and working groups with a view to enhancing outreach and promoting partnership for action.

* * *

As a next step, the Steering Committee will consider inputs from the Kuala Lumpur meeting and establish a business plan for the Alliance.

20 June 2006
Kuala Lumpur

PART THREE
BUSINESS PLAN 2006-2007

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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Business Plan for 2006 – 2007

A. BACKGROUND

1. The Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit established a clear set of internationally agreed development goals. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) forged a global consensus on the importance of information and communication technologies (ICT) as tools for achieving these development goals.

2. To help advance this cause, on 28 March 2006 the United Nations Secretary-General approved the establishment of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID). The decision was based on the internationally recognized need for an open, multi-stakeholder forum that brings together governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, media and other stakeholder constituencies in a common effort to better harness ICT – including community media and such traditional mass broadcast media as radio and television and communications media as fixed and mobile phones – for advancing development. The Alliance is an embodiment of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8: *develop a global partnership for development and, “in cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies”*. In accordance with the Outcome Document¹ of the UN World Summit held in September 2005, the Global Alliance will also *“enhance the contributions of NGOs, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development”* (paragraph 22-e).

B. MISSION

3. The mission of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development is to contribute to transforming the spirit and vision of WSIS into action and promoting the use of ICT for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It will do so by providing an inclusive, multi-stakeholder global forum

¹ A/RES/60/1, <http://www.un.org/summit2005/documents.html>

and platform for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and advocacy and by catalyzing multi-stakeholder action oriented partnerships encouraged under the GAID umbrella. In itself, it will not have any operational or implementing role. The Alliance will provide multi-stakeholder input to intergovernmental bodies, including Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Science and Technology for Development.

C. LONG TERM OBJECTIVES OF THE ALLIANCE

4. The open global consultations during 2005 that paved the way to the launch of the Global Alliance identified six broad objectives that the Alliance will pursue over its lifetime:

1. Mainstreaming the global ICT agenda into the broader United Nations development agenda;
2. Bringing together key organizations and other stakeholders involved in ICT for development to enhance their collaboration and effectiveness for achieving the internationally agreed development goals;
3. Raising awareness of policymakers on ICTD policy issues;
4. Facilitating identification of technological solutions for specific development needs and goals and launching of pertinent partnerships;
5. Promoting creation of an enabling environment and innovative business models for pro-poor investment, innovation and entrepreneurship and growth and for empowering people living in poverty and other marginalized communities; and
6. Providing the Secretary-General with advice on ICTD-related issues.

5. Within the framework of these objectives, specific attention will be given to mainstreaming ICTD into the United Nations development agenda, raising awareness of policy-makers and providing advice to the Secretary-General on ICTD policy issues.

D. VALUE ADDED, CORE ASSETS AND STRATEGY OF THE ALLIANCE

6. The Alliance adds unique value to development activities by harnessing the cumulative strength of its core assets to focus on goals that could not be achieved without the involvement of diverse stakeholders and the approach that cuts across sectors, industries and constituencies, and by novel working methods, including virtual collaborative tools, and joint leadership of the UN system, governments, private sector, civil society, academia, media and other stakeholder communities.

7. Alliance's **core assets** include:
 1. Convening power, universality and legitimacy of the United Nations and patronage and support of the Secretary-General.
 2. Global reach through its open regional and stakeholder networks.
 3. High-level, multi-stakeholder commitment and leadership by the Steering Committee.
 4. Deep strategic understanding of and wealth of experience in ICTD within the Strategy Council, the High-level Panel of Advisers and the Network of Champions.
 5. Engagement of diverse actors from all categories of stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels;
 6. Informal, results-oriented, transparent and participatory working methods.
8. The **strategy** of the Alliance is to trigger significant action in ICTD by its stakeholders by focusing on:
 - key development opportunities that can benefit from effective use of ICT,
 - specific development opportunities where involvement of actors from diverse cross-sectoral stakeholder groups is necessary,
 - holistic policy, technology and organizational solutions that can be replicated and scaled-up within and across boundaries,
 - forward-looking areas of theory and practice where an “intellectual vacuum” exists,
 - people-centered and equitable use of ICT, keeping in mind the diversity and specific needs of each group of human beings.
9. As a **management method**, the Alliance relies on executive guidance of the Steering Committee, strategic vision of the Strategy Council, the depth of advice from the Group of High-level Advisers, and the bottom-up inputs via the Network of Champions,

global and regional networks and stakeholder networks². Effective, pro-active and open communication is imperative to sustain the Alliance's value added.

10. In the context of the follow-up to WSIS, the Alliance will not be operational itself, and will not be involved in funding and execution of projects on the ground. It will respect existing initiatives, including the work of existing multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) and actively seek collaboration with them. It will help trigger concrete action and strengthen the Alliance's development impact through enhancing the visibility of and collaboration among existing activities, and by fostering new multi-stakeholder action-oriented partnerships. The Alliance will avoid duplication of existing activities, in particular WSIS Action Lines, but will seek to strengthen and contribute to them. The Alliance will closely involve in its work relevant organizations of the United Nations system (ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, WIPO, UNCTAD, the World Bank, Regional Commissions and others), regional development banks (IADB, ADB, IsDB, ...), private sector organizations (ICC, GBDe, WITSA, GIIC and others), civil society, Internet community, media organizations including community media and regional broadcasting unions such as the European Broadcasting Union, and others.

11. A matrix of GAID activities and collaborative relations with other partners and networks will be developed to clarify and crystallize GAID's working relationships with other institutions, entities, initiatives and networks.

E. FIRST YEAR (2006-2007)

12. The Inaugural meeting of the Alliance in Kuala Lumpur in June 2006 agreed that the Alliance will initially focus on the use of ICT in promoting the following four broad areas:

1. Education
2. Health
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Governance (enhancing citizens' participation and promoting accountability, transparency and efficiency in governance processes).

13. Activity within those areas, or those of a horizontal cross-cutting nature, will take place predominantly via a limited number **of flagship partnership initiatives, advocacy**

² See Annex A for the Structure of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

themes and thematic **Communities of Expertise**. In addition, the **regional networks** and **stakeholder networks** may launch specific activities, while keeping the above focus areas in mind.

14. Over the course of the first year, GAID and its networking mechanisms will undertake advocacy activities to keep ICTD high on the political agenda, organize or support thematic and/or regional meetings, training sessions and other events, including an annual Global Forum, with a view to contributing to global policy dialogue and building human and institutional capacities. Furthermore, GAID will collaborate with other relevant entities sharing similar goals, including organizations engaged in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, with a view to enhancing synergy of existing activities and to facilitating creation of new partnerships.

I. Flagship partnership initiatives:

15. In order to leverage joint resources and to spur visible action across the four focus areas, several stakeholders in the Alliance are developing flagship initiatives that they will be responsible for implementing in collaboration with partners in order to produce concrete and measurable deliverables. The initiatives are expected to set targets within a short-term (two to three years) timeframe based on current reliable baseline data (e.g., ITU Telecommunications and Development Report as well as other relevant reports), taking into account existing targets, including those in the WSIS Geneva Action Plan, and galvanize global action to meet them. These initiatives are expected to respect, collaborate with and build on existing initiatives and partnerships, avoid duplication and overlap and develop working relationships with relevant institutions, entities and networks. When they inscribe themselves and directly contribute to the implementation of Action Lines of the Geneva Plan of Action, such initiatives and their deliverables should also be brought to the attention of the Action Line facilitation process in order to help speed up this implementation and ensure coordination with UNGIS.

a. Better Connectivity with Broadband to Africa

16. As a key enabler of the four priority areas of the Global Alliance, this initiative will support African efforts to accelerate the roll-out of communication infrastructure and increase broadband access across Africa. ICT infrastructure is essential for African countries to achieve regional integration and to enable poor people to participate in markets and help reduce poverty. Economic growth in Africa will depend upon widespread access to ICT services which in turn provide access to local, national, regional and global markets. Therefore, national and regional backbones, cross-border links, and rural connectivity need

to be vastly expanded, in parallel with the deployment of applications to take advantage of connectivity for productive use.

Deliverables:

- Systematic framework for assessing alternative regulatory, financing and management models
- Recommendations for new policies and programmes
- Awareness raising
- Liaising with development partners on timely funding, advice and/or technical assistance

Lead: World Bank

Partners: The World Bank, with support from GAID will develop appropriate partnerships with governments, other interested institutions including the European Commission, the African Development Bank, the International Telecommunication Union, the EAfrica Commission/NEPAD, bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, telecommunications operators associations, and representatives of users and civil society.

b. Telecentre 2.0: scaling up for global success

17. Building on the existing telecentre.org program -- which aims to significantly scale up the successes of the telecentre movement, to increase local capacity and promote long-term sustainability -- this GAID flagship partnership initiative will promote a more inclusive digital world by helping telecentres become stronger, more sustainable and more numerous. The aim is to move beyond simply providing access to also include e-learning, training and skills development, local content generation, financial services, e-government and others services relevant to the local community. Partners rallying under the GAID/telecentre.org banner will work in four areas: 1) building telecentre networks; 2) developing content and services; 3) documenting knowledge and learning; and 4) convening events for telecentre leaders.

Deliverables:

- Telecentre networks in at least 20 countries to provide training, support and other services to local telecentres (*ongoing to 2010*).

- A Telecentre Academy, an international network of national institutions developing shared curriculum, offering training and certification and mentoring for people working in telecentres to train one million people in entrepreneurship, community development, grassroots marketing and technology (*start up in 2007*).
- A Telecentre and Community Computing Centre of Excellence that will both document good practices and offer support to governments and others setting up new telecentre programs. The Centre may house the Global Telecentre Academy, most preferably in India (*start up in 2007*).
- A collaborative research and development fund supporting social enterprises that produce rich local content products and high-value services for the rural poor and offered through telecentres (*operates 2007 to 2010*).
- The design, testing and roll out of new technologies that will help telecentres and other community computing initiatives become more sustainable (including better rural connectivity, affordable computing, applications for the rural poor, computing for the disabled and alternative power technology) (*2007 to 2008*).
- High profile Telecentre Leaders' Forum events, with global and regional events happening during alternate years, happening both independently and alongside Global Knowledge Partnership and UN GAID events (*ongoing with next global event planned for December 2007 in Kuala Lumpur*).

Lead: IDRC

Partners: Microsoft, SDC, GKP. The initiative also works actively with dozens of network and knowledge sharing partners at the national level.

c. Cyber Development Corps

18. The Cyber Development Corps will promote capacity-building through South-South cooperation. This initiative will establish a global outreach programme based on the spirit of volunteerism to help lesser-developed nations and communities benefit from global information and communication technologies, infrastructure and resources; and help enhance their national development plans towards becoming equal participants in the global information-knowledge society.

Short Term Output (within 2 years):

- Cyber Development Corps Portal (facilitating opportunity creation and matchmaking, as well as best-practice collection and dissemination).
- Cyber Development Corps Centres in selected communities (1-2 per region) that would enhance the socio-economic well-being of the selected communities.
- An accelerated, phased ICTD framework (policies, strategies and development programme) for least-developed nations.

Medium Term Outcome:

- Further roll-out of Cyber Development Corps centres in more communities and with more applications.
- Cyber Development Corps framework becomes an integral framework for development in more countries (reference center/model) and community ICT4D initiatives globally (“consortium” of ICTD).
- Promote Community-based ventures as an engine for new wealth creation.

Long Term Impact

- Cyber Development Corps evolves into new, focused knowledge areas/communities beyond infrastructure and community centers addressing different marginalized groups/communities with a focused on bridging the development gap.
- Promote a more inclusive global ICT4D policy, strategies, programs and institutions.
- Strengthen community-based ventures as a significant economic nucleus for national and global development programs and institutions.

Lead: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia

Partners (TBC): UNDP, Intel, Digital Opportunity Trust, regional development institutions and banks

II. Partnerships for Advocacy Themes:

a. Free Access for all Schools to the Net

19. Given the revolutionary developments in new information and communication technologies (ICTs), to be part of the knowledge society requires the opportunity to access this wealth of information and knowledge and capacity to use these new ICTs. Schools are particularly fertile grounds to innovatively foster the development of a new generation of innovative citizens who have the skills and are actively engaged in the global knowledge society. Efforts to connect societies and people to the Internet are in the making, however, no specific and systematic effort has been undertaken to connect all schools to the Internet and henceforth enable teachers and students alike to be part of and benefit from the information society. GAID will provide the umbrella for the campaign to mobilize support for this initiative and help finding innovative financial solutions to avoid the cost burden for schools. In launching this initiative, GAID will perform the advocacy work whereas the implementation would need to be at the country-level through partners.

Key Elements of the Advocacy Theme:

- Every school should have access to the Internet and its wealth of knowledge;
- Students and teachers alike would playfully and systematically learn to use this new tool of the information society;
- The young generation educates / teaches the older generation.

Visionary, Cumulative Effects:

- Governments would be encouraged to pick this up and start initiatives to implement and deliver this through multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- Connectivity Costs will start declining through increased competition;
- Financing would be through innovative cross-subsidizing by Mobile Phone companies / users.

Lead: Initiative submitted by SDC to build partnerships at the national level for promoting free access for all schools to the Internet; appropriate organizations active in this area will be identified to mobilize support.

Partners: TBC

b. Global Initiative for Inclusive Technologies

20. This initiative will (1) promote ICT solutions for people with disabilities and related best policy practices among governments in the context of the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and expanded member states legislations and regulations, and (2) accelerate the development by industry and civil society of the scientific, industrial, standardization and economic conditions to make such solutions affordable worldwide.

Deliverables:

- Multi-stakeholder global and regional forums (three and five, respectively, between December 2006 and March 2009).
- Five multi-stakeholder working groups to identify and promote 1/ core ICT opportunities for people living with disabilities, 2/ standardization priorities, 3/ industry-cooperative initiatives in support of mass promotion, 4/ research and development opportunities for public funding, and 5/ best practices among national governments and local authorities. These working groups will be report their findings and initiatives at each forum.
- Dissemination and actionable research tools, including a compendium of best practices, a manifesto and resource guide Spring 2007), a website, a bi-monthly electronic update, research programme, the “Digital Inclusion Index” establishing metrics, benchmarks and rankings for countries, a global awards for inclusive technology, and a web-based media resource centre.

Lead: Wireless Internet Institute and World Times, Inc.

Partners: United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, UN Enable, IBM, NIIT, other ICT private sector participants (to be confirmed upon approval of business plan), Georgia Institute of Technology, UNITAR.

III. Communities of Expertise:

21. With a view to creating a flexible mechanism to bring together motivated and capable actors to address specific, well-defined ICTD problems in a results-oriented manner and to identify and disseminate good practice, the Alliance issued a call for proposals to establish Communities of Expertise (CoE). The criteria for evaluation and list of proposals approved by the Steering Committee are contained in Annex I.

22. Since one of the principal goals of the Alliance is the achievement of synergy and coherence of efforts of diverse stakeholders, CoEs are clustered in the four focus areas. Some CoEs address cross-cutting issues (gender, rural development) and are listed separately.

23. GAID strongly believes that building productive links and fostering cooperation among initiatives working in specific areas of ICTD would not only help advance development and spread benefits of ICT across the globe, but will also enhance visibility and impact of such initiatives, facilitate replication and scaling-up of best practices, while at the same time highlighting and strengthening unique distinctive features of collaborating initiatives. In this context, those CoEs that are complementary will be encouraged to join hands to develop collaborative arrangements and undertake activities jointly, without losing their distinct identities or specificities of their objectives. The lead organizations will be requested to work in concert and coordinate to ensure cooperation, complementarity and interoperability of the CoEs as well as expand their outreach by creating linkages with networks that may not be in the GAID family but share similar goals. In particular, CoEs should build on and collaborate with networks set up in the framework of WSIS Action Lines. A matrix of post-WSIS networks will be developed to identify opportunities for CoEs to collaborate with them.

24. The Communities of Expertise will function in accordance with the principles laid out in the document “Modalities of organizing the work of UN GAID”³ and under the patronage of the Steering Committee, but are self-organizing and self-resourcing entities with a considerable flexibility as regards their working methods. Communities of Expertise are expected to establish metrics against which progress toward their objective(s) may be measured.

25. It is envisaged that there will be further indications by individuals, organizations and entities of their interest to engage with GAID and its networking mechanisms⁴. As their action-oriented work programmes are developed and modalities for cooperation among stakeholders are defined, further these proposals will be presented to the Steering Committee for endorsement.

IV. Stakeholder Networks

26. GAID will build on and create synergies among stakeholder networks that may already exist or are being created in the areas of gender, youth, people with disabilities, local and regional authorities, parliamentarians, media, business, academia, professional and scientific organizations and other constituencies. The Alliance will reach out to engage all

³ See: www.un-gaid.org.

⁴ See the GAID website for the complete terms of reference for its components.

these and other relevant stakeholder networks to maximize participation by all interested entities, extend the outreach of GAID and promote channels for smooth communications and collaboration.

27. Stakeholder networks and the lead organizations are: **Civil Society Network** – CONGO; **Youth Network** – ATHGO International, Ms. Titi Akinsanmi (Global Teenager Project), Fulbright Fellowship Programme and International Labour Organization Youth Employment Network; **Persons with Disabilities Network** – UNDESA/DSPD (UN Enable), Wireless Internet Institute (W2i), IBM; **Parliamentarian Network** – International Parliamentarians Association for Information Technology (IPAiT), Global Centre for Parliaments, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); **Local Government and Regional Authorities Network** – IT4all Bilbao; **World Broadcasting Unions** - European Broadcasting Union (EBU), its Members involved in development work (including BBC, Deutsche Welle, Finnish Broadcasting Corporation YLE, France Télévision, RTBF Belgium, and Radio Vaticana), and its seven sister unions and; **Gender Stakeholder Network** – IT4Change, Center for Women and Information Technology, and Center for Feminist Research and Action.

V. Regional Networks

28. The Alliance will form Regional Networks, which will have a large degree of autonomy in organizing themselves and their work, with a view to ensuring open, inclusive, participatory and truly global character of the Alliance, and adequate reflection of regional perspectives and specific needs in the activities of GAID along the four focus areas. Such networks are envisaged in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab World.

29. Regional networks and regional centres of excellence being formed, led by the following organizations: **Latin America and Caribbean Network** -- Government of Argentina, Inter-American Development Bank; **Costa Rican Centre of Excellence**, Omar Dengo Foundation (TBC); **Asia Pacific Regional Network** – UNESCAP, Shanghai Regional Authorities, Asia Pacific Telecommunity; **Korean Centre of Excellence** (Seoul), – UNESCAP; **Regional Network in Transition Countries** – Government of Azerbaijan, UNDESA/DPADM, UNESCAP (TBC), UNECE (TBC); **African Regional Network** – UNECA, African Civil Society for the Information Society; **Arab Regional Network** – UNESCWA; and **European Regional Network** – (TBC).

VI. Media Strategy, Advocacy and Outreach

30. The effectiveness and impact of the Global Alliance depend critically on its ability to project its activities and achievements, generate interest and goodwill and secure continued financial support. The Alliance will undertake energetic awareness-raising and outreach efforts to mobilize support through various platforms and with the support and commitment from all involved stakeholders. The communication strategy will promote the Alliance's mission, goals, objectives, multi-stakeholder and transparent working methods, activities and achievements, and will be integrated into all its activities. The effectiveness of this strategy will depend on a clear articulation of target audiences, clarity of message, careful choice of media, and of the clear understanding by all participating stakeholders of the process leading to its activities and orientations and of its interactions with other processes within the UN system.

31. GAID will undertake a three-pronged awareness-raising and outreach programme to 1) influence policy at all levels (international, regional, national and local) with a view to promoting enabling environment for the effective use of ICT to stimulate or accelerate economic and social development, 2) strengthen capacity of policy- and decision-makers to formulate effective and sustainable ICTD policy, and 3) build brand recognition of the added value of the Alliance among all relevant stakeholder groups; promote awareness of its mission, objectives and role in the follow-up to WSIS; and attract their contribution and participation.

32. A New York-based programme for policy-makers undertaken jointly by GAID, UNITAR and Intel will be a cornerstone of GAID's capacity-building campaign in the United Nations.

33. Activities on the outreach and advocacy agenda will include:

- Production of publications within the four GAID themes for various audiences
- International and regional meetings on ICT and development policy
- Provision of policy advice and support to the UN Secretary-General on ICTD and the UN system-wide e-strategy
- Publicity or press releases targeted to mass/trade/community media
- Seminars, speeches and lectures to various groups
- Newsletter

- Effective GAID website and portal.

F. SECOND YEAR

34. In its second year, the Global Alliance and its networks will continue to develop and pursue advocacy, policy dialogue, capacity-building and other activities in support of the thematic areas of focus and the achievement of these overarching global goals. Each network will develop a programme of work, which will form the basis for input into the 2007/2008 business plan. A second Global Forum will be held in the spring of 2008.

G. THIRD YEAR

35. By year three, GAID will have built a wide-spread, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder network of partners interested in leveraging ICT for development and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The Alliance envisions that its Regional Centres and Networks will be fully established with activities that support the overall objectives of GAID, within the areas of focus. Stakeholder Networks will ensure channels for consultation and collaboration. Flagship partnership initiatives would have delivered intermediate results. Communities of Expertise will continue to bring stakeholders from various groups together around specific ICTD challenges or issues. The Steering Committee and the Strategy Council will undertake, with the assistance of the High-level Advisers and the Champions, an overall review of GAID's work and priority areas of focus in order to ensure that the Alliance remains aligned with the dynamic international ICTD environment and identify possible new or emerging issues for attention, so that the work of GAID continues to evolve and remain on the leading edge.

H. FUNDING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

36. The activities of the Global Alliance will be funded by voluntary contributions, both financial and in-kind. An estimated \$1.5 million is required in the first year to cover operating expenses, including the core activities and the Secretariat. Contributions of all values and types will be publicly acknowledged through appropriate means, including but not limited to GAID's website, public relations materials and promotional activities for events organized by the Global Alliance.

37. Having both the heightened responsibility and interest in ensuring GAID's effectiveness, Members of the Strategy Council and Steering Committee are strongly encouraged to support the Alliance through annual contributions. It is encouraged that Members that are capable of providing cash donations contribute a minimum of \$50,000 towards funding GAID's core activities and staff. OECD donor governments, multilateral financial institutions, large private sector members and foundations are expected to

contribute \$250,000. In consideration of the financial constraints of some Members (in particular non-profit organizations, civil society organizations and developing countries), the Alliance also welcomes their in-kind support, including hosting meetings, contributing to logistical or staff support, co-producing publications, sponsoring developing country representatives to participate in meetings, providing networking support, etc. The level of financial contributions to the GAID core activities should not be seen as a condition for membership into the GAID governing structures: contributions from GAID governing structures members is only part of the general fundraising efforts to support the work of the Global Alliance.

38. The Trust Fund for the Global Alliance for ICT and Development will be executed initially by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) under the overall supervision and guidance of the Under Secretary-General of DESA. The project will be administered in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations under the supervision of the Controller, and subject to the internal and external auditing procedures of the organization.

39. The Trust Fund should allow, if possible, for a limited but balanced number of fellowships to support participation in the Global Alliance of civil society representatives and SME representatives from LDCs.

I. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

40. The activities and progress of the Global Alliance will be monitored by the Secretariat and reported periodically to the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council.

41. An external evaluation will be conducted in mid-2008 to provide a comprehensive assessment of activities undertaken by the Alliance in accordance with its areas of focus and the Business Plan, and their value added. The results of this evaluation will provide the basis for decision making on activities of the Global Alliance during the period of 2009-2010. Subsequent evaluations, every two years, will be undertaken systematically to assess progress and impact and to ensure that the Alliance continues to add value to overall ICTD work.

Annexes to the Business Plan

Annex A

The Structure of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

[Please refer to Part One Section III of the book.]

Annex B

Communities of Expertise

Following the call for proposals issued by the Steering Committee, twenty proposals for communities of expertise were received, covering the four focus areas identified at the inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as well as several major cross-cutting issues.

Criteria were defined to assist the selection and monitoring of the ongoing contribution of Communities of Expertise:

- The leadership of each Community must be composed of one or more lead organizations, plus a minimum of two other partner organizations.
- The lead organization(s) must demonstrate recognized expertise and influence, and research and analytical capacity
- The Community as a whole must:
 - Demonstrate value, benefit and alignment with GAID (including its selected focus areas)
 - Have significant scope
 - Build on and add value to existing activities, work and/or experiences
 - Engage in a specific task or tasks
 - Define clear deliverables
 - Focus on scalability, replicability and sustainability
 - Encourage multi-stakeholder participation to achieve results no stakeholder group could have realized on its own
 - Accept participation by experts from all relevant stakeholder groups
 - Facilitate exchange of experiences and knowledge among members
 - Feed its output into policy discussions

- Strive to complement the work of other CoEs

The Steering Committee reviewed the proposals against these criteria and approved the following CoEs⁵:

Focus Areas

Governance

1. E-governance for Development (Division for Public Administration and Development Management, UNDESA)
2. E-services for development (Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication)
3. Information and Communication Technologies for Peace (ICT4Peace Foundation)

Entrepreneurship

1. ICT Policy and Finance for Social, Community and Public Entrepreneurship (Association for Progressive Communications)
2. Expanding financial services to the unbanked (Intel)
3. Enterprises' competitiveness through the use of ICTs (ILO, ICC and UNCTAD)

Education

1. ICT Competencies for Teachers (UNESCO)
2. Strategy and Policy with ICT for Preservation of and Access to S&T Data in Developing Countries (Chinese Academy of Science)
3. Beyond Distance Research (Leicester University)
4. ICTs in education (GeSCI)
5. ICT Integration and Pedagogical Engineering (WITFOR Education Commission)

⁵ The Steering Committee requested additional information on some proposals. Pending review and evaluation of the more-detailed proposals, further CoEs may be approved.

Health

1. ICT for Country Health Information

Cross-cutting areas

Rural Development

1. E-agriculture (FAO)

Gender

1. Information Society (IS) policies, gender and development (IT for Change)
2. Women and ICT Taskforce (Center for Women and Information Technology)

Youth

1. Youth Social Technopreneurship (Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development)

Local content

1. e-Content and Creativity – World Summit Award and Network (WSA-net) (International Center for New Media)

Annex C

Regional Networks

| Activities | Actors |
|---|--|
| Asia Pacific Regional Network Meeting, Shanghai, China, 19 October 2006 | Shanghai Authorities, UNDESA/DPADM |
| Regional Ministerial Meeting, “GAID: Governance, Partnership and Regional Networks in Transition Countries,” Baku, Azerbaijan, 2 October 2006 | Government of Azerbaijan, UNDESA/DPADM |
| Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting, Buenos Aires, First Quarter 2007 | Government of Argentina, IADB |

ANNEXES

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Annex I

Inaugural Meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development Kuala Lumpur, 19-20 June 2006 Hosted by the Government of Malaysia Programme

Unless otherwise stated, all activities will be held in Hotel Marriott Putrajaya.

18 June

19:00 - 21:00 Welcoming dinner for participants, hosted by MOSTI

19 June

09:00 - 12:00 Informal meeting of the Strategy Council
Co-chaired by **H.E. Dr. J. Jarjis**, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation and **Mr. W. Agatstein**, Vice-President, Intel Corporation

12:00 - 13:30 Working Lunch for the Steering Committee, Strategy Council and Advisors (by invitation only)

OPENING SESSION

14:00 - 14:10 Welcoming statement by **H.E. Dr. J. Jarjis**, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia

14:10 - 16:00 Panel: National ICT Strategies For Achieving The MDGs
Chair: Mrs. Renate Bloem, President of CONGO
Moderator: Prof. Peter Bruck, World Summit Award
Panelists:
Dr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UN/ESCAP
Mr. Ali Abbasov, Minister of Communications and Information Technologies, Azerbaijan
Ms. Anne Cobb, President, VISA International CEMEA
Dato Lee Yee Cheong, Co-Chair of Task Force on STI, United Nations Millennium Project
Dato Suriah Abdul Rahman, Advisor, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia
Lead discussant: Prof. A.W. Khan, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

16:00 - 16:30 Networking Break

16:30 - 17:00 H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia and the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General visit the showcase exhibition

INAUGURAL SESSION

17:00 - 17:10 Opening remarks by **H.E. Minister J. Jarjis**

17:00 - 17:25 Statement by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General announcing the launch of the Global Alliance, establishment of the Strategy Council and the Steering Committee

- 17:25 - 17:30 Statement by **Dr. Craig Barrett**, Chairman of the Alliance (recorded video)
- 17:30 - 17:35 Statement by **Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh** on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce
- 17:35 - 17:40 Statement by **Ms. Titi Akinsanmi**, Global Teenager Project
- 17:40 - 18:00 Address by the **His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi**, Prime Minister of Malaysia
- 18:00 - 18:10 Ceremonial launching of the Global Alliance by the H.E. Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Deputy Secretary-General
- On-screen presentation of the Global Alliance
- 18:10 - 18:30 Press conference
- 20:00 - 22:00 Reception Dinner hosted by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia.
Brief speeches by the Minister and the Deputy Secretary-General.
Cultural programme.

20 June

- 09:00 - 13:00 Workshops
- Common multi-stakeholder frameworks for developing effective policies and sustainable partnerships for mainstreaming ICT in Health*
Chair: Dr. Joan Dzenowagis, World Health Organization
Moderator: Mr. Art Reilly, Cisco Systems
Panel:
Mr. Stephen Settimi, USAID
Dr. Gnoumou Sayave, Nazounki Global Medical Network
Mrs. Nadia Biouele-Camara, Tics Du Droit
Dr. Amiruddin Hisan, Malaysia
- Common multi-stakeholder frameworks for developing effective policies and sustainable partnerships for mainstreaming ICT in Education*
Chair: Mrs. Astrid Dufborg, Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative
Panel:
Mrs. Janet Longmore, Digital Opportunity Trust
Mrs. Victoria P. Garchitorena, Ayala Foundation
Mr. Pietro Sicuro, Institut francophone des technologies de l'information et de la formation
Mr. Adrian Godfrey, Cisco Systems, Inc.
Mr. Alfred Illukena, Namibia
Mr. Simo Hoikka, Nokia
Dr. Masnah bt. Ali Muda, Malaysia
Mr. Lee Thorn, Jhai Foundation

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch (for all participants, sponsored by the Government of Malaysia)

14:00 - 17:00 Workshops

Entrepreneurship, ICT and poverty eradication

Chair: **Mr. Shoji Nishimoto**, United Nations Development Programme

Moderator: **Mr. Tenku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen**, Orbicom

Panel:

Mr. Wilton Agatstein, Intel Corporation

Mr. Peter Froehler, UNCTAD

Mrs. Fatimata Seye Sylla, Bokk Jang Bokk Jeff

Mr. Danilo Piaggese, Inter-American Development Bank

Dr. Abu Talib Bachik, Multimedia Development Corporation

Mr. K. Yogeesvaran, Malaysia

Intersectoral governance and ICT strategy for development in countries with economies in transition

Panel:

Mr. Alexei Tikhimirov, UNDESA/DPADM

H.E. Mr. Ali Abbasov, Minister of ICT, Azerbaijan

Mrs. Theresa Swinehart, Vice-president, ICANN

Mr. Nguen Thanh, Vice-President, National Institute for Posts and Telematics, Vietnam

Mr. Issah Yahaya, Ministry of Communications, Ghana

Mr. Zhou Hongren, Vice-Chairman, Advisory Committee for Informatization, China

Mrs. Leila Muzarapova, Deputy Director, Institute for World Economy, Kazakhstan

Mr. Bradford Kane, Member of the Board of Directors, International Commission on Workforce Development

Mr. R. Raya, Professor of Management, School of Management, Pondicherry University, India

CLOSING SESSION

Chair: **Mrs. Rinalia Abdul Rahim**, Executive Director, GKP

17:00 - 17:15 Presentation of the Outcomes of the Meeting by **Mr. Sarbuland Khan**

17:15 - 17:30 Closing remarks by H.E. Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia

21 June

09:00 - 13:00 Working visit to Multimedia Super Corridor

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Annex II

KEYNOTE ADDRESS¹

By His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia

Let me begin by welcoming everyone to this first meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. In particular, I wish to welcome our foreign guests to Malaysia and especially to Putrajaya.

We are all gathered here today for a common cause, motivated by a vision of a truly united global community. A vision where every nation, every society and every individual is a participant in development that is people-centered, people-oriented and people-driven.

It is a vision that we have to keep working towards, consistently, despite the many obstacles and the many challenges that we face. And it is of concern to all that despite the fact that we live in a time of vastly-advanced technologies, there are still too many nations too poor to take advantage of these new tools of development and extricate themselves from their present lack of progress into better circumstances for their people.

And despite ethnic, sectarian and religious tensions that keep wiping clean all earlier efforts to bring the world closer together, we must persevere because that is the only pathway we have to succeed. We must persevere for the sake of our people and for the future of Mankind.

It is against this volatile and fluctuating global backdrop that we hold this meeting of a Global Alliance that recognizes ICT as a vital tool for development. And with the lead given by the United Nations to this Alliance we hope to be able to see more widespread applications of ICT where poorer nations will benefit through greater access to technology and to knowledge.

Information and communication technology, widely referred to in its abbreviated form as ICT, is a fast-evolving global phenomenon. In less than three decades it has become a force

¹ Delivered during the ceremonial launching of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

as significant as fire was to the caveman, many millennia ago, and even as significant as the invention of the steam engine or electricity and other innovations that have made a huge difference to improve the lives of all Mankind. In today's world, ICT can be viewed both as an enabler as well as a disabler, if I may coin such a term, to describe the potency of this technology.

As an enabler, ICT is a tool for global networking, for real time connectivity, for widespread use of knowledge and for the emergence of individual talent and human capability.

As a "disabler", ICT leaves entire communities that are unable to utilize and maximize on its benefits, very far behind and poorer by the second.

This is the digital divide that is seriously affecting the future of too many countries. With that, our hope of realizing our vision of a truly united global community diminishes with every widening of this gap.

Yet, if I may say so, in recognizing this huge divide, in acknowledging this challenge, we see hope. Hope that has brought many of us, who are gathered here today, to confer to work towards a narrowing of this divide.

And a narrowing of this digital divide must happen. There must be tangible results from this initiative if we are to realize the goals set out with the Millennium Development Goals.

ICT has become the central link to meet the Millennium Development Goals because poverty eradication remains at the core of these challenges.

Malaysia has hope that if we work together such resolutions will happen. If all member nations in the United Nation share this hope and work as one, nothing is impossible to achieve.

The poorest nations can rise and participate in the global economy. A participation made possible by ICT.

To put it succinctly, ICT is increasingly becoming the brainpower of the world with all its shared resources and information. The nations of the world form the limbs.

The opportunity for the Global Alliance is to become the spinal cord that links the brain to move the limbs. If the limbs move together in tandem, we as Mankind, will move forward.

Therein lies the inspiration for the Global Alliance.

Development aid for the poor nations has, thus far, not had the kind of progress we would like to see. The private sector, especially multinationals, can play a defining role and a number of them have done so in several countries.

However such experiences are too few and far between to have significant impact. We cannot rely on such isolated incidences of corporate social responsibility to meet the challenges faced by developing nations.

We do need a new platform for global development. The Global Alliance can contribute to this process. It can, by virtue of support from the United Nations, consolidate the scattered efforts and isolated outcomes of many organizations to produce much more effective results.

May I humbly share with you Malaysia's own development experiences in eradicating poverty and in recent years in the application of ICT to achieve our national Vision 2020.

We have an aspiration to achieve fully-developed nation status by the year 2020. And we face as a developing country many challenges.

ICT has long been identified as a key enabler for Malaysia to achieve its objectives. And ICT has been accorded a central role in government efforts to achieve its developmental goals. The ICT policy is incorporated and addressed in its 5-year development plans.

Just recently we unveiled the Ninth Malaysia Plan that builds on the success achieved over 45 years through the formulation of pragmatic and timely policy changes. A success that has seen a definite swing towards an information and knowledge strategy when faced by the challenges posed by globalization in the wake of financial liberalization and market deregulation.

Steps taken more than 10 years ago has today put Malaysia on the world map in ICT development. A major endeavor has been the creation of the Multimedia Super Corridor Malaysia, or MSC Malaysia as it is popularly referred to. Today the MSC Malaysia has attracted a number of high-profile multinationals that have established operations in Malaysia.

The MSC Malaysia has made Malaysia the third most attractive global destination for shared services and outsourcing operations.

The 9th Malaysia Plan continues to position ICT as a key enabler in the areas of education, health, rural development, gender empowerment and community development. These

projects feature the kind of multi-stakeholder involvement from the public, private and community interest sectors. I am proud to note that some of the projects that we have showcased outside have gone some way to improve the basic lives of the target communities. Among others, they have connected remote communities to the rest of the world, and brought to the mainstream disadvantaged groups such as the deaf, senior-citizens, the youth and women.

The second phase of the MSC Malaysia during the Ninth Plan will see an expansion nationwide as more Cybercities are created to bring benefits such as broadband and widespread Internet access, as well as transport facilities and improved amenities to people.

In tandem with the upgrading of ICT infrastructure is the creation of skilled human capital. A significant move in this area began with the liberalization of tertiary education in 1995. This was a response to changing global conditions that transformed the status of education from a social mindset to become an industry. In the service of the community, without diminishing the industry's profit expectations.

Today, Malaysia is becoming a desired destination for the pursuit of higher education for young people from around the world. The past decade alone has seen the establishment of another 8 public universities, 14 private universities and university colleges, 5 foreign university branch campuses and 690 private colleges.

Besides ICT, the Ninth Malaysia Plan also places emphasis on the research and development of high value-adding bio-technology industries to capitalize on our nation's wealth in natural flora and fauna. Most developing nations concentrate on the production economy leaving the R&D and technology development to be done by the more developed nations. I would like to call upon all fellow developing economies to look at R&D and innovation as a way forward to move up our economy and society. We can start by taking currently available technology and localize them to suit our needs and perhaps regional needs. Homegrown R&D needs to look into end-to-end solutions holistically, that is not only technological considerations but also people and content as integrals. Such efforts can bridge the technology divide effectively between countries and to ensure sustainable national development.

The Ninth Malaysia Plan envisions Malaysians as both contributors as well as beneficiaries of an increasingly global and knowledge-based economy. What is significant in the Ninth Malaysia Plan which differentiates it from the earlier plans, is in its broadening of the multi-stakeholder participation in the planning and implementation of set directions.

The civil society and non-governmental organizations are now brought on board, albeit we are doing it in our own mould and best suited to our own local conditions.

As host, we hope that the agenda planned for this meeting will leverage on the wealth of experiences that I see in this gathering of such highly-qualified individuals. And it is hoped that the outcomes will strengthen the ongoing effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

In order to reduce the digital divide, Malaysia is prepared to share its experiences in the areas of capacity-building, networking, and the provision of consulting services. Being the chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement or NAM and the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), we stand ready to be a nexus for ICT development.

The new technology does not only come with new opportunities. But, it also poses some real threats affecting sovereignty. These threats must be managed. Recognizing the challenge, Malaysia has initiated the setting-up of the International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Terrorism (IMPACT). We invite others to participate in this initiative, including developing countries.

Programme such as a Cyber Peace Corps to provide training in computer and information literacy to those nations in need, and the establishment of a global virtual resource centre are other possibilities deserving consideration. There will surely be other programmes worthy of attention drawing your important deliberations here.

I hope the next few days will prove to be fruitful sessions and in due time we will see the resurgence of a new global spirit to address the global divide, building on the World Summit on Information Society.

I look forward to meeting you again when Malaysia hosts the next World Congress on Information Technology here in 2008. We view this as an opportunity to bridge not only the digital divide but also the knowledge and content divide through business interfacing and the expected policy discussions by world leaders at this forum.

I do hope that you have a pleasant and productive stay in Malaysia.

May I conclude by inaugurating this first meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development.

Thank you.

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OPENING STATEMENT¹

By Mark Malloch Brown, Deputy-Secretary-General, United Nations

The Government and people of Malaysia merit our gratitude for hosting this meeting, and for their outstanding leadership in spreading the benefits of information and communications technology. It is clear from Malaysia's own transformation – which is still under way – that our hosts have much to teach us about making ICT a national priority.

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development – or GAID, fittingly pronounced “guide” – has taken shape over the course of more than a year of consultations. Many of you here today were part of that process, which spanned the world and involved many voices. The result is a framework that we hope will fill the critical need for an open, multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue to ensure that policies are adopted which make it possible to integrate ICT into the broader development process in every country.

The World Summit on the Information Society gave us a roadmap, showing the way to an open, inclusive information society that empowers all people. Last September's 2005 World Summit reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals as a key part of our destination. Both Summits' outcome documents leave no doubt that success will depend not just on technology, but on partners from many different sectors and stakeholder groups joining forces.

As we all know, collaboration can be difficult. But the solutions it engenders are often all the more robust and resilient for having survived a difficult birth. We must not forget that the Internet itself is the result of a “grand collaboration”. If ever there was a lesson about the best way to take advantage of new technology, it is there, in that network of networks – an extraordinary network of stakeholders spread right across the world.

Indeed, just as the world faces what the Secretary-General has described as “problems without passports” – organized crime, climate change and other ills that transcend national boundaries – so do we, in the form of ICT, have opportunities without borders. It is not borders that fetter the use of ICT and holds people back; it is the absence of infrastructure and equipment; it is the lack of supportive policies; it is the lack of relevant applications in

¹ Delivered during the ceremonial launching of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

appropriate languages; and it is inexperience with mobile phones, PCs and other new technologies. If we could surmount these obstacles, millions, even billions of lives could be enriched in untold ways. And the most efficient and effective way to overcome the obstacles is through partnership.

There is no need to reiterate here the manifold benefits of ICT. The WSIS process showcased hundreds of initiatives, projects and case studies demonstrating how these technologies can be placed at the service of human, economic and social development. The challenge for the Global Alliance is to make those benefits accessible to as many people as possible, throughout the world. Accordingly, the Alliance will seek to stimulate dialogue on formulating policies and exchanging experiences on ICT for development. It will open as a decentralized network, using technologies that allow people to work together on-line. And it will complement the valuable work of existing networks and institutions, working independently while at the same time maintaining a link to the United Nations.

Dr. Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel, has agreed to serve as the first Chairman of the Alliance. He is known throughout the world as a visionary technologist and businessman, and as an enthusiastic advocate of universal education, and as an ardent believer in the power of technology as a social and economic leveller. We are truly honoured to have such a distinguished leader of industry at the helm of the Alliance during its inaugural year.

Many other outstanding figures – from the fields of ICT, development, public policy, education, health and other spheres – are also participating, as members of a Strategy Council, which met for the first time earlier today. The 60 members of the Council have the important responsibility of establishing priorities for the Alliance's work, thus influencing the evolution of the ICT-for-development agenda.

The Alliance will also be aided by a small Steering Committee, which will oversee the organization of future meetings and establish mechanisms to support dialogue and foster partnership.

Finally, the Alliance is privileged to have at its disposal the wisdom and expertise of a High-level Panel of Advisers and a separate Group of Champions.

Each of these groups has a distinct role, and will help to ensure that the power of ICT is brought to bear on the world's development challenges.

The dialogue we are hoping to foster through this Alliance can have a tremendous impact, but it is only one stage in the formulation of solutions. Long-term success will require

resources and resourcefulness: visionary leadership in developing countries combined with clear and coherent support from the international community, and an embrace of the same kind of innovative thinking that spawned the information revolution in the first place.

Coordinated, effective action does not occur spontaneously. I urge all of you, and all stakeholders around the world, to make full sense of the platform provided by this new Alliance. Let us use it to define policy options, share ideas and experiences, form partnerships and build networks for action. And let us, most of all, empower people to conquer the afflictions of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, discrimination, and environmental degradation that plague the world.

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WELCOME ADDRESS¹

By His Excellency Dato' Sri Dr. Jamaludin b Dato' Mohd Jarjis, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations, known by its acronym MOSTI, I bid you all a warm selamat datang to Kuala Lumpur. Welcome to the launch of the Global Alliance at its inaugural meeting.

I would also like to express Malaysia's appreciation to the United Nations and the organizing committee. We are honoured and privileged to host such as historic event. This is yet another opportunity for our nation and the UN to work together.

The Global Alliance is a movement that is very much in sync with the way Malaysia approaches its challenges and draws its development policies.

We have always put our trust in multi-stakeholder partnerships for our decision-making process. But in a form and a way that suits local conditions and situations. In the past, such consultative processes have engaged various segments of Malaysians, particularly our political affiliates.

Also like the objective of the GA, we are aggressively mobilizing and harnessing the power of information communication technology, ICT.

Similar multi-stakeholder partnerships play a key role under the current 9th Malaysia Plan, which is our nation's development agenda over the next five years.

In presenting this blueprint to our citizens recently, the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, had stressed to us, and I quote: "... the public sector, private sector, civil society and the people... must take ownership of the process and must fulfill their respective duties."

This represents a step up from the previous plans where civil societies were merely consulted but were never an integral part of the decision-making process.

¹ Delivered during the ceremonial launching of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development

There were sound reasons for this in those plans. Then, the need to reduce the economic gap between the various segments of the society required a firm hand by the Government.

Since then, I am proud to note that we have come a long way as a nation and as a people. I believe our society has reached a level of maturity that can encourage the active participation of civil societies in shaping our future development.

As far as ICT is concerned, Malaysia has long embraced its power to generate human capital and enhance national growth. Economically, politically, socially and even spiritually.

We have always recognized ICT's potential to enrich and better our lives. In the early 90s, we became one of the earliest countries to offer the internet to the public. Today, most Malaysians have cyber space within reach.

Before the internet, we were already a major industrial player in microelectronics. And by the mid-80s, we were engaged in R&D in this field with the establishment of research institutes like MIMOS.

Despite my engineering background, I am today still constantly in awe of the power and reach of ICT. I cannot help but marvel at how ICT is redefining the way we work and the way we play. Indeed, it is changing our way of life.

This age of information has swept across the world. It has become a symbiotic part of the global society. East, west... first world, third world... there are few lives it has not touched.

I venture to say that ICT may even be remodeling civilization. One where the roles, rules, rights, regulations and responsibilities of individuals and institutions have to evolve in tandem with new capabilities in ICT.

With such sweeping changes, governments and institutions cannot, and should not, be mere spectators. We have to play an active role. One that ensures that opportunities created by ICT can be shared by as many as possible, and not merely confined to the few.

As the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia, my specific role is to nurture the development of ICT for the benefit, and not to the detriment, of our society.

It is my responsibility to help produce a knowledgeable, progressive and innovative citizenry. One that is a provider of solutions and not a recipient of aid. One that is a model for other nations to emulate.

As Minister, it is also my purview to guide our people to leverage ICT to meet the goals of Vision 2020. For your information, that is Malaysia's target of achieving the status of a fully-developed country.

By that time, we envisage ourselves to be fully developed in every sense. Not only strong financially and economically, but also advanced socially, matured politically and healthy spiritually.

Our concept of development transcends materialism and modernity. We believe it should include social engineering and social innovations as means to improve the lives of all segments of society. We work constantly towards a society where wealth is shared equitably. A society that is empowered by knowledge. A society that lives in dignity and mutual respect. These are the overriding concerns for a society that is multi-faceted in culture, in traditions and in beliefs.

This, to us Malaysians, is the true meaning of development.

As the saying goes, "no man is an island". As a nation, we are no different. In a connected world, we cannot face the challenges or capitalize on the benefits of ICT within the parameters of national development alone.

We need to have a broader perspective. We need to tap its potential on an international front. To do that, every nation must collaborate to ensure that ICT continues to develop and that its benefits are spread among every country, every community.

Malaysia, I am confident to say, strongly believes in forging international alliances and building global partnerships. We believe in helping others, just as others are helping us.

The concept of "prosper thy neighbour" is a key component of our national psyche. For this reason, we have fully embraced the model of the Global Alliance. A model that is based on helping and sharing.

At this stage, let me reflect on the UN's involvement in the global development of ICT. I am given to understand that the United Nations took the first steps in this direction with the formation of the UN ICT Task Force in 2003.

Understandably, this first-ever initiative was tentative in its approach. Nevertheless, it was a step in the right direction and it led to the idea for a Global Alliance.

During its term, the UN ICT task force was actively involved in ICT 4 Development initiatives at WSIS 1 in Geneva in December 2003 and the November 2005 WSIS 2 in Tunis.

Malaysia was a participant in both events and I was privileged to be present at the Tunis summit. It was during this second event that I really felt the full impact of the information and communications evolution sweeping across the world.

It was also at these two events that Malaysia decided to play a larger role in global ICT development. We jumped at the chance to host the inaugural GA meeting. And here we are today!

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the UN ICT task force. The members had admirably carried out its mandate, met its goals and fulfilled its tasks set out during WSIS 1 and 2.

It is worth mentioning here that although its mandate was supposed to end in 2003, the task force extended its tenure until 2005. For this and for giving birth to the concept of the Global Alliance, we should applaud them.

At present, there are several world bodies involved in ICT for Development initiatives, namely Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers or ICANN on internet governance, WCIT on business forum, ITU on standards and spectrum management of telecommunication services. Here in Kuala Lumpur, we have the Global Knowledge Partnership, a dedicated bottom-up multi-stakeholder partnership in ICT 4 Development. Each, however, has its own development perspective. These organizations have all made giant strides within their own spheres of influence and responsibilities. Without a doubt, they deserve our praise for their dedication and determination.

However, I believe greater achievements can be made if we pool together our resources, work together, reduce overlapping efforts and redundancies.

Quite clearly, we need a global umbrella organization to outline policies and integrate the earlier-mentioned independent efforts towards a common development goal and aspiration.

I feel that only an organization formed under the banner of the United Nations can fill this role. For only then can it gain the support of national governments.

I am convinced that the Global Alliance is an ideal vehicle for this role.

With the support of the UN, the GA can rally governments and leaders. It can be the link between these separate organizations, providing the coordination, harmonization, facilitation, monitoring, evaluation and intervention that have been missing thus far.

But to be truly effective, we need to consider a number of challenges.

First of all, the issue of funding. The GA cannot be expected to rely on donations to formulate projects and implement its programmes. There is the risk that GA initiatives will never take off or ground to a halt for lack of funds. We must have a systematic funding mechanism to ensure an effective and efficient organization.

In this regard, may I suggest that we explore private sector funding in a structured manner. We can then have a partner in policy processes, but without compromising on social justice and responsibility.

Secondly, the GA must have clarity of direction and the commitment of its various stakeholders. It should not be open to hijack by parties to pursue their own agendas. To avoid such situations, the GA governance must have properly-defined principles, transparent processes and procedures.

Thirdly, GA initiatives should not be based on the Millennium Development Goals or MDG alone. I feel we need to understand that nations at different stages of development and various levels of exposures to ICT require tailor-made strategies. Malaysia, for instance, is looking into ICT for innovation.

Last of all, the Global Alliance should review the way we classify countries into developed and developing blocs. The present yardsticks are monetary-weighted with limited emphasis given to social, community or spiritual values.

Just like different countries excel in different sports, so too do different nations irrespective of how far they have come in terms of the conventional development model.

If I may extrapolate on this sports analogy, Malaysia has yet to qualify for any FIFA World Cups. But we are one of the best in badminton and we have the top-ranked female player in squash today.

Similarly, what we now classify as developing countries are ahead of their developed counterparts in many aspects of living. For instance, they have higher life expectancies and perhaps, stronger community values.

I feel it is time we replace an obsolete benchmark with one that is more appropriate to current times. One that is accepted by all, and not just determined by the elite few.

If we can successfully address these issues, I believe the Global Alliance will be a world body that can make a real difference for the generations to come.

And on our part, Malaysia stands ready to play a leading role in this endeavour.

MESSAGE¹

By His Excellency Mr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic

It gives me great pleasure to know, after the progress made at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as the 5-year review of the Millennium Summit, the launching of the U.N. Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development will take place in the vibrantly modern and global city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the gracious hosting Government for having taken the world one-step forward toward making ICTs a mechanism for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the broader development agenda.

Since my previous Administration in the late 1990s, I have made ICTs a priority for advancing the Dominican Republic toward a more modern and progressive knowledge-based economy. We have made great strides with the establishment of the first Science and Technology Cyberpark, computer laboratories in many of the most remote schools and classrooms, Presidential Office on E-Government and ICTs, digital cities project, and a countless number of Community Technology Centers (CTCs) in the most rural and impoverished communities, all of which are most in need of connecting themselves to the global information and knowledge society.

I am most pleased to share that the recent creation of a National Commission on the Information and Knowledge Society in the Dominican Republic will help us to promote an enabling environment where important stakeholders join efforts toward ensuring that the power of markets unite with government and the greater community in order to ensure that the Dominican Republic achieves the MDGs and more sustainable and human development. Both our National Commission and the Global Alliance enshrine the principles adopted at the WSIS of developing multi-stakeholder processes at all levels for promoting policy-dialogue and partnerships that bridge the digital divide and content gap and harness ICTs for enhancing the achievement of the MDGs.

¹ Message distributed during the Inaugural Meeting of the Global Alliance.

The celebration of the 36th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, just two weeks ago, emphasized the role of ICTs for development and placed this very issue on the agenda of this important organization. I believe we are at an important crossroads. Latin America and the Caribbean as well as other regions have come quite far in fostering ICTs as a means of achieving our development goals.

Annex III
Press Releases

17 April 2006

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

**GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND
DEVELOPMENT TO BE LAUNCHED**

NEW YORK, 17 April (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) -- United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has approved the launch of a Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development.

As stressed by the 2005 World Summit and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), information and communication technology must be effectively integrated into development activities if the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are to be achieved within the agreed time frame.

The mission of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development will be to facilitate and promote such integration by providing a platform for an open, inclusive, multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral policy dialogue on the role of information and communication technology in development. It will thus contribute to linking the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society with the broader United Nations development agenda.

The Alliance will organize thematic events addressing core issues related to the role of information and communication technology in economic development and eradication of poverty, employment and enterprise in pro-poor growth scenarios, with particular focus on health, education, gender, youth, disabled and disadvantaged segments of society. Groups of participants would coalesce around specific topics of mutual interest put forward for discussion.

In building on existing initiatives and institutions and promoting synergy among them, the Alliance will make extensive use of the latest web-based collaborative technologies, thus minimizing the need for physical meetings. The Global Alliance will function primarily as a decentralized network, open to participation of all stakeholders, including Governments, business, civil society and international organizations. The Alliance will aim significantly to expand the circle of participants in policy and partnership debate beyond the traditional set of stakeholders, by actively engaging constituencies that currently are not adequately

involved, particularly non-governmental participants from developing countries, media, academia, youth and women's groups.

The Alliance will hold its inaugural meeting on 19 June in Kuala Lumpur.

For further information, please contact: Enrica Murmura, tel.: (212) 963-5913, e-mail: murmura@un.org; Tim Wall, tel.: (212) 963-5851, e-mail: wallt@un.org; or Edoardo Bellando, tel.: (212) 963 8275, e-mail: bellando@un.org.

Press Release | DEV/2572 | PI/1707

7 June 2006

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

**GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT TO BE CHAIRED BY
CRAIG BARRETT of INTEL**

Inaugural Meeting to Be Held in Kuala Lumpur, 19 – 20 June

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan recently approved the launch of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development -- an open multi-stakeholder platform that will promote effective use of ICT in activities aimed at achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (see Press Release DEV/2572-PI/1707 of 17 April 2006).

José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, announced today that Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation, will serve as the first Chairman of the Alliance.

"We are honoured and pleased to have Dr. Barrett as Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development", said Mr. Ocampo. "He has played a critical leadership role in advancing the objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society and in helping to promote a transforming vision for a universal and inclusive information society. His global reputation as a technology ambassador for education and economic development will help unite Governments, international organizations, civil society and business leaders in addressing the role of technology in advancing the Millennium Development Goals."

Dr. Barrett is a leading advocate for improving education around the world and a vocal spokesman for the value technology can provide in raising social and economic standards globally. He participated actively in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

“It’s time to turn the spirit of UN WSIS into action”, stated Dr. Barrett, upon accepting the invitation to become the first Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. “The ICT industry has an opportunity to build from its history of creativity and innovation to further contribute to economic and social development. The Global Alliance for ICT and Development has an exciting challenge to define solutions that will bring technology access, economic growth, and educational opportunity to people around the world. I am honoured to be part of this effort.”

Background

The inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development will be held on 19-20 June in Kuala Lumpur at the invitation of the Government of Malaysia. The Deputy Secretary-General, Mark Malloch Brown, will inaugurate the Alliance on behalf of the United Nations.

Executive direction to the work of the Alliance and its secretariat will be provided by a small multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Barrett. The Strategy Council, comprising 60 members representing Governments and non-governmental stakeholders -- civil society, the private sector, international organizations, media, academia, youth and women’s groups and others -- will provide overall strategic guidance to the Alliance, in particular by identifying priorities and themes to be addressed.

The composition of the Strategy Council reflects the Alliance’s aim significantly to expand the circle of participants in policy debate and partnership building beyond the traditional set of stakeholders, by actively engaging constituencies that currently are not adequately engaged, particularly non-governmental participants from developing countries, media, academia, youth and women’s groups. To this end, innovative ways of building a pool of candidates were explored: private sector and civil society associations -- the International Chamber of Commerce and the Conference of NGOs -- were invited to present their lists of candidates, and an open call for nominations was placed on the website of the United Nations ICT Task Force.

As a result, more than 250 candidates were nominated. Members of the initial Strategy Council for the first year were designated on behalf of the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to ensure stakeholder, geographical, institutional and gender balances. The Strategy Council includes representatives of 30 Governments that have expressed their

interest to participate in the Alliance, and an equal number of non-governmental members representing diverse stakeholder communities.

For policy and expert advice, the Strategy Council and the Steering Committee will be able to draw upon a group of high-level advisers. In building its activities, the Alliance will rely on a broad group of activists, experts and practitioners in promoting development through the use of ICT who will form a Champions Network of the Global Alliance.

For further information, please contact Enrica Murmura at the Global Alliance secretariat, tel.: (212) 963-5913, e-mail: murmura@un.org; or Edoardo Bellando at the Department of Public Information, tel.: (212) 963-8275, e-mail: bellando@un.org.

Press Release | DEV/2578 | PI/1718

14 June 2006

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

**GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT, DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES MEMBERS
OF STEERING COMMITTEE, STRATEGY COUNCIL**

The Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development, a new initiative of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to promote effective use of ICT for development, today announced the members of its Steering Committee and Strategic Council for the first year, in view of its inaugural meeting on 19 and 20 June in Kuala Lumpur.

The Steering Committee, which provides the Alliance with executive oversight and guidance, is composed of a chair and several co-chairs representing major constituencies.

The Steering Committee will be chaired by Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation, and will comprise Walter Fust, Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (government); Datuk Seri Jamaludin Jarjis, Malaysia's Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation (government); Guy Sebban, Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce (business); Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. (business); Titi Akinsanmi, Global Teenager Project, SchoolNet Africa (civil society); Renate Bloem, President, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (civil society); Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (international organizations); John Bernander,

Director General, Norwegian Broadcasting (media); and Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank (international organizations).

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs José Antonio Ocampo and Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Global Alliance and Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, are ex-officio members.

The Strategy Council provides overall guidance and priority setting. It is composed of Governments, the private and non-profit sectors, civil society and international organizations. Its members are top-level policy makers, practitioners, experts and thinkers, with balanced representation from all groups. The Council ensures engagement of high-level expertise and leadership, and facilitates outreach. The basic requirement for the members of this policy-setting group is commitment, experience and vision in ICT for development and traditional development fields.

The members of the Strategy Council from the private and non-profit sectors are John Chambers, Chairman, CISCO (alternate: Art Reilly); Guy-Olivier Segond, President, Digital Solidarity Fund; Michael Nelson, Programme Director, Internet Technology, IBM; Asadullah Shah, Chairman, International Commission on Workforce Development, Pakistan; Khalid Juffali, Vice Chairman, E.A. Juffali and Brothers Co., Saudi Arabia; Pamela Passman, Vice President of Global Corporate Affairs, Microsoft; Eisa al-Eisa, Managing Director/CEO, SAMBA Financial Group; Thomas Ganswindt, President/CEO, Siemens (alternate: Peter Hellmonds); Carlo Ottaviani, President, STMicroelectronics Foundation (alternate: Elena Pistorio); and Anne Cobb, President, Visa International CEMEA.

The Council members from civil society are Kamel Ayadi, President, World Federation of Engineering Associations, Tunisia; Rodrigo Baggio, Executive Director, Committee for Democracy in Information Technology, Brazil; Peter Bruck, President, World Summit Award, Austria; Astrid Dufborg, Executive Director, Global E-schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI); Hiroshi Kawamura, Daisy Consortium, Japan; Janet Langmore, President, Digital Opportunity Trust, Canada; Tracey Naughton, Chair, WSIS Civil Society Media Caucus; Bazlur Rahman, CEO, NGOs Network for Radio and Communication, Bangladesh; Lynn St. Amour, President/CEO, Internet Society; and Lynn M. Wanyeki, Executive Director, African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), Kenya.

The Council also comprises 30 Governments and 10 international organizations -- see www.un-gaid.org.

For policy and expert advice, the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council will draw upon a group of high-level advisers.

A Champions Network is being built with a group of activists, experts and practitioners promoting development through the use of ICT. They echo and amplify at local, national and regional levels the lessons learned and best practices identified through the work of the Alliance.

The Global Alliance functions as a partnership and network supported by the United Nations, under the authority of the Secretary-General and the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

For further information, visit www.un-gaid.org or contact Enrica Murmura at the Global Alliance secretariat, tel.: (212) 963-5913, e-mail: murmura@un.org; or Edoardo Bellando at the Department of Public Information, tel.: (212) 963-8275, e-mail: bellando@un.org.

Press Release | DEV/2580 | PI/1724

25 September 2006

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

Note to Correspondents

INTEL CHIEF TO MEET WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE FOR ACCELERATING DIGITAL REVOLUTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Intel chairman Craig Barrett will discuss means for closing the digital divide with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 27 September, in association with that day's Steering Committee meeting of the United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technology and Development.

Agenda items for the meeting, to be opened by the Secretary-General, include:

-- support for African rollout of communication infrastructure and efforts to bring more broadband to the continent;

- the “telecentre 2.0” initiative to supplement the first wave of centres with ones that are sustainable and build local capacity;
- a proposed volunteer “cyber development corps”; and
- modes of information processing and communications that are accessible to disabled people in the developing world.

Also attending the meeting will be Steering Committee members Jamaludin Jarjis, Malaysia’s Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation; Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank; Walter Fust, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Titi Akinsanmi, Programme Manager, Global Teenager Project, South Africa; John Bernander, Secretary-General, Norwegian Broadcasting, European Broadcasting Union; Renate Bloem, President, Committee on NGOs, Switzerland; and Guy Sebban, Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce.

The Steering Committee is expected to endorse new Communities of Expertise -- inclusive networks relating to Alliance focus areas of education, health, entrepreneurship and governance, respectively.

Mr. Barrett will speak to the press following the noon briefing of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, on Wednesday 27 September in Room S-226. Reporters who wish to attend and who do not have United Nations press credentials should fax a letter of assignment to 1 212 963 4642, and follow-up with a call to the United Nations Media Accreditation Unit at 1 212 963 7164.

The Global Alliance functions as a partnership and network supported by the United Nations, under the authority of the Secretary-General and the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

For information or to arrange an interview, contact Enrica Murmura, Global Alliance Secretariat, tel.: 212 963-5913, e-mail: murmura@un.org; or Tim Wall, United Nations Department of Public Information, tel.: (212) 963-5851, e-mail: wallt@un.org. For further information, please visit www.un-gaid.org.

27 September 2006

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL WELCOMES 'NETWORK OF NETWORKS' TO SPREAD DIGITAL REVOLUTION

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan told leaders from business, finance, Government and the media that their participation in the Global Alliance to step up access to digital technology gives an important direction to “our work towards an open and prosperous information society” and “the use of ICT [information and communication technology] as a tool for advancing development”.

The idea of the initiative, he said, is to develop “a decentralized ‘network of networks’ on a global scale, so that the Alliance can draw in the relevant stakeholders, particularly as new issues emerge”. It will operate, he added, in four priority areas: health, education, poverty reduction through new enterprises and citizen participation in Government.

The Secretary-General of the world body thanked Craig Barrett, Intel Board Chairman, for taking on the position of Chairman of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID).

Today’s meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York was attended by Alliance Steering Committee members Jamaludin Jarjis, Malaysia’s Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation; Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank; Walter Fust, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Titi Akinsanmi, Programme Manager, Global Teenager Project, South Africa; John Bernander, Director General, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation and Vice-President, European Broadcasting Union; Renate Bloem, President, the Committee on NGOs, Switzerland; and Guy Sebban, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce; as well as Mr. Barrett. United Nations Under-Secretary-General José Antonio Ocampo and Alliance Secretariat Executive Coordinator Sarbuland Khan participated in an ex-officio capacity.

The Alliance will not be an implementing agency, Mr. Barrett said in a press conference prior to the meeting, but would “combine the efforts of private and public sectors with non-governmental organizations to bring the benefits of technology to all parts of the world”. He said that, in middle-income countries, private-public partnerships are already making great strides.

United Nations statistics show that, while the digital divide is still a yawning chasm -- in 2004, 7 out of 100 in the developing world were connected to the Internet, compared to 54 out of 100 in the rich countries -- rapid strides indeed are being taken. Internet connectivity in developing countries grew at an average annual rate of roughly 35 per cent between 2000 and 2004, and in the latter year Africa added 15 million new mobile phone subscribers, doubling the 1999 total.

In one of its first orders of business, the Steering Committee considered the establishment of new “Communities of Expertise” -- broadly inclusive networks relating to the Alliance’s focus areas of education, health, entrepreneurship and governance. Areas of activity under discussion were supporting African efforts to build infrastructure and add broadband connectivity, initiating a new wave of telecentres, making technology more accessible to the disabled and founding a volunteer “cyber development corps”.

For information or to arrange an interview contact Enrica Murmura, Global Alliance Secretariat, tel.: 212 963 5913, email: murmura@un.org; or Tim Wall, United Nations Department of Public Information, tel.: 212 963 5851, email: wallt@un.org. Or visit the Alliance website www.un-gaid.org.

Press Release | DEV/2593 | PI/1743

27 September 2006

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

**PRESS CONFERENCE BY UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

At a Headquarters press conference today, Craig Barrett, Intel chief and Chairman of the United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technology and Development (GAID), said the new initiative would perform a central facilitating role for accelerating the digital revolution in developing countries.

The inaugural meeting of the Alliance had been held in Kuala Lumpur 19-20 June, and the Steering Committee was scheduled to meet this afternoon, he added. More than 500 participants had come together from throughout the world, representing Governments, business, civil society and the media, to help launch the Alliance, which aims to harness the potential of the information revolution to advance development and promote the achievement of world anti-poverty goals.

Calling the Global Alliance's challenge "straightforward but not simple", Mr. Barrett said the four general priorities were education; health care (bringing health care expertise to remote areas); governance (the use of information technology for increased citizen participation); and economic development.

The Global Alliance had already facilitated a successful transformation in a remote region of the Amazon in Brazil, where, with the help of computer and communication companies, and in cooperation with the Government, a community centre, two local public schools and a health clinic now received broadband connectivity to the rest of Brazil and the world. "If you could do this in the middle of the Amazon, you could do it anywhere essentially on the face of the Earth," he said.

Responding to a question on whether GAID would have contact with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and what role the ITU would be playing, Mr. Barrett noted that there was indeed "some degree of overlapping interest". The Alliance was, after all, not a funding agency, but a facilitator and, as such, would work with ITU and many other organizations to achieve its objectives.

José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, added that the Global Alliance had been, in a sense, a creation of the World Summit on the Information Society, and it was clear that the major mechanism would have to be multi-stakeholder partnerships among Governments, the private sector and civil society.

In response to a question regarding which countries the Global Alliance would target, Mr. Barrett said the obvious targets were least developed countries, which were characterized by few internet users, low connectivity and a lack of hardware and software. Latin America, much of the Asian and African continents, Eastern Europe and the Middle East were all possible targets.

Note: For media coverage, please visit the GAID website at <http://www.un-gaid.org/news/coverage.html>

Annex IV**UNITED
NATIONS****Economic and Social
Council****E**Distr.
LIMITEDE/2006/L.37
27 July 2006Original: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 2006

Geneva, 3-28 July 2006

Agenda items 6 and 13 (b)

**Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations
conferences and summits****Economic and environmental questions: Science and
technology for development****Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council,
Dalius Cekuolis (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations****Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review
of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development***The Economic and Social Council,**Welcoming* the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society,¹*Recalling* the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, adopted in Geneva in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in Tunis in 2005 by the World Summit on the Information Society and endorsed by the General Assembly,²*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome³,*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on modalities of the inter-agency coordination of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the

¹ See A/60/687.² General Assembly resolutions 59/220 and 60/252.³ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Information Society, including recommendations on the follow-up process,⁴ which reviews the actions taken since the convening of the Summit and emphasizes the need for full implementation of its decisions,

Taking note also of the ongoing United Nations reform process,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the Summit, and to that end requests the Council, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including considering strengthening the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach,

Bearing in mind its decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992 and resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992, by which the Council established the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and defined its terms of reference, as well as its decision 2005/308 of 27 July 2005 on the methods of work of the Commission,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the Commission in order to enable it to undertake activities defined by the Summit, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recognizing that the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society should be an integral part of the integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and should contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and should not require the creation of any new operational bodies,⁵

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries, including those countries with special needs as stated in the Summit outcome documents, to benefit fully from the potential of information and communication technologies,⁶

Stressing the importance of the Summit outcomes to the building of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help to bridge the digital divide,⁷

⁴ E/2006/85.

⁵ See General Assembly resolution 60/252, fourth preambular paragraph.

⁶ Ibid., fifth preambular paragraph.

⁷ Ibid., seventh preambular paragraph.

Welcoming the multi-stakeholder participation in the Summit and in its follow-up as a constructive way of dealing with present and future challenges in building the information society,

Reaffirming the need for ensuring an effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the academic and scientific communities and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the Summit,

Taking note of the action taken by the Secretary-General to convene the Internet Governance Forum,

Taking note also of the request to the Secretary-General to start a process towards enhanced cooperation, as referred to in paragraphs 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda,⁸

Taking note further of the establishment, within the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, consisting of the relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of the Summit outcomes, and noting the importance of the Council's being kept informed of the progress in its work as a part of the annual reporting on the work of inter-agency bodies to the Council,

Acknowledging with appreciation the role played by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in providing secretariat support to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Welcomes* the strong development orientation of the outcomes of both the Geneva and the Tunis phases of the Summit, and urges their full implementation;
2. *Decides* to carry out its responsibilities for overseeing the system-wide follow-up to the Summit outcomes in the context of its annual consideration of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in its coordination segment on the basis of a thematic approach and a multi-year programme, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, on the basis of the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and drawing upon other relevant inputs;
3. *Takes note* of the important role of United Nations regional commissions and encourages them to undertake specific activities in accordance with the Summit outcomes;

⁸ A/60/687, chap. I, sect. B.

Role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Mandate

4. *Decides* that, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 60/252, the Commission shall effectively assist the Economic and Social Council 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 Summit, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development, also taking into account the provisions of paragraph 60 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

5. *Agrees* that the system-wide follow-up shall have a strong development orientation;

6. *Decides* that, in the exercise of its responsibility as defined in paragraph 4 above, the Commission shall review and assess progress made in implementing the outcomes of the Summit and advise the Council thereon, including through the elaboration of recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes, and that to that end, the Commission shall:

(a) Review and assess progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of action lines, recommendations and commitments contained in the outcome documents of the Summit;

(b) Share best and effective practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation of the Summit outcomes;

(c) Promote dialogue and foster partnerships, in coordination with other appropriate United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to contribute to the attainment of the Summit objectives and the implementation of its outcomes and to use information and communication technologies for development and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, with the participation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations and other international organizations in accordance with their different roles and responsibilities;

Composition

7. *Decides also* that the Commission shall be strengthened in its substantive capacity and enhanced through effective and meaningful participation of Member States in its work, and that the Commission shall be enlarged by the inclusion of ten new members, which shall be elected bearing in mind the principle of balanced and equitable geographical distribution and in accordance with procedures and timetables to be established by the Council, from among the States Members of the United Nations or States members of specialized agencies;

Working methods

8. *Decides further* that the Commission shall meet annually for a period of five working days in Geneva on a trial basis, with the Commission reviewing this arrangement after two years and making recommendation to the Council thereon;

9. *Decides* that, in line with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/308 and in the exercise of its responsibilities as defined in paragraph 4 above, the Commission shall continue working on the basis of biennial action cycles;

10. *Decides also*, taking into account the Commission's mandates as set out in paragraph 4 above, that at its next session the Commission shall develop its agenda and a multi-year work programme;

11. *Recommends* that the Commission provide for Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations and other international organizations to participate effectively in its work and contribute, within their areas of competence, to its deliberations;

12. *Decides* that future sessions of the Commission will increasingly be conducted in the form of interactive dialogue;

13. *Decides also* that, in addition to its traditional working practices, the Commission will continue to explore development-friendly and innovative uses of electronic media, drawing upon existing online databases on best practices, partnership projects and initiatives, as well as other collaborative electronic platforms, which would allow all stakeholders to contribute to follow-up efforts, share information, learn from the experience of others and explore opportunities for partnerships;

Multi-stakeholder approach

14. *Decides further* that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

15. *Decides* that:

(a) Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, non-governmental organizations and civil society entities not in consultative status with the Council, but which received accreditation to the World Summit on the Information Society, may participate, upon approval by the Council in a timely manner, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of the United Nations, in the next two meetings of the Commission, this provision being based on the understanding that in the meantime, said organizations and entities will apply for consultative status with the Council in accordance with existing rules and procedures, and that in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is invited to consider such applications, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations, and to do so as expeditiously as possible;

(b) On an exceptional basis, without prejudice to existing rules of procedure, business-sector entities, in particular those that received accreditation to the Summit, may participate, upon approval by the Council in a timely manner, in the work of the Commission in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

16. *Decides also* that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors;

Secretariat support

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure effective and adequate secretariat support by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the Commission, to enable it to fulfil its mandate as outlined in paragraph 4 above, while ensuring in this regard close collaboration with other relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies;

Reporting

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on the implementation of the Summit outcomes as a part of his annual reporting to the Commission;

19. *Requests* the Commission to submit to the Council, within its annual report, information on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the Summit outcomes at the regional and international levels;

20. *Decides* to keep the General Assembly apprised, through its annual report on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit outcomes, taking into account the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.