

**Addendum 17 to  
Document WTDC14/22-E  
4 February 2014  
Original: English**

**SOURCE:** Unites States of America  
**TITLE:** Proposal on regional priorities for WSIS+10 High Level Event

### **Introduction**

Council Resolution 1334 (Revised 2013) instructed the Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to initiate an open and inclusive preparatory process, in the form of a Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) for the WSIS+10 High-Level Event to be held April 13-17, in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt.

The MPP is tasked with developing drafts of the outcome documents for consideration by the WSIS+10 High-Level Event. The two outcome documents are:

- WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes
- WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of the participating agencies

The ITU held an initial organizational meeting to start the MPP process on July 1, 2013, at which it was agreed to call for inputs on the WSIS+10 High-Level Event outcomes by September 20, 2013. The United States encourages the Americas Region to provide input on the outcome documents being developed by the MPP so that they may reflect regional priorities.

In this contribution, the United States proposes themes for the output document on the Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 for the region to consider as input to the MPP and guidelines for the ITU's role in the WSIS+10 Overall Review.

### **Discussion**

The ITU's WSIS+10 review is taking place in the context of the UN WSIS+10 Overall Review and a broad-based effort to develop a post-2015 development agenda for the United Nations. It is essential that the output documents from the High-Level Event reflect this broader context and ensure that the ITU's WSIS+10 activities are carefully coordinated with other activities in the United Nations. This will ensure consistency and help to effectively and efficiently marshal resources for global development efforts.

*Theme for the output document.* The importance of ICTs to development should be the central theme of the output document on the Vision for WSIS beyond 2015. ICTs play an important role in development, both as an important measure of progress in their own right, and as a facilitator for achieving development milestones, as recognized in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Increased access to broadband is widely credited with improving development outcomes, fostering economic development and increasing competitiveness. For example, the Inter-

American Development Bank reports that a 10% increase in the region's broadband subscriptions would increase GDP and productivity by 3.19% and 2.6% respectively.

The Americas region has long recognized that access to broadband is critical for development. The 2012 Summit for the Americas was instrumental in elevating the awareness of broadband as a catalyst for economic growth in our region. In addition, the importance of broadband for our region is reflected in the outcomes of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society (Montevideo, Uruguay, April 2013) and the 2012 Summit of the Americas (Cartagena, Colombia), among others.

While our region has made significant progress in diffusion and uptake of broadband services, a substantial portion of the population in our region still lacks access to broadband. According to one estimate, only 29% of the population in parts of our region have access to broadband. The United States is aware of the gap in access to broadband technologies and is committed to expanding the reach of broadband domestically and internationally. At the 2012 Summit of the Americas, President Obama proposed the creation of a Broadband Partnership of the Americas to bring together national governments, international donors, and the private sector from across the hemisphere to promote universal access to communications and broadband technologies as a tool for hemispheric competitiveness, development, and economic prosperity.

A focus going forward on advancement of ICTs is consistent with the sentiment reflected by Ministers at the WSIS Forum 2013, where the Ministerial Roundtable concluded that "[t]here is an urgent need to ensure that development angle of the WSIS remains at the central point of discussions paving the way for accelerated implementation of the WSIS objectives." (Report on Main Outcomes by the Chairman of the Ministerial Roundtable at the WSIS Forum 2013.)

Coordination of WSIS+10 with UN Development Agenda. Multiple processes are underway in the United Nations to develop the post-2015 development agenda. For example, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a High-level Panel on a post-2015 agenda, which met several times and submitted a report to the Secretary-General in May 2013. The Secretary-General will consider that report in developing his own report to the UN General Assembly in September 2013. At the same time, an assessment of progress under the MDGs is underway in the United Nations, with the final update to be completed in mid-2014. In addition, the June 2012 Rio+20 Conference agreed to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. Output from these efforts and others will form the basis of intergovernmental negotiations that will decide the post-2015 development framework and agenda in the United Nations. It is essential that the ITU's assessment of progress under the WSIS and the ITU Vision for WSIS beyond 2015 be closely coordinated with the United Nation's overall development agenda.

USA/22/17

Objective(s): 2, 3

The United States is of the view that it is premature at this time to decide on next steps for the WSIS+10 Overall Review and for a Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015. In that regard, the United States is of the view that it is premature to agree to hold a future Summit.

The United States is also of the view that the Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 should be closely coordinated with the United Nation's overall development agenda and focus on the important role of ICTs in development.