

Switzerland and the WSIS

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Why is this Summit necessary

1. Subject

- Most of the people on this earth have no telephone
 - Many countries have no free flow of information (information as a tool for political manipulation)
 - Opportunities are being taken – ICT could be used all over the world compensate:
 - the disadvantages of globalisation
 - for transparency and democracy
 - e-health
 - e-education
- ⇒ Now: ICT broadens the gap between poor and rich
- ⇒ Tomorrow: ICT should be used to reduce the gap

Why is this Summit necessary

2. Form:

- Involvement of partners
 - Private sector
 - Civil society
- Summit Events
 - New: argument against summit fatigue
„Don't come just for the plenary“

Why is this Summit necessary

3. Political situation

- Opportunity
 - To talk together in order to find solutions independently from the Iraq war
- Opportunity for UN

Key elements for a successful WSIS

- Political relevance
 - Declaration / Action plan
(as substantial and as focussed as possible – i.e. „universal access“)
 - Representation of Governments
- Quality of summit events
 - Participation of all stakeholders
 - Versatility, originality and depth of the topics
 - General interest for the events
- Sustainability of the process starting in Geneva
 - Tunis 2005
 - Further conferences on sub-topics

Switzerland as host country

- Support of the political and diplomatic negotiation process
- Mobilization of Heads of State, Leaders of Private Sector, Civil Society
- Logistical planning and preparation
- Security
- Financial Support
- Summit Events
 - Coordination
 - Organization

The Summit Events

Dialogue possibility between

- Heads of State / Ministers
- International Organizations
- Civil Society
- Private Sector (Investors)
- Presentation of Best Practices (solutions!)
- Market place of ideas
- Win-win solutions

The Summit Events

The Host Country (Switzerland)

- Co-ordinates the Summit Events
- Organizes itself several Summit Events

The Summit Events

- UN: World Forum on Electronic Media – WEMF
- UNESCO: Symposium with Nobel Laureates
- UN ICT Task Force: various initiatives
- World Bank: InfoDev Symposium
- International Chamber of Commerce: day-Event
- Civil Society Events co-ordinated by the Civil Society Bureau

Swiss Summit Events

- ICT4D Platform (Global Knowledge Partnership – GKP, Swiss Development Co-operation Agency)
 - > 500 projects from 50 countries
 - > Existing initiatives, information, solutions, business relations, new forms of co-operation, finance development
- Crossing the borders (Culture within Infosociety)
- Science and the City (events in various towns across Switzerland)
- InfoDev Symposium
- Swiss Commission for UNESCO
- Statistics and Infosociety