



The Summit Program & Roundtables



SUMMIT PROGRAM - HALL 1 - PLENARY SESSIONS AND ROUNDTABLES 10-12 DECEMBER 2003

Wednesday, 10 December 2003	Thursday, 11 December 2003	Friday, 12 December 2003
<p>10.00 to 12.00 Organizational Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the Geneva phase of the Summit • Election of the President of the Summit and of the President of the organizational meeting • Adoption of the Rules of Procedure • Adoption of the Agenda • Election of other officers of the Summit • Organization of work • Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee • Report of the Preparatory Committee 	<p>09.00 to 13.00 Second Plenary Meeting General debate*</p>	<p>09.00 to 13.00 Fourth Plenary Meeting General debate*</p>
<p>12.00 to 14.00 Break</p>	<p>11.00 to 13.00 Round table 2</p>	<p>10.30 to 12.30 Round table 4</p>
<p>14.00 Opening Ceremony of the Summit</p> <p>First Plenary Meeting General debate*</p>	<p>13.00 to 14.00 Break</p> <p>14.00 to 21.00 Third Plenary Meeting Report of the Credentials Committee General debate*</p>	<p>13.00 to 14.00 Break</p> <p>14.00 to 19.00 Fifth Plenary Meeting General debate*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Multi-stakeholder Events • Adoption of the Declaration of Principles • Adoption of the Plan of Action • Arrangements for the Tunis phase of the Summit • Adoption of the report of the Geneva phase of the Summit <p>Closing of the Geneva phase of the Summit</p>
<p>17.00 to 19.00 Round table 1</p>	<p>15.00 to 17.00 Round table 3</p>	

MORNING

AFTERNOON

*Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by Ministers and other Heads of delegation. The last hour in each general debate session, with the exception of the one in the fifth plenary meeting, is reserved for statements from representatives of intergovernmental organizations, civil society and business sector entities.

AN INFORMATION SOCIETY FOR ALL: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Round tables are organized to provide Heads of State or Government – or in their absence, Heads of Delegation – the opportunity to share their vision of the Information Society along with leaders from inter-governmental organizations, civil society and business sector entities.

1

Round table 1: Creating Digital Opportunities

The establishment of a modern, reliable and efficient communication system is seen as fundamental in creating Digital Opportunities. This session will focus attention on issues such as access, funding and building partnerships:

Connectivity: An information society for all is built on modern and widely available information and communication infrastructures. What should be done to attract investment and expand networks and services? What are the respective roles of governments, the private sector and civil society?

Digital solidarity: Any agenda for development must address financing and funding issues. What are the appropriate mechanisms that concretely support the development of networks, services and applications in underserved areas? Several financing options have been suggested, including the creation of innovative digital solidarity funds, a more effective utilization of existing mechanisms, and/or a greater involvement of the private sector in addressing the needs of these populations. Which solution(s) will best succeed in bridging the Digital Divide?

Universal Access: Access to communications and the Internet is a cornerstone of the information society. Digital inclusion cannot be achieved without providing all citizens access to the information highway. What is universal access all about? How best can access be ensured for the benefit of all citizens? What are the guiding principles that should be included in a universal access strategy to level the playing field?

2

Round table 2: Opportunities and Challenges: Diversity in Cyberspace

This session will address the challenge of reconciling free flow of information and the need to preserve the common heritage in a digital world:

Cultural and linguistic diversity: This diversity is a reflection of human knowledge, cultures and traditions. It is the common heritage of mankind. While cyberspace offers tremendous

opportunities for interaction among people, some suggest that cultural and linguistic diversity may also be threatened by information and communications technologies? How is it possible to ensure that cultural and linguistic diversity are respected in the information society? What needs to be done to promote the development of local content?

Freedom of expression and media ownership: The media plays an important role in the information society. With globalization and the convergence of technologies, infrastructure and content are increasingly made available through a few dominant sources. In this context, what principles could best ensure media independence, pluralism and freedom of expression?

Law and ethics on the Internet: Is the digital world a lawless world? Is there a need for a cyber-governance? To which extent are ethics and values threatened by the use of ICTs? How can one strike a balance between creativity and freedom and the need to take into account ethics, values and local practices?

3

Round table 3: ICT as a Tool to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Technology is an enabling tool that is reshaping business and the global marketplace as well as a broader range of societal activities. The session will address issues relating to the role of ICT in meeting

the Millennium Development Goals:

Capacity building: Education and knowledge are critical factors for development and competitiveness in the global marketplace. What is the potential for ICTs to expand access to education and training? What strategies are foreseen to lower the barriers to access and use of scientific knowledge and to close the knowledge gap? How can we best strike a balance between Intellectual Property Rights and the need to expand access to knowledge?

ICT for sustainable development: ICT has the potential to make a major contribution towards sustainable development and environment protection. How can ICTs be used to encourage commercial or industrial activities that reduce the trend of environmental degradation?

ICTs as a catalyst for innovative social service delivery: What is the potential of ICTs to improve the delivery of health, education and other social services in under-served regions? Which e-service delivery strategies are proving to be most effective? Does the investment in e-service delivery infrastructure justify the cost?

Eradicating poverty and hunger: Alleviating poverty and hunger cannot be achieved without sustained economic growth. In this respect, ICTs can play a significant role. How can ICTs best be used to help promote economic growth and eradicate poverty and hunger?

National E strategies and international cooperation: Many nations are already formulating and implementing national e-strategies as a powerful tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Is there a role for regional and global organizations in harnessing international cooperation that fits the needs of countries in the information society?

4

Round table 4: Empowering All Citizens

This session will consider to which extent ICT can empower citizens and communities to better control their daily lives and fully exercise their rights:

New governance: Just as information and communication technologies are reshaping business, they enable governments to develop new ways of delivering services and providing information to their citizens. Democracy demands an effective involvement of informed citizens. How can the use of ICTs best support effective participation in the decision-making processes? What are some potential public strategies to build the governance of the 21st century?

Balancing network security with personal privacy protection: What are the limits beyond which privacy is infringed by measures aiming at protecting information and communication networks against the risk of attacks and mischief? How best can governments strike a balance between network security and privacy?

Social inclusion: ICTs can be perceived as a barrier to social inclusion because of inadequate access. Persistent inequalities build barriers that limit the development of an inclusive information society. How best can ICT be used to help break down these barriers? How can ICT help users from disadvantaged groups and improve education and employment prospects?

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Introduction

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), like previous UN Summits, is an intergovernmental meeting at the highest political level, with International Organizations (including United Nations (UN) organs and UN specialized agencies) and duly accredited civil society (including NGOs) and business sector entities (including ITU Sector Members) participating as observers.

WSIS will be held under the high patronage of the UN Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan, with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) taking the lead role in its preparation, in cooperation with interested UN bodies and other international organizations as well the host countries. The first phase of the Summit will take place in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003. The second phase of WSIS will be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005.

Venue and dates of the first phase of the Summit

The first phase of WSIS will be held from 10 to 12 December 2003 at the Geneva Palexpo Exhibition and Conference Center, Chemin Edouard Sarasin, CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Palexpo is situated in the Geneva Airport Area, at the North East of the Airport, 5-10 minutes walk from the Airport Arrival Building. WSIS shuttle buses will be provided (free of charge) for the WSIS participants from the Airport Main Building, Arrival Area, to Palexpo Hall 7, where the WSIS Registration Service is located. A WSIS Information Desk will be set up from 8 to 12 December 2003 in the Airport Arrival Lounge.

Access to the WSIS Registration Service

The WSIS Registration Service is located in Hall 7 of Palexpo.

If you arrive by plane: regular WSIS shuttle buses will be available from the airport to Hall 7.

If you arrive by train: a train connection from Geneva main railway station (Cornavin) to the Geneva Airport Railway station will leave you within walking distance of Hall 7. You can also take a shuttle bus at the airport.

If you arrive by bus: Bus 10 will leave you to the Airport where you can take a shuttle bus. Bus 18 or 28 stop in front of Hall 7.

The WSIS Registration Service in Palexpo Hall 7 is a 5-minute walk from the main entrance to the Summit premises, Palexpo Halls 1 and 2. Shuttle buses will circulate from the Registration area in Hall 7 to Halls 1 and 2 (see Transportation guide page 91).

Palexpo halls are accessible for disabled persons (wheelchairs by elevators/lift).

PARTICIPATION

The Summit is open to delegates from all States. The delegation of each State participating in the Summit and that of the European Community shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives as may be required.

Participants from the following observer entities may participate in the Summit:

- Entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly
- UN Secretariat and organs
- UN Specialized Agencies and other invited intergovernmental organizations
- Associate Members of Regional Commissions
- Accredited civil society entities (including NGOs)
- Accredited business sector entities (including ITU Sector Members)
- A number of accredited media and press representatives will also have access to the Summit premises.

Access to the Summit premises

The WSIS Registration Service in Palexpo Hall 7 can be accessed without a badge.

To access the Summit premises (Halls 1 and 2), participants are advised that every delegate of national delegations, members of the parties of Heads of State and Government, participants from Intergovernmental organizations, civil society (including NGOs) and business entities (including ITU Sector members), media representatives, Summit Secretariat, Host Country Secretariat and all technical support staff, will only be admitted to the Summit premises at Palexpo upon presentation of a Summit Badge with photograph.

Regular ITU or UN passes from Geneva, New York or other duty stations will not suffice for entry to the Summit premises

It is recommended that participants coming to Palexpo limit their hand luggage to one small briefcase (cabin luggage) and, if needed, one laptop computer. A luggage holding area will be available adjacent to the Summit premises.

Welcome Ceremony

A welcome ceremony, co-hosted by the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Republic and Canton of Geneva, will be held at Palexpo Halls 1 and 2 from 18.00 to 21.00 hours on Tuesday, 9th December 2003. Participants will need their Summit badge to access this event.

Organizational meeting

The Summit will begin with an Organizational meeting which will be held in the Plenary Hall located in Hall 1 of Palexpo at 10.00 hours on Wednesday, 10th December 2003. This meeting will elect the President of the Summit and the President of the Organizational meeting, adopt the Rules of Procedure and the agenda, elect the other officers of the Summit, consider the organization of work, appoint the members of the Credentials Committee and hear the Report of the Preparatory Committee.

Opening ceremony

The WSIS opening ceremony will take place from 14.00 to 15.00 hours on Wednesday, 10th December 2003. During the opening ceremony, the President of the Swiss Confederation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, as well as one speaker representing Intergovernmental Organizations, one speaker from civil society and business sector entities respectively, will address the ceremony. The Opening ceremony will be followed immediately by the first Plenary Meeting of the Summit.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION & BADGING**Location**

The WSIS Registration Service will be located in Hall 7 of Palexpo

Opening hours

The WSIS Registration Service will be open on site as follows:

5-8 December 2003:

09.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 18.00 hours

9-12 December 2003:

08.00 to 21.00 hours non-stop

Pre-registered participants:

All pre-registered participants who have received a confirmation letter from the WSIS Registration Service may proceed directly to the WSIS Badging Desk where they will be required to present their confirmation letter and one form of photo identification (e.g. passport, driver's license, employee ID card). Based on these elements, a Summit badge will be issued.

Other participants:

Participants who have not pre-registered and who have no confirmation letter should proceed to the WSIS Registration Desk where they will be required to provide proof of representation, i.e. letter of credentials, letter of representation signed by head of organizations or entity, registration form duly stamped/signed by the Head of delegation,

Head of organization or entity or Designated Focal Point. On approval by the WSIS Registration Service, the delegate may proceed to the WSIS Badging Desk where a Summit badge will be issued.

Participants who have obtained a Summit badge can leave the Summit grounds and re-enter at any time. Loss of a Summit badge must be reported immediately to the WSIS Security Service.

Additional access badges (Overpasses)

For security and safety reasons, access to the Plenary room may at times be controlled by transferable color-coded access badges (overpasses), in addition to Summit badges. Control measures (limited access) may also be imposed for access to other areas as defined by WSIS Security Services. The number of overpasses will depend upon room facilities and will correspond, in the case of the Plenary room, to seat allocation.

List of participants

The WSIS Registration Service will publish a compiled list of participants at the Summit. Designated Focal Points are requested to provide complete information concerning participants through the on-line registration system.

Program of meetings

Information on the Program of meetings will be available on the WSIS website at www.itu.int/wsis/geneva/index.html. The program will also be included in the «Summit Journal», which will be issued on a daily basis and will specify meeting details such as rooms and times of meetings.

Morning meetings will be held from 09.00 to 13.00 hours and afternoon meetings from 14.00 to 21.00 hours, except for the opening day, Wednesday 10th December, when the morning meeting is scheduled from 10.00 to 12.00 hours only.

Seating arrangements

At the opening of the Summit and at subsequent meetings of the plenary, each Government delegation will be assigned four seats, two seats at table and two seats behind.

In the case of a committee meeting being held in the overflow room, each Government delegation will have two seats, one at the table and one behind.

Specifically identified seating facilities will be available for other participants at the Summit.

Languages of the Summit

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the six official languages of the Summit.

Official documents of the Summit will be made available in the six official languages of the Summit.

Interpretation services

Statements made in any of the six official languages will be interpreted into the other official languages. Any representative may, in accordance with rule 47 of the provisional rules of procedure, make a statement in a language other than an official language of the Summit. In such cases, the delegation should provide either an interpreter from the non-official language into an official language or a written text of the statement in one of the official languages. This interpretation or the written text will be considered by the Secretariat to represent the official text of the statement and will be used by the interpreters as the basis for interpretation into the other official languages.

MEDIA

The Media Center for the use of all journalists accredited to cover the Summit will be located in Hall 2 of Palexpo. Facilities will include 250 workspaces available on a first-come, first-served basis, with power outlets and pre-paid Internet access available. Some workspaces will have computers. Journalists are advised to bring their own laptops. Broadcast facilities for radio and television journalists will also be available.

The plenary meetings, roundtables, press conferences and other activities will be broadcast live into the Media Centre. Audio-visual and sound feeds of the plenary meetings, roundtables, press conferences and other activities will be provided to broadcasters live, with plug-in recording facilities.

A Media Document counter in the Media Centre will provide journalists with all documents, as well as copies of daily press releases in English and French covering the main activities of the Summit. They will also be made available electronically on the Summit web site at www.itu.int/wsisis.

Press conferences

Daily press briefings by the Spokesperson for the Summit will be held at noon in the press conference room in the Media Centre. The room will also be available for press conferences by delegations and United Nations organizations. Before 8 December 2003 requests for press conferences should be directed to WSIS Media Services in Geneva at (phone) +41 22 730 52 23; (fax) +41 22 730 59 39; e-mail: wsismedia@itu.int. After that date, requests should be made to the Office of the Spokesperson for the Summit, located in the Media Centre in Palexpo.

ACCREDITED CIVIL SOCIETY AND BUSINESS SECTOR ENTITIES

Representatives of civil society (including NGOs) and of business sector entities (including ITU Sector members) will each have a number of

Summit offices made available as well as specially designated lounges for their use during the Summit.

There is no per-organization limit to the number of representatives of accredited civil society (including NGOs) and business sector entities (including ITU Sector members). There is no registration fee.

Representatives are responsible for their own reservations and travel arrangements. Representatives should make early reservations because of the large number of participants expected. All representatives interested in attending the Summit should ensure that they have adequate medical insurance prior to arrival.

Representatives who have obtained a Summit badge can leave the Summit premises and re-enter any time. Access to the Plenary hall may be restricted at certain times and overpasses required.

SUMMIT EVENTS

A program of seminars, panels and workshops on issues relating to the Summit is being organized by the Host country secretariat. The calendar for those events will be available at the Summit premises. An updated list of Summit Events can be found at www.wsis-online.net. To access the Summit Events taking place in the Summit premises (Hall 1 and 2 and the Conference Center underneath Hall 1) a Summit badge is necessary.

The ICT4D Platform in Hall 4 is not part of the Summit premises. It can be accessed with a Summit badge. Persons without a Summit badge will need an ICT4D badge which is provided for by the ICT4D registration desk in Hall 7. The ICT4D badge does not give access to the Summit premises.

SECURITY

Effective 9 December 2003, access to the Summit Premises (Hall 1 and 2 and the Conference Center underneath Hall 1) will be strictly limited to persons equipped with a Summit badge. During the period of the Summit, the security arrangements are as set out below.

Security Responsibilities

In the Summit premises (Hall 1 and 2 of Palexpo and the Conference Center underneath Hall 1), the United Nations Security and Safety Service, in close cooperation with the ITU Security Service and the law enforcement agencies of the host country, is responsible for the security of everyone.

The host country and the host country authorities are responsible for all arrangements relating to security and movement outside the Summit premises, as is standard for official visits.

Access to and within the Summit Premises during the Summit

Access to the Summit Premises during the Summit will be restricted to those persons who are properly accredited and who are wearing a Summit badge. Access will be denied to anyone not wearing a valid Summit badge. To avoid last minute difficulties, all Governments are requested to ensure the proper registration of their delegations and accompanying parties.

Within the Summit Premises, there will be further restriction of movements in Hall 1, including the Presidential Area, the Summit secretariat and office area, the Plenary hall and the roundtable room. The United Nations Security and Safety Service, in close cooperation with the ITU Security Service and the law enforcement agencies of the host country, will enforce control over access to the restricted areas.

All deliveries must be scheduled between 6.00 and 9.00 and must be cleared by the United Nations Security and Safety Service.

Internet connection

The ITU and the UN Department of Public Information will provide live coverage of the Summit through the World Wide Web. Internet users around the world will be able to follow the Summit proceedings by viewing the live web cast and access information, such as press releases, daily highlights, official documents, daily journal, statements and other information material, at www.itu.int/wsis/newsroom.

A wireless LAN will be available at the Summit premises. More information about this facility will be available soon at the WSIS website at www.itu.int/wsis/geneva/index.html.

Small Package Shipping Services

A DHL desk is at your disposal, during the WSIS in the Geneva Palexpo between the Entrance Hall and Hall 4, for shipping all of your international and national parcels and documents worldwide, with promotional rates. Accepted payments: credit card, cash payment in Swiss Francs or Euros.

Hours of operation: 9-12 December 2003, 08h00 to 21h00 non-stop. The DHL service is also available from your hotel.

Information is available at the following toll-free number for Switzerland: 0800 55 77 77

or connect to the DHL website to find useful information: www.dhl.ch

Transportation

See page 91, Transportation guide.