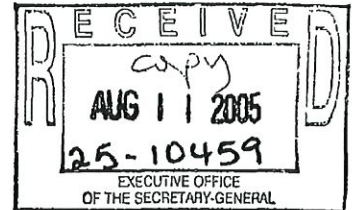


DESA

UNI 805

Note to the Secretary-General

Proposal for a Global Alliance on ICT and Development



In your letter to the Chairman of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force dated 2 July 2004 you expressed a "very positive" reaction to the proposal that an innovative "Global Alliance for ICT and Development" be launched in an effort to **catalyze the role of science and information technology** in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, you requested the Chairman of the Task Force to undertake consultations and submit a more detailed proposal on this initiative for your consideration and approval.

As a result of this request, a **rich and comprehensive series of open consultations** with governments, the private sectors, and civil society were initiated by the Task Force in November 2004 and held in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America. These were complemented by an **active and intensive online forum** among Task Force members, its regional and stakeholder networks and all interested parties. Permanent Missions in New York were also polled for comment on a number of occasions.

Strikingly, the consultations identified a **broad consensus** among different stakeholders on key issues. First, there is a wide recognition of a **vacuum within the context of existing structures** and there is no global multi-stakeholder forum to properly address ICT and Development related issues. While the Task Force itself broke new ground in bringing diverse players together under the UN umbrella and the patronage of the Secretary-General, the **cross-cutting and multidimensional** nature of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, requires a far more inclusive and innovative approach and a global reach.

An **open, transparent and multi-stakeholder** "Global Alliance" was viewed by participants as the optimal approach. In addition, the Alliance should be linked to the United Nations under the **patronage of the Secretary-General** and with a **link to ECOSOC**. It would not be operational in nature. Rather, it would be a platform for policy dialogue to help connect different agendas and promote collaboration, identify emerging issues, and bring them to the attention of the appropriate bodies, address issues that are not being dealt with elsewhere, and **support the ICT and Development agenda emerging from the WSIS and the New York Summit processes**. The principal elements of a Global Alliance emerging from these consultations are summarized in Annex I.

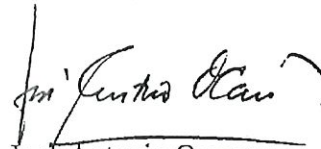
The European Union and key European countries (Germany, France, Italy, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland) have expressed strong support for the Global Alliance. Among **developing countries** the Alliance concept enjoyed **overwhelming support** with full endorsement of the African group at WSIS, and of Task Force members such as India, China, Pakistan and South Africa. Strong support

YM
cc: HJB

was also forthcoming from the private sector, especially in Europe, civil society and unequivocal support from the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies: ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WIPO, UNCTAD, UNDP as well as Regional Commissions. The United States, while in favor of an open, transparent and multi-stakeholder forum, expressed **some reservations** concerning the need to clarify the relationship with existing United Nations agencies, funding and the inter-linkage with the ultimate follow-up structure to emerge from WSIS remain.

However, while a range of views have been expressed on its specific features and functioning modalities, structure, funding arrangements, and its links to the WSIS follow up, an **unprecedented level of multi-stakeholder support** from developed and developing countries exists for a Global Alliance in ICT for Development, including its primary principles and objectives. The Secretary-General is requested to approve the basic principles and objectives of the proposed Global Alliance. Upon approval, a small start up group of 12-15 members will be formed, with the willing participation of the WSIS Prepcom President, Ambassador Karklins, key members of the Task Force as well as some representatives of major stakeholders. This group will finalize, over the next few months, in consultation with all concerned the concrete modalities of the proposed Global Alliance, including its structure, funding and link to the follow up process of the WSIS.

It is intended to announce the launch of the Global Alliance at a High-Level Roundtable that the ICT Task Force will convene in conjunction with the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (16-18 November 2005), and become operational early next year.

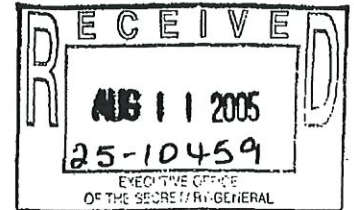


José Antonio Ocampo
10 August 2005

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Chef de Cabinet

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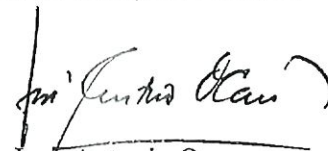
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