



WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
WELTGIPFEL ZUR INFORMATIONSGESELLSCHAFT



Monitoring and Influencing the World Summit on the Information Society

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Content

- Background
- Actors / Participation
- Themes / Conflicts
- Latest Developments / Activities
- How to get involved

Background I

- A series of world summits on central questions for humanity, 1992 to 2002
- Themes: environment, development, women, population, climate ...
- World summits are a chance to take a break and define goals and interests.
- UN Millennium Declaration 2000 as guidance

Background II

- WSIS: for the first time, information and communication as issues
- Goal: common understanding of the information society
- global political regulation of the global info-sphere
- From technology to politics
- Summit Declaration and Plan of Action

Background III

- Structure of the summit
 - As the first UN summit in two parts
 - 2003 in Geneva
 - 2005 in Tunis
- Preparatory Process
 - PrepCom 1-3, „Intersessionals“
 - regional preparations
 - Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society

Background IV

- Coordination in the UN
 - ITU as Secretariat (technology-oriented)
 - UNESCO (content-focused)
 - other UN-organisations

Actors / Participation I

- Governments
- Observers
 - International Organizations
 - Private Sector
 - Civil Society
 - *Media*

Actors / Participation II

Consensus:

- The governments alone can not meet the challenges of the information society.
- „new kind of summit“

Actors / Participation III

- Role of observers contested
 - China and Pakistan against Civil Society
 - Brazil against private sector
 - Decisions made by governments
- Participation in government delegations
 - Switzerland, Canada, Denmark, Australia, Equador,
 - now Germany as well: Georg Greve, FSFE
 - national / regional consultations

Themes / Conflicts I

Consensus:

- inclusive global information society
- universal access / infrastructures
- bridging the „digital divide“
- linguistic and cultural diversity
- capacity-building (education)
- e-democracy

Themes / Conflicts II

Debate on Ethics

- Are the ethics of the industrialized society appropriate for the information society?
- organisational and business models
- knowledge order / legal framework
- Human Rights
 - Right to Communicate
 - Freedom of Information

Themes / Conflicts III

Security vs. Freedom

- Security of information networks:
 - Cybercrime convention „as a model“
 - reliability or repression?
 - anonymity?
 - censorship?
- War against terror vs. privacy
 - Russia vs. EU, USA ambivalent

Themes / Conflicts VI

Intellectual property vs.

„global commons“ / „public domain“

Who owns knowledge?

- intellectual property rights / copyright
- software patents vs. Free Software
- WSIS or WIPO / WTO?

Themes / Conflicts V

No money for digital bridges

- No real breakthrough expected for bridging the digital divide
- Only a few commitments for an international solidarity fund.
- instead:
„private investments in exchange for market access“

Themes / Conflicts VI

Control of Infrastructures

- Private sector or public interest?
- open standards
- internet-governance: ITU or ICANN?
- radio frequency spectrum
- community media / access points

Themes / Conflicts VII

Neglected Themes

- Gender / supporting women
- Environmental sustainability
- Mass media ownership / Monopolies
- Consumer protection

Latest News / Activities I

Summit Documents

- Drafts available since March 2003
- Revised Drafts, July 2003
- Debate has just started
 - no priorities
 - conflicts only poorly debated
 - most text in square brackets (not agreed upon)
- Everybody is desperate for good ideas for the action plan!

Latest News/ ActivitiesII

Upcoming events

- 23 August: new draft action plan
- Before that: coordination in EU and other countries / regions
- German Civil society meeting with government, early September
- PrepCom 3, 15-26 September, Geneva
- Summit: 10-12 December, Geneva
- Tight schedule!

Latest News / Activities III

Civil Society international

- Work on content, internationally networked
- Fight for better participation
- Own events at the summit
 - Communication Rights Summit (CRIS)
 - Other events
- Counter summit / Polymedia Lab
- Publicity!

Latest News / Activities IV

Civil Society Germany

- Work on content
 - Charta of human rights for a sustainable knowledge society, now at version 3.0
- Dialogue with government
- Participation in counter-summit
- Publicity
- **There is still a lot to do!**
- **Next meeting: 15 August, Berlin**

WSIS on the Net

- **WSIS official**
 - www.itu.int/wsis or www.wsis.org
- **Civil Society Germany**
 - www.worldsummit2003.org (english) /.de (german)
- **Civil Society international**
 - www.wsis-cs.org
- **Communication Rights in the Info-Society**
 - www.crisinfo.org
- **Counter Summit Activities**
 - www.geneva03.org