



**UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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October 2007

Information for civil society entities that were accredited to WSIS and are interested in participating in the work of CSTD regarding the follow-up to WSIS

1. As you are aware, at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Tunis Summit in November 2005, Governments requested that the United Nations Economic and Social Council oversee the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of WSIS. To this end, Governments requested that the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2006, review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including considering the strengthening of the commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach (Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, paragraph 105).

2. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of July 2006, in Resolution 2006/46, decided that the commission shall review and assess progress made in implementing the outcomes of the summit and advise the council thereon, including through the elaboration of recommendations to the council aimed at furthering the implementation of the summit outcomes, and that to that end, the commission shall:

- a) Review and assess progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of action lines, recommendations and commitments contained in the outcome documents of the summit;
- b) Share best and effective practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them, and important measures for further implementation of summit outcomes; and
- c) Promote dialogue and foster partnerships, in coordination with other appropriate United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to contribute to the attainment of summit objectives and the implementation of its outcomes, and to use information and communication technologies for development and achievement of internationally agreed development goals, with the participation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations and other international organizations, in accordance with their different roles and responsibilities.

3. In its decision 2007/215 of 26 April 2007, the Economic and Social Council decided that **all** non-governmental organizations and civil society entities that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council but which received accreditation to WSIS **may participate, on an exceptional basis** and without prejudice to the established rules of the United Nations, **in the next two meetings of CSTD**. This provision was based on the understanding that, in the meantime, the said organizations and entities will apply for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with existing rules and procedures, and that, in accordance with the Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is invited to consider such applications, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations and as expeditiously as possible.

4. Therefore, the secretariat of CSTD would like to announce that:
 - a) all civil society entities not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, but which were accredited to WSIS, can participate in the next two meetings of CSTD; and
 - b) Any entity that would like to participate in CSTD beyond the two-year period is encouraged to apply *immediately* for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The respective information is available at <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>.
5. In case of doubt whether your entity was accredited to WSIS, please check at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/participation/accreditation/lists/civil-society.pdf>.
6. Finally, any other non-governmental organization wishing to participate in CSTD can request consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and can participate in CSTD meetings, once its request for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (general, special or roster) has been approved.
7. For any question regarding the above matter, please refer to the secretariat of CSTD (see address in the header on page 1).