UNESCO

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربيـة والعـلم والثقـافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

High Level Ministerial Forum

(organized by Government of Kenya and ITU)

Opening ceremony

Speech by

Mr. Jānis Kārkliņš,
Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information

Nairobi, Kenya 26 September 2011

Honorable Minister of Information and Communication,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish firstly to thank the government of Kenya for hosting this high level forum. On behalf of UNESCO's Director-General, I am looking forward to contributing to the discussion and bringing in UNESCO's perspective and expertise.

I wish to thank (*my dear colleague and friend*) Dr Touré for having contributed at the organization of this event and UNDESA for coordinating the Internet Governance Forum starting tomorrow.

UNESCO, ITU and UNDESA have been working together since the early days of the World Summit on Information Society to ensure that the technical advances in communication and Information will be accessible ~~for~~ to all, and are used to achiev~~ieng~~ the UN Millennium Development Goals. In the past few years, ICTs and the Internet have demonstrated their importance in fostering development and in bringing information and knowledge to all.

The Internet Governance Forum will gather ~~all~~ ~~main~~ key stakeholders to discuss around the ~~potentiality~~topic of *"tThe*

Internet as a catalyst of change through access, development, freedom and innovation". UNESCO has been actively promoting these goals of access, development, freedom and innovation, and today we are in front of the concrete possibility to of achieving each of those these, thanks to the potential that Internet and ICT have unleashed at an unprecedented scale.

The IGF has also further developed the multi-stakeholder model which has proven to be the most appropriate into dealing with the multifaceted aspects of Internet and its governance. The multi-stakeholder model, introduced during the WSIS, plbacses on the equal footing participation and open discussion on an equal footing for the identification of issues and the shaping of policies.

(Shall we put exampled on how countries have concretely used the model? I am thinking about Brazil, the US and the numerous national IGF).

Almost ten years ago, in-between the two phases of the WSIS, UNESCO set out the overarching goal of the organization in this domain: Building inclusive knowledge societies and its four underlying key principles: freedom of expression, quality education

for all, universal access to information and knowledge, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.

The important themes of this ministerial forum (Mobile Internet, Cyber security and privacy, broadband and cloud computing) ~~fall, to different extents, within~~fall within the mandate and the goal of the Organization in varying extents. I will briefly go through them describing UNESCO's role and to provide a ~~looking f~~forward-looking perspective ~~to t~~ahead of the ~~he~~ specific roundtable sessions.

Mobile internet

Clearly this is the most promising development of mobile ~~technology :~~technology: Kenya and Africa as a whole are ~~a~~ tangible examples of how the advent of mobile communication succeeded in narrowing a connectivity gap, in time and figures that were unthinkable only 15 years ago.

The use of mobile technology is growing alongside different applications that are developed in order to respond to local needs and generate solutions. The case of *m*-money is an example: Kenya is far ahead of any other country in the world in developing and

using applications for electronic forms of payment via mobile devices.

Internet connectivity via mobile phones is also marking a turning point in the Internet development and its governance. 99% of the internet traffic in Kenya is done via mobile operators with 10.2 million of people with Internet access. At over 25% of the population connected Kenya is close to the critical mass needed for the local web to thrive[1]. UNESCO's belief is that to reach the tipping point, local content and information literacy must be placed at the centre of the policy agenda, ~~next to~~alongside infrastructure development.

The lack of local content and in local languages results in smaller traffic and insufficient return on~~to~~ investment. It is the task of Governments to work in this domain, in concert with the other stakeholders, to couple the technical development with the capacities to fully participate and contribute to an inclusive

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[1] Communication Commission of Kenya QUARTERLY SECTOR STATISTICS REPORT 2ND QUARTER OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2010/2011: The mobile data/internet subscriptions through GPRS/EDGE and 3G continue to dominate internet subscriptions and accounted for 99 per cent of the total subscriptions during the period of the second quarter October – December 2010/2011
http://www.cck.go.ke/resc/statistics/SECTOR_STATISTICS_REPORT_Q2_2010-11_x2x_x3x_x2x.pdf

knowledge society. UNESCO stands ready to accompany countries in this respect.

Cyber security and privacy

UNESCO's mandate in this domain is related to the ethical dimension of the Information Society as reaffirmed by the WSIS agenda. As with many other technologies, ICT and Internet are a tool-s ~~with no good or bad characterization by themselves~~that are not negative in themselves, but with the exponential growth of Internet users in the past years, we have witnessed~~had~~ a surge in threats ~~coming from~~ in the cyber domain.

Nonetheless, we must not ~~cannot~~ allow the consideration of ~~consider the~~ cyber-space as a space where human rights and duties are not applicable in their entirety. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration ~~Of~~of Human Rights ~~States~~ clearly ~~that~~states:

*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through **any media** and regardless of frontiers.*

In assessing and discussing the security issues arising from the diffusion of ICT and the Internet, we need to develop policies and laws that fully uphold the human rights, in particularly freedom of expression, and the right to privacy. UNESCO strongly believes that despite the growing challenges for governments on how to respond to illegal internet content, knee-jerk responses of censorship, filtering or deletion of content might create "collateral damage" thus affecting freedom of expression, and damaging democracy and good governance. As expressed in a recent report to the UN Human Rights Council[2], Internet is an "enabler" of other human rights; the Internet boosts economic, social and political development, and contributes to the progress of humankind as a whole. Appropriate responses in cyber security must therefore include the full respect of human rights as well as long term policies for quality education, and information and media literacy.

Broadband and Cloud computing

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[2] Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and Expression, Frank La Rue. May 2011
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27_en.pdf

UNESCO is a member of the broadband commission launched at the WSIS forum in 2010, and is strongly committed to broadband inclusion for all. Broadband is an enabler of UNESCO's multiple activities in the field of education, science, culture and of course communication and information. UNESCO also holds strongly ~~to the view~~ that, if we are to maximize the impact of broadband technology, we must look beyond connectivity and infrastructure. We must recognize the intimate connection between technology and the human being. This means among other things facilitating access to local culture, furthering cultural and linguistic diversity, respecting freedom of expression, promoting quality education for all and ensuring a multi-stakeholder approach to the provision of content.

With the advance in connectivity and storage capacities, cloud computing is now a fast- paced growing reality, where the advantages in terms of efficiency and accessibility need to balance with the concerns about the potential abuses. The transfer of large amount of data to the cloud, as well the technologies for automated data mining, where machines retrieve data intended to be private, could led to an uncontrolled use of masses of data in ways in which the originators could not, or did not foresee.

In conclusion, –allow me to stress what I believe is a cross cutting issue of any discussion about Internet governance and ICT, for a true and inclusive access and participation: multilingualism and local content.

UNESCO's places special emphasis on the delivery of local and multilingual content and applications through broadband networks, to promote cultural diversity, access for all, and to bridge the linguistic divide on the Internet. According to the UNESCO Atlas of endangered languages[3] only in Kenya there are 13 endangered languages, some of which almost extinct as Lorkoti, Elmolo and Kinare. Every time that a language disappears, a piece of human knowledge, history and traditions are lost. There are approximately 6,000 languages in the world, but, in 2010 only 10 languages accounted for 82% of all web pages, and English is currently the dominant language on the Internet with 27%[4]. Internet and ICTs play a very delicate role since they could be used to reverse this trend, if local languages and content are part of national and international policies for Internet governance.

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[3] http://www.unesco.org/culture/languages-atlas/index.php

[4] http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm

The next billion online will accentuate the need for local language content, and will likely further diversify the Internet content ecosystem. Internet ~~therefore~~ can therefore be an efficient tool both in multilingual content transmission as well as in assisting in language use assessment, monitoring and learning.

UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (2003)[5] is being followed up by Member States, with the second consolidated report on its implementation currently under—way. This recommendation is indeed a key element for achieving inclusive knowledge societies and policies for empowering indigenous and marginalized communities, minority groups, youth, marginalized women, and women and men with disabilities, to be able to access and actively participate in the spread of knowledge on the Internet.

Lastly, I will just say ~~et me spend just~~a –few words regarding~~on~~ digital preservation, a looming issue which is under-emphasized. To fulfil~~l~~ the promise of a universal access to knowledge, countries must consider the technical difficulties of preserving knowledge for future generations. ——As technology moves on, a proportion of

[5] http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=17717&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

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information will be lost forever, or, will become impossible to access without the original programmes and hardware. At present, there is no single long-term solution to the issue of digital preservation. Key obstacles include the cost of the digitization process, which is often prohibitive in developing countries, and capacity-building in digitization and publishing of content, including rights management.

UNESCO recognises that access to digital information must be ensured in spite of technological obsolescence and changes in technical architecture, legislation and commercial applications, in order to reconcile economic interests and the public good. UNESCO's strategy for the promotion of the concept of digital preservation is centred on consulting with governments, policy-makers, information professionals and producers, and heritage institutions, on disseminating technical guidelines and on implementing the 2003 Charter on Preservation of Digital Heritage[6]. UNESCO is in a positionOur Organization is well placed for the to mobilization ofe key partners such as governments, libraries, archives, publishers and ICT industry bodies to debate fundamental

[6] http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=17721&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

issues, such as who pays, who preserves, what is preserved and under what conditions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

UNESCO's mandate is to assist Member States and to work with all stakeholders in understanding and navigating the collisions of national laws and the trans-border nature of the Internet, to build a governance of the Internet which is engine of inclusive knowledge societies.   In concert with ~~the entire~~ all relevant stakeholders, UNESCO is ~~ready~~ keen to input its expertise ~~at the service of~~ to collaborate with each and every one of you. I thank you for your attention and ~~I~~ look forward to the~~a~~ fruitful deliberations~~meeting~~.

Thank you.