

# Public-Private Partnerships: Delivering Results in the World Summit on the Information Society

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to the  
Pacific Economic Cooperation Council  
15th General Meeting,  
September 1-3, 2003

# The Challenge - Digital Divide

- ICTs transforming economy and society
- Tremendous benefits in health, education, trade, private sector investment and jobs
- But large populations being left behind
  - 91% of Internet users live in wealthiest countries that account for only 19% of the world's population

## UN Resolution to hold Summit

- Under the hospices of the UN and the patronage of UN SG Kofi Annan
- ITU lead with support of other UN bodies and host countries
- Meeting at the highest political level
  - Phase One in Geneva (December 10-12, 2003)
  - Phase Two in Tunis (November 16-18, 2005)

## Summit Rationale

- Develop a common vision of an **inclusive** global information society
- Mobilize leaders with Action Plan to put ICTs at the service of human development
  - Expand access to ICTs in developing countries
  - Accelerate Progress on UN Millennium Development Goals
  - Promote Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

# Preparatory Process for Geneva 2003

- Preparatory Committee Meetings
  - Negotiate political Declaration and Action Plan
  - Establish Summit Format
- Regional Conferences
  - Bamako, Bucharest, Tokyo, Bavaro, Beirut*
  - Provide regional input

## Participation

- « **New Model Summit** »
  - Governments, private sector, civil society and intergovernmental organizations actively involved
- Opportunity for new era in international relations
  - From misunderstanding and mistrust to collective solidarity of purpose

## « From Input to Impact » From Observers to Partners

- PrepComs 1&2: Forum to express views
- PrepCom 3: Impact on Negotiations
  - New mechanism for observers' input, but decision making remains with governments
  - Precedent for new relationship between governments and other partners

## Partnerships key to Summit Success

- Opportunity for each partner to participate
- Vehicle for action
- Tangible response to Declaration and Action Plan



# Partnership Roles

## Government

- Policy/regs, investment conditions, model user

## Intergovernmental Organizations

- Standards, consensus, development expertise

## Private Sector

- Investment, tech solutions, new products and services, content

## Civil Society

- Content, grass roots support

## Delivering Results through Partnerships

- Collective commitment, resources
- Monitoring and evaluation, measurable outcomes
- Sharing and applying lessons learned

## Closing Thoughts

- Digital divide is fueling greater inequality
- WSIS is a unique platform for global action
- Everyone has a role to play
  - Leaders commit to vision and plan at Summit
  - All stakeholders participating in process
    - Preparation and follow up for leaders
  - Launch multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives

Thank you

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