



## The Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) in a nutshell

### The Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF)

- The DSF is an African initiative launched by the President of Senegal, H.E. Abdoulaye Wade during the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003) and validated during the second phase (Tunis 2005);
- It was officially inaugurated on 14 March 2005 in Geneva, in the presence of several Heads of State, ministers, mayors and other personalities from all over the world. It is headquartered in Geneva, with a Regional Office in Abuja, Nigeria;
- It is supported by **26 founding members** (16 nation States<sup>1</sup>; 8 cities and regions<sup>2</sup> ; one international organization<sup>3</sup> and one private company<sup>4</sup>). Several other States, local authorities and enterprises have expressed their interest in joining the DSF;
- It is governed by a tripartite Foundation Board composed of 26 members, representing, in equal parts, public authorities, the private sector and civil society of the various regions of the world.

### Financing principle

- Its long term financing is based on a voluntary commitment on the part of public authorities and businesses that decide to implement the “**1% digital solidarity principle**”, a 1% contribution on public ICT dealings paid by the vendor from his profit margin.

### Principle of intervention

- The DSF finances community-based projects that require the use information technology, that are in line with national policies, that address insolvent demand, and that aim at creating new activities, new jobs and, in the long term, new markets;
- It contributes 60% of its resources to projects in the least developed counties, 30% to projects in developing countries, and 10% to projects in countries in transition and industrialized countries.

### Action in the field

- The DSF began its operations in Asia, where it provided support for the reconstruction of information technology in the municipality of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, and in Africa, where it has financed 10 tele-medicine and of tele-education projects in Burundi and Burkina Faso.

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<sup>1</sup> The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Cameroon, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the French Republic, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of Kenya, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Tanzania.

<sup>2</sup> City of Dakar (Senegal), City of Geneva (Switzerland), City of Lyons (France), City of Malaga (Spain), City of Paris (France), City of Saint Domingo (Dominican Republic), Rhône-Alpes Region (France), Piedmont Region (Italy).

<sup>3</sup> International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF).

<sup>4</sup> StratXX Holding SA.

## Political support since inception

- **The European Union** through the decision of the European Council of economic and finance ministers (Brussels, February 2005). **Result:** the DSF "*should take its place as an original and complementary instrument alongside existing financial mechanisms*".
- **The MDG Summit +5 and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations** (New York, September 2005). **Result:** the DSF was recognized by the Heads of State and Heads of Government assembled in New York: "*We welcome, in this regard, the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund and encourage voluntary contributions to its financing*".
- **The WSIS – World Summit on the Information Society, Phase II** (Tunis, November 2005). **Result:** The States members of the United Nations present commended the creation of the DSF and its innovative financing mechanism. The Fund organized a special session to review the progress made since its inauguration and to present the first projects financed;
- **The Bilbao Summit** – World Summit on the information society and the role of local authorities (Bilbao, November 2005). **Result:** The DSF received the support of more than 1,000 cities and local authorities assembled in Bilbao to adopt a Declaration and Plan of Action on the local development of the information society;
- **The International Conference "Solidarity and globalization: innovative financing for development"** (Paris, February 2006). **Result:** Presentation of the DSF and meetings with representatives of governments invited to the Conference;
- **The Plenary Session of the Pilot Group on innovative financing mechanisms** (Brasilia, July 2006). **Result:** the DSF was acknowledged in the President's conclusions as one of the projects that are "*already yielding fruit*".
- **The XI<sup>th</sup> Francophone Summit of Heads of State and Government** (Bucharest, September 2006). **Result:** A resolution was adopted in favour of the DSF, notably calling for "*all States and governments to support the global Digital Solidarity Fund with voluntary contributions*", recognising "*the creation of the Geneva Principle, (and encouraging) States and governments to study their commitment to this principle*"
- **The 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the ACP Group of States** (Khartoum, December 2006). **Result:** The Heads of State and Government of the ACP Group of States "*call upon nations [...] for the 1% digital solidarity principle to be implemented in order to ensure a significant reduction of the digital divide*" and "*urge developed countries, particularly EU Member States, to contribute to a more equitable information society governed by principles of solidarity, by also implementing the 1% digital solidarity principle*".

## A call for financial support

- ➔ In order to respond effectively to the growing demand for the financing of projects, the DSF requests the financial support of all Member States of the United Nations;
- ➔ It calls upon all public authorities, in particular the local authorities, requesting them to implement the "1% digital solidarity principle";
- ➔ It likewise calls upon the business sector and national and multilateral financing institutions for direct support to projects in the field.

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