

Lyon Final Declaration on Digital Solidarity

“Meeting in Lyon for the first World Conference on Digital Solidarity to share our experiences and show our commitment to a more inclusive global information society governed by principles of solidarity,

Worried about the continued existence of a digital divide that is hindering achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Concerned about the very low percentage of Internet access in the world’s least developed countries, particularly in Africa,

Encouraged by recent technological developments and the increasing awareness of the actors concerned, particularly local authorities,

Convinced that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a powerful lever for development,

Confident that ICTs can contribute significantly to peace and cultural dialogue, as well as economic development, that they lead to greater exchanges and increased production of goods and services and the promotion of trade and investments,

Keen to implement the proposals of the United Nations World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva in December 2003 and Tunis in November 2005,

Convinced that the transition from an industrial society to an information society provides opportunities for new forms of solidarity, both “for” and “by” the digital sector,

Acknowledging the work carried out by the global Digital Solidarity Fund and the World Digital Solidarity Agency since their creation in Geneva in March 2005,

Delighted with the decision in principle of 135 countries to support the voluntary “1% digital solidarity contribution”, but calling for its effective implementation,

Welcoming the decisions adopted by the Francophonie Summit, the Islamic Summit (OIC), the Summit of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP Group), ECOWAS, the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to Fund Development, the Summit of Cities and Local Governments of the Mediterranean, and numerous African and international civil society platforms, in favour of the voluntary “1% digital solidarity contribution”,

Acknowledging the new forms of financing digital solidarity made possible by the use of the Internet and specific actions undertaken by governments, international organisations, development banks, businesses, foundations, local authorities and civil society,

Convinced that ongoing networking between the main public and private stakeholders in the digital sector serves as a catalyst for numerous synergies and the emergence of projects adapted to local realities,

Delighted with the work achieved during the workshops and plenary sessions of this first World Conference on Digital Solidarity,

We ask the global Digital Solidarity Fund and the World Digital Solidarity Agency:

- **To combine their activities**, as quickly as possible, to form a new international structure whose responsibilities will include the implementation of this declaration,
- **To continue to mobilise** all the digital solidarity stakeholders who met in Lyon, by hosting a permanent meeting platform,
- **To support** the project for the organisation in 2009 of an online World Digital Solidarity Day.

Within this context,

- We undertake to support these efforts by providing the necessary resources to achieve these objectives, particularly through the digital education, telemedicine and e-waste recycling programmes,
- We strongly urge all the public and private organisations concerned to support this initiative and contribute to the implementation of its activities,
- We also urge states, public and private organisations, and local authorities to apply the 1% digital solidarity principle.

Finally, we ask:

- **The Mayor of Lyon and the President of the Rhône-Alpes Region** to forward this declaration, respectively, to the President of “**United Cities and Local Governments**” (UCLG) and the President of the “**Forum of Global Associations of Regions**” (FOGAR), to encourage the members of these two organisations to support this initiative.
- **The UN Under-Secretary-General in charge of innovative financing for development** to forward this declaration to the United Nations Conference on Financing Development, which will take place in **Doha on 29 November 2008**.
- **The Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union** to forward this declaration to the **Tunis +3 WSIS meeting**.
- **The President of the French Republic** to present the results of this conference to the **members of the European Union, the G8 members and the Doha conference, to urge them to contribute** to this joint effort.
- **The President of the Republic of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade**, in his capacity as representative of the NEPAD Commission on Infrastructures and Information and Communication Technologies, to **present the recommendations of the Lyon**

Conference to his African Union peers, to increase the support of its members for the Digital Solidarity Fund.”