

Geneva, March 20, 2006

2006 Work programme

STRATEGY AND GENERAL POLICY

Founding Members

- The Secretariat will endeavour to complete the number of founding members by the end of 2007, by limiting their number to a maximum of 12 members per region of the world.
- Communication with the founding members will be reinforced through the web site, within a section especially reserved for communicating with them. The objective is to involve all founding members in the Fund's daily activities.
- The Fund will, nevertheless, continue to seek support from other countries, in order to further develop its activities.

Foundation Board

- The Foundation Board membership will also be finalised, so that it may fully play its role. The Fund's other organs will also be completed, in particular the Scientific Committee. A particular effort will be undertaken to nominate representatives from the private sector.

International Conference on digital solidarity financing

- The Fund's major activity in 2006 will be the international Conference on digital solidarity financing. The Fund will not be able to ensure its own development unless the legal conditions that allow the implementation of its financing mechanism are made available.
- The Conference should also constitute a "*pledging conference*", therefore allowing for potential donors to be solicited through traditional fund raising.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)

- The Fund will continue to strengthen its relations worldwide by broadening its networks of contacts with those organisations and entities that could reinforce its global presence.
- MoUs will be signed with United Nations Regional Economic Commissions.
- Special relations will be considered with the agency ensuring the follow-up of UN ICT Task Force.

Relations with International Organisations

- The Fund has concluded agreements with the OIF and the CERN with the intention to apply the “Geneva Principle”. It will endeavour to enlist other organisations to follow this example.
- The results of the international Conference on digital solidarity financing should facilitate this approach.

Relations with the private sector

- The Fund will pay special attention to the development of its relations with the private sector. Contacts will be made with the WEF to ensure the DSF’s visibility during WEF 2007 Forum.

International agenda (January - June 2006)

- The Fund will carefully select its participation in international meetings in 2006. The goal will be to ensure that its financing mechanism is fully understood and that new members are ready to subscribe.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Pilot projects

- The projects supported in Burkina Faso, in Burundi and in Indonesia are in good progress and will be completed by end of 2006. Negotiations are under way with the President of AIDSETI to ensure full utilisation of the installations financed by the DSF. A first evaluation will be effected by the end of 2006.

Rules of procedure

- A great effort will be undertaken to ensure full transparency of the relations between the DSF and those entities that have solicited financial support. All such requests transmitted to the Fund will be recorded and published on the website.
- Project financing decisions will be subject to a clear and transparent procedure. Relations with the new International Agency for Digital Solidarity in Lyon will be set within the framework of a MoU. Rules of procedures regarding requests for financial support will also be published on the website.

Evaluation

- The first evaluations of the Burundi, Burkina Faso and Banda Aceh pilot projects will be effected by the end of 2006.

New projects in Africa, in Latin America, in the Middle East and in Asia

- The Fund will endeavour to broaden its operations worldwide, with the development of new projects in Africa, in Latin America, in the Middle East and in Asia.

Communication Strategy

- A good communication strategy is essential to publicise the Fund, to earn recognition and solicit new memberships. The Fund will continue the publication of its Newsletter, which turned to be a very good means to promote the Fund in 2005.
- Five new issues of the Newsletter are planned for 2006. A press campaign is also envisaged, in close relation with the international Conference on digital solidarity financing. The Fund expects to obtain additional financial support from interested private sector parties to cover the costs of this campaign.
- The promotion of the Conference is in theory ensured by JCDecaux who committed to issue a poster campaign in more than 70 countries across the world.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)

- In addition to the MoU's mentioned above, the Fund plans to increase cooperation agreements with various institutions willing to contribute to the development of its operational activities (World Bank, bi- and multi-lateral financing institutions, etc).

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Development of the Secretariat

- The Fund will develop its Secretariat to ensure its *active* deployment worldwide. A first step will be realised with the opening of an office in Abuja, which will strengthen ties with all the African States, and in particular with the African Union (including the NEPAD) and with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The Abuja office will pay special attention to ensuring better contacts with the African private sector.
- As to the active personnel in Geneva, the Fund will strive to keep its personnel to a minimum. The Fund currently operates with three full-time and one part-time employees.
- Despite an increased workload, in 2006, the Fund intends to limit its workforce to five persons (including the Executive Secretary).

