

World Summit on the Information Society

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CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION GROUP
Letter to WSIS Civil Society Division
About the Informal Meeting on Content & Themes
Geneva, 16-18 September 2002

Civil Society Division
WSIS Secretariat
c/o ITU
Place des Nations
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Copies:
Adama Samassekou, Pierre Gagné

10 September 2002

Dear Alain and Louise,

As you recall from PrepCom1, civil society representatives there organized themselves into a Plenary Group, several Sub-Committees and working groups. The final Plenary mandated these to continue work and to set up a representative and transparent structure for civil society to continue to organize between and at further PrepComs. The support of the CSD in this was greatly appreciated.

As you may already know we have been active since, in formulating the issues, developing proposals, and organizing a basic structure that is open and democratic. We wish to inform you that by the end of September we expect to have completed this first stage, and to have put in place these basic aspects. This will leave us ready to open out further to civil society, and also to begin more formally to relate to the WSIS process and engage in constructive and participative dialogue and cooperation.

In a separate letter, addressed to Pierre Gagné with a copy for you, we have expressed some of our concerns with current practices of the WSIS Secretariat and process. We look forward to working with you to overcome these problems and to ensure effective and meaningful participation of civil society in the WSIS.

We also welcome the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Informal meeting on Content and Themes, September 16th to 18th. We understand that we may nominate a

speaker and present a paper. We are in the process of doing that as a matter of urgency. We will be back to you without delay on this.

We look forward to working closely together,

On Behalf of the Civil Society Plenary at PrepCom 1
Interim Civil Society Plenary Coordinating Group

Izumi Aizu, Karen Banks, Renate Bloem, Steve Buckley, Sally Burch, Sasha Costanza-Chock, Susanna George, Bruce Girard, Robert Guerra, Richard Jordan, Robyn Kamira, Olinca Marino, Meryem Marzouki, Emanuel Njenga, Seán Ó Siochrú, Valerie Peugeot, Claire Shearman, Gaurab Raj Upadhaya