

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

For the creation of the CODETIC

World Consortium for the Equitable Development of Information and Communication Technologies

Between WebForce International Federation, Non governmental Organization, operating under Swiss law, in special consultative status with Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), specialized in Information and Communication Technologies, the founder of the World Consortium for the Equitable Development of ICTs, of which executive secretariat is located at: 2, Eccles Avenue, 11 100 Narbonne, in France, represented by its President the Professor Roger Mellet Brossard, hereinafter referred to as WebForce International,
on one hand,

and

of which headquarters are located at
represented by
hereinafter referred to as
on the other hand

hereinafter referred to as the Parties

PREAMBLE

WebForce International Federation,

Considering that poverty reduction in the world can only be achieved through a sustainable and harmonized economic development in which access to information and communication technologies is fundamental means to progress,

Convinced that information and communication and so telecommunication are essential for the whole sectors and especially for companies and also for humanitarian organizations, universities, schools, education and training,

Reminding that only a Responsible Civil Society, ready to cooperate with States, the Private Sector and various bodies in the United Nations – among which the ITU, the UNCTAD, the UNESCO, the UNDP – will enable to reach concrete results,

Considering furthermore that the Responsible Civil Society does not include elected representatives, but in the contrary intermediaries between populations and States; that it is based on transparency, tolerance, equity, peace and justice principles; that organizations that form this Responsible Civil Society can have various forms and work differently; that they are often organizations of which purpose is the defence of interests of some groups in the society; that they can be humanitarian NGOs, associations, leagues etc., apart from political and religious groups and parties.

Reminding the resolution 90 made by States at the World Summit on the Information Society: “We reaffirm our commitment to providing equitable access to information and knowledge for all, recognizing the role of ICTs for economic growth and development. We are committed to working towards achieving the indicative targets, set out in the Geneva Plan of Action”,

Also convinced that urgency does not allow us to wait for 2015 to act against everyday deterioration of living conditions of the poorest people and that we have to create synergies of efficient actions between the various stakeholders of the Responsible Civil Society,

Suggests the creation of a World Consortium for the Equitable Development of Information and Communication Technologies (**CODETIC**), in order to offer lower-cost access to Information and Communication Technologies notably for the most destitute and the most isolated people.

As a consequence, the parties decide to cooperate on the following items:

ARTICLE 1. Subject

1. The CODETIC is open to companies, NGOs, INGOs, associations, universities, training centers and States that would want to participate.
2. Within an international collegial action, the first aim of the Consortium is to establish conditions needed for the implementation of concrete and measurable actions in order to bridge the digital divide and in particular providing a technical help appropriate for strengthening abilities to manage local organizations and businesses.
3. To reach these purposes, the participants, within the framework of their respective work, will join their efforts to implement and coordinate their activities of common interest in fields of communication, information and universal access to telecommunications.
4. The CODETIC will also enable the whole members to have access to technical and strategic information that is essential for a good understanding of development of information and communication technologies.
5. Aims and terms of actions of the CODETIC can be enlarged if the need arises through an agreement between the parties. The running and the results reached through the CODETIC will be the subject of an operational efficient planning and open annual reports.

ARTICLE 2. Purposes

6. Promote "**Universal Telephony**" and mainly where humanitarian actions are necessary in this field. As a result, the CODETIC is the ideal framework to gather, inform and represent to the ITU adherent-NGOs as well as adherent-companies. In other words a Responsible Civil Society that gathers companies and NGOs for socially responsible actions.
7. Development of **Open Source** services, by providing VoIP that makes low-cost global communication easier.
8. Creation of jobs for numerous students within the framework of a decentralized **translation and interpreting center** that works in the whole world, in order to provide services in the 6 official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian); associated with a **call center** for help to information about the United Nations work.
9. Launching of a **Virtual Research Centre (VRC)** and of several incubators that will give students, voluntary researchers the opportunity to develop their innovations in the field of ICTs and to cooperate in specific or permanent actions with companies and NGOs in the world.
10. These goals can be defined in four participation groups:
 - a. **Group: Technology and implementation**: implementation of communication points (WebForce Points); creation of micro-operators and numerous services; creation of a micro-finance system for micro-operators and final users of telecommunications technologies.

- b. **Group: Research and strategy:** individual planning of each WebForce Point implementation; management of studies for the implementation of VoIP, Wifi, Wimax... access carried out by the Virtual Research Centre (VRC) of WebForce Group; using ISM bands; creation of a working group on Open source software; appointment of a committee for the follow up and reflection about the WSIS recommendations
- c. **Group: Training:** e-learning to provide basic knowledge for the implementation of WebForce Points; additional training according to the geographic position of the country; training for trainers; possible cooperation with training centres; a certificate will be able to mark the successful conclusion of each training.
- d. **Group: Commission & Consortium services:** putting hosting areas at disposal, creation of websites and communication, implementation of two information lines: one is technical, the other one is for everyone; creation of a translation and interpreting centre; creation of a call centre that can propose its services to companies, NGOs and users of telecommunications technologies.

ARTICLE 3. Cooperation principles

11. Under the Director's authority, the Consortium will work actively on the facilitation of the implementation of programmes in the world through appropriate ways.
12. The Consortium will promote internal, then national, regional and international cooperation. The creation of specific programmes will be able to be decided through an exchange of letters. The Consortium will endeavour to get support for each programme and notably resources.
13. The representatives of governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as well as the representatives of States will be welcome by rights in all committees' meetings with a consultative status.
14. Generally, organizations that are members will cooperate to deal with the whole questions concerning this Memorandum, especially for the creation and the adoption of guidelines and other instruments to promote the Consortium.

ARTICLE 4. Organization

15. *Structure*

- a) A Director elected by the Board of Directors. His term of office is two years and is renewable once.
- b) A Supervisory Board with one seat per country represented
- c) A Board of Directors with one seat per member. There will be at least 5 members elected among the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the CODETIC. The President or a Vice-President of WebForce will be the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The vote of the President plays a prominent role in case of equality of votes.
- d) Specialized Study Commissions, and if the need arises with working groups within it.
- e) An Executive Office with four members: the Director, the secretary, the treasurer and the administrator.

16. *Running*

- a) The Consortium incomes come from members' subscriptions, potential donations, subsidies and sponsors' specific contributions.
- b) The Director carries out the work plan determined by the Board of Directors. He reports to the Supervisory Board quarterly.

**Consortium Mondial pour le Développement Equitable des TIC
World Consortium for the Equitable Development of ICTs**

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- c) The Supervisory Board examines the quarterly report presented by the Director and draws up possible corrective measures for the work plan. The Supervisory Board reports to the Board of Directors as soon as possible. The Supervisory Board examines membership requests according to the Consortium statutes.
- d) The Board of Directors determines the statutes, the purposes and the structure of the Consortium. If the need arises, the Board of Directors revises them in the interest of all members. Every year, the Board of Directors determines the Director's term of office, the Consortium's work plan, the study commissions and their term of office, the budget, the amount of the contribution and accepts or refuses applications for the Consortium according to the Supervisory Board.
- e) The contribution that each NGO-member pays yearly is unique. Nevertheless, a NGO-member can decide of its own free will to pay a contribution whose amount is higher or to finance a particular activity of the Confederation without pretending to enjoy particular advantages.
- f) Each study commission determines its plan of action according to its term of office that is fixed by the Board of Directors. Each one works out strategies and prepares the documents showing the position of the Confederation on various items. Each study commission elects its own president for one year and the president's term of office is renewable.
- g) The executive office is led by the director and is in the service of members, according to the term of office that is fixed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5. Entrance fees

- 17. Running fees as well as expenses devoted to specific actions will have to be borne by the whole participants, in proportion to their means.
- 18. An entrance fee is required according to a pre-established scale. This rule is an integral part of partnership or membership conditions.
 - a) As a company, the entrance fee for the CODETIC and the annual subscription are included in a sole amount to pay for. This sum is fixed according to these categories:
 - **Developed countries: 5 000 €**
 - **Developing countries: 2 500 €**
 - **Less developed countries: 1 000 €**
 - b) As an NGO, the entrance fee for the CODETIC and the annual subscription are included in a percentage that amounts to **15% of the annual budget** of the NGO.
- 19. The whole fees of any event to which a company or an NGO wants to attend have to be covered by the participants' contributions for the event in question.
- 20. Profit is essential for companies and we understand it. However, before partnerships are signed with companies, the CODETIC can not invest funds it does not have.

ARTICLE 6. Term

- 21. This memorandum remains in force for a maximum period of three years, at the end of which it will be revised by the parties.

ARTICLE 7. Disputes

22. This Memorandum is exclusively governed by Swiss law.
23. The Parties reach an amicable agreement about any dispute that can result from the interpretation or the enforcement of this memorandum. In case of persistence of disagreement, they can appoint a go-between of which impartiality can not be questioned by both Parties.
24. If the disagreement continues, only Swiss courts will be relevant.

ARTICLE 8. Coming into effect

25. This memorandum will come into effect as soon as the Parties sign it.

Each partnership will be established according to specificities of each partner. A more detailed contract between both Parties can be appended.

We have to remind that signing this memorandum for participant organizations, industries, businesses or associations does not involve a loss of autonomy in their own running. Moreover, invested sums (as a contribution or participation) will not be refunded, even in case of resignation.

Signed in
In
On the day of

For WebForce International Federation
Roger Mellet Brossard

For

APPENDIX (Specific conditions for this partnership)