

# Press Kit

**WebForce International Federation**

**Partnership Agreement**

**CIDETIC**

**CODETIC**

**SMSI + 3**

**UN-NGO Alliance**

**Conference of Presidents of NGOs in status with the ECOSOC**



NRef RM/PC/EPC/SF0704172EN

*Original: French*

*Latest update: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007*

## Summary

1. WebForce International Federation	2
2. Partnership Agreement	3
3. CIDETIC	6
4. CODETIC	Erreur ! Signet non défini.
5. SMSI +3	8
6. UN-NGO Alliance	9
7. Conference of Presidents of NGOs in status with the ECOSOC to promote ICTs for Development	11

## 1. WebForce International Federation

**Webforce International Federation** is a UN-NGO (Non Governmental Organisation) operating under Swiss law in special consultative status with the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) of the **United Nations**. It is probably the most active NGO in the fields of communication and telecommunications. We have taken a highly active part in the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** since 2001.

Our objective is to reduce the costs for transferring sound, data and images in the world. It is essentially based on the harsh reduction of the phone costs, which is particularly necessary for developing countries. We would like to make information and communication technology accessible to the world's poorest people.

We cooperate with the International Communication Union (ITU<sup>1</sup>) in order to bring about and support all humanitarian actions and to promote sustainable development. In other words, we can act as a go-between thanks to our consultative status with the **United Nations**, which is a support to our action in the international field.

Within this framework, our emphasis will be placed on the following aspects:

- **Promoting universal telephony** and mainly where humanitarian aid programs in this field are necessary.
- **Developing “open-source” services** by completing the VoIP, which makes low- cost global communication easier.
- **Creating a virtual network of translation and interpretation** run by students. The advantages are as follows:
  1. Financial aid for their studies.
  2. Significant reduction of interpretation and translation costs for NGOs, which often have a low budget, during their “meetings” or in their written correspondence.

**Setting up of a virtual research centre (VRC) and of several incubators**, which will give voluntary researchers and students the opportunity to develop their innovations in information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to cooperate in limited or continuous actions in cooperation with firms and NGOs in the world. The aim is to spread technological means needed to improve the lives of populations in accordance with the Millennium resolutions and those of the WSIS. Therefore, we wish to:

- a. Make the reduction of costs in the field of telecommunications and in cultural exchanges easier.
- b. Work for a voluntary and effective cooperation<sup>2</sup> to further social progress, which will be brought by technical progress (for example the improvement of the kind of computers planned by the MIT for regions without electricity by giving a low cost supplement or the installation of photovoltaic cells)
- c. Reduce the deadlines for bringing a project to completion fixed during the various United Nations summits.

Our function as a **humanitarian organisation** forces us to have recourse to sponsors, to whom we offer a **winner-winner** pact based on the possibilities of media coverage.

**WebForce International Federation** thanks you in advance for the interest you may take in our proposals and also for your support.

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<sup>1</sup> International Telecommunications Union

<sup>2</sup> Between the United Nations, governments, NGOs and companies

## 2. Partnership Agreement

(Proposition to the ITU and the GAID)

### *A laptop for everyone*

#### General background

WebForce International Federation, an NGO in consultative status with the ECOSOC and a member of the Development Sector of the International Union of Telecommunication, wishing bridging the digital divide as soon as possible, proposes a global initiative. This initiative would follow the framework of the ITU's fundamental missions and would be based on cooperation between the ITU, the GAID, the ECOSOC, the NGO Alliance and more generally the Civil Society, in order to implement this proposal as quickly as possible. Indeed, we wish to follow the new stimulating impulse given by Mr. the Secretary General of the ITU the Dr. Hamadoun Touré.

#### Content

This initiative would consist notably in creating a special commission with the following aims:

1. Developing a wide consensus between the ITU-Member States about the project of creating and assembling a lower-cost laptop.
2. Creating a partnership between the private sector and the States concerned, mainly oriented towards local and national private sector.
3. Carrying out a parallel study on the setting up and the implementation of an assembly plant<sup>3</sup> and hoping premises for free from the governmental authorities.

This initiative seems to be for us the essential starting point for our Global Project (a World Consortium for the Equitable Development of Information and Communication Technologies). These laptops would be fitted according to the use that is made by primary schools, secondary schools, universities. Within these categories, some people are not at school. These would benefit from the laptops according to their training, information needs... Moreover, the Microsoft Company proposes the XP operating system and its Office Pack for 3 dollars to each country that buys computers within the framework of programmes for helping pupils and students. According to the different countries, this can be an alternative to Open Source software that we want to install on the laptop.

#### Financing

The creation of a special fund dedicated to the project “**a laptop for everyone**” seems to be the most appropriate solution as far as the fund would be managed by an appropriate structure within the ITU.

In addition to it, it would be helpful to create micro finance partnerships with private banks as well as with private micro financing organizations, while relying on cooperation of the various United Nations-specialized agencies concerning the research for these partnerships.

A starting budget between €90000 and €100000 is necessary for implementing our proposal. It includes for example the preparatory study, searching for contacts and preparing the various

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<sup>3</sup> At the beginning, 1000 units per day and per assembly plant could be produced, in order to reach a minimum number of 5000 units over the two following years.

agreements. WebForce does not have this economic capacity and call upon all possible stakeholders for assistance.

## **Distribution**

Selling price will be flexible according to criteria that remain to be determined and will be especially based on microeconomic criteria, in order to get the best appropriateness between price, cost and purchasing power.

## **Organization**

### **- Structure**

We wish the creation of an Operational Research Line between the current most dynamic countries in this field, like China and India. As a consequence, they could work especially on the conceptual part. We wish also that assembly plants begin quickly to produce laptops in countries that would volunteer for it and in which production costs could fit commercial purposes. In principle and subject to confirmation, Tunisia and Senegal would be potential candidates.

WebForce has already begun to implement its own Virtual Research Center and thinks about the expansion of the Center to a huge number of schools, universities that are specialized in electronics, telecommunications, networks and communication networks.

As a consequence, this initiative would lead to the creation of an interregional group for bridging the digital divide throughout the world. Indeed, we consider this proposition as an opportunity to create a really efficient, organized and coordinated action, when multistakeholders-partnerships with the Civil Society are going to develop.

### **- Running**

Besides, WebForce has created a committee made of volunteers specialized in engineering, design etc. in order to imagine and create this laptop. Anyone with required skills can contact us. This voluntary help is intended to be wider, for it is essential to ensure follow-up and training with local volunteers once laptops are sold.

Moreover, in each country and via free application with a C.V., we recruit national delegates wishing to create working groups for cooperating on the aims involved. There is no definite restriction for these aims. Indeed, they include education, but also training and health as well as help for the elderly and promoting womens' rights.

These delegates would play a role of facilitators and enable us to identify populations that need this laptop. They should be controlled and authorized by one of the ministries concerned: Education, Information and Communication Technologies, Health, Social Affairs. National delegates would lead a number of local delegates within each country. They would propose them for appointment to an ITU-GAID-ECOSOC-WebForce commission.

Via free application with a C.V., we plan also to recruit also regional delegates, who would have to work in close cooperation with the regional delegations of the ITU.

## Call for volunteers

Subject to the acceptance of this project by the institutions concerned, we make a global call for volunteers. This call is solely intended to experienced professionals, as individuals or as organizations (companies, researchers, universities, schools, training centers...).

## Forecasts

The international context is changing very fast, especially in the field of high technologies. Some countries, which have been defined as “emerging countries” several years ago, are beginning to play a major role in the field of production as well as research and innovation.

Such a project can be achieved only with extremely dynamic basis and has to be based on countries with increasing potential. As a result, we wish to propose a meeting of the Civil Society in Beijing, China, before the end of the year 2007 and which would focus on the project: “**a laptop for everyone**”. Obviously, the agenda would have to be studied in close cooperation with the above mentioned partners and especially with the ITU.

## Partnership items with the ITU

1. The Grameen Bank is one of the partners of the ITU that could be involved in the microfinance part of the project. As a consequence, the ITU could facilitate contacts and exchanges between the parties concerned.
2. Moreover, we would like to organize meetings and colloquia in strategic places, for example where the ITU’s regional representations are, in order to further close cooperation that is wished with the Union.
3. In order to finance a part of the project, we would like to promote charity events, in places and according to procedures that remain to be defined in close cooperation with the ITU.
4. We propose also to the ITU to call upon Sector Members, personalities or more generally donors, for supporting laptops or for example supporting a school by providing a set of laptops for it. These partnerships would be specific, according to the needs of each country and each region.
5. These actions will probably involve media coverage because of their global scope and, as a consequence, recognition of the ITU, that is no more institutional but is situated at the beneficiaries’ level, i.e. close to populations themselves.
6. We wish also to launch the creation of “ITU Clubs”. On the model of UNESCO Clubs, the “ITU Clubs” would have a role for **training** and **informing** people as well as a **communication** role. They would have to be approved by the ITU.
7. This initiative of a lower-cost laptop is the starting point of our global project, which has a determined architecture. The global project can be defined as a “turnkey project”, in which the representatives of the ITU could define an intervention at levels they would assess as relevant for the Union.

### 3. CIDETIC

#### World Summit of the Responsible Civil Society for the Equitable Development of Information and Communication Technologies

The CODETIC will be presented on the occasion of this World Summit. WebForce wishes to gather companies and non profit organizations and to make them work together.

#### Goal

This Congress is intended to give to participants the possibility of creating a network of coordinate action that enable a short-term beginning of projects for the equitable development of ICTs, in order to bridge the digital divide between industrialized countries and developing countries, especially the least advanced countries. Debates will deal with the best practices to make strategies from the various stakeholders converge – NGOs, INGOs as well as intergovernmental or private organizations – and to take into account local, regional and national priorities and constraints.

#### Purposes

The purposes of the Congress will be fixed during debates led during both preparatory meetings, called “*Premeet*”, and so will be defined further to a preliminary consensus.

#### Premeet

The main purpose of the first *Premeet* is to define the aims of the **CIDETIC**, according to the previously fixed goals and in a general context of helping for development and poverty reduction around the world.

Both *Premeet* will have also to get the best consensus about participation and running principles of the **CODETIC**, especially concerning the congress structure (chairmanship, committees, working groups etc.), the eligibility criteria for the participation, the submission of documents, speeches, and working language(s).

#### Coordination committee

The preparation of the CIDETIC is led by a Coordination Committee.

The Coordination Committee:

- Fixes the location, dates and suggests the agenda of both *Premeet*;
- Fixes the workplan needed for the preparation of both *Premeet*, of the **CIDETIC** and closely related events (roundtables, exhibitions etc.);
- Fixes the budget and the research for funds needed for financing both *Premeet*, the **CIDETIC** and closely related events;
- Identifies persons who are responsible for the implementation and the supervision of teams that will work for the preparation and the implementation of both *Premeet*, **CIDETIC** and closely related events;
- Appoints and supervises the treasurer in charge of managing finances for both *Premeet*, the **CIDETIC** and closely related events;
- Supervises all activities that are bound to the preparation and the course of the **CIDETIC**.

## 4. CODETIC

### Why do we create the CODETIC ?

For WebForce International, telecommunications are the basis that cannot be ignored for a modern and balanced development, to which everyone can have access. In order to achieve it, a commercial harmonization for a globalization liberal model should take into account different levels of countries' economic development, and, as a consequence, help developing countries and the least developed countries to have access to telecommunications.

The telecommunications world is unevenly developing. On one hand, there are the so called developed countries. They have networks that are sometimes oversized and that involve a certain overconsumption. On the other hand, there are developing countries, among them the least developed countries, which always search for basis communication tools. Massive help in developing or in the least developed countries is necessary. Besides, in the field of telecommunications, investments have to be considered as a working tool, but also as an important source of income for the whole users, whoever they are.

As a consequence, we affirm our will to participate in the implementation of lower-cost universal access to telecommunications and, following the example of considerable efforts achieved by the United Nations, to create private sector-NGOs-States partnerships through a non politicized strong involvement of a Responsible Civil Society that has understood that improving the well-being of other people, it means improving its own well-being.

### What is the CODETIC ?

The World Consortium for the Equitable Development of Information and Communication Technologies is a humanitarian initiative created by WebForce. Our goal is to offer lower-cost use and universal access to Information and Communication Technologies for the least fortunate people.

The **CODETIC** is a response to the United Nations recommendations according to which the Responsible Civil Society has to act and to be efficient in the fields where governments cannot act. It is also a response to the resolution 90 made during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS):

*“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”*

The implementation of the **CODETIC** includes notably the following actions:

- Implementation of Internet access points, called **“WebForce Points”**, which can have different form and organization and that can be fit everywhere in the world.
- Implementation of a **Virtual Research Centre**
- Creation of a **Call Centre**
- Implementation of a **Translation and Interpreting Centre** working in the whole world
- Provide communication and telecommunications **services** for NGOs and VSME in developing countries and in the least advanced countries.

The 4 key-words of our action are **education, training, information and communication.**

World Summit of the Responsible Civil Society for the Equitable Development of ICTs



*Because of technical reasons, the organization of the World Summit - initially planned in November 2007, in Tunis – is postponed in 2008 as “WSIS +3” (date and place still to be determined)*

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## **Presentation of the CODETIC for a global partnership**

### **Why do we propose to organize an international congress?**

The poorest people can not wait anymore. Resources and energies have to be catalysed and we must act fast. Cf. the resolution 90 made at the WSIS:

*“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”*

✚ We must arouse an immediate or a short-term action, in order to make up for slowness that is intrinsic to national and international institutions and that slows the process of execution of Millennium and WSIS resolutions down. Concrete results can be reached by 2010 if there is a consensus and if the Responsible Civil Society mobilizes very fast.

✚ This congress intends to give to participants the opportunity to create networks of coordinated actions that enable the very short-term beginning of projects for the equitable development of ICTs, in order to bridge the technological gap between industrialized countries and developing countries and more generally underprivileged populations. Thoughts and debates will deal with the best practices to coordinate strategies that are imagined by NGOs, INGOs as well as intergovernmental organizations and organizations from the private sector. The aim is to make these strategies complementary and, as the same time, take into account local, national and regional priorities and constraints.

✚ The congress will have also to confirm the creation of the World Consortium for the Equitable Development of ICTs (CODETIC) as a conveyor of the strengthening of the position of the Responsible Civil Society in the interest of the fight against digital exclusion.

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## 5. UN-NGO Alliance

### Goal

The goal is to create a real world communication network between NGOs in status.

### Purposes

WebForce International wishes to offer you a **telecommunication network between all NGOs in status** – to reach the possibility of permanent and free communication in the whole world, organizing videoconferences in order to know and help each other etc. WebForce International wishes to become the assessor of all its colleagues in the field of communication and telecommunications.

Currently, we are also creating a **telephone interpreting service** that each NGO will be able to use as soon as the need arises.

NGOs in status can also participate with volunteers in the **Virtual Research Center** that we are setting up, or in the **Call Center** that will gather information from everyone in order to steer associations that have no status with the UN towards cooperating with NGOs in status with the UN.

As a federation, we are here to **centralize requests made by NGOs in status that wish it**: tell us your needs and we will fulfil them. We are specialists in the field of communication and telecommunications. If you need some help in this field, whatever it is, contact us.

If you are interested in our action, join us. Numerous advantages are offered to you and, through a related action carried out by WebForce International, you will be able to contribute to make the lower-cost universal access to telecommunications for the least fortunate people possible.

As a consequence, our goal is to **gather NGOs in status** – if they wish it – in specialized working groups, concerning their respective fields of activities. The aim is to create synergies of efficient actions between us and with other stakeholders of the Civil Society, including companies; in order to offer a larger and stronger cooperation from our network of socially responsible stakeholders mainly to the ITU and to other specialized agencies of the United Nations.

### Why do we create such an Alliance?

Obviously, the usefulness of such a gathering is the complementarity and the cooperation for the specific actions carried out by each NGO. We are not trying to usurp the role of the different UN-Liaison Offices for NGOs, nor the role of the NGLS. Quite the reverse, we wish to cooperate and work with them. We have to think about problems and solutions together and keep this state of mind oriented towards permanent links.

For example, WebForce International offers the opening of a collective office of NGOs in status in Geneva for a permanent representation. Each member will have an equal right to express oneself and will take responsibility for his permanent representatives in this office. Then, an office in New York will be able to be open.

Moreover, we think that **NGOs in status with the United Nations have to keep this specificity and make it clear**, because, nowadays, the word “NGO” is daily hackneyed. That is why, during the consultation of the Civil Society at the ITU on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in Geneva and during the Annual Ministerial Review of the ECOSOC in July 2007 in Geneva, we wish to propose to the ECOSOC that NGOs in status can now write in their title “UN-NGO” ahead of after their name. We would be happy to know your point of view about this topic and to count you by our side for this request.

## Services

We wish to gather NGOs in status with two approaches:

- First, as explained in the previous email, it is a question of **gathering NGOs through their respective field of activities**, in order to form working groups or study commissions on topics they are interested in.
- On the other hand, it consists in a **more specific relationship with WebForce International** that hinges on two points:
  - Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are your general or specific field of activities and you wish to cooperate with us in this way. In this case, we will think about problems and implement solutions in this field together.
  - ICTs are not your core activities, but you use them daily to promote your actions. In this case, we can help you in your communication operations. We are specialists in this field and in telecommunications; it is up to you to benefit from it.

Obviously, these two approaches are intrinsically bound. Here is the basis of services that we propose:

- Creation of Internet websites
- Hosting of Internet websites
- Creation of personalized email addresses like: [johndoe@un-ngo.org](mailto:johndoe@un-ngo.org) or [role@un-ngo.org](mailto:role@un-ngo.org) or [nameoftheNGO@un-ngo.org](mailto:nameoftheNGO@un-ngo.org) or [johndoe.role@un-ngo.org](mailto:johndoe.role@un-ngo.org) or [johndoe.nameoftheNGO@un-ngo.org](mailto:johndoe.nameoftheNGO@un-ngo.org) or [role.nameoftheNGO@un-ngo.org](mailto:role.nameoftheNGO@un-ngo.org). Addresses are flexible and extensions can be **.org** or **.net** or **.info** according cases.
- A Virtual Research Centre: you can benefit from its studies and/or participate in its work
- E-learning / e-training about ICTs
- VoIP and VPN telephony
- Television
- Videoconferences for your meetings for example
- A Translation and Interpreting Centre: you can use it as soon as the need arises (ex.: translation of a memorandum of understanding with a partner, telephone (or so) interpreting during a meeting with a partner of which you do not know the language...)
- A Call Centre that will gather the whole information of participating NGOs in status. It can be used by NGOs in status as well as by associations without status that want for example create cooperation with one or several participating NGOs.

**Obviously, this list can be personalized in order to fulfil the needs of each request.**

As you can understand it, our running budget is limited. So, a flexible and negotiable contribution will be proposed in each case.

## 6. Conference of Presidents of NGOs in status with the ECOSOC to promote ICTs for Development

### What is the Conference?



It is a body supported by WebForce International for its creation, but remaining independent. It is open to all Presidents of NGOs in status.

Why this Conference?	The Conference purposes	What are the participants expected to do?
- Favoriser une réflexion commune globale et des partenariats, aussi bien avec les ONG en statut qu'avec les entreprises et apporter des recommandations aux participants et partenaires.	- Apporter son concours à l'ECOSOC et à l'UIT en matière de technologies de l'information et de la communication au service du développement. - Ouverte à tous les Présidents d'ONG en statut.	- Nous incitons par ailleurs les ONG en statut à regrouper elles-mêmes des ONG n'étant pas en statut, afin qu'une opinion plus large et générale puisse être exprimée.

### Composition of the supreme deciding bodies of the Conference of Presidents

GOVERNING BODY	SUPERVISORY BOARD
Composed of 30 members: 5 Directors of Fields and the members of the 5 Regional Committees.  Internal election for: - <b>The President/Chairperson</b> - <b>Both Vice-presidents/-persons</b> - <b>The Rapporteur</b>	Composed of 10 members : 2 from each Field of activity  Elected by NGOs in status, the Governing Body excluded.

**MODEL FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE**

<b>SUPRANATIONAL</b>	<b>ELECTION of the Director of the Field</b> By the Governing Body <i>(Works in cooperation with the President of the Regional Committee)</i>	<b>ELECTION of the Director of the Field</b> By the Governing Body <i>(Works in cooperation with the President of the Regional Committee)</i>	<b>ELECTION of the Director of the Field</b> By the Governing Body <i>(Works in cooperation with the President of the Regional Committee)</i>	<b>ELECTION of the Director of the Field</b> By the Governing Body <i>(Works in cooperation with the President of the Regional Committee)</i>	<b>ELECTION of the Director of the Field</b> By the Governing Body <i>(Works in cooperation with the President of the Regional Committee)</i>
					
<b>REGIONAL</b> - Europe, North America and Central Asia - Arab Region - Africa - Asia Pacific - Latin America & Caribbean					
<b>NATIONAL</b>					
<b>FIELD OF ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>

**ROLE AND MISSIONS OF THE VARIOUS BODIES IN THE CONFERENCE**

