

**Modalities for organizing the work of the
Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)**

1. Organizing Principles.

- The work of GAID has to be organized in a fashion that respects the open and non-operational character of GAID itself (in terms of its non-involvement in funding and executing programs on the ground), yet addresses expectations of important stakeholder groups that the Alliance will trigger, in supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, significant action within the four focus areas (education, health care, entrepreneurship, governance) identified at the Kuala Lumpur meeting.
- The core support activities (including communication, preparation of decisions and monitoring of implementation of decisions made by the governing bodies of the Alliance, event organization, preparation and dissemination of reports and other documentation, organization of outreach, including publications, etc.) needs to be carried out by the Secretariat of the GAID, hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and located in New York.
- The Alliance will form Regional Networks, which will have a large degree of autonomy in organizing themselves and their work. However, Regional Networks will need to take the four agreed focus areas of the GAID into due consideration in developing their work programmes. In addition, the stakeholders engaged in the Alliance will be encouraged to form their own stakeholder networks to extend the outreach of the Alliance and promote smooth communication and collaboration.
- In addition, specific, well-defined tasks within the four focus areas can be delegated by the Steering Committee to a “Community of Expertise” (see Part 2 below) for implementation.

2. Communities of Expertise

- 1) Communities of Expertise have a thematic focus and are established by a mandate from the Steering Committee to carry out a well-defined, specific task or tasks, within one or more focus areas of the Alliance. Many types of tasks can be considered, including, *inter alia*,

- analyses of existing projects, programmes and practices, with a view to identifying best practice and/or developing guidelines, standards or templates for dissemination,
 - research studies on cutting edge, new or emerging issues, identifying a technological or/and organizational solution to tackle a barrier to development using ICT,
 - identifying opportunities/actors for multi-stakeholder partnerships and resource mobilization for it.
- 2) While having a large degree of autonomy in defining their modalities of work, Communities of Expertise are expected to function primarily as web-based networks using collaboration tools with minimal physical meetings.
 - 3) An open call for proposals to establish Communities of Expertise within the four focus areas will be published on the GAID website shortly, with a view to approval of the first set of proposals by the Steering Committee meeting of 27 September 2006. Subsequent calls for proposals will be considered in due course.
 - 4) A Community of Expertise needs to rely on dedication and demonstrated expertise of its founding members, and its goals need to be consistent with the GAID objectives and the principle of multi-stakeholder participation.
 - 5) A Community of Expertise will seek to address a significant issue or problem within one of the four focus areas of the Alliance, or a problem cross-cutting several areas.
 - 6) Communities of Expertise will seek to fully leverage the existing and on-going work within the relevant domain, and will not duplicate existing work.
 - 7) Communities of Expertise can take a number of organizational forms: they may be hosted and lead by an established organization within the UN system, by a recognized public body with a development mission (e.g. bi-lateral donor agency), an academic/research institution, or a private organization, whether non-profit or for-profit; or, they may be founded by partners on mutually agreed terms and function autonomously.
 - 8) Communities of Expertise are open for participation for any organization, business or individual with a recognized expertise and commitment to work towards the goals defined in the mandate of the Community.
 - 9) In order to constitute a Community of Expertise under a GAID mandate, a lead organization and a minimum of three participating organizations/entities with recognized expertise in the domain in question

are necessary. GAID secretariat are invited to attend the meetings and contribute to the work *ex officio*.

- 10) Communities of Expertise will be responsible for their own operational resource mobilization and mode of organization. GAID may provide limited support towards travel costs to ensure effective engagement of developing country participants in relevant meeting and events, including meetings of the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council.
- 11) GAID Steering Committee members and the GAID Secretariat will act as advocates for the work of the Communities of Expertise in order to disseminate and scale up the results, and will seek to assist in the resource mobilization, as appropriate.
- 12) Communities of Expertise will be invited to report periodically to the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council on their progress.
- 13) Communities of Expertise will have an opportunity to prominently present their work at the yearly global meetings or other regional/thematic meetings of the GAID.
- 14) The composition of, and the results of the work of the Communities of Expertise will be published at the GAID site and via print publications.

3. Regional Networks

- 1) The Alliance will build on the experience of the Regional Nodes and Digital Diaspora Networks created by the ICT Task Force and will develop further this approach through the Regional Networks of GAID with a view to ensuring open, inclusive, participatory and truly global character of the Alliance, and adequate reflection of regional perspectives and specific needs in the activities of GAID along the four focus areas.
- 2) Regional Networks may be set up by a group of interested participants in the Alliance. A proposal to establish a Regional Network, containing a list of sponsoring participants, will need to be presented to the Steering Committee for endorsement.
- 3) The work of a Regional Network may be spearheaded by a Regional Centre of Excellence. Such centers will be set up, upon endorsement by the Steering Committee, by interested participants.
- 4) Regional Networks and Regional Centres of Excellence will be responsible for their own operational resource mobilization and mode of organization.

- 5) Regional Networks will be invited to report periodically to the Steering Committee and the Strategy Council on their progress.
- 6) Regional Networks and Regional Centres of Excellence will be given an opportunity to present reports on their activities in the context of the annual global meetings of the Alliance.

4. Stakeholder Networks

- 1) The key stakeholders engaged or willing to engage with GAID will be encouraged to form their own Stakeholder Network to maximize participation by all interested entities, extend the outreach of GAID and promote channels for smooth communications and collaboration.
- 2) The experience gained during WSIS in creating civil society, youth, gender, local authorities, parliamentarian networks can be built upon. Other stakeholder networks such as academic institutions, scientific organizations, grass-roots and community organizations will be encouraged to form their own networks in order to engage more fully with GAID, contribute to its activities and help attain its objectives.
- 3) Stakeholder Networks will be responsible for their own operational resource mobilization and mode of organization.