



STATEMENT BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON**

**ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION
SOCIETY IN TUNIS 16-18 NOVEMBER 2005**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK
3 NOVEMBER 2005**

Pursuant to GA resolution 56/183 dated 21 December 2001, the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) will take place in Tunis (Tunisia) on 16-18 November 2005. This Summit, in both its Geneva and its Tunis phase, is an important event and will be a major addition to the series of high-level conferences held recently on economic and social issues within the United Nations system.

At the World Summit in September, our leaders committed themselves in the Outcome Document, *inter alia*, to “building a people-centred and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide, putting the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of development and addressing new challenges of the information society by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in November 2005” (*para 60 g*).

In order to deliver on this commitment, I encourage Member States to participate at the highest possible level at the Tunis Summit on 16-18 November 2005. Furthermore, I urge all Member States to intensify their efforts in order to conclude negotiations on outstanding issues in the ongoing preparatory work for the Summit. It is indeed essential that the Summit reaches consensual decisions allowing us all to move ahead in this new era of high technology with common objectives and enhanced means for achieving them.

As the purpose of this endeavour is to build a people-centred and inclusive information society, the positive contribution in the Summit of all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, is also of paramount importance.

I am confident that the Members of the General Assembly are looking forward to receiving the report of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on the outcomes of World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) as soon as possible after the Summit.