Information Society or Knowledge Societies? UNESCO in the Smart State

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The chapters in this volume canvasses the dialogue emerging from discussions about the WSIS Statement of Principles and Plan of Action in the context of local, national and international communication policies. It also offers some insights to WSIS participants, which may be helpful when it comes to evaluating the process in Tunis and beyond. The various authors discuss the WSIS Statement of Principles and Plan of Action from multiple perspectives, offering insights into the key challenges facing the process and offering alternative frameworks for the management of communication rights.

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) hosted by the United Nations brought together all of the world’s nations in an attempt to develop a global framework to deal with the challenges posed by the information society, and to take advantage of the opportunities it presents.

The Summit created an opportunity for government, civil society and private sector actors to come together, at national as well as regional and international levels, to engage in debate and cooperation towards using ICTs to create a better world.

The overall World Summit on Information Society process had two phases. Phase one event was held in December of 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland and the process will continue at regional and national levels. The second Summit, was held in Tunis in November 2005, reviewing the process and progress made, and identify a possible further plan of action.

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