

**Information and Communication Technologies &
Accessibility**

April, 12-14, 2007, Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia

Participants at the international conference on Information and Communication Technologies & Accessibility

Organized in Hammamet, Tunisia on April 12-14, 2007, at the initiative of the Tunisian Association for the development of digital Technology and human Resources (ATTR) and the research unit in information and communication technologies (UTIC)

**Under the High Patronage of Mrs Leila Ben
Ali**

Spouse of his Excellency

The President of the Republic of Tunisia

Aware:

- ❖ Of the evolving and increasing importance of digital culture and its positive consequences in all fields of individual daily life as well as its social aspect in a democratic society.
- ❖ Of the universality that has brought about virtual planetary exchanges, new rites, new traditions based on the knowledge economy and communication technology
- ❖ Of the omnipresence of the internet on a daily basis as it becomes a structuring element of the economy , the living background of the ‘homo numericus’
- ❖ Of the disparity of access as underscored by the term ‘digital gap’, reflecting an unequal distribution of resources between countries, geographic zones, individuals and collectivities
- ❖ Of the role that civil society can play in the field of the development of digital technology in reducing the digital divide,
- ❖ Of the need to ensure the follow- up of the Tunis Phase of the WSIS 2005,

Express their aspiration to see the adherence of all, to digital culture and in particular to vulnerable people or those with specific needs,

Reaffirm the importance to strive to set up the mechanisms and necessary programs to the implementation of this noble, humanist objective without which one cannot speak of a global and egalitarian information society.

Agree to launch an open initiative to all organizations and to all regional and international networks, dubbed:

“The 2007 Call of Carthage ”

For an economic and social digital inclusion, better equity and bridging the digital gap”

Comprising the following recommendations:

Strategic Objectives

- ❖ Orient the development of information and communication technologies and their multiple applications towards the realization of social progress and the economic and cultural development of peoples and nations, within the framework of a balanced development approach which grants a greater attention to disabled persons
- ❖ Guarantee an adaptation of the legislative, legal and normative frameworks to all the attributes of an effective inclusion of populations and in particular those with special needs within the information society,
- ❖ Take the necessary steps in view of guaranteeing the implementation of the dispositions taken within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society in order to reduce the digital divide.
- ❖ Promote digital education at the scale of all levels of education and training for all group ages among the population and all genders
- ❖ Apply the fundamental principles of digital accessibility
- ❖ Encourage the production of digital content
- ❖ Act on psychological barriers which are part of the mentality element in the digital gap
- ❖ Promote research programs so as to better identify the different factors of exclusion such as age, origin, gender and specific needs.
- ❖ Insist on the enjoyable aspect of digital techniques which can increase the motivation of learners
- ❖ Include ICT as a component of the socio-cultural status so that it becomes a factor of motivation for inclusion in favor of the development of populations who for economic, personal reasons or because of a disability, will not adhere to the knowledge society

- ❖ Establish an effective partnership between the public and the private sector and the associative network, in view of creating digital opportunities for the population, thus increasing their chances for a greater social integration
- ❖ Take the necessary steps in view of guaranteeing the implementation of the dispositions taken within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society "WSIS 2005"

Specific Objectives

- ❖ Acknowledging the recommendations of the W3C/WAI as the reference for digital accessibility
- ❖ Developing a space of knowledge for digital accessibility, through the setting up of a working space, of know-how, exchange and exploration of technologies of digital accessibility
- ❖ Analysing the best international uses of technologies of digital accessibility in terms of:
 - Software and material tools (creation, management, navigation, repair, certification, technical help,...),
 - Methodologies of evaluation and certification,
- ❖ Place at the disposal of the larger public the results of the analyses,
- ❖ Define the methods of evaluation of digital accessibility
- ❖ Define the methods enabling the evaluation of the accessibility of tools (materials and software) of digital contents.
- ❖ Increase the number of web professionals in the field of the evaluation of digital accessibility,
- ❖ Increase the number of “experts in the evaluation of the accessibility to the web”,
- ❖ Increase the number of web professionals capable of evaluating the accessibility of tools (materials and software) and digital contents,
- ❖ Rationalize the cost of communication and information equipments destined to the general population and in particular to people with specific needs and provide the former with the possibility of purchasing them under favourable conditions,