



Accessible ICTs: The importance of standards

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- 1. Standards for accessible ICT are mandated**
- 2. Accessible ICT standards make commercial sense**
 - For persons with disabilities**
 - For aging populations**
 - For non-native speakers, techno novices etc**
- 3. They reduce costs, for users, manufacturers and service providers**
- 4. They are the result of international teamwork**
- 5. Simple, intuitive user interfaces benefit everyone**

Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

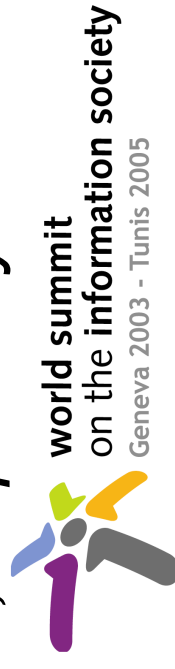
Parties shall take appropriate measures to “Develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public”

Article 9, 2 (a)

WSIS Tunis Commitment

“We shall strive unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs, including universal design and assistive technologies, for all people, especially those with disabilities, everywhere ...”

WSIS Tunis Commitment (Tunis, 2005), Para 18.



Global estimates of people potentially deprived of access to ICTs

	Fixed lines	Mobile	Internet users	TV sets	Radios	PCs
Global, 2007 (m)	1'285	3'330	1'350	1'500	2'400	900
Low vision	26.9	69.6	28.2	31.2	50.4	18.8
Blind	7.7	19.9	8.1	2.0	14.4	5.4
Hard of hearing	9.6	24.8	10.1	11.2	18.0	6.8
Deaf	5.1	13.4	5.4	6.0	9.7	3.6
Mobility	41.2	106.8	43.2	48.0	77.4	28.9
Cognitive	24.9	64.6	26.2	29.0	46.8	17.5
Total	115.5	299.1	121.2	127.4	216.7	81.0

- **Standardization:**
 - **Increases operability**
 - **Reduces equipment cost**
 - **Improves reliability**
 - **Obtains better inputs from experts**
- **Accessibility in standardization:**
 - **Reduces implementation costs**
 - **Produces integrated and consistent solutions**
 - **Built-in preferred to retrofit**
 - **Reduces duplication of effort**

- **ISO**
 - **Ergonomics**
 - **ITU**
 - **Multimedia, Accessibility Checklist**
 - **ETSI**
 - **Human Factors**
 - **ISO / IEC JTC1**
 - **Special Working Group on Accessibility**
 - **WorldWideWeb Consortium (W3C)**
 - **Web Accessibility Initiative**
- A few examples of ongoing standardization in accessible ICTs**

- Principles of Universal Design**
- 1. Equitable use**
 - 2. Flexibility in use**
 - 3. Simple and intuitive**
 - 4. Perceptible information**
 - 5. Tolerance for error**
 - 6. Low physical effort**
 - 7. Size and space for approach and use**

