The Fourth Session of the Web for Development Conference
Nairobi, Kenya, November 28-30, 2007

Title of Workshop: GTZ-IICD, Potentials of Web 2.0 for development
Date, Time and Location: 29 November 2007**, 2.00-3.15 pm**
Venue: Conference Room 4, **Number of Participants:** 30

Panelist/Speaker	Christian Kreutz (Christian.Kreutz@gtz.de), www.gtz.org
	Nynke Kruiderink (NKruiderink@iicd.org) www.iicd.org
Rapporteur	Kennedy Kamau, UN-HABITAT
Outline of case study	The session presented the potentials of Web 2.0 in the development context by best practice at the web2fordev conference in Rome in September 2007. It identified the potentials and challenges when using Web 2.0 technologies within a development context. Web 2.0, offers opportunities and challenges to enhance collaboration. It facilitates the voicing of ideas, experiences and needs from which especially development projects all over the world could benefit. The session presented the potentials of Web 2.0 to further improve networking, collaborating and exchanging knowledge in the development context. This new shift in the development of the internet, often called Web 2.0, is promising. It focuses on participation of the users. The growing number of social networks and the opportunities to participate, share and contribute media and content reflect this evolution. When combined with technological advancements like open source software or universal standards, knowledge becomes more accessible and can be pooled more efficiently. Furthermore, these new social internet tools have become more user-friendly, allowing collaboration in multiple ways and open a two way conversation for development.
Challenges	- There is a small percentage use of Web 2.0 in developing countries - The concept and definitions of Web 2.0 is still shaping itself - It is potentially easy to focus on tools and forget the approach. - The known issues of the digital divide apply for Web 2.0 as well - Trust and transparency from using Web 2.0 - Web 2.0 is changing rapidly which results in resistance to change - Web 2.0 is highly complex for most users
Recommendations	People and organizations involved in the development sector should think about how to: - open their networks and knowledge - engage in a participatory manner - offer transparency about what they do - embrace the opportunities Web 2.0 provides - join and participate in the web2fordev movement
Way forward	The development sector, policy makers and practitioners, need to be aware of, and where appropriate, embrace Web 2.0 approaches and tools. Awareness raising, capacity building, sharing case studies, piloting projects, are all necessary to ensure we make use of the promising opportunities it provides.