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PRESS RELEASE

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**FOSSFP IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER GLOBAL FOSS PARTNERS
Announcing Global FOSS Movement and ICT-4-Development Fund**

The Joint UNDP-UNIDO “Sharing the future” initiative (with the support of the Governments of the Netherlands and Tunisia), brought together several Free and Open Source Software Foundations from across the Globe represented by the Free Software and Open Source Foundation of Africa(FOSSFA), The Free Software and Open Source Foundation of Pakistan (FOSSFP), and the Iranian Free Software and Open Source Foundation among other Free and Open Source Software Practitioners from across the globe during the recent WSIS meeting held in Tunis – Tunisia.

It is during this meeting that representatives of various FOSS organizations represented agreed to work together in the formation of a global FOSS organization dubbed (for now), the Free and Open Source Movement (FOSM) that will consist of all the Foundations, representing regions of different ethnic, religious, cultural and economic background to advocate for the use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) at a global level and engage the International Community, Governments and Development Partners on the benefits of adopting appropriate FOSS policies for ICT4D and the achievement of growth objectives as outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The meeting came up with a plan of action and an immediate call for action with the following broad objectives:

- Work towards the official launch of this organization during the IDLELO2, Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. This will be done by seeking separate funding to bring together various FOSS Foundations leaders to IDLELO2.
- Work towards the Establishing of a global fund for sponsoring projects including ICT-4-D, Advanced Research in Emerging Disciplines and Technologies including an Economic & Technological Research Facility based in various regions with a special emphasis on Africa for the affective uplift of the human quality of life by promoting the profound vision of the FOSS consortia.
- Redefining the mandate of the various FOSS foundations to include participation in R&D and Global FOSS Policy Advocacy.

This plan was communicated to various FOSS supporters and received support from various International Organizations like HIVOS, SIDA, Sun Microsystems, Intel, IICD, GKP among others. Progress on this initiative will be communicated to all FOSSFA & FOSSFP members on the various FOSSFA mailing lists.

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