

## **SECOND PHASE OF WSIS, 16-18 NOVEMBER, TUNIS**

### **STATEMENT FROM ONE WORLD INTERNATIONAL**

**LATHA GAURI**

**On behalf of Civil Society Grassroots Caucus**

At WSIS, we are talking about grassroots caucus, but among 17,000 people participating in WSIS, there are not many grassroots.

When we talk of multi-stakeholder partnership, say government, public/private sector, civil society, media, advocacy groups, in all these, grassroots are the main stakeholders and others are partners.

When we talk about health, HIV/AIDS, education, conducive environment, I believe all these issues are talked in MDGs, we forget about grassroots and we do not make them understand these policy decisions in their local language.

Apart from digital divide, there is a need to address the knowledge gap which is prevailing. Rural communities should be enabled to have access to knowledge, especially those who are earning less than a \$ 1 day.

Grassroots representatives should be enabled to sit across the table with policy makers to express their needs while framing the policies.

I am here representing the grassroots communities and speaking on their behalf as a member of the grassroots caucus.

I thank OneWorld International Foundation to provide me the opportunity to speak at this forum.

I am Latha Gauri from Kothlapur village of Hyderabad, Southern India. I am using video as tool to educate the community. I am also working as a Community Resource Person, News reader in Manna TV, (KU Band) a local channel in Hyderabad. I am also supporting Self-Help Groups for the last 3 years.