

MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

By

Dr. Ioan Voicu *

Abstract

Diplomacy is the art of advancing national interests through permanent negotiations and a sustained exchange of information among nations and peoples. In the present world of instantaneous information, multilateral diplomacy has every chance to sustain even more its relevance.

One of the most important components of multilateral diplomacy activities over the 2002-2005 period is dedicated to meetings at sub-regional, regional and global levels dealing with the future architecture of the Information Society. In 2001, the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) decided to hold a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in two phases: the first from 10 to 12 December 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland and the second in 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia.

The global Information Society is evolving with extraordinary rapidity. The convergence between telecommunications, broadcasting multimedia and information and communication technologies (ICTs) is driving not only new products and services, but also new ways of conducting business and trade. Trade, social and professional opportunities

* Doctor in political sciences, (international law) of Geneva University (1968); doctor honoris causa in international law of Assumption University of Thailand (1998); alternate representative of Romania to the United Nations Security Council (1990-1991); ambassador of Romania to the Kingdom of Thailand and permanent representative to international organizations based in Bangkok (1994-1999); visiting professor in Assumption University since February 2000.