Draft recommendation

prepared by a group of WGEC Members and Observers

This is based on the original set of bullets submitted by a group of WGEC members and observers during the second WGEC meetings. It has been updated to conform to the temporary draft framework suggested by the Chair of the WGEC.

# a. Implementation of the Tunis Agenda (Questions 2 and 3);

* Recognizes the IGF for its work in meeting its Tunis Agenda defined role in fostering Enhanced Cooperation
* Acknowledges that the Tunis Agenda, if it is to continue as a reference point for all stakeholders, should be considered as a living document which needs to be updated to reflect the roles and responsibilities of all participants;
* Acknowledges that Enhanced Cooperation is well underway as intended in Tunis Agenda paragraphs 67 through 75;
* Acknowledges that new mechanisms spring into existence organically as they are needed and that there is no need to create new single or centralized mechanisms in a top down manner;
* Encourages those making public policy to engage more fully in the IGF and to bring to the IGF their questions on internet related matters within their mandates;
* The IGF should be used as a platform for open public debate, consultation, discussion and recommendation with the broader internet governance community. It should accept the work of other Internet policy efforts, such as the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, the Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NetMundial) and the WSIS+10 review process, as inputs to its efforts .
* Despite the importance of other Internet policy efforts, the IGF, a bottom-up UN-linked Internet policy effort, open to all stakeholders should remain central in the effort of Enhanced Cooperation.
* As the purpose of enhancing cooperation is improving and democratising the governance of the internet, at all levels, therefore its implementation is continuous, and needs to be evaluated on an ongoing basis throughout the Internet governance ecosystem.

# b. Public policy issue and possible mechanisms (Questions 4, 8 and 9);

* Encourages the IGF to cover all issues of Internet governance that are of concern to stakeholders and to form ongoing Issue Discussion Groups within the IGF to make recommendations on these issues to the larger IGF community and those making public policy;
* Encourages the IGF to follow the recommendations of the CSTD WG on IGF Improvements including its mandate to give advice to the functional Internet governance and management organizations;

# c. Role of stakeholders (Questions 5, 6, 7, 14 and 17);

* Encourages the rethinking of the stakeholder roles that were defined by governments unilaterally in the Tunis Agenda, noting that these roles were originally defined by governments in December 2003, Geneva Declaration of Principles and have not had the benefit of multistakeholder review;
* Affirms that the internet belongs to everyone: everyone can use it and everyone can improve it: this also applies to its governance;
* In general the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in internet governance cannot be fixed. They will vary depending on the issue, process or task at hand.
* Governments have special responsibilities under international human rights law as bearers of duties to respect, protect and promote human rights. They also have the responsibility to protect and promote the public interest, which requires them to:

i. Consult widely and be participative in the development of local internet policy;

ii. Faithfully represent the diversity of civil society views, even when these may differ from their own;

iii. Respect the role and responsibility of civil society to challenge governments, including in international fora;

iv. Convene and support inclusive multi-stakeholder internet governance processes at national level;

v. Bring sufficient political will to bear so that cooperation emerging from these processes does not stagnate;

vi. Establish transparency and accountability mechanisms to enable public scrutiny of their decisions and positions on internet governance.

vii. Take steps to ensure that businesses meet human rights standards (for example, in line with the United Nations guidelines on human rights and business).

# d. Developing countries (Questions 10 and 15);

* No new multilateral arrangements are required to support Enhanced Cooperation in developing countries;
* Encourage the efforts of various existing mechanisms to understand internet governance and to make public policy in light of, and taking into account, its multi-stakeholder nature;
* Encourage all governments to commit to the IGF, and to use the IGF process as an opportunity not just to engage with all other stakeholders, but as an opportunity to work with each other on an equal footing;
* Encourage the UN and the global internet community to identify mechanisms that can facilitate the collection of financial contributions to support the participation/engagement of stakeholder from developing countries, in the perspective of ensuring that developing countries have equal leadership with developed countries in development of internet policy globally.
* Encourage governments of developing countries to foster engagement with Internet governance issues at the national and regional levels.
* Encourage the IGF and other Internet policy groups to continue to work on reducing the capacity gap (at the levels of knowledge, expertise and financial resources) for developing countries which may be necessary for their engagement in global Internet governance.
* Enable developing countries, including both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, to play a more effective role in global Internet governance by developing mechanisms at national and regional level and by democratisation at all level including the global level.

# e. Barriers for participation in enhanced cooperation (Questions, 11,12,13 and 16)

* Invites all Internet governance and management organizations to participate in the IGF.
* Reinforces the multistakeholder approach and encourages all stakeholders to engage more in, to work with existing organisations and to explore ways in which stakeholder engagement can be enhanced, including:
  + Bottom-up strategies which use local expertise and focus on telecommunications and internet infrastructure, enabling policies, incentives for the private sector and education for all;
  + Reduce the cost of internet access in developing countries;
  + Capacity-building for marginalized groups to access online spaces, public information and essential services in a safe and inclusive way;
  + Work with marginalized communities to develop local content in their own language, that meet their needs and tell their stories;
  + Capacity-building and campaigns for internet users to understand the barriers to participation by marginalized groups in the information society, including online threats and discrimination;
  + Facilitate participation of marginalized group in IG forums by ensuring their issues are on the agendas of those forums;
  + Measuring the inclusion of women in internet governance spaces and taking concrete action if the results indicated unequal participation; and
* Encourages the establishment of regional and national multistakeholder forums and processes for dealing with IG and internet policy issues, and ensuring that these include marginalised voices

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