



**International Chamber of Commerce**

*The world business organization*

**Department of Policy and Business Practices**

## **ICC Input on Consultation on Resolution 102 (Rev. Antalya, 2006). ITU Role with Regard to International Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet and the Management of Internet Resources, Including Domain Names and Addresses**

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The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) welcomes the chance to share its views on the important issues referenced in Resolution 102 (Rev. Antalya, 2006). We are pleased to be part of the preparations for any proposals submitted to the 2007 session of the Council, through the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) that is due to meet on 13–14 June 2007. Our members look forward to participating actively in these discussions as they get under way.

ICC is the world business organization, the only representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world. Its national committees and groups in 130 countries comprise business organizations of all sizes, including users and providers of information technology and electronic services from both developed and developing countries. Many ICC members are also ITU Sector Members and are actively involved in both the ITU and many international organizations, including the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

### **Summary of ICC input on ITU's activities**

- We welcome the new forward-looking leadership of Secretary General Touré. We look forward to working closely with him and his new team to ensure that ITU efforts in this regard conserve scarce resources and provide added value, particularly with respect to getting more developing countries involved in these important issues and thus help bring the benefits of the information society to people around the world.
- ITU activities should be consistent with the following principles:
  1. Recognize the important roles played by other organizations in this area and the need to focus ITU's efforts consistent with its mandate that can support these efforts;
  2. Ensure that the contributions provided by the ITU add value and do not duplicate work being done elsewhere; and
  3. Effectively utilize the ITU's available budget, which is necessary for greater financial stability.

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- It is vital that the ITU continue serving its membership by maintaining a focus on its core competencies, rather than reaching into operational, technical or policy areas for which it does not have a clear mandate, the necessary expertise, or the structure necessary to implement such work, such as the regulation, coordination or management of the Internet or (Internet Protocol) IP networks, including the management of domain names and addresses.
- The ITU's work with regulators to promote creation of enabling environments for investment and the growth of infrastructure is important and should continue. This can facilitate the continued expansion of the Internet and its benefits to more people particularly in developing countries.
- The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss Internet governance issues, exchange experiences and information, and ultimately empower more people to participate in Internet related issues at national, regional and international levels. The ITU should play a role, along with other intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, governments, business, the Internet community and civil society in contributing to this important dialogue at the IGF.
- The call in the Tunis Agenda for "enhanced cooperation" that involves "all relevant organizations and "all stakeholders in their respective roles" has alerted all participants to the importance of improving their coordination with each other, and within their structures. Such cooperation must, of course, also be fully consistent with the WSIS mandate that Internet governance be "multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations." Enhanced cooperation is already occurring and no formal process is necessary.
- We welcome the ITU's continued efforts with respect to planning seminars and identifying "best practices" for a successful transition to an (Internet Protocol) IP enabled environment, with particular emphasis on developing countries.



## ICC Detailed input on Consultation Survey questions regarding Res. 102

### **Question 1:**

*What specific activities should be undertaken for ITU “to continue to take a significant role in international discussions and initiatives on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, taking into account future developments of the Internet, the purposes of the Union and the interests of its membership as expressed in its instruments, resolutions and decisions?”*

The ITU plays an important role in several areas that are relevant to implementation of Resolution 102. In this context, we note in particular the ITU’s clear mandate “to promote and to offer technical assistance to developing countries in the field of telecommunications, and also to promote the mobilization of the material, human and financial resources needed for its implementation, as well as access to information” (see Article 1(b) of the ITU Constitution). The ITU also plays in a key role in promoting the “participation of concerned entities in the activities of the Union and cooperation with regional and other organizations for the fulfillment of the purposes of the Union” (see Article 1(j) of the ITU Constitution). In light of the ITU’s lead role in the telecommunications field, we also appreciate the significant role it has played in development and maintenance of the networks and infrastructure that support parts of the Internet, especially its standards development and radio spectrum management work. We believe strongly that the ITU’s energy should remain dedicated to advancing telecommunications-density and awareness about related telephony and wireless standards on a global basis.

In response to the questionnaire, there are several principles that should guide the ITU’s implementation of Resolution 102. These are: (1) recognition of the important roles played by other organizations in this area and the need to focus ITU’s efforts consistent with its mandate that can support these efforts; (2) the importance of ensuring that the contributions provided by the ITU add value and do not duplicate work being done elsewhere; (3) effective utilization of the ITU’s available budget, which is necessary for greater financial stability. As a result, the ITU’s role may have the greatest impact if seen in terms of the responsibilities that it has already undertaken with respect to helping developing countries integrate into existing work being done in other fora, and furthering the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) implementation of the network security and ICT facilitation action lines.

We look forward to working closely with Secretary General Touré and his new team to develop concrete proposals that will enable the ITU and its Bureau to provide added value to the work already under way in other forums. As an example, we note that ITU-T participates in ICANN’s Technical Liaison Group (TLG), which provides technical information and guidance to the ICANN Board. This enables ITU-T to be one of three TLG members entitled to appoint a rotating member of the ICANN Board.

Consistent with the principles outlined above, any ITU implementation of Resolution 102 must clearly avoid duplication and focus on the core strengths of the ITU, particularly in respect to providing assistance for developing countries to participate as much as possible



in international discussions on the issues covered in Resolution 102. Above all, it is vital that the ITU continue serving its membership by maintaining a focus on its core competencies, rather than reaching into operational, technical or policy areas for which it does not have a clear mandate, the necessary expertise, or the structure necessary to implement such work. The ICC and its members do not support the incremental expansion of ITU activities into the regulation, coordination or management of the Internet or IP networks, including the management of domain names and addresses.

**Question 2:**

*What specific activities should be undertaken “to take the necessary steps for ITU to continue to play a facilitating role in the coordination of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, as expressed in § 35 d) of the Tunis Agenda, interacting as necessary with other intergovernmental organizations in these domains”?*

We note at the outset that it will not always be clear what constitutes “international public policy issues.” For this reason, it is necessary that all stakeholders, including governments and international organizations, work closely with other stakeholders, such as business, in determining how best to further the interests of the global information society.

Bearing this in mind, we appreciate and continue to support the ITU’s focus on:

- Developing telecommunications infrastructure technical standards, including those related to NGN (Next Generation Networks)
- Allocating and managing radio spectrum (which is a critical resource for the development of communications networks for both developed and developing countries)
- Ongoing training and information exchange with developing countries to take advantage of rapidly evolving communications technologies.

We also support the ITU’s continued leadership in the WSIS Action Lines C2 (information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and assistance in other areas, particularly with regard to C6 (enabling environment). In addition, we would expect the ITU’s work with regulators to continue, to promote creation of an enabling environment for investment and the growth of infrastructure, which can facilitate the continued expansion of the Internet and its benefits to people in developing countries.

In assessing whether a particular proposed work programme is appropriate for the ITU to undertake, we must -- first and foremost -- ensure the effective and efficient fulfillment of its core mission related to telecommunications infrastructure and radio spectrum. We must also ensure that the ITU is not duplicating efforts elsewhere, and that its proposal is cost effective and efficient.



**Question 3:**

*What specific activities should be undertaken “in line with § 78a) of the Tunis Agenda, to continue to contribute as appropriate to the work of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)”?*

The IGF is an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss Internet governance issues, exchange important experiences and information, and ultimately empower more people to participate in Internet related issues at the national, regional and international levels. The ITU should play a role, along with other intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, governments, business, the Internet community and civil society in contributing to this important dialogue. The strength of the IGF is that everyone participates on an equal footing. In this manner, all participants are able to share information and learn from other stakeholders.

**Question 4:**

*What specific activities should be undertaken “to take the necessary steps for ITU to play an active and constructive role in the process towards enhanced cooperation as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda”?*

The call in the Tunis Agenda for “enhanced cooperation” that involves “all relevant organizations and “all stakeholders in their respective roles” has alerted all participants to the importance of improving their coordination with each other, and within their structures. Such cooperation must, of course, also be fully consistent with the WSIS mandate that Internet governance be “multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations.” The goal should be to foster information sharing, creating more awareness of key Internet issues and where appropriate, greater coherence in work programs and collaboration. Enhanced cooperation is already occurring, and should continue to occur, across the spectrum of all relevant organizations, whether they are private sector-led, intergovernmental or representative of the technical community, academia or civil society. There is no need for a more formal process, which could risk duplicating efforts and negatively impacting very limited resources, thus alienating some stakeholders and undermining the positive atmosphere of cooperation that has emerged from the Tunis Summit.

Experts work in a range of organizations on issues relevant to Resolution 102. In addition, most experts on these issues are not active in ITU Study Groups, but are heavily involved already in the existing private sector processes and open forums where the technical coordination and related policy work is done. ITU activities should therefore be careful not to expand into those areas where activities are already well under way in other organizations. Developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with other technical standards and other bodies, such as ETSI, ICANN, IETF and W3C, is critically important in this area since interoperability and quality are essential in supporting the Information Society. The ITU should make it clear that it supports close collaboration and cooperation with these bodies. In this regard, we welcome recent statements of Secretary General Touré. It is vital to communicate this clearly because in the past there was concern within



other groups that certain initiatives emanating from the ITU inhibited cooperation, coordination and collaboration with other groups by not recognizing or respecting their ongoing work. Obviously, any efforts to take over activities and functions performed by others are counterproductive.

**Question 5:**

*What specific activities should be undertaken “to take the necessary steps in ITU’s own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities”?*

The Tunis Agenda calls upon relevant organizations to commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, as well as to provide annual performance reports. The ITU has already taken steps to improve its internal processes and reach out to the broader Internet community, particularly by making information about its intentions and operations more accessible. The recent trip of the ITU Secretary General to Silicon Valley was but one example of this. The ITU is also providing reports to Council on activities within its mandate, and these can be made available to the public.

**Question 6:**

*What specific activities should be undertaken by ITU-T “to ensure that the ITU-T performs its role in technical issues related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, such as IP version 6 (IPv6), ENUM and IDNs, as well as any other related technological developments and issues; and continues to play a facilitating role in coordination and assistance in the development of public policy issues pertaining to Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU and their possible evolution; and works ... on issues concerning Member States’ ccTLDs and related experiences”?*

There are experts across a broad spectrum of international organizations that currently work on these and other issues relevant to Resolution 102. It is thus paramount that the ITU first and foremost consider how and where it can provide added value, as noted above, and avoid duplication of efforts that negatively impact limited resources. It is vital that the ITU’s important work in standards development involve developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with other technical standards bodies and other international organizations. Maintaining interoperability and quality are essential to supporting a vibrant Information Society, particularly as we all strive to make the benefits of the Internet increasingly available to more people.



**Question 7:**

*What specific activities should be undertaken by ITU-D “to organize international and regional forums and carry out necessary activities ... to discuss policy, operational and technical issues on the Internet in general, and on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU in particular, including with regard to multilingualism; to promote through ITU-D the exchange of information, fostering debate and the development of best practices on Internet issues, and to continue to play a key role in outreach by contributing to capacity building, providing technical assistance and encouraging the involvement of developing countries, LDCs and SIDS in international Internet forums and issues.”*

In the past, the ITU held a series of workshops and events related to Resolution 102, but there have been concerns that it was not clear where and how such events were decided, and how Sector Members were supposed to participate in their planning, or how panelists were selected. In some of these meetings, it was customary for the ITU Staff to draft the outcomes paper for the meeting before the meetings occurred. In some cases, the business community had to object to the presented outcomes because they were inaccurate and inconsistent with the discussion that actually occurred. As a result, any future proposals for workshops or other events first require close and careful collaboration, coordination and planning with Sector Members and all relevant expert bodies.

**Question 8:**

*Do you have any other contribution or comments, of a general or specific nature, on any other issues contained in Resolution 102 (attached), including the role of the ITU secretariat and the three Bureaux? You may also wish to upload relevant documents to the Resolution 102 website.*

As noted above, we welcome this opportunity to provide input. We also welcome the new forward-looking leadership of Secretary General Touré. We look forward to working closely with him and his new team to ensure that ITU efforts in this regard conserve scarce resources and provide added value, particularly with respect to getting more developing countries involved in these important issues and thus help bring the benefits of the Information Society to more people around the world.