



**UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

ICC BASIS responses to:

Questionnaire of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

6 August 2013

Pursuant to and in order to fulfill the mandate given by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 67/195 (2012) on information and communications technologies for development, the UN CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation elaborated the following questionnaire. The questions below need to be responded in the context of the Tunis Agenda of the World Summit on Information Society, 2005.

All Member States of the United Nations, Permanent Observers, United Nations system agencies, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Sector members of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and entities accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society not otherwise included in one of those groups are invited to fill out this questionnaire. Approved academic and business entities participating in the work of the CSTD are also invited to participate in filling out this questionnaire.

The information solicited through this questionnaire will only be used in aggregate form, unless otherwise authorised by the respondent. Do you authorise us to cite/share your views individually?

Yes



No



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Which stakeholder category do you belong to:

- (A) Government ☐
(B) Intergovernmental and international organizations ☐
(C) Non-Government ☐
 a) Business community ☒
 b) Civil society ☐
 c) Technical and academic community ☐
(D) If non-government, please indicate if you are:
 i) WSIS accredited ☒
 ii) COSOC accredited ☒
 iii) Participating in the work of the CSTD¹ ☒
 iv) ITU accredited ☐

¹ Pursuant to ECOSOC Decisions 2011/237, 2011/238 or 2011/23

2. What do you think is the significance, purpose and scope of enhanced cooperation as per the Tunis Agenda? a) Significance b) Purpose c) Scope *

Significance and purpose: Enhanced cooperation is an important opportunity to continue to build cooperation among relevant organizations and stakeholders on Internet governance issues to ensure coordination, cooperation, exchange of information to avoid duplication in activities and work plans, and building partnerships to effectively leverage the experience and activities of all stakeholders.

Scope: Enhanced cooperation among all relevant stakeholders on the range of Internet governance issues should be strengthened and continued at the national, regional and international levels.

3. To what extent has or has not enhanced cooperation been implemented? Please use the space below to explain and to provide examples to support your answer. *

Enhanced cooperation is not a mandate; it is a method of operation and a culture of cooperation between stakeholders, including relevant organizations. There are many examples of enhanced cooperation that can be drawn from the initiatives of ICANN, the ITU, ISOC, UNESCO, the OECD, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, to name a few. It is also happening in the context of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which brings together different stakeholders—nationally, regionally and globally—to discuss policy matters in an open setting, and among a wide range of organizations and stakeholders.

Specifically, we could like to draw attention to the OECD's ground-breaking work in developing Internet Policy Principles, which was undertaken in a multistakeholder context, as well as its efforts to develop new approaches to on-line privacy and cybersecurity by convening multistakeholder experts groups. APEC has also made important contributions to this space with its development of the Cross-Border Privacy Regulation system and engagement with the EU in implementing the concept of interoperability, a process that has entailed input from numerous stakeholders. Similarly, APEC has endeavoured to set forth principles for both developed and emerging economies alike for the development of a healthy digital ecosystem through its Digital Prosperity Checklist.

The Internet, and thus issues relevant to the Internet touch a wide range of forums, and stakeholders. As a result, cooperation among different institutions, partnerships, and enhancing operations enables the different interests, those impacted by an issue, and stakeholders, to discuss policy matters openly.

4. What are the relevant international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet? *

There are a host of critical public policy issues related to the Internet that all stakeholders are grappling with, including privacy, transparency, security, transborder data flows, free flow of information, market development, protection of intellectual property, creativity and innovation.

It is important to protect all fundamental rights on the Internet. An issue of growing concern is the number of countries in the world that are blocking content or requesting removal of content for political reasons thereby violating fundamental free expression principles, and indeed, there are entire countries that filter and block content from getting in to their countries.

5. What are the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, including governments, in implementation of the various aspects of enhanced cooperation? *

All stakeholders including governments should continue to build cooperative initiatives between organizations and processes related to Internet governance matters. All stakeholders have a responsibility and role in operationalizing enhanced cooperation.

6. How should enhanced cooperation be implemented to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet? *

Continued efforts should be made to facilitate the participation of governments from around the world in the existing processes and forums at national, regional, and international levels.

Governments acting in a multistakeholder environment should contribute according to their mandates and competencies. However, they cannot act alone in implementing policy. They necessarily must rely on the private sector, civil society and others to implement policy. The importance of multistakeholder processes, and hence enhanced cooperation between and among stakeholders, is fundamental to the successful operationalizing and implementation of public policy issues pertaining to the Internet in a manner that scales, is effective and benefits all, while not harming innovation, creativity, investment, and opportunities to users globally

ICC of course recognizes that different stakeholders should take the lead on particular issues but transparency and dialogue are key to the success of multistakeholder processes and to enhance cooperation.

7. How can enhanced cooperation enable other stakeholders to carry out their roles and responsibilities? *

Enhanced cooperation is not a mandate; it is a method of operation and a culture of cooperation between organizations and stakeholders. The exchange of information between stakeholders is crucial to the growth of the Internet.

Enhanced cooperation, with openness to participation, enables stakeholders to better carry out their roles and responsibilities because it ensures transparency, awareness, responsibilities, and accountability, of addressing different facets of a public policy issue.

8. What are the most appropriate mechanisms to fully implement enhanced cooperation as recognized in the Tunis Agenda, including on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and public policy issues associated with coordination and management of critical Internet resources? *

There has been significant progress to build cooperation, information exchange, and engagement of all stakeholders on these issues.

As we detail in our response to question 3, appropriate mechanisms exist and are evolving to enable the participation of all stakeholders. Existing institutions, such as, UNESCO, ISOC, ICANN, IETF, W3C, WIPO and other entities with responsibilities over different topics touching the Internet are partnering with other organizations to better cooperate and coordinate. For example, UNESCO has a partnership with ICANN on the implementation of multilingualism, WIPO serves a role in dispute resolutions around domain names, and MAAWG (Messaging Anti-Abuse Working Group) works with organizations on addressing spam. That is, expert forums, institutions and mechanisms exist, and enhance their cooperation in order to better address public policy issues. For a range of partnership MoU's, and other cooperations, it is useful to look at different institutions and the entities they work with. For example, PITA (Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association) and ICANN. That is, there are a range of partnership MoUs, whether formal or informal, and other initiatives that exist and are specific examples to addressing public policy issues.

9. What is the possible relationship between enhanced cooperation and the IGF? *

The IGF each year and through its preparatory open consultations and MAG (Multistakeholder Advisory Group) meetings has catalysed enhanced cooperation. The IGF is an example of enhanced cooperation given the many illustrations we see each year of the IGF assisting in the achievement of the purpose and objectives listed in our response to question 2.

There are numerous examples of enhanced cooperation that have emerged out of the IGF, and out of multiple other forums. The IGF brings together stakeholders in workshops, sessions and open forums, catalyzes partnerships in a multistakeholder manner among participants, and reinforces the improved cooperation and coordination among respective areas of expertise.

The IGF national and regional initiatives have also contributed to enhancing cooperation.

10. How can the role of developing countries be made more effective in global Internet governance? *

Over the years we have seen significant progress in terms of developing country governments and developing country stakeholders actively participating in global Internet governance processes. It is important to recognize this progress because it is also indicative of the efforts made to make this happen. We believe that there are several ways to continue to build on this progress:

- Awareness raising about the IG global processes and forums at the national and regional levels for governments and all stakeholders. Continue to use the national and regional IGF initiatives, meetings of all stakeholders, for example ICANN global and regional meetings, Internet Society and other Internet technical community events, business community meetings such as ICC events, WITSA events and many others
- Create brief supporting information resources to explain the opportunities; some of this exists, but we need to continue to ensure distribution
- There are many fellowship and ambassador programmes sponsored by many stakeholders to help support developing country governments and other stakeholders with travel costs. Continue to build on these opportunities and awareness of them
- Remote participation opportunities, webcasting, audiocast and transcripts, and translation where possible

As access to the Internet has occurred globally and in particular in emerging regions, and as the Internet has become increasingly important to local and regional economies, the engagement of stakeholders in policies impacting national and regional frameworks has increased. More work needs to occur, and more opportunities created to enable all stakeholders, regardless of region, to engage in global Internet governance. Additionally, national and regional initiatives reflect the priorities of regions – such priorities are critical contributions to the overall global Internet governance evolution. In all regions, in particular emerging regions, there are increasing numbers of national and regional IGF initiatives, dialogues on public policy issues, and identification of priorities and challenges. The emerging regions' views are critical – that is where the next billion users impact the global Internet.

11. What barriers remain for all stakeholders to fully participate in their respective roles in global Internet governance? How can these barriers best be overcome? *

Some stakeholders are not aware of the processes and forums where they can contribute and have impact at national, regional and international levels. Increased awareness raising at all levels and across stakeholder groups would help to overcome this.

Financial support to cover travel expenses remains an obstacle for some stakeholders, and more should be done to build the IGF trust fund, for example, and maximize existing funding support programmes offered by several stakeholders including the Internet technical community, governments and business, to assist in this regard.

Barriers include financial, informational, and operational elements:

- Financial support to engage in global Internet governance, whether through fellowships and sponsorships, or through other means, for example employer recognition of the importance to engage in Internet governance processes.
- Informational – while information may seem available, ease of informational access

of issues relevant to a public policy issue are essential and need to be more accessible and easier to understand. Processes need to be easier to participate in particularly for newcomers.

- Operational – global Internet governance processes need to continue to operationalize in ways that scale to a global stakeholder constituency, including governments. – recognizing that different stakeholders may lead on different matters/issues and recognizing the issues, processes, and forms of engagement that best enable the respective participation.

12. What actions are needed to promote effective participation of all marginalized people in the global information society? *

- Increase awareness raising efforts, assess whether additional financial support to facilitate participation in processes and forums would be helpful
- Easing the ability to engage, whether physically or remotely, and ensuring ease of information dissemination.

13. How can enhanced cooperation address key issues toward global, social and economic development? *

Achieving a baseline understanding of the value that the Internet and the sectors that drive demand for Internet infrastructure, including government services, bring to economies is crucial to understanding how the Internet contributes to economic development. Many studies are now available freely on www.valueoftheweb.com, WIPO's studies on the impact on the content sectors to national GDPs, etc. and enhanced cooperation is key to exchanging information on the policies that can help augment the contribution of the Internet and those sectors driving demand for the Internet to GDP.

The Internet has evolved to date through multistakeholder processes and cooperation (enhanced cooperation). The value of these processes is that they bring issues to the forefront, rapidly in Internet time, and identify solutions that can scale. For example, issues such as e-education, or e-government, are successful if all stakeholders—governments, civil society, the Internet technical community, business, engage to identify the best way to further development.

14. What is the role of various stakeholders in promoting the development of local language content? *

Many stakeholders, through various standards organizations and industry fora have developed and continue to develop the technical capabilities that allow for development of content on the Internet in most languages as well as the ability to develop internationalized domain names.

As for the private sector, we note that many companies are developing programmes to promote local language content on the Web. One example is Arabic Web Days, www.arabicwebdays.com

Many stakeholders have the ability and responsibility to promote the development of content in local languages: governments through education and primary schools, the private sector, civil society, the Internet technical community, and academic community through other means. Finally, the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property is critical to promoting local content and indeed cultural diversity.

In particular, we feel it is important to note the UNESCO's extensive efforts to foster the development of local language content. We also feel that the OECD has made important contributions to this space through its project, "The Internet Supporting Local Content Development." This project, which is poised to enter a second phase, has focused on how the Internet can be leveraged for social and economic benefit. Building on complementary work done by UNESCO and ISOC, it has been examining how the Internet supports the development, storage and dissemination of local content. In particular, the second phase of the project will make an important contribution by examining the Internet and the development of local content in Arabic-speaking countries.

15. What are the international internet-related public policy issues that are of special relevance to developing countries? *

The single most important issue for developing economies is the question of how to create an ecosystem that can support demand for broadband by attracting investment that promotes its development and deployment. It is important to remember that promoting broadband without promoting the growth of the products and services delivered over it through appropriate policy frameworks may result in underutilized investments. Secondly, questions of enhanced cooperation between law enforcement and the private sector for cyber-security are important, such as the setting up of CERTs and other response units. Finally, the emerging countries seek to have more of a voice in ICANN and in other matters, and it is incumbent on ICANN and other similar organizations to continue to develop the path for their involvement.

This question is for emerging regions to address. From materials and participating in events in developing countries, international Internet-related public policy issues that have arisen include access, local content development, privacy, security, transborder data flow, unsolicited materials, development of local capacity, among other issues.

16. What are the key issues to be addressed to promote the affordability of the Internet, in particular in developing countries and least developed countries? *

To advance and continue the affordability of the Internet it is important to create an enabling environment that attracts investment, promotes innovation and fosters entrepreneurship. An essential factor in this enabling environment is the deployment of broadband infrastructure. It has been statistically verified that the adoption of national broadband plans and policies that stimulate competition has resulted in marked increases in fixed and mobile broadband penetration. In addition, there is now ample evidence that broadband deployment is a significant stimulus to employment creation, growth in GDP, and an overall key driver of economic growth.

A key driver of Internet access and its affordability is the deployment of broadband infrastructure – both fixed and mobile. The trending in cost of access to broadband and therefore the Internet has continued to drop among developed countries (recent statistics indicate that broadband access typically costs less than 2% of average income in 49 leading economies of the world). In the developing world the number of countries witnessing a decline in cost of broadband cost has increased thus stimulating Internet affordability and access.

Availability of spectrum has a role as well in promoting the availability of the Internet. Research and development on new technologies that lower cost and increase bandwidth, and opening up markets to competition, where feasible, can also help lower cost.

A great deal of information on best practices to ensure an enabling environment that promotes broadband deployment is available. Regional IGFs are excellent platforms for the exchange of information on best practices for creating an enabling environment that encourages investment, for example, in broadband deployment and its corollary an affordable Internet.

17. What are the national capacities to be developed and modalities to be considered for national governments to develop Internet-related public policy with participation of all stakeholders? *

Multistakeholder processes create processes whereby there is automatic consultation with all stakeholders on Internet-related public policy issues, in particular entities impacted by the results, responsible for the implementation, or part of what the policy impacts. Whether at the national or international level, any policy issue that impacts stakeholders needs to engage those stakeholders for the appropriate policy.

- Create national IGF initiatives and foster their contribution to regional IGF initiatives.
- From a practical point of view, a single governmental point of contact or ambassador for Internet related issues would help.
- Create national level policy dialogue and consultation processes with all stakeholders (eg, Brazil, Kenya, USA, UK and others)

18. Are there other comments, or areas of concern, on enhanced cooperation you would like to submit? *

It would be important to ensure this questionnaire has a wide range of input, in particular from developing and emerging regions and stakeholders.

If you choose to use the PDF form to fill it out manually, kindly return the completed questionnaire to:

CSTD Secretariat
C/O Hassan Kurdi
Division on Technology and Logistics
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Palais des Nations
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Please note that whatever mode of response is chosen (online or manual), respondents are requested to maintain a strict word limit of 200 words per question. In case of responses that exceed 200 words, the part that goes beyond this limitation will not be taken into account. The deadline for submitting responses is **31 August 2013**.

What is Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS)?

ICC created BASIS to raise awareness among the public, governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and technical community of what business requires to continue contributing to the development of the Information Society. It serves as the voice of business in the global dialogue on the Information Society, following two World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005).

To promote the environment in which business around the world will continue to thrive as an innovator of information and communication technologies, BASIS participates in UN-linked forums set up to continue the dialogue, such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the WSIS follow up and implementation processes, particularly through the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

To help shape the agenda and participate in these global discussions, BASIS relies on the policies developed in ICC's Commission on the Digital Economy as the foundation for its efforts.

BASIS builds on the activities and network of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), which ICC formed to coordinate participation by world business in the processes leading up to, and at WSIS.

BASIS members include business organizations such as the Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA), the Computer Society of India, and the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) as well as several ICC national committees and companies from across sectors and geographies.

For further information regarding BASIS, the partners, members and activities, visit:
www.iccwbo.org/basis