

World Collaboration CPR

World Collaboration for
Communications Policy
Research

Contribution to the discussion on Enhanced Cooperation

CSTD Inter-sessional – Lima, Peru
Third day, afternoon – Wednesday, 9 Jan 2013

We invite stepping back for a moment, to put the plans for the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation into its larger history. That is a history – over at least two decades – of struggle, about global governance of the Internet.

Dubai, and WCIT, December last year, set a marker, it seems, for where that history has so far got: About 60 percent of the states - 89 of the 144 - left the other about 40 percent of the states by themselves.

That makes clear an unavoidable reality in these outcomes: the exercise of political power. Those, who would try to look into the future, may see a trend.

We call on CSTD, to help the world community – finally – get out ahead of this struggle. With wisdom, even with bold thinking. This is, after all, a commission on science and technology, where we know resides quality thinking.

We suggest: In the now-hardened positions on either side, fundamental problems have been conflated. For instance, the bedrock facilitator, freedom of expression – is conflated with principles of representative governance.

A moment's reflection makes clear how separating those two – one each is from either side of the present divide – how separating them would open possibilities.

Which suggests your first task is to disentangle these issues, so as to deal with them individually. And we fervently hope that, ultimately: you bind the exercise of power – which will be an implacable reality – with quality thinking. Even agreement, finally, among the parties.

We are of course staying tuned, and of course ready to help in any way that might be useful.

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