

**THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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**Statement of clarification from civil society observers at the  
15<sup>th</sup> CSTD Session**

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## Statement of clarification from civil society observers at the 15th CSTD Session

Monday, 21 May 2012

Civil society representatives present at the 15th session of the CSTD would like to thank the Secretary General of the ITU, Mr. Touré, for taking into account the concerns we raised today about the inclusiveness of the process of preparing for the WCIT (World Conference on International Telecommunications).

The representative from civil society mentioned that, in order to ensure transparency and participation of all actors, we believe that the ITU should “provide access to relevant documents of public interest without requiring payment of fees. This would include, for example, the preparatory documents for the WCIT.

This request for greater transparency was set out in a letter addressed to Mr. Toure, dated 17 May, sent by CDT (Center for Democracy and Technology) and signed by 30 CSOs.

We were somewhat puzzled by Mr. Toure's apparent perception that civil society organisations had requested that the WCIT should discuss internet governance issues.

Perhaps we misheard his remarks, but for clarification we want to emphasise that the civil society speaker did not in any sense mean to suggest that the ITU should increase its already substantial workload by making internet governance a central area of work. Nor did the above-mentioned letter make this suggestion. On the contrary, we share the view expressed by Mr. Toure on a number of occasions during the past week's meetings in Geneva, that WCIT would not be an appropriate forum for this purpose.

We look forward to ongoing dialogue with the ITU on these matters.

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