

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

**MEETING ON ENHANCED COOPERATION ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES
PERTAINING TO THE INTERNET**

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Contribution by

ICANN

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TALKING POINTS

- ICANN would like to thank the CSTD for the opportunity to speak at this open consultation, in support of a shared understanding of what enhanced cooperation means when it comes to public policy issues and the Internet.
- Enhanced cooperation is an issue the international community returns to, and rightly so, because successful cooperation is at the heart of a stable, functioning Internet.
- The multi-stakeholder model is what has enabled enhanced cooperation. And so I'd like to spend a minute explaining what we believe the multi-stakeholder model is.
- ICANN as an example but only part of process. Let us be clear on this
- Within ICANN, all elements of the community are able to have their voice heard. The Government Advisory Committee - GAC - plays an active role in providing the government perspective on ICANN's work. In addition, the "At-Large" grouping within ICANN provides an opportunity for civil society to engage. Taking these in combination with the views of other constituencies, ICANN is able to develop a consensus position in line with the multi-stakeholder principles.
- As this debate unfolds, we should recall that the key elements that will enable the success of the Internet are its inclusiveness and its accessibility. For it is whether people have access to the Internet (wherever and whoever they are) that really matters; not what we, or any government here, think is meant by "enhanced cooperation".
- Inclusion and accessibility are at the heart of the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. It would be hard, in fact, to find a more inclusive model. That's because ours, uniquely, is a cooperative engagement of all stakeholders - government, civil society, and industry - which enables the model to work.
- Nonetheless, as demands change, the system must evolve. We need always to seek new ways to enhance the cooperation within the multi-stakeholder framework.
- Happily, the multi-stakeholder model is flexible enough that it can evolve. The work of the CSTD on identifying improvements to the working practices of IGF is one example of this evolution. During the CSTD review process – consistent with the

multi-stakeholder model – the CSTD engaged with representatives from academia, civil society, and industry. We believe that other UN agencies can learn from this experience, and recognize the benefit of widening access, beyond that of Member States, to stakeholder groups and committees that treat Internet governance issues.

- Another example was the discussion on the digital dividend spectrum at WRC-12 where stakeholders helped influence decisions that may well have a real impact in developing world for mobile broadband access.
- But while enhanced cooperation in the multi-stakeholder model is a reality, and a model that is working, more stakeholders still need to engage. Until then, it cannot be properly judged.
- So before we change what has worked already we, as stakeholders in the model, and in the Internet generally, need to continue to improve on the representation, and the balance of views, around our great shared resource. This requires work, to be sure.
- What it does *not* require, at this time when so much of our economy is linked to a stable Internet, is any upheaval in the stewardship of the Internet. At present, no single constituency – which means no single government, member of civil society or company – can say it speaks for all people. Our on-going effort at enhanced co-operation must be to make sure that the voices participating in the debate are heard, and listened to.
- Mr Secretary General you speak for far more governments than I can), but when it comes to other stakeholders I think the ICANN Community has the edge.
- But that – I would argue is not the point – we all have our roles; we are all part of this process; each of us has our opportunity to strut on this stage; what is important is that we work together; none of us has all the answers; and we should not pretend we do.

Nigel Hickson
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