

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

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

**18 May 2012
Geneva**

Contribution by

Egypt

**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Hisham Badr
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**The views presented here are the contributor's and do not necessarily reflect the views and the position
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Statement of Egypt
Delivered by H.E. Ambassador/ Hisham Badr
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the
United Nations in Geneva
to
The CSTD Open Consultations on
"Internet Governance: Enhanced Cooperation"

18 May 2012, Geneva

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Egypt welcomes the holding of the CSTD Open Consultations on Enhanced Cooperation, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution A/66/184 adopted on 22 December 2011.

Allow me at the outset to thank the CSTD Secretariat and the ITU for the organization of this important session. We would like also to recognize and thank the distinguished speakers and participants from the private sector, civil society as well as other international organizations for their valuable contributions.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt strongly holds the principles of WSIS including those related to Internet Governance. We attach great importance to the process of Enhanced Cooperation, as one of the two distinct processes, which came out from the World Summit on the Information Society- WSIS on Internet Governance.

Paragraph 68 of Tunis Agenda for the Information Society recognizes that "all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet".

According to same Tunis Agenda, Paragraph 69, clearly defines the purpose of the Enhanced Cooperation process as "to enable governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet".

The government of Egypt believes that attaining WSIS goals, which are closely related to development, can not be achieved without having a governance mechanism to the Internet that is multilateral, transparent and democratic with the full involvement of states on an equal footing basis, as well as the involvement of the other stakeholders in their respective roles. These goals can not also be achieved without ensuring the equitable distribution of Internet resources.

Mr. Chairman,

WSIS documents, and in particular Tunis Agenda, provided a clear definition of the needed Enhanced Cooperation, based on the findings of the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance submitted to Tunis Summit 2005.

While recognizing the initiatives taken and implemented by many organizations working on Internet Governance, we believe that a big gap remains when it comes to addressing international public policy issues related to Internet. We do recognize here the significant roles played by ITU, UNESCO and WIPO through their working mechanisms and upholding the multi-stakeholders approach, which we value, in addressing many of these issues. We also highlight the fact that most of the challenges are not yet resolved such as cyber-security, child protection, Internet resources management, connectivity cost, capacity building and freedom of information. I wish to refer in particular to the positive, forward looking and progressive step taken by ITU through resolutions 102 and 133 adopted at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in October 2010 on ITU's role with regard to international

public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, which envisaged greater collaboration and coordination between ITU and other relevant organizations involved in the Internet management.

While the current mechanism of governing the Internet is basically perceived as a solid one enabling and conducive to innovations, it is not strategically sufficient for providing an internationally recognized platform to address, on an equal footing, the needs and concerns of the Nation State' obligations which are founded on the principles and premises of Sovereignty. Indeed, for technological innovations to fully empower societies in a positive way a balanced and accountable approach that addresses developmental challenges and needs is required. Such a process is closely linked to rights of legitimacy.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt believes that there is a clear distinction between the legal and standard setting on one side and the administrative functions of the Internet management on the other side. This recognizes the different roles between governments who are the authority in public policymaking, and the contributions of the technical organizations to the evolution and daily functioning of the Internet.

The Internet of today with its crucial role in economic and societal change invites us to think of how to combine effective mechanisms working for Internet governance with recognized mechanisms of legitimacy at national and international levels. This is urgently needed to have a neutral Internet global public policymaking.

Obviously, what we need is an inclusive international institutional process held by the UN Secretary General with the support of the competent UN organizations and mechanisms involving the stakeholders to set and coordinate the international efforts dealing with the challenges of Internet public policy. Such a process is crucial to put forth in a holistic coordinated approach development agenda of the Internet Governance that can bridge the digital divide and avoid the prevailing of digital domination or digital dependency.

The future of the Internet and its governance concerns all of us. The Government of Egypt believes that shared understanding about Enhanced Cooperation, requested by the General Assembly, can be reached and identified by the Open Consultations of today around the elements that appear in the report of the WSIS Working Group on Internet Governance, and should be submitted to the upcoming 15th Session of the CSTD next week as a solid foundation to its deliberations.

Finally Mr. Chairman, Egypt invites the 15th Session of the CSTD to establish from its members a new Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation with a view to work as a standing committee advising the UN Secretary General and the other UN relevant organizations with concrete steps needed for the process on Enhanced Cooperation so as to enable governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.

I thank you.