

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
25-27 September 2017

Geneva, Switzerland

Chairman's summary

16 October 2017

1. The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 25 to 27 September 2017. Remote participation and real time transcription of the meeting were made available to facilitate participation from Working Group members and observers. A list of participants is available at the website of the meeting.¹
2. The meeting was opened by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics and Head of the CSTD secretariat. This was followed by introductory remarks by Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca, Chairman of the Working Group.
3. After adoption of the agenda, the Chair invited the WGEC to consider a "zero draft" of the WGEC report to be submitted to the CSTD at its 21st session, proposed under his personal responsibility with a view to draw attention to the need to initiate, as soon as possible, a drafting process conducive to that goal. He informed that the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance had served, among others, as an inspiration. He informed that upon preparing the "zero draft" he had sought to reflect the discussions held so far, covering three main issues: (i) the mandate of the WG and a summary of the work done; (ii) issues in which consensus among the members of the WG seemed achievable; and (iii) areas in which consensus appeared not to be achievable.
4. In the section about the mandate of the WG and its work, the Chair proposed to make reference to the mandate of the WG, its membership, and to include a summary of work conducted in meetings of the WG and its inter-sessional periods. Further, the Chair suggested that the section on issues in which the WG would be able eventually to reach consensus would include: (i) references to the paragraphs of the Tunis Agenda related to enhanced cooperation; (ii) references to the high-level characteristics of enhanced cooperation identified and discussed by the Group during its work; and (iii) the actual recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation to be agreed by WG. Following the approach adopted by the

¹ <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1539>

WGIG report, the Chair suggested that the contributions addressing areas in which it might not be possible to achieve consensus should be documented in an annex to the report. The main report would then only make a brief reference to those areas of dissent.

5. During the ensuing discussion, various participants expressed appreciation for the initial proposal of the Chair. There was general agreement that the main focus of the work of the WG is to develop consensus recommendations and that only those areas of consensus should lead to recommendations. However, some WGEC members expressed that the report should be focused exclusively on consensus recommendations and that it should not include issues on which there was no consensus, while others supported the suggestion to mention the main points of contention in the report. In that context, there was some discussion on the WGEC's terms of reference. Some members expressed their interest in submitting proposals on the structure and content of the report.
6. The WG then addressed the revised contributions submitted to its fourth meeting. In this regard, The Chair recalled that during its previous meeting the WG had revisited the contributions that were sent to that meeting and held extensive discussions on some categories of recommendations. He also noted that at the end of the meeting he had invited all proponents of recommendations (WGEC members and observers) to revise their proposals. In response, seven contributions were submitted to the Secretariat, which had made available for the meeting a document of "Compilation of contributions received in preparation for the 4th WGEC meeting".²
7. The Chair then invited contributors to introduce their new/revised recommendations that were submitted in the intersessional period. Following presentation and discussion of those recommendations, proponents who had submitted recommendations to the second and third meetings of the WG but who, due to time constraints, had not yet been able to introduce and debate their recommendations, were offered the opportunity to do so, The Chair concluded the discussion by encouraging proponents to further refine their proposals based on the discussions held at the meeting. .
8. The discussion on the structure and contents of the report was resumed during the last day of the meeting, on the basis of written inputs (and comments made in the first part of the meeting), including a proposal on the structure of the report submitted as a joint contribution to the fourth meeting, and a proposal submitted by one member on the structure of the report and on the timeline for the intersessional work of the WG. The Chair suggested first to discuss the proposed timeline and then the report. After a brief discussion the WG agreed on the following timeline for its intersessional work:

² See http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/WGEC2016-2018_m4_CompRecom_en.pdf

- By 15 October: proponents who wished to do so could circulate revised recommendations
 - By end October: Chair circulates a first draft of the report
 - By end November: Stakeholders submit track change amendments to the Chair
 - By first week of January: Chair circulates a clean second draft of the report for discussion at the next meeting.
9. Further, during the discussion on the structure of the report general agreement emerged to include information on the proceedings of the WG and about the tools it used to ensure the full involvement in the work of the WG of all relevant stakeholders taking into account their diverse views, as mandated by the General Assembly. In this regard the Chair noted that the WG has been making the best possible use of all resources available to make sure there is adequate inclusiveness and participation.
 10. On the other hand, differences persisted in regard to whether or how to include in the report references to issues around which no consensus could be reached.
 11. The Chair concluded the meeting by reiterating the invitation to those WGEC members and observers who wished to do so to revise their recommendations in the light of the discussions held at the fourth meeting and to submit any new text to the Secretariat by 15 October. He indicated that he would endeavor to take into account all inputs when elaborating his first draft report to be considered by the WG.
 12. The date of the fifth meeting will be confirmed as soon as information about the availability of rooms at the Palais in 2018 is received. However, several participants expressed their preference to hold the meeting from 29 to 31 January 2018.

ANNEX



Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

**Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet
Fourth meeting
25-27 September 2017**

Venue: Room XXVI, E Building, Palais des Nations, 8-14 Av. De la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 25 September 2017	
10:00 -10:20	Welcoming remarks by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, DTL, UNCTAD, Head of the CSTD Secretariat
	Opening remarks by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho
	Adoption of the Agenda
	Procedural issues: Organization of the meeting
10:20 -11:15	Methodology of work and discussion of the report format
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
10:45-13:00	Working session
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:30	Working session
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	Working session

Tuesday, 26 September 2017	
10:00 -11:15	Working session
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Working session
13:00-15:00	Lunch break

15:00-16:30	Working session
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	Working session

Wednesday, 27 September 2017	
10:00 -11:15	Working session
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
10:45-13:00	Working session
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:30	Working session
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	Working session