

**Consultation meeting on the establishment of the
CSTD Working Group on the Internet Governance Forum**

6 December 2010

Geneva, Palais des Nations

Summary of the meeting

On 19 July 2010, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted by consensus resolution 2010/2 on the “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”.

By this resolution, ECOSOC *“invites the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to establish, in an open and inclusive manner, a working group which would seek, compile and review inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), in line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda, and which would report to the Commission at its fourteenth session in 2011 with recommendation, as appropriate. This report is to constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through ECOSOC.*

On 24 November 2010, the General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution on "Information and communications technologies for development". The resolution reaffirms the importance of ICT for development, and extends the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further five years.

According to the mandate given by ECOSOC to the Chair of the CSTD, the Working Group will have to prepare a report to the CSTD for its consideration at its fourteenth session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 23-27 May 2011. Since the mandate of the IGF had already been extended, this report is to constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through ECOSOC.

The Hon. Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana, the current Chair of the CSTD, delegated the task of establishing the CSTD Working Group on IGF to Mr. Frederic Riehl (Switzerland), vice Chair of the CSTD.

After convening two sessions of open and inclusive informal consultations with all IGF stakeholders regarding the establishment of the working group in Vilnius, Lithuania (16 September 2010) and in Geneva (24 November 2010), the Vice Chair of the CSTD held a meeting in Geneva on 6 December 2010 with representatives from the Permanent missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva that are members of the CSTD (see list of participants attached below) to discuss and decide on the composition of the working group.

Following a large number of interventions and exchange of views, particularly with regard to the composition of the Group, it was decided that the Working Group shall include twenty member States and be composed as follows: fifteen CSTD member states, with three members from each ECOSOC's regional groups¹, plus the five countries that have previously hosted IGF meetings.² The representatives of Portugal and of the United States expressed their countries' reservation regarding the decision on the composition of the working group and stressed the need for multistakeholder participation and contribution to the work of the CSTD Working Group on the Internet Governance Forum.

Keeping in view the fact that the Working Group has only a few months to prepare and submit its report to the 14th CSTD session in May 2011, it was felt that the Working Group should convene as quickly as possible. Member States were therefore of the view that the Working Group should convene during the CSTD Inter-Sessional Panel meeting scheduled to take place from 15-17 December 2010. In order to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are taken on board, the Working Group will hold an open consultation with all entities that have consultative status in the CSTD³ on 17 December 2010. The meeting will take place in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations.

¹ African States; Asian States; Latin American and Caribbean States; Eastern European States; and Western European and other States.

² Greece, Brazil, India, Egypt and Lithuania.

³ ECOSOC Decision 2010/226, ECOSOC Decision 2010/227 and ECOSOC Decision 2010/228.

List of participants

Argentina

Ms. Mariela FOGANTE, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

China

Mr. Wang XIAOYING, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Cuba

Ms. Janet ROMÁN ARREDONDO, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Egypt

Mr. Yasser HASSAN, Advisor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

France

Mr. Maxime GODART, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ghana

Mr. Anthony K. NYAME-BAAFI, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Greece

Mr. George PAPADATOS, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Ms. M. BOUSI, Permanent Mission, Geneva

India

Ms. K. NANDINI, Counsellor (Economic), Permanent Mission, Geneva

Mr. Manharsinh Laxmanbhai YADAV, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Mr. Alireza TOOTOONCHIAN, Second Advisor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Israel

Ms. Rona LANGER ZIV, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Jordan

Ms. Ghadeer EL FAYEZ, Advisor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Lesotho

Mr. Alphonse Lefeu RAMONE, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Malaysia

Mr. Abdul Aziz AZRIL, Advisor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Portugal

Mr. Ricardo PRACANA, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission, Geneva

South Africa

Ms. Tshihumbudzo RAVHANDALALA, First Secretary, Economic Affairs, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Sudan

Mr. Ali Mohamed Ahmed Osman MOHAMED, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Switzerland

Mr. Frédéric RIEHL, Deputy Director, Office fédéral de la communication OFCOM, Bienne

Mr. Hassan MAKKI, Office fédéral de la communication OFCOM, Bienne

United States of America

Mr. Craig REILLY, First Secretary, Economic and Science Affairs, Permanent Mission, Geneva