COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2015 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 18th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

UNITED NATIONS   NATIONS UNIES

**Report on the Implementation of the Outcomes of
the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

2015 Input from the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

I. Executive Summary

The tenth annual meeting of the IGF was held from the 10th to the 13th of November 2015 in
João Pessoa, Brazil. More than 2,400 registered participants from over 116 countries participated
in the meeting, with thousands more actively participating online. The overarching theme for
IGF 2015 was: 'Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development'.
Output-oriented debates and discussions during the four-day meeting addressed both
opportunities and challenges under the following sub-themes: Cybersecurity and Trust; Internet
Economy; Inclusiveness and Diversity; Openness; Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation;
Internet and Human Rights; Critical Internet Resources; and Emerging Issues.

IGF 2015 was planned in consultation with the host country and in accordance with guidance
from the IGF's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG). Both the preparatory and the
intercessional work of the IGF were guided by recommendations of the Commission on Science
and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF[1].

In line with the CSTD Working Group recommendations, the IGF demonstrated its capacity to
produce tangible outcomes within multistakeholder collaboration frameworks. Mobilising the
inherent benefits of solving problems through a diversity of perspectives, the IGF community
addressed complex issues and worked intercessionally towards concrete solutions. Work
throughout the past year aimed again to facilitate increased participation among stakeholders
from developing countries and to enhance linkages between the growing number of National and
Regional IGF initiatives, the global IGF and the rest of the Internet governance ecosystem.
Insights and outputs from the more than 40 National and Regional IGF initiative meetings[2] that
took place in the past year served as valuable inputs at IGF 2015.

The IGF has now held 10 highly successful annual meetings, bringing together thousands of
thought-leaders in the Internet governance field from all stakeholder groups including
governments, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector, Internet technical community,
civil society and academia, among others. The IGF works year-round consulting these same
stakeholders, conducting outreach and carrying out important capacity building and substantive
intercessional activities. More than 40 National and Regional IGF initiatives have also been
established around the world, allowing multi-stakeholder Internet governance discussions to take

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[1] http://www.unctad.info/en/CstdWG/

[2] http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-initiatives

place year round.

Part 2: Analytical overview

In all of it's work the **IGF follows the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF**, namely increasing and improving the tangible outcomes of IGF meetings, the working modalities of intercessional work of the IGF, including open consultations, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the Secretariat, the funding of the IGF, broadening participation and capacity-building, and linking the IGF to other Internet governance related entities.

Created as one of the major outcomes of the WSIS process, **all of the work of the IGF Secretariat strives to ensure that the IGF facilitates implementation of all the agreed action lines**, including, but not limited to; C1: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; C4: Capacity building and C11: International and regional cooperation.

The 10th IGF once again served as a nexus for UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and major institutions tackling challenges related to Internet public policy. During the week the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) held an open session on the ten-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes; the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a number of events and workshops, including the launch of an Internet Freedom Series Publication and presentation of a Comprehensive Study on the Internet. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) presented a new 'e>merge' partnership and discussed the implementation of its Connect 2020 Agenda. Open Forums were convened by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), among many others.

Capacity Building

To maximize capacity building, the entire IGF 2015 was webcast and interactive online participation enriched sessions throughout the week, allowing many participants from the developing world to participate with those present in João Pessoa. Real-time transcription was also available to augment the overall participatory experience for delegates in the meeting rooms and following around the globe. 50 remote hubs connected participants from countries such as Mexico, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Egypt, Iran, Cuba and New Zealand, to name a few.

The IGF Secretariat, together with the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, organized an important capacity-building workshop: "Internet Governance for Innovation and Sustainable Development" in Medellin, Colombia from 24 -25 June 2015 which aimed to strengthen the capacities of government officials and other relevant stakeholders to better understand and participate in the global Internet governance debate for promoting an open and free Internet that can both foster innovation for pursuing the post-2015 development agenda and meet the challenges of sustainable development.

The IGF also funded or partially funded approximately 54 missions for members of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) from developing or least developed countries to actively participate in IGF Open Consultations, MAG Meetings and the 10th IGF. In addition, the IGF Secretariat continued its highly successful fellowship programme which allows young people active in the field of Internet Governance an opportunity to work at the IGF Secretariat for up to nine months. Fellows from Costa Rica, South Africa and Serbia joined the Secretariat during 2015.

Trends and experiences on main theme(s) of WSIS outcomes:

Through it's intercessional work on 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion', the IGF community identified some common recommendations for multistakeholder actions moving forward related to facilitating **increased access to the Internet**:

- In the deployment of infrastructure much more investment and public-private cooperation is necessary to strengthen national backbones in the developing world, and, in particular, rural populations, and to increase and scale-up cross-border connectivity. Infrastructure development is a key driver for socio-economic growth and access to that infrastructure is paramount to development.
- To increase usability, it's important to ensure the availability and the ability for users to use applications, to stimulate the development of local content and services in all languages, and to implement strategies for safeguarding access to people with disabilities.
- Policies that promote the continued creation of locally relevant content should be encouraged, including protections for the freedom of expression, the press, privacy and intellectual property, the development of e-commerce infrastructure, consumer protections, and trusted online payment systems.
- To enable user's online emphasis should be placed on the promotion of human rights and the enablement of young people, women and girls, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Access to the Internet is essential for the full realization of human development and facilitates the exercise and enjoyment of a number of human rights and freedoms, including the rights to freedom of expression and access to information, peaceful assembly and association.
- Fostering public access points, as for example in public libraries and community centres among others, and promoting in those spaces digital literacy and local content production activities will also secure better conditions for Internet access and use.
- To ensure affordability and address the digital divide, increased efforts and investment are necessary to increase supply and lower the cost of access. Increasing affordable Internet access is essential if countries are to achieve the social developments and inclusive knowledge-based economies they desire.
- Many of the challenges in improving Internet affordability require both innovative policies and methods to make these strategies a reality. There are many well-known benefits to infrastructure sharing, such as lowering industry costs. To encourage this practice and make operators more amenable to sharing, governments can put in place guidelines and regulations to support infrastructure sharing and introduce new business opportunities.
- In Creating an Enabling Environment future connectivity efforts need to ensure that those coming online have access to the entire global and open Internet. Access should be universal, equitable, secure, affordable, and high-quality on the basis of human rights and the rule of law and respect should be given to privacy and the freedom of expression.

The general consensus coming from IGF intercessional work and discussions at the 10th IGF was that **cybersecurity** is everyone's problem and everyone should be aware and understand that the cyber world is a potential unsafe place. A culture of cybersecurity is needed on different levels. Individual action was encouraged to make the Internet safer. Moreover, a need for a comprehensive approach to tackling cybercrime and building trust, such as the introduction of security elements when developing cyber products and services, was highlighted. Stakeholders also stressed the critical role that education plays in addressing cybercrime issues and noted that education should be expanded to involve all levels of society. Capacity-building was cited as an indispensable driver for cybersecurity.

There were calls for further multistakeholder participation in the tackling of cybercrime. Stakeholders agree that the IGF, including national and regional IGFs, has proven to be a good collaborative multistakeholder process for cybersecurity, but still needs to reach out to get missing parties around the table. The involvement of the government, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in handling cyber security was stressed as fundamental in terms of sharing best practices, sharing results of critical assessments and identifying globally accepted standards of cybersecurity. All stakeholders must understand, respect and trust each other's expertise and competences.

The presence and active participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy in the digital age enriched debates throughout the10th related to **human rights**. Privacy issues were debated at length in many of the workshops, where it was stressed that encryption and anonymity need to be reinforced around the world whilst respecting other human rights. Other workshops emphasized that privacy, transparency and security need to complement, not compromise each other. Workshops related to human rights stressed the importance of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, both online and offline.

Since its inception, the IGF has proven its value in the cross-cutting area of **Critical Internet Resources (CIRs)** as the IGF community has shepherded discussions and debates about the handling of CIRs. As the IGF has matured, issues related to CIRs are now approached at a more practical level in main sessions and in both technical and non-technical workshops. Discussions have turned to focus more on sharing information and enhancing mutual education; covering a diversity of interest under the CIR banner: top-level domains, internationalised domain names, the exhaustion of IPv4 and the realities of the IPv6 transition, and the role of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs). IGF 2015 also saw discussions about the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) transition addressed at an informative and constructive level.

II. Part 3: Brief description of innovative policies, programmes and projects, plus future actions with regard to issues raised in part 2.

a)

The IGF 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion' inter-sessional work process produced a tangible and community driven, bottom-up IGF output. The compilation output document and

the comprehensive collection of inputs and contributions to the process[3], available on the IGF website, will be forwarded to other related processes such as the UNGA 2nd Committee through UNDESA, the ITU Council and UNESCO through council meetings, and these agencies will be encouraged to disseminate this information as widely as possible to make public officials aware of the work.

Outputs[4] from the IGF 2015 Best Practice Forums (BPFs), work developed throughout the year available on the IGF website, were presented to the community in dedicated sessions at the 10th annual meeting and in a main session. The BPFs worked throughout the year to produce diverse outputs which now become robust resources, to serve as inputs into other pertinent forums, that can evolve and grow over time on the subjects of: Regulation and Mitigation of Unwanted Communications; Establishing and Supporting Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs); Developing Meaningful Multistakeholder Participation Mechanisms; Practices to Counter Online Abuse and Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls; Creating an Enabling Environment for IPv6 Adoption and Enabling Environments to Establish Successful IXPs.

H.E. Mr. Janis Mazeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, reported that views from the multitstakeholder community during the consultations held at the IGF would inform the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking place on 15-16 December 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York.

It was recommended during the main session on Internet Economy and Sustainable Development that UN departments and agencies such as UNDESA, ITU, UNESCO and UNCTAD can feed IGF outputs into work towards synchronising WSIS action lines to individual SDGs. The more than 150 thematic workshops and other sessions that took place throughout the week[5] will also produce output reports which will be available to all on the IGF website and can serve as resources and inputs into other relevant processes.

b)

National and Regional IGF initiatives were invited to consider putting forward a theme for intercessional work for 2016 to further link substantive activities of these initiatives with the Global IGF, pending the renewal of the IGF mandate. Such a theme could drive the intercessional work of IGF Best Practice Forums, Dynamic Coalitions and other group's.

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[3] http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/policy-options-for-connection-the-next-billion/cnb-outdocs

[4] http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/best-practice-forums/draft-2015-bpf-outs

[5] http://igf2015.intgovforum.org/